

A large, jagged iceberg floats in the middle of a calm, blue sea. The sky is a vibrant blue with wispy white clouds. The iceberg's surface is textured with various shades of white and light blue, reflecting the sky and water. The water is a deep, clear blue, with gentle ripples and a reflection of the iceberg and sky.

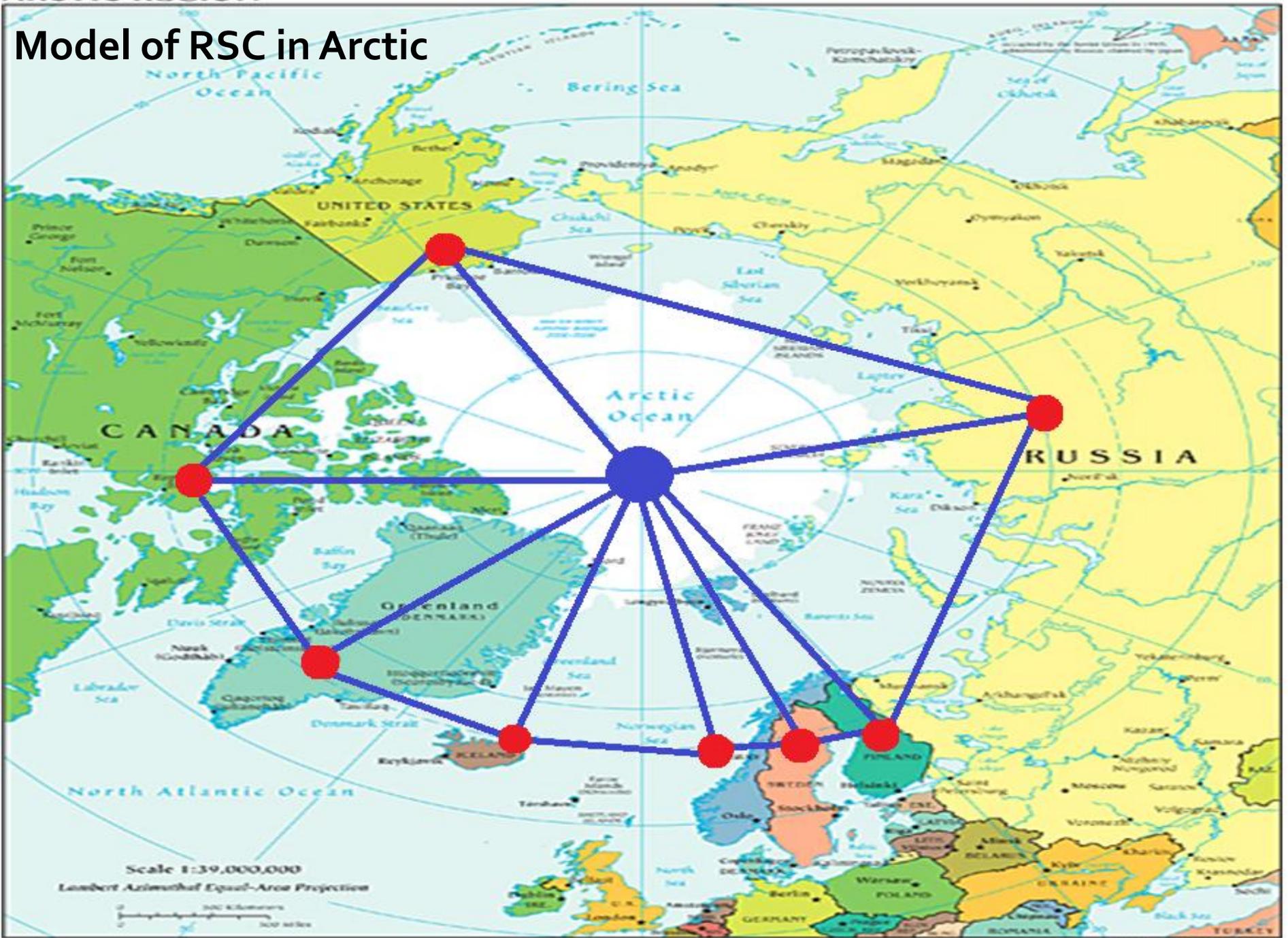
Arctic security and its geopolitical significance in the context of the Regional Security Complex regime

