

As the polar ice in the arctic melts it is becoming increasingly more open to naval traffic and natural resource exploration and exploitation. This increase of accessibility and availability of resources as well as global traffic will undoubtedly increase the competition for these resources from arctic and non-arctic states. As a nation with arctic interest it is prudent that we plan and forecast for the nonaggressive development of this frontier with the intent of forging cooperative nonaggressive partnerships in the interest of Arctic stability and prosperity. This research explores the feasible options and the strategic contracting requirements to facilitate U.S. Arctic strategic objectives given the unique operating environment of the Arctic, geopolitical constraints of the area, and capability gaps in personnel, platforms, and doctrine.

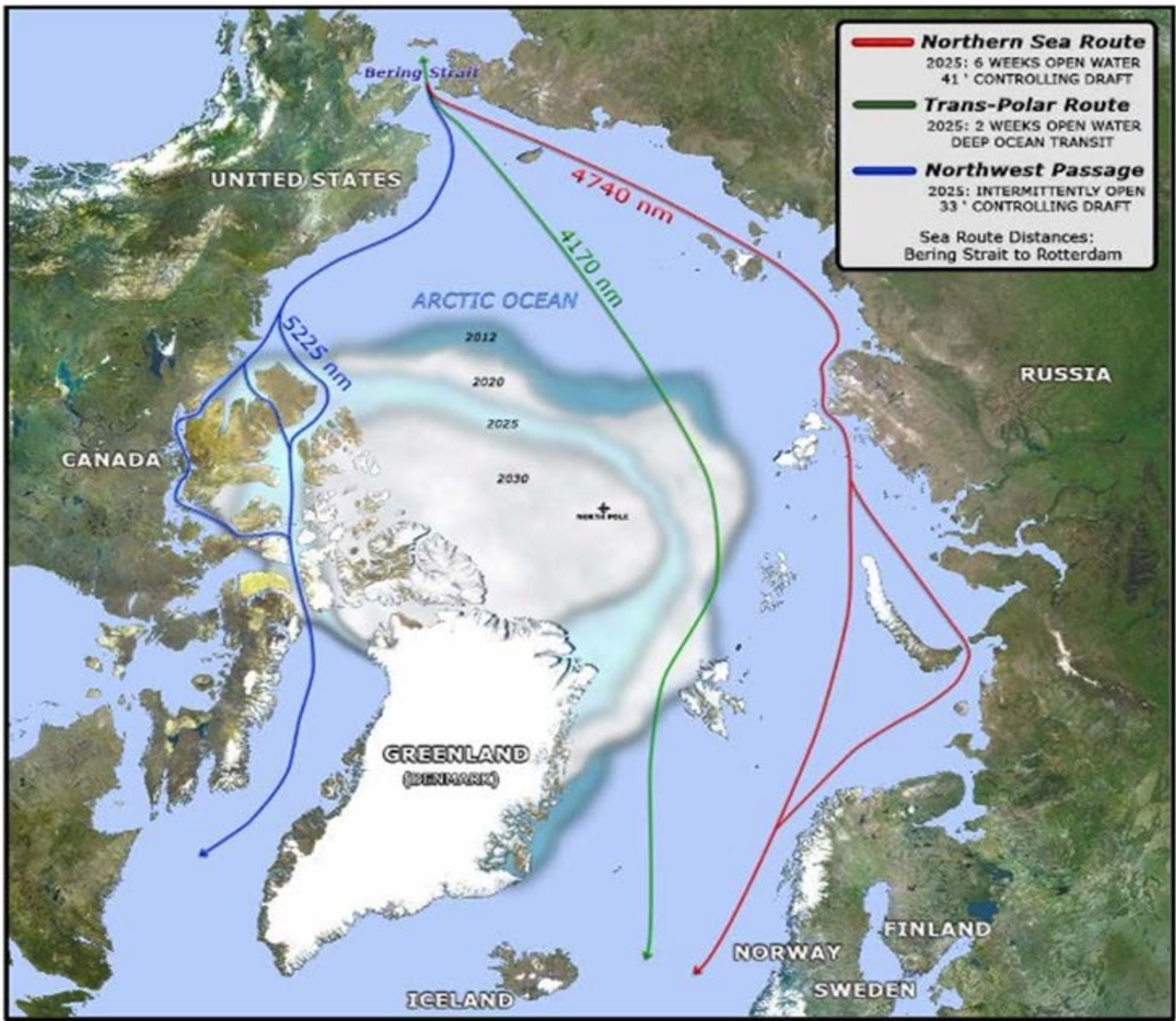


Figure 2: Anticipated future Arctic transit routes superimposed over Navy consensus assessment of sea ice extent minima (United States Navy graphic)

This research is accomplished by conducting a literature review of the political policies that apply to the arctic operations, international cooperation, and strategy. Existing military and civilian efforts, political environment, and arctic infrastructure will be analyzed and efficiencies will be identified. Arctic manufacturing capacity assessment will also be conducted. A nationalistic approach will be taken when establishing capabilities needed to meet the United States strategic objectives when such capability requirements are not specified. To best identify capability gaps, analysis will be made using S.W.O.T. (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat) as well as Capabilities, Supportability, and Suitability (CSS) assessments as appropriate. For analysis of contracting requirements Yoder’s TIPs model will be used. When assumptions must be made The “Arctic Heat” scenario will be used as a guide. Once gross capability requirements are established contract practices will be contrasted to identify which approach would best meet the governmental needs. Ideal governance rules to incentivize consummate behavior in meeting cost, schedule, and performance objectives will be developed.



Indigenous Peoples Interest



International State Actors



International Non-state Actors