

The Arctic

Acronyms and abbreviations

CNA- Center for Naval Analyses

DEW- Defense Early Warning line

EEZ- Exclusive Economic Zone

FONOP- Freedom of Navigation Operation

FPZ- Fishing Protection Zone

ICEX- Ice Exercise

LNG- liquified natural gas

NOAA- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NORAD- North American Aerospace Defense Command

NWS- North Warning System

UNCLOS- United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea

USGS- United States Geological Survey

Glossary

Arctic Circle- refers to the line of latitude around the Earth at approximately 66°34' N which denotes that start of the Arctic. The Arctic Circle marks the latitude above which the sun does not set on the summer solstice and does not rise on the winter solstice.

Arctic Council- a forum between countries that meet to discuss issues pertaining to the Arctic area or the indigenous tribes that reside in the Arctic. The council is made up of 8 members states (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States) and 13 observer states.

Arctic Executive Steering Committee- refers to the committee formed by President Barack Obama via an executive order. The committee was established in order to help provide guidance during the United States' time as Chair of the Arctic Council.

Article 234- refers to the article in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which defines what an "ice-covered area" is and what responsibilities nations have when navigating through these areas. Article 234 is used by Russia to demand that any vessel that travels through Russian waters that fall under the "ice-covered area" have a Russian escort.

Icebreaker- is a type of ship that is created with the special purpose of navigating through ice-covered areas. The ship is designed to cut through the ice and create shipping lanes through which other vessels can navigate.

June Solstice- also known as the Summer Solstice, refers to the day when the North Pole is tilted closest to the sun and when the Northern Hemisphere experiences the longest period of daylight during the year. This day usually falls around June 20th.

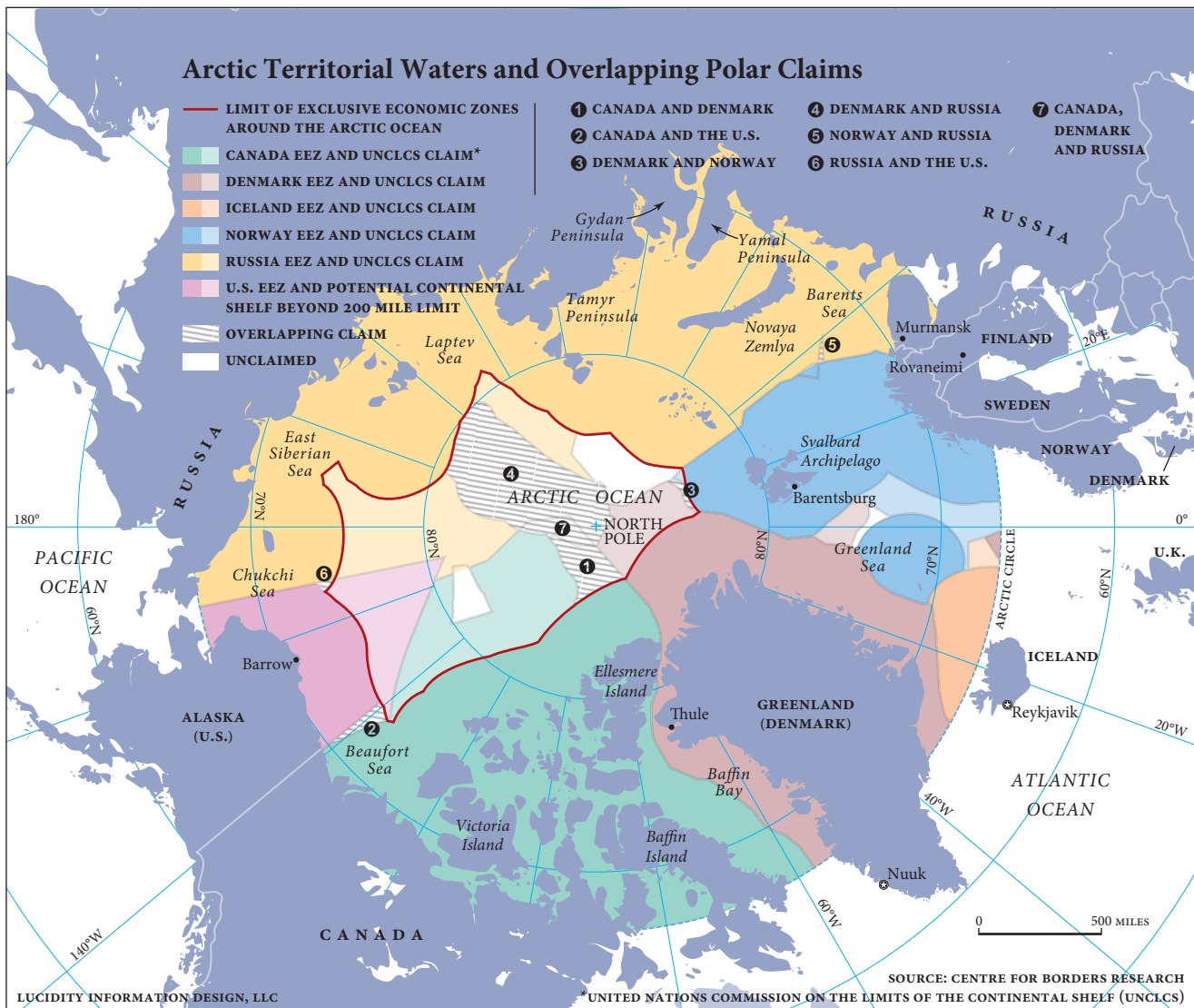
Polar Silk Road- refers to a part of China's Belt and Road Initiative that would open up more lanes of passage through the Arctic for transport and shipping routes. The Polar Silk Road would be a collaboration between China and Russia, as many of the proposed routes would go through Russian EEZ.

