

excellent introduction to the naval aspects of the Okinawa campaign. Drawing on extensive first-hand accounts and interviews, much of the book reads like a personal account of events, without being a blow-by-blow account of events. The narrative style of the author, while it may be disconcerting for those looking for a technical analysis of the events, gradually draws the reader in and provides a feeling of what it was like to be in the cockpit of a fighter, chasing a pilot intent on suicide. Rather than addressing the efforts of the entire American fleet, Moore focuses on a single fighter group, only occasionally exploring the actions of other units. With so much going on during the campaign, this singular focus allows readers to identify with a smaller, more relatable group, rather than getting lost in the vast campaign. For readers interested in narrative histories of military conflict, this could prove far more appealing than a more technical analysis. For students interested in more abstract concepts, the book also tackles the question of what does a carrier group do when there are no more enemy ships to sink? Also included are tables of aircraft kill totals, and a glossary of aviation terms and aircraft identification, for readers who may not be familiar with them, making the work far more accessible to those looking for an entry point on the subject.

Readers looking for a detailed analysis of the Japanese side of the campaign may want to look elsewhere. While Japanese sources are referenced throughout the book, there is a definite and intentional American bias. The author does provide Japanese sources for those who want to explore that side of the campaign further. Intentionally or not, Moore tackles one of the larger preconceptions of the Okinawa campaign. While suffering from a lack of experienced pilots at this stage of the war, Japan still possessed both experienced

pilots and effective aircraft at the end of the conflict. Moore indicates that losses were considerable on both sides.

On a minor technical note, the book was reviewed from a PDF file. Readers transferring the file to an E-book reader, and not reading it in a PDF format, may encounter some unusual issues with things like spacing, particularly when dealing with hyphenated words. Some of this, however, may be correctable if the reader can change margin settings, or read it in a PDF format.

The author concludes his work with a brief epilogue concerning what various American pilots did following the Second World War. This provides a wonderful conclusion to the book and reminds the reader that when the fighting was done, many of these men went back to ordinary lives. While not a deep technical analysis, *Rain of Steel* provides something for all students of this period, particularly those wanting to look at the events of the kamikaze campaign and the last year of the Second World War.

Michael Razer
Ward, Arkansas

Kristian H. Nielsen and Henry Nielsen. *Camp Century—The Untold Story of America's Secret Military Base under the Greenland Ice*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press, www.cup.columbia.edu, 2017. 352 pp., illustrations, notes, index. US \$ 30.00, paper; ISBN 978-0-231-20177-3.

Nicknamed the “City under the Ice,” Camp Century was an installation built and operated by the American army in the ice of the Greenland icecap during the heyday of the Cold War. For the first time, a new book by Danish authors Kristian Nielsen and Henry Nielsen provides a comprehensive, easily accessible, English language account of

the history of this installation from its inception to its abandonment. The original version of the book was published in Danish by Aarhus University Press in 2017.

The story of Camp Century is remarkable in many aspects. On the one hand, it was one of the first under-the-ice research stations ever built, with many of the technologies used in its construction applied later for civilian Antarctic research stations. On the other hand, it was a US military installation powered by a modular nuclear power plant that would serve as an experimental platform for the later construction of a launch complex for US intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). These missiles carried nuclear warheads (Project Iceworm) in Greenland, a part of Denmark, a country with a strict non-nuclear weapons policy. Although originally designed to explore military capabilities, the project was used mainly for civilian research purposes, including drilling one of the first ice-cores that allowed scientists to understand the climate history of the globe. Finally, it was a project that was characterized by strict military secrecy on the one side and proactive public relations on the other, such as documentaries and even visits by the Boy Scouts of America. Altogether, Camp Century was probably one of the most contradictory military projects in high latitudes in modern history.

