

3 THINGS TO WATCH IN 2021: ARCTIC



1

Climate Change & a New Arctic

The eight Arctic nations face many diverse challenges and opportunities: the impacts on communities and infrastructure from eroding coastline and degradation of the landscape; homeland security challenges and maritime-related issues, and; questions regarding the effectiveness of existing international governance structures to address the political ramifications of these changes.

New Security Imperatives

The U.S. should look to expand its efforts to address related national, civil, and environmental security challenges in the Arctic, which will require a “whole-of-government” response between the State Department, Pentagon, NSC, DHS, and the Department of Commerce. The U.S. will also leverage forthcoming Arctic strategies from the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army to protect national interests throughout the region.

2



3

Great Powers in the Far North

As Russian and Chinese military, economic, and energy investment in the Arctic grows, the United States will likely increase the tempo and type of Arctic military exercises to project power, reinforce partnerships, and demonstrate capabilities. Greenland's geographic and geopolitical position will also remain an important component of U.S. military and diplomatic efforts in the Arctic.