

Cold Rush: Trade, Energy and Cryptocurrency in the Russian Arctic and Beyond



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Introduction

- Climate: reduced ice coverage
- Motive: history and economics
 - pre-Soviet narrative
 - 10% GDP, 20% exports, 30% fish
- Importance
 - relatively undeveloped
 - environmental haven (?)
 - security (nuclear)
 - governance: domestic business & political dynamics



Cryptocurrency

- Why? Cheap energy, cold weather, reusing infrastructure, Chinese regulations and investment
- What? Asset Tokenization and Mining
- Nuance? More power to the Kremlin? Sanctions avoidance? Entrepreneurs of Influence?

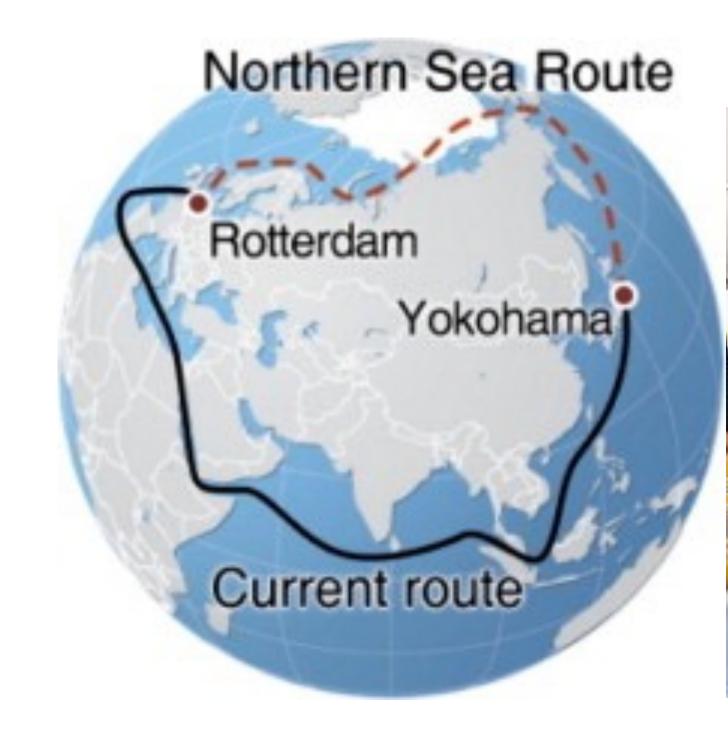
The Northern Sea Route

Strengths: Distance, Cost, Safety, Geographic Positioning, Legal

Weaknesses: Bureaucracy, Natural Barriers, Weak Infrastructure; Resulting Dwindling International Interest

Nuances: Militarization vs. Securitization, Environmental Realism

Methodology + lessons learned: a truly expansive literature review including unfamiliar subjects (shipping data, tariff policies) and regions (Suez and shipping routes). Developed a comfort with achieving a "workable", rather than "complete" level of knowledge before specifying my questions and thinking. For the future, I plan on implementing a tiered approach to reading papers, as well as constructing an anticipated bibliography





Novatek

- Who? Fierce competitor to state energy goliath Gazprom; first successful challenger of Gazprom's export monopoly
- Why? Multiple successful Arctic international energy projects, delivered on-time and on-budget.
- Importance: future of Russian energy (Petroreliant state); LNG vs. Pipeline; Pivot to Asia;
- Questions: Governance, domestic responsibilities and rebalancing the LNG vs. pipeline distribution

