

# NSDA Public Forum Debate (Fall 2023)

Topic: Arctic Militarization

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## PROS AND CONS OF ARCTIC MILITARIZATION (REJOINDERS)

### REJOINDER-01 (PRO): Improving Security

*They said we were wrong about... improving security.*

*However, we were not wrong because...*

#### 1.) **First... Arctic Rebalancing is Needed**

S: According to... *the Brookings Institution, May 2021*

[https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FP\\_20210520\\_arctic\\_defense.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FP_20210520_arctic_defense.pdf)

F: *It states...* As access to the arctic increases so will extracting resources, commerce, and tourism. Many countries such as Russia and China are developing critical infrastructure and a greater military presence. The US and its allies must do the same.

C: *This means...* since Russia and even China have already increased their military presence, when we do the same it is not likely to be seen as a hostile act, but an act of balancing – so, this will not cause a war.

#### 2.) **Also...**

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#### 3.) **Finally...**

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*Therefore, we were NOT wrong about... improving security.*

### REJOINDER-02 (PRO): Improving the Economy

*They said we were wrong about... improving the economy.*

*However, we were not wrong because...*

#### 1.) **First... Opening New Trade Routes**

S: According to... *The Center for International Maritime Security, April 13, 2023*

<https://cimsec.org/why-the-us-is-losing-the-race-for-the-arctic-and-what-to-do-about-it/>

F: *It states...* Those who support the claim that the US is losing the race for the Arctic often highlight that the Arctic ice is melting and that this environmental change is opening up potential trade routes and making natural resources more ripe for exploitation.

C: *This means...* if we increase our military in the arctic, we can protect billions in trade and gain access to trillions of dollars in resources.

#### 2.) **Also...**

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#### 3.) **Finally...**

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*Therefore, we were NOT wrong about... improving the economy.*

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## REJOINER-03 (PRO): Increasing Scientific Discoveries

*They said we were wrong about... increasing scientific discoveries.*

*However, we were not wrong because...*

### **1.) First... Arctic Bioprospecting Leads to New Medicines**

*S: According to... University of East Anglia, Oct 18, 2022*

<https://www.labmanager.com/new-dataset-reveals-biological-treasure-trove-of-arctic-ocean-29033>

*F: It states... a center for polar and marine research supports bioprospecting to tackle the shortage of antibiotics and antiviral medication, as well as reveal evidence that might influence our understanding of the evolution of life on Earth.*

*C: This means... by providing greater security and safety for scientists we can get access to new life-saving discoveries improving the lives of millions of people.*

### **2.) Also...**

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### **3.) Finally...**

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*Therefore, we were NOT wrong about... increasing scientific discoveries.*

### **Concluding Statement:**

*So, for all these reasons we ask you to vote for the PRO side of this debate. Thank you.*

# NSDA Public Forum Debate (Fall 2023)

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## PROS AND CONS OF ARCTIC MILITARIZATION (REJOINDERS): Continued...

### REJOINDER-01 (CON): Threatening Security

*They said we were wrong about... threatening security.*

*However, we were not wrong because...*

#### 1.) **First... Miscalculations Far More Likely (& Dangerous)**

*S: According to... CBC News, February 18, 2018*

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/war-risk-blunder-1.4540790>

F: It states... Miscalculations, accidents, and human error combined with rising global instability led experts to believe accidents and missteps are more likely and far more dangerous than they were in the past.

C: This means... when we increase tension in the arctic, we are also increasing the risk of the kind of miscalculation that could trigger a war.

#### 2.) **Also...**

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#### 3.) **Finally...**

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*Therefore, we were NOT wrong about... threatening security.*

### REJOINDER-02 (CON): Destroying the Environment

*They said we were wrong about... destroying the environment.*

*However, we were not wrong because...*

#### 1.) **First... Worsening Climate Change (or Risking Extinction!)**

*S: According to... Responsible Statecraft, August 29, 2022*

<https://responsiblestatecraft.org/2022/08/29/arctic-military-build-up-poses-new-geopolitical-and-climate-risks/>

F: It states... A U.S. military build-up in the Arctic threatens to make the impacts of climate change significantly worse. A loophole in major climate treaties allows the military to withhold the truth about the damage they will be causing there. There is no plan to reduce emissions from their military operations.

C: This means... by increasing U.S. military presence in the Arctic, we contribute to climate change, thereby adding to a global crisis that threatens millions of lives – it is our most dangerous existential threat!

#### 2.) **Also...**

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#### 3.) **Finally...**

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*Therefore, we were NOT wrong about... destroying the environment.*

# NSDA Public Forum Debate (Fall 2023)

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## REJOINER-03 (CON): Wasting Valuable Resources

*They said we were wrong about... wasting valuable resources.*

*However, we were not wrong because...*

### **1.) First... Resource Exploitation is Too Costly!**

*S: According to... The Center for International Maritime Security, April 13, 2023*

<https://cimsec.org/why-the-us-is-losing-the-race-for-the-arctic-and-what-to-do-about-it/>

*F: It states... The high costs of extracting resources and transporting them from the arctic, companies are still not going to pursue arctic resources unless something changes dramatically, which is unlikely.*

*C: This means... increasing our military presence in the arctic will not lead to greater economic resources for the economy and it will not be worth the hundreds of billions each year that we spend doing it.*

### **2.) Also...**

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### **3.) Finally...**

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*Therefore, we were NOT wrong about... wasting valuable resources.*

### **Concluding Statement:**

*So, for all these reasons we ask you to vote for the CON side of this debate. Thank you.*