

Russia in the Arctic.

CharacterTowns.org has been following a number of activities related to climate change, geopolitics and the Arctic. Three recent articles highlight the activity in the region. Another article in this issue presents NOAA's 2020 Arctic Report Card.

Not since the Northwest Passage was first traversed a century ago has the prospect of a northern maritime connection across the top of the world seemed more likely. Nor have the prospects for oil and gas extraction seemed more eminent.

Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen was the first man who successfully navigated the North-West Passage by boat, on a voyage that lasted from 1903 to 1906.

From...The Wall Street Journal.

LOGISTICS REPORT

Russia's Siberian Waters See Record Ship Traffic as Ice Melt Accelerates

The Northern Sea Route is becoming a highway to move Russia's oil and natural gas exports while some global carriers shy away.

By Costas Paris

Oct. 8, 2020 2:14 pm ET

"The Arctic has gone through its warmest summer on record, and with the ice melting, more ships than ever are sailing along Russia's Siberian coast, underscoring its role as a growing energy transport corridor and potential as a new ocean trade route."

Read more at: https://www.wsj.com/articles/russias-siberian-waters-see-record-ship-traffic-as-ice-melt-accelerates-11602180850?mod=hp_minor_pos13

From...The Washington Post.

"An oil spill in Russia's Arctic exposes risks for Moscow's Far North plans."

"Thawing permafrost in the rapidly warming region leaves Moscow's ambitious Arctic expansion proposals literally on shaky ground"

“The fuel storage tank that ruptured at a Norilsk Nickel power station in the Russian Arctic, spilling 21,000 tons of diesel into a fragile ecosystem of rivers and wetlands. (Yuri Kozyrev/NOOR)”

READ MORE AT: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2020/07/28/an-oil-spill-russias-arctic-exposes-problems-moscows-big-plans-far-north/?arc404=true>



“Russia Doubles Down On Its Arctic Oil & Gas Agenda”

By Vanand Meliksetian - Aug 18, 2020, 12:00 PM CDT

“The late senator John McCain once [said](#) about Russia, “the country is a gas station masquerading as a state.” Although the politician is speaking from a biased American position, the truth is that Russia's massive hydrocarbon reserves give some truth to his opinion. Since the early days of the industry more than a century ago, oil and gas have been flowing from wells in Western Russia and Siberia. To maintain its position globally, Moscow is putting all its cards on the development of the Arctic.”

READ MORE AT: <https://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/Russia-Doubles-Down-On-Its-Arctic-Oil-Gas-Agenda.html>