Vigilant Shield- was a military exercise developed and carried out by NORAD in conjunction with the U.S Northern Command and Canadian Joint Operations Command. The exercise was conducted between October 24 and 28th in 2018.





Sami People- are a group of indigenous people that are located in the Arctic regions of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. The Sami originate from the Kola Peninsula which is north of the Arctic circle.

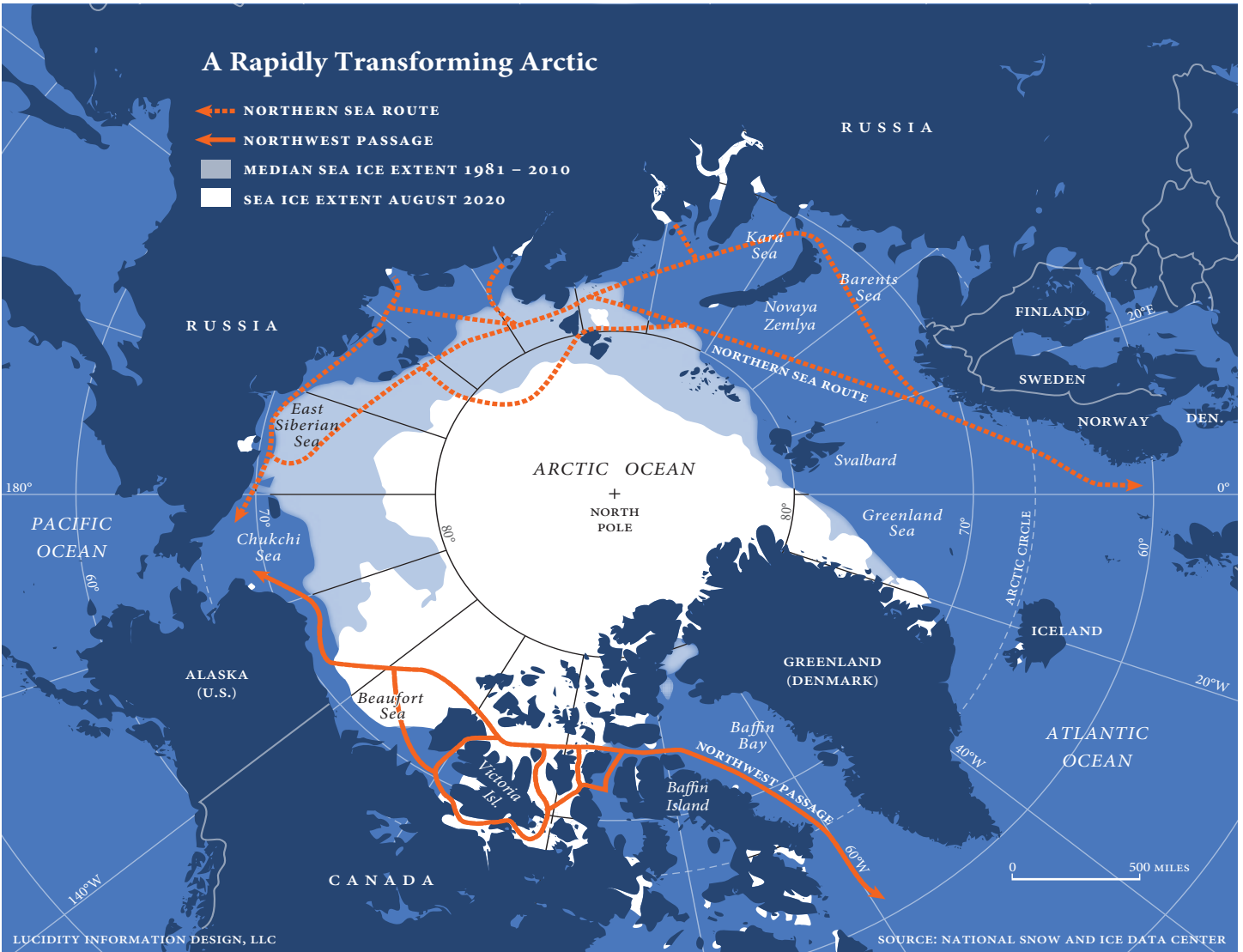
Svalbard Treaty- was a treaty signed in 1920 that grants sovereignty to Norway over the Svalbard archipelago.

Trident Juncture- was a NATO led military exercise in Norway in late-2018. The exercise was the largest gathering of participants in history with nearly 50,000 NATO forces from 31 nations.



A Rapidly Transforming Arctic

-  NORTHERN SEA ROUTE
-  NORTHWEST PASSAGE
-  MEDIAN SEA ICE EXTENT 1981 - 2010
-  SEA ICE EXTENT AUGUST 2020



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