The authors should be highly commended for unearthing, for the first time, the sources (many of them only declassified recently) that allow not only for piecing together the factual history of the conception, planning, construction, operation, and abandonment of Camp Century, but recovering the background stories and the numerous contradictions within the project. The book mainly follows a chronological approach, beginning with the rationale for building the installation on Greenland and an analy-

sis of the tricky Danish-US relations for everything that relates to Greenland as a part of Denmark where America could basically do whatever it pleased without any fear of real Danish opposition. Next comes a discussion of the construction history of the camp and an account of operations reaching from military trials for all kinds of under-the-ice operations to Camp Century becoming one of the first major research installations for climate research with the help of ice cores. Finally, the book addresses today's environmental concerns regarding the remains of the station that are still embedded in the Greenland icecap.

This book sheds light on a segment of Cold War history that has been virtually unknown, where even specialists in Greenlandic history or Cold War history in northern latitudes are probably aware of only a small fraction of what was really going on, and more importantly, why it was going on. A comparably large number of construction blueprints and photographs of Camp Century help the reader to not only understand the actual design and operation of Camp Century, but also why it became kind of a blueprint for many Antarctic research stations constructed in the decades to follow. Readers also learn why the concept of the under-the-ice station was ultimately abandoned, due to the impossibility of retrieving all the remains when abandoning a station.

An index and references to the sources (archival and otherwise) make the book not only an important research publication in itself, but also a useful reference tool for nearly any project dealing with the Cold War in the Arctic, US-Denmark-Greenland relations in the post-Second World War period and other topics like the history of construction of research stations in Arctic/Antarctic environments.

Of course, the book is written mainly from a Danish perspective, and while

this might be the most obvious and useful perspective for this subject, there are certain aspects where most North American readers and naval historians would have preferred a more in-depth analysis. In particular, the rivalry among the main branches of the US military that was an important element of the US Army coming up with the idea for Camp Century is more or less completely missing, as well as the role of American nuclear submarines capable of launching ICBMs with nuclear warheads.

Nevertheless, this book must be credited with unearthing the amazing history of Camp Century and providing, for the first time, a more or less complete account of its history.

It is a must-read for any historian with a serious interest in the Cold War in the Arctic, for historians interested in the complex but little researched US-Greenland relations, but it should also be recommended to anybody who is interested in the design history of Arctic/Antarctic research stations and the wider complex of the development of various launch platforms for nuclear weapons during the Cold War, including submarines. I would consider it recommended reading for any younger colleagues who have not experienced the era of the Cold War themselves, as it easily illustrates the mindset of the time. This was a period of enormous technological achievements and “an everything is possible” mentality that produced not only an under-the-ice station like Camp Century, but also nuclear submarines capable of operating under the Arctic Sea ice. Even phantasmagorical military projects, normally seen only in a James Bond movie, no longer feel like science fiction after reading about Project Iceworm. This large-scale missile base in the Greenlandic ice-cap that was (fortunately) never realized, but for which Camp Century was a first experimental platform, would have dwarfed

anything Dr. Evil could have dreamt up.

While the authors have without any doubt produced an important, well researched scholarly book of high analytic quality, recommended to various groups of academic readers for its contribution to a number of historic sub-disciplines, it might also appeal to anyone who enjoyed Stanley Kubrick’s 1964 movie *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*. While it obviously lacks the film’s drama, *Camp Century* clearly shows that some of Kubrick’s characters were not that far from the historic reality of the Cold War.

On a more positive, contemporary note, this book should also be a mandatory read for anyone interested in the early history of using the world’s ice sheets as global climate archives. It is proof that a concept that began with one set of intentions can sometimes turn into a very different project, one that helps us understand the world in which we all live, regardless of which side of the former Iron Curtain we inhabit.

Ingo Heidbrink
Norfolk, Virginia

Norman Polmar and Lee J. Mathers. *Opening The Great Depths: The Bathyscaph Trieste and Pioneers of Undersea Exploration*. Annapolis, MD: U.S. Naval Institute Press, www.usnip.org, 2021. 295 pp., abbreviations, illustrations, appendices, lists, notes, bibliography, general index, ship index. US \$26.97, cloth; ISBN: 9781682475911.

On 4 October 1957, the Soviet Union launched the world’s first artificial satellite into orbit and the international space race was on. Meanwhile, a race to explore *inner* space was happening. In 1958, the US nuclear submarine *Nautilus* – the world’s first nuclear submarine – voyaged nearly 1,000 miles under