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Regional Security Complex

- Subsystem of relations between states, referring to security at the regional level
- An attempt to fill the gap between the level of the international system and the state
- It is based on the relations of positive and negative interdependence between countries in the region

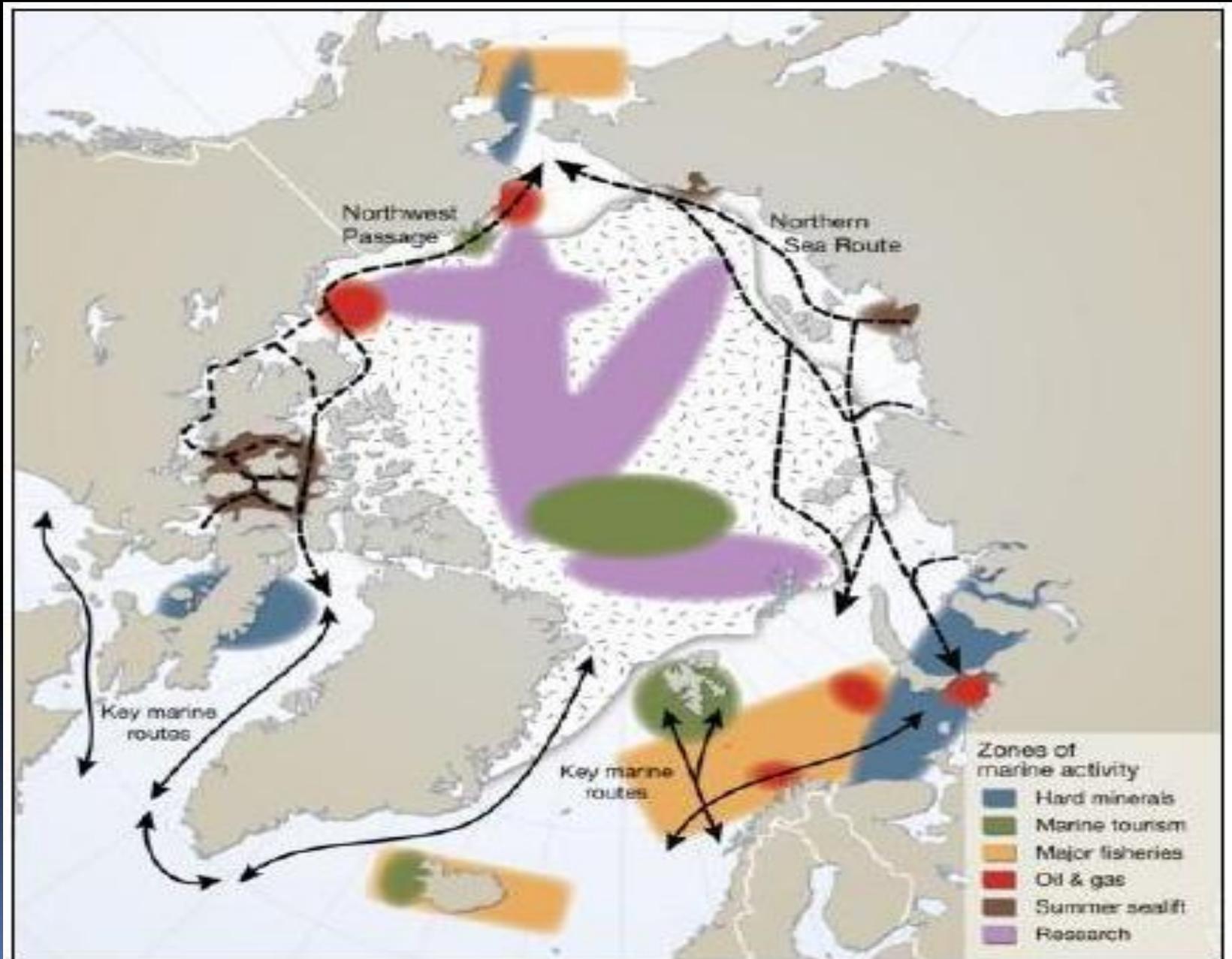
Model of RSC in Arctic



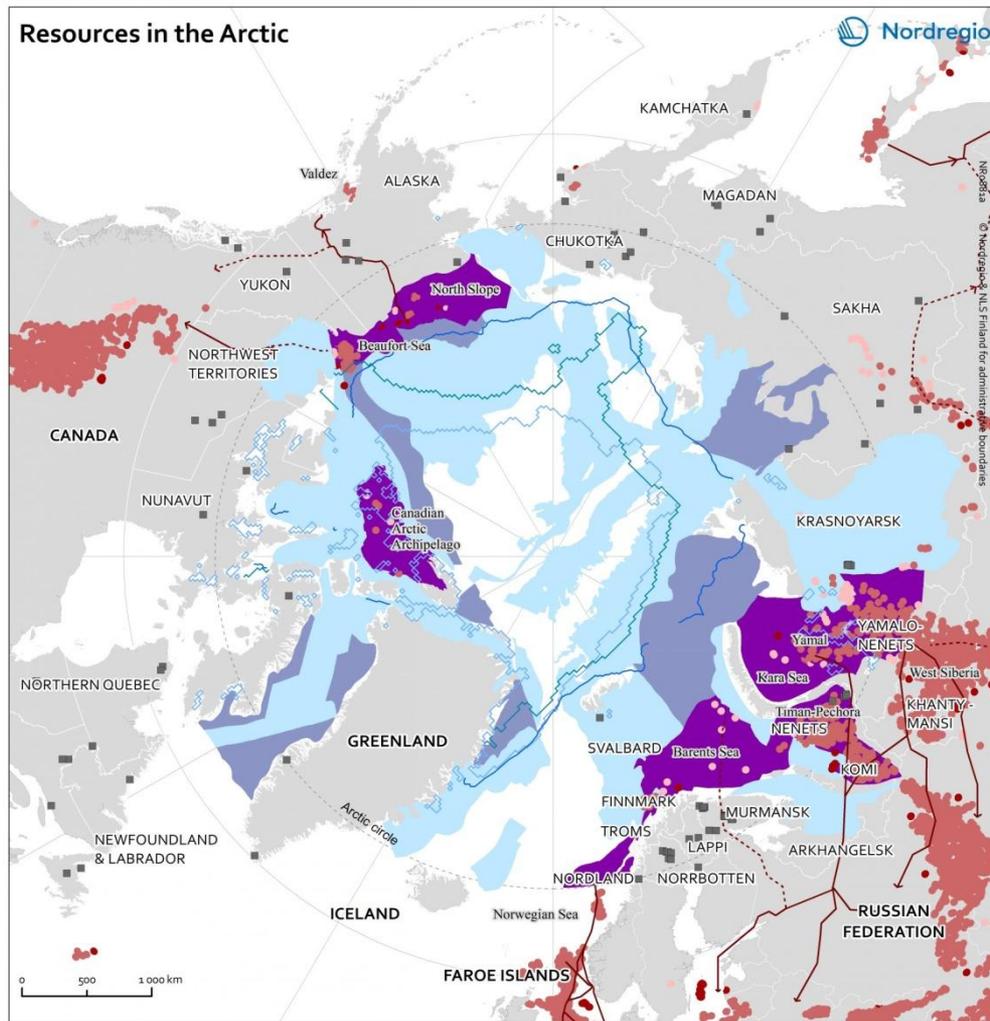
Security sectors (according to the theory of regional security complexes):

