

## **The Changing Utility Pattern of the High North**

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**Abstract:**

The post-Cold War era has seen significant changes in Arctic politics. Civil societal organizations are slowly but surely gaining access to areas of the High North previously either designated for military purposes only or sealed off from human exploitation by harsh environmental conditions, in particular sea ice. As a consequence, a brand new set of values, interests and priorities are increasingly making their mark on the political agenda setting of the North. The Arctic is getting civilianized, implying that a ‘New Age of the Arctic’ is in the making.

The purpose of this article is to touch on three interrelated questions addressing the changing utility pattern of the High North: What are the driving forces behind these changes? How may these changes affect the political organization of the Arctic? What is the overall political challenge of the Arctic states in light of civilianization?

If you should want a copy of Professor Østreng’s Keynote Address, please contact Ocean Futures at [ocean@ocean-futures.com](mailto:ocean@ocean-futures.com)