

## **Regional Security Complex in the Arctic – Transformations and Development Trends**

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### **A b s t r a c t**

Ongoing research on international relations in the Arctic allows for the assumption that since the Arctic is treated as a separate region in geographical terms, it can also be seen as a particular sub-system of international relations. The region comprises eight states that act to ensure a secure existence by pursuing their own goals and interests in the international arena. This creates a security relationships (Sadurski 2024; Exner-Pirot 2013; Hettne 2005).

The Regional Security Complexes (RSC) theory is a research framework to analyze the region's security. It clarifies international relations at the regional level, provides a picture of the security environment in the region, and enables one to see the directions of change towards securitized phenomena that change the face of the complex (Buzan and Weaver 2003; Buzan et al. 1998).

One such phenomenon is climate change, the effects of which are challenging Arctic states whose adaptation efforts are leading to transformations in international relations at the regional level (Sadurski 2022).

Another phenomenon is the full-scale war in Ukraine, which, as an extra-regional factor, influences the formation of the Arctic Regional Security Complex and its development (Sadurski 2023a).

This presentation is, inter alia, the result of research conducted within the framework of the implementation of the research project of the National Science Centre entitled “The adaptation of the regional security complex in the face of climate change: the example of the Arctic” (Sadurski 2023b) and aims at:

- 1) analysing the Arctic from the perspective of RSC theory;
- 2) show the polar region as a separately functioning system of international relations with its own security dynamics related, inter alia, to the challenges of climate change and the full-scale war in Ukraine;
- 3) identifying developmental trends through selected examples.

**Keywords:** Arctic, regional security complex, security, changes in the Arctic region.

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