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For Immediate Release

May 9, 2025

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H.W. Wilson Announces the Latest Issue of *The Reference Shelf: National Debate Topic, 2025-2026: Exploration & Development of the Arctic*

This issue of *The Reference Shelf* covers the 2025 National Debate topic of the exploration and development of the Arctic. Home to indigenous cultures for thousands of years, the first record of European exploration into the arctic was in the 330s BCE when the Greek explorer Pytheas traveled there from Britain.

The region was explored and later colonized by nations all over the world including Canada, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Finland, Iceland. The United States' purchase of Alaska and Denmark's acquisition of Greenland added to the roster of nations with a stake in the Arctic. These nations were eager to take advantage of the natural resources and military advantages the region offered.

Years of resource exploitation and the repercussions of climate change have resulted in significant sea ice decline and an alarming decrease in wildlife populations. As a result, the Arctic has been at the epicenter of debates concerning the human-induced environmental degradation in the region. Economic and military interests in the Arctic have additionally become a point of contention as Russia continues to increase its military presence and Donald Trump toys with the idea of purchasing Greenland.

This volume introduces some of the most pressing topics in this arena, including the geopolitics of the region, Indigenous perspectives, natural resources, Arctic drilling, and the militarization of the Arctic, to name a few. Debate participants will have ample material to draw on in making their arguments.

Exploration & Development of the Arctic includes articles, documents, and other literary works that fall into five topics:

- Introduction to the Arctic
- Indigenous Interests
- Sustainable Economic Development
- Climate and Environmental Protection
- Arctic Militarization

About *The Reference Shelf*

Each volume provides comprehensive, balanced coverage of an issue of importance in modern society. Each volume contains 35-45 notable documents and articles (complete or abstracted) from highly respected periodicals and media outlets. In addition, the Preface introduces the reader to the topic and 5-6 chapters with the text provide readers with thoughtful guidance on how to approach a particular aspect of the topic. Each chapter's introductory material provides guidance and guarantees success in using these carefully-selected materials. A bibliography, index and important websites enhance further research.

Free Online Access

The Reference Shelf provides vital information that is topical, current, and timely. Plus, subscribers get free online access with their annual subscription. With unlimited users and remote access included, your students and patrons can connect immediately to this rich collection of the most-debated current event topics: anytime, anywhere.

Primary and secondary documents, plus carefully-edited introductory materials help students and researchers navigate through these important topics. The information within *Intellectual Property Rights* provides balanced coverage, supported by comprehensive background information, on the topics of vital interest in our fast-changing world.

National Debate Topic, 2025-2026: Exploration & Development of the Arctic

Softcover ISBN: 979-8-89179-319-4 195 pages

Price: \$75.00

Publisher: H.W. Wilson

The Reference Shelf 2025 Annual Subscription

ISBN: 979-8-89179-316-3

Price: \$345

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