

## Summary

This thesis deals with the case of the Arctic which forms a distinctive geopolitical region within the international system. The geostrategic importance of the Arctic has become more salient due to global warming, technological progress and latest findings about large oil and gas resources, rich fishing waters and new maritime routes. The Arctic region is being classified through the lenses of one of the most influential regionalist concepts in the modern IR theory and international security studies – the regional security complex theory developed by Barry Buzan and Ole Wæver who represent the core of the so called Copenhagen school of IR thought. The main aim of the thesis is to examine whether such a specific geopolitical region as the Arctic could be analyzed from the perspective of this theory and defined as a regional security complex with a distinctive security dynamics and a dense net of linkages interconnecting major processes of securitization and desecuritization. This research question seeks to suggest a theoretical and analytical tool for studying the specific regional dynamics of the Arctic, and alternatively identify shortcomings of the theory in confrontation with the case and propose possible theoretical modifications. The thesis concludes that the Arctic can be classified as a regional security complex in terms of Buzan's and Wæver's theory, although as an emerging one with rather weak securitization linkages yet with a big potential to develop into a strong and dynamic security complex. However, several theoretical modifications have proved to be needed to make the concept more flexible and applicable to the reality of the international system. A broader discussion on regionalist approaches to international security points to the legitimacy of sub-systemic level of analysis as well as it identifies their main shortcomings and drawbacks.

**Key words:** Arctic, regional security complex, regional security, sub-systemic level of analysis, securitization