

## The People of the Tundra

Tundraens folk by Øyvind Ravna & Zoia Vylka (in Norwegian with summary in English). Landbruksforlaget, Oslo. 2001. 182 pp.

This beautiful, fully illustrated “coffee table” book covers the cultures, lifestyles, history, and modern-day challenges of the peoples of the Russian tundra. It is the sixth book on the Russian north by Norwegian author Øyvind Ravna. This time he has collaborated closely with Zoia Vylka, a young Nenets woman with a reindeer herding background whom is currently studying and working in Norway. Mr. Ravna has, through numerous visits, thorough research, and close tending of long-standing relationships, managed to enter deep into the rich and varied cultures of the vast Russian tundra. The main strengths of the book, beyond its detailed factual information and historic insight, are a personal touch and magnificent photography. The various cultures, villages, and individuals presented in the book are brought to life by Mr. Ravna’s rambling, storytelling form of writing.

Though strictly a documentary, with detailed maps and summaries of history, geography, languages and demographics for each of the cultural groups described, the feel and essence of the book is like an exotic fairy tale being told around a campfire on a cold dark night on the tundra, with warm, wind-textured faces caught in the flickering light of the fire.

Unfortunately, the book is only available in Norwegian. There are however, English, Russian and Sami summaries, and photo captions are in Norwegian and Sami. *The People of the Tundra* makes a fascinating addition to any collection of literature on northern cultures – even in non-Norwegian homes and institutions. Photos from the book can be viewed and ordered at: <http://www.ravna.no/barentsfoto>

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## Greenland’s Ecology

*The Ecology of Greenland* by E. W. Born & Jens Böcher. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Nuuk. 2001. 429 pp.

This spectacular book about Greenland’s ecology, first published in Danish in 1999, is now available in both Greenlandic and English as a second edition. Intended as a text book for elementary to university levels in Greenland schools, this compilation by many specialists is at the same time one of the best available references about general arctic ecology. Its seven main sections cover basic ecological geophysical concepts and history; freshwater, terrestrial and marine environments; and humans and nature. These broad topics are further divided into subsections illustrating the complexity of the arctic realm, using examples mostly from Greenland, but also from other parts of the Arctic and the rest of the world.

Every page of this easily digested volume is abundantly illustrated with vibrant colour photos and graphics, compelling the reader to begin with the illustrations and captions. The Aage V. Jensen Foundation sponsored the publication of both first and second editions, through a grant to the Home Rule Government of Greenland. All profits from the sale of the book will be directed to the Environmental Foundation of Greenland.

For ordering information, contact the Greenland Home Rule Government at:

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