- Political
- Military
- Economic
- Societal
- Environmental

The possibilities of using the Arctic as a result of climate change



Resources in the Arctic



Main oil and gas resources & mining activities in the Arctic

Oil/gas: exploration and production

- Gas
- Oil
- Oil and gas

Oil/gas: prospective areas and reserves

- <50% Probability that at least one accumulation of more than 50 million barrels of oil or oil-equivalent gas exists after USGS
- 50–99%
- 100% (including areas north of Arctic Circle)

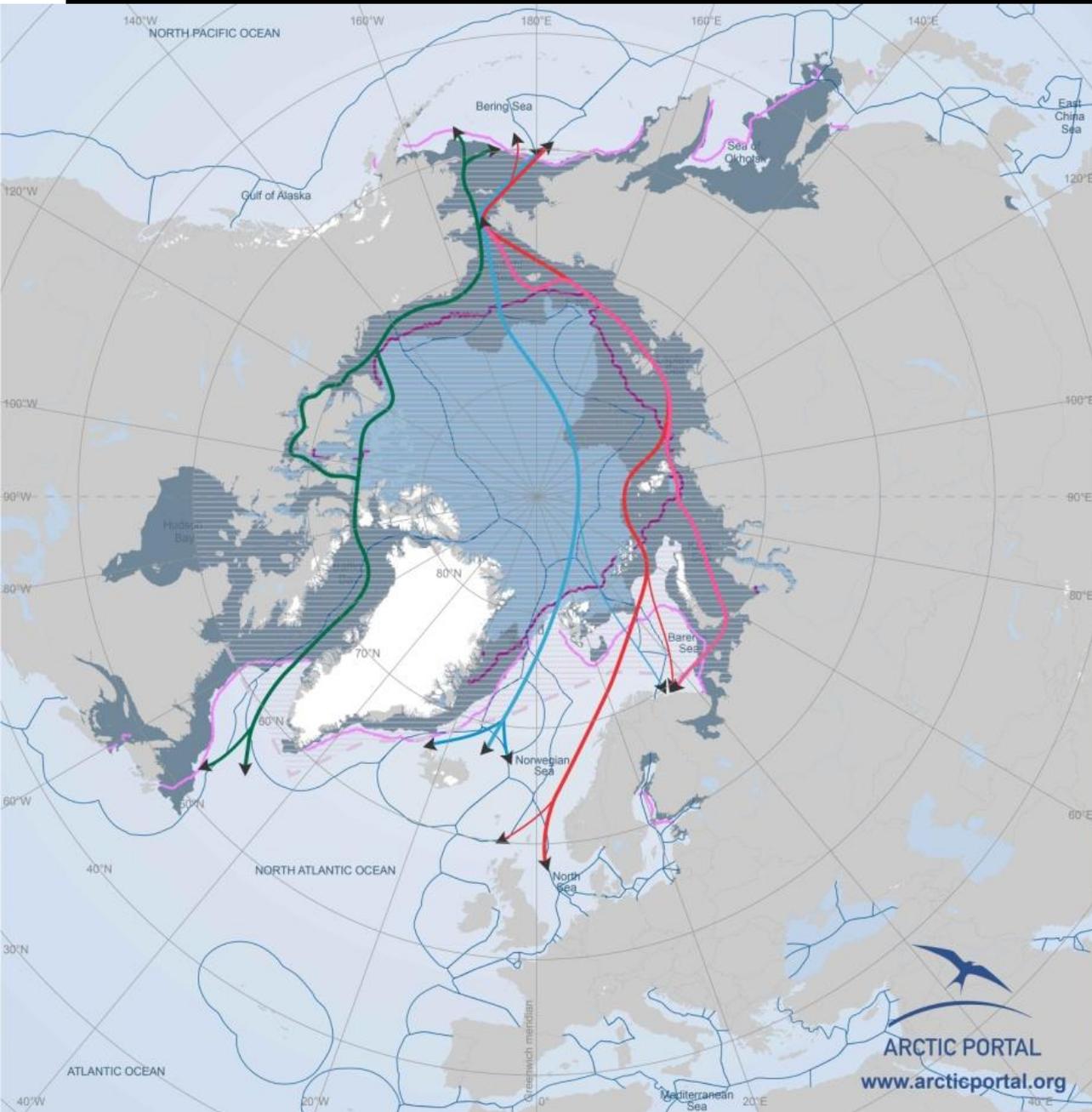
- Main existing oil/gas pipeline (indicative direction)
- Main proposed oil/gas pipeline (indicative direction)
- Main mining site

