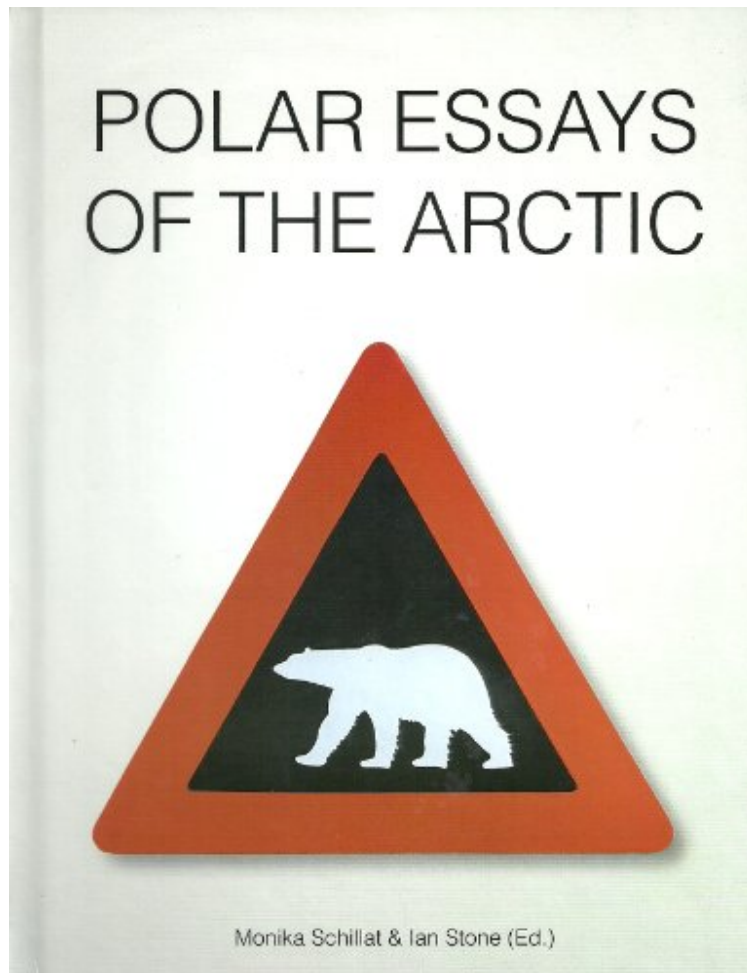


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Polar Essays of the Arctic

Monika Schillat, Ian Stone, Rolf Stange, Troels Jacobsen, Elke Lindner, Delphine Aurs, Peter Balwin, Piero Bosco, Louwrens Hacquebord, Ko de Korte, Christian Glahder, Valeska Schaudy, Philipp Schaudy
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Monika Schillat, Ian Stone, Rolf Stange, Troels Jacobsen, Elke Lindner, Delphine Aurs, Peter Balwin, Piero Bosco, Louwrens Hacquebord, Ko de Korte, Christian Glahder, Valeska Schaudy, Philipp Schaudy : Polar Essays of the Arctic before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Polar Essays of the Arctic:

There are many accounts of polar exploration, but this is the first one written entirely by a team of adventurers, scientists, lecturers and expedition staff, who brave the waters at the end of the world in ice-strengthened expedition vessels, helping their guests to understand the complex environment of the European Arctic. This unearthly wilderness has left a restless longing in their hearts. Touched by its overwhelming beauty they keep coming back each summer to work there. But the frozen North is no longer a space of imagination for them. They call it home and their book has

narrative drive, a scholarly grasp of geological, biological and historical fact and true passion for the subject. The 17 superb essays in this volume vividly attest to the sincerity and depth of the authors gift as powerful and knowledgeable storytellers. They have been written in different corners of the world: La Morra in Italy and Ushuaia in Argentina are just two of the many locations. What all the authors have in common, whether they come from Denmark, France or the Netherlands, is their fascination for polar areas. They have been traveling the High Arctic for many years, and some of them have even lived and worked in the Far North for extended periods. Now they have decided, that it was time to share their knowledge and expertise with their readers. Svalbard, East-Greenland and the island of Jan Mayen are some of the locations, the authors write about. When we think about the Arctic regions, pristine landscapes come to mind, areas that are often barren, windswept or ice-covered. Large areas of the High Arctic are indeed permanently glaciated. However, mans adaptation to harsh environments knows no boundaries, and the Arctic has been visited by humans for a long time. Hunters, whalers, scientists, soldiers and explorers have left behind structures and sites which contribute to the cultural heritage of the region. These places provide us with a glimpse of human activity in these extreme latitudes. They open windows into the past of human presence, but they dont explain themselves. This selection of essays deals with the History of the Arctic and may help travelers to reach a deeper understanding of what life has been like in the old days.