PART FIVE

NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE IN THE ARCTIC
In the waning years of the Cold War, authors Gail Osherenko and Oran Young declared that “[w]e are entering the Age of the Arctic, an era in which Mercator projection maps must give way to polar perspectives in schools, legislative chambers, corporate conference rooms, and military headquarters.”\(^1\) While, arguably, classroom Mercator maps have not given way, certainly governments, businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and militaries have taken, and continue to take, a close look at both the land and waters of the Arctic. Although written when there were still two superpowers, Osherenko and Young presciently noted that there were multiple actors with vested interests in the Arctic, and that these competing interests would cause “confrontations within domestic forums and, increasingly, in transnational arenas as well.”\(^2\) Fast forward to the 21st Century and Canada’s Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, on a summer 2006 visit to the world’s most northern settlement, Alert on Ellesmere Island in Nunavut, Canada, reiterated his campaign promise of the necessary funds for Canada to not only assert its Arctic claims, but to enforce them.\(^3\)

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\(^1\) Gail Osherenko & Oran R. Young, *The Age of the Arctic: Hot Conflicts and Cold Realities* (1989), p. 3.