- Sea ice extent in September 2012
- Sea ice extent in September 2018
- Average sea ice extent for September in 1981–2010

Regions included:

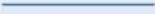
US - Alaska; CA - Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Northern Quebec, Newfoundland & Labrador; GL; IS; FO; NO - Nordland, Troms, Finnmark, Svalbard; SE - Norrbotten; FI - Lappi; RU - Murmansk, Arkhangelsk, Komi, Nenets, Khanty-Mansi, Yamalo-Nenets, Krasnoyarsk, Sakha, Kamchatka, Magadan, Chukotka.

Data source: Nordregio, NSIDC, PRIO, United States Geological Survey USGS and several homepages for oil, gas and mining companies.



Arctic Sea Routes

with Exclusive Economic Zone limits,
the IMO Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters,
and Sea Ice Conditions

-  Future Central Arctic Shipping Route
-  Northern Sea Route
-  North-East Passage
-  North-West Passage
-  Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
is a sea zone defined by the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea
-  Maximum extent of Arctic waters application according to the IMO „Guidelines for ships operating in Polar waters“ 2010 edition
-  Median line february 1981-2010
shows new 30-year baseline period 1981 to 2010, median extent for that month.
-  Median line september 1981-2010
shows new 30-year baseline period 1981 to 2010, median extent for that month.
-  Sea Ice 17th sept 2014
total extent 5,2 million sq km
-  Sea Ice 25th february 2015
total extent 14,54 million sq km

Source:
AMAP , Northern Sea Route Information Office,
NSIDC, International Maritime Organization
edited by Arctic Portal

Kinds of RSC sectors	Occurence	Examples
Political	+	Arctic Council
Military	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Arctic Challenge Exercise -Militarisation of the Arctic by Russia
Economic	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cooperation between Norway and Russia in the Barents Sea -Exploration and possible extraction of raw materials in Greenland by China
Societal	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cooperation of arctic countries with indigenous peoples on the forum of the Arctic Council
Environmental	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Working Groups of the Arctic Council: Arctic Contaminants Action Program

Arctic Council activities

- Work through Arctic Council working meetings resulting was for example the establishment of Arctic States Agreements:
 - Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic (2011)
 - Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic (2013)





