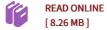# Drift Station Arctic Outposts of Superpower Science

By William F. Althoff

Potomac Books Inc. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 320 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.2in. x 1.4in.Closed to conventional passage, the Arctic Ocean and peripheral seas have nevertheless known European explorers since the sixteenth century. Systematic observation, however, dates only from the last years of the nineteenth century, with the epic drift of Fridtjof Nansens ice ship Fram (1893-1896), the first scientific expedition of the modern era. Twentieth-century technologythe icebreaker, radio transmission, nuclear power, and aircraftopened the Arctic for survey, basic research, and observation. World War II saw the inhospitable circumpolar Arctic transformed into a theater of military operations. The Cold War and the missile age saw governments staking further claims, because only a relatively short arc of maritime boreal waste separated North America and Eurasia. The complex interactions of air, ice, and water that drive circumpolar systems also serve as engines of oceanic and atmospheric circulation. As a result, meteorology, oceanography, geophysics, and many other areas of scientific research in the region soon became acutely linked to the economic, political, and particularly the politico-military interests of the Soviet Union, the United States, Canada, and the other Arctic nations. In response, both superpowers established drift stationsthat is, isolated camps based on...

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