Norwegian F-16s in a formation during ACE 17



Ten German Eurofighters during ACE21



The Norwegian F-35s for the first time during ACE 21

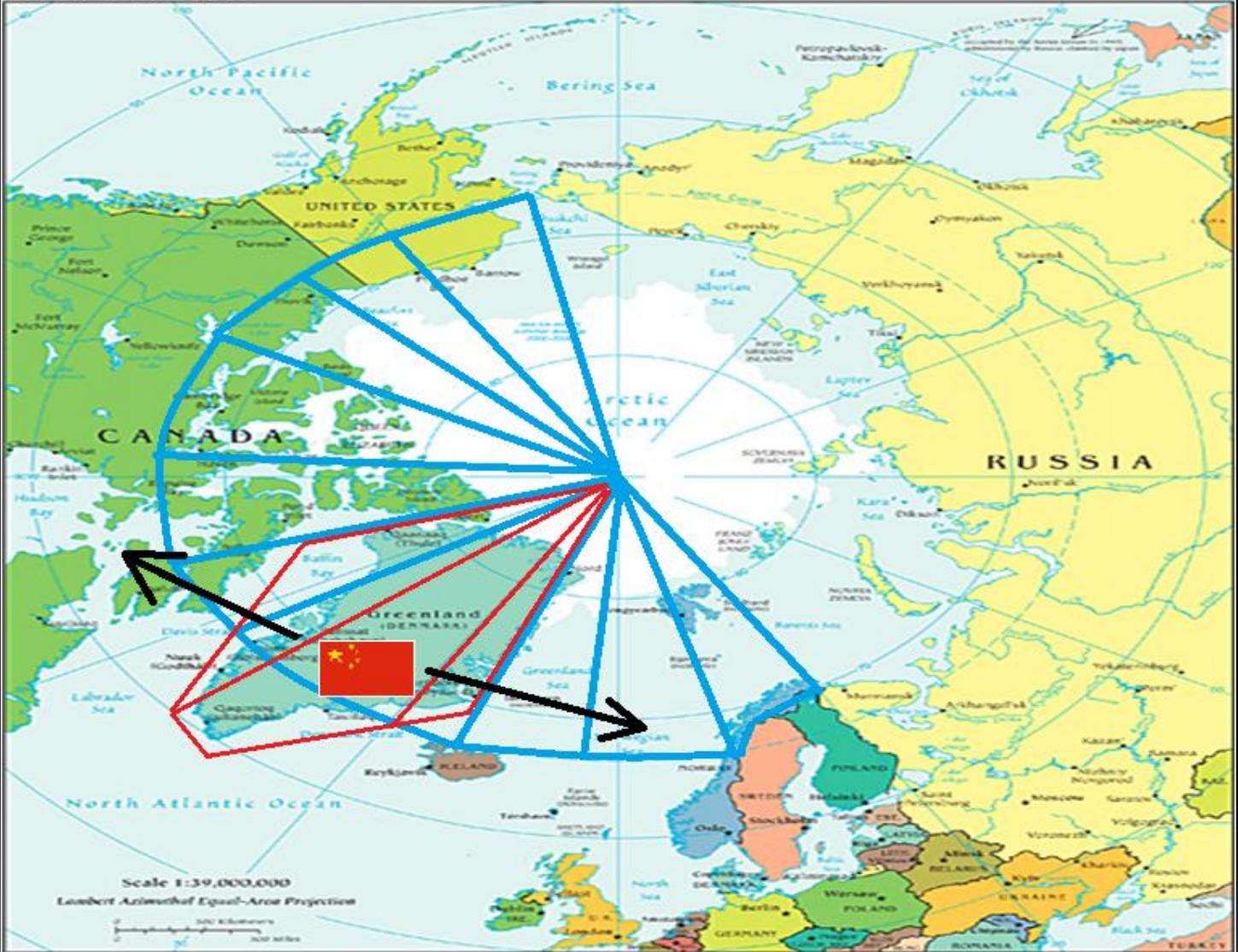


Russian soldiers practise landing in winter conditions

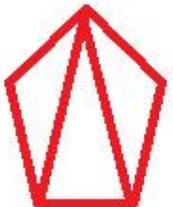


Russian fighter MiG-31BM in the Arctic air base (Novaya Zemlya)

ARCTIC REGION



NATO Territory
in Arctic



Potential Chinese "breakout"
in the NATO area in Arctic

Conclusions

- The theory of regional security complexes provides a good analytical framework for demonstrating the geopolitical significance of the Arctic
- Climate change in the Arctic leads to new opportunities, challenges, problems and threats in the region, which focus the attention of Arctic and non-Arctic states. This leads to an increase in the geopolitical importance of the Arctic.
- The involvement of states in the High North continues to grow and may be based on cooperation (the Arctic Council) or rivalry (NATO/Russia). This proves that the region is being treated more and more seriously by the states there.
- The influence of non-Arctic actors is currently small, but involves world powers (China). This is an indicator of the high geopolitical importance of the Arctic.

Thank You for attention!

