



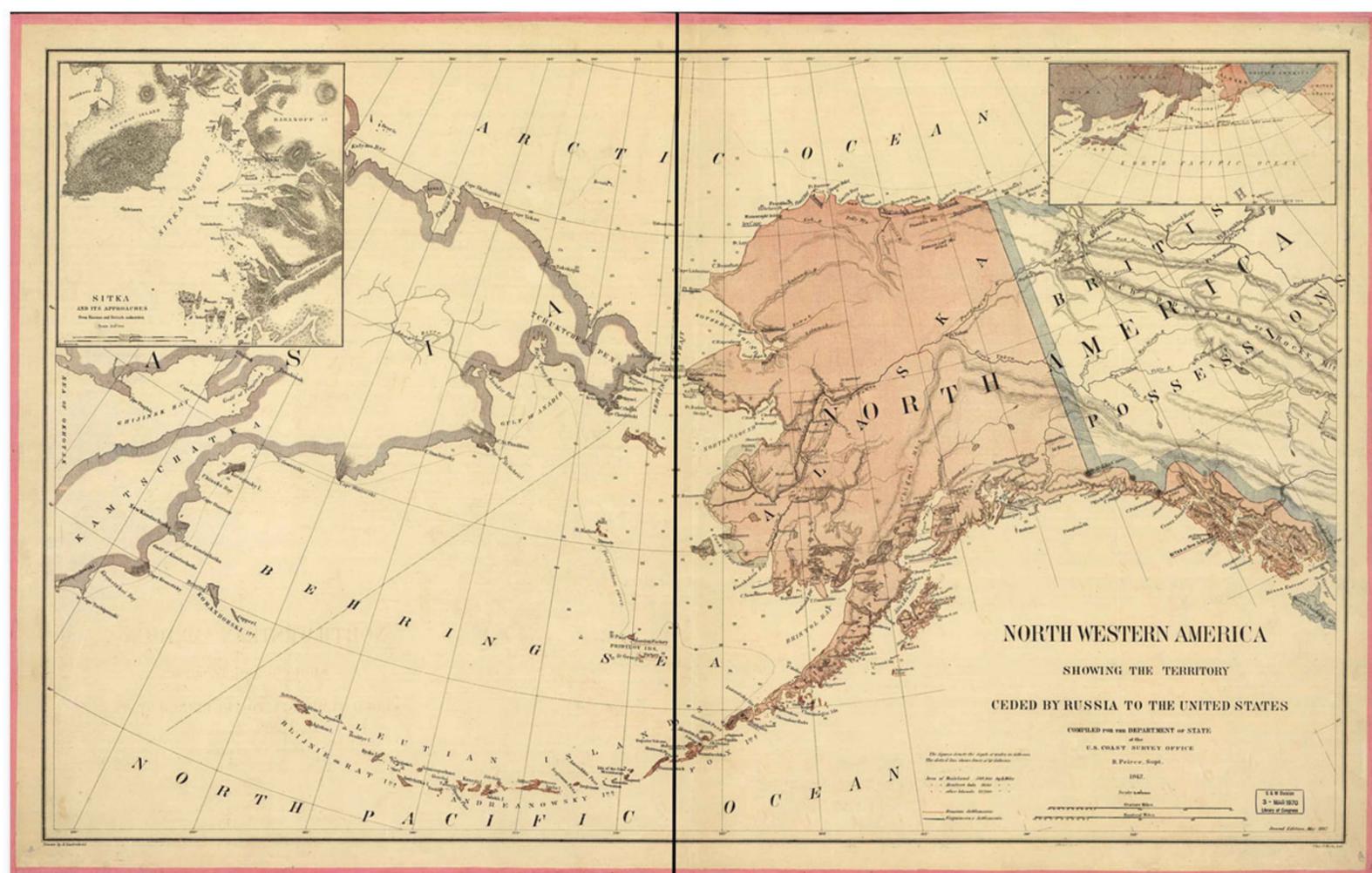
CLOSER THAN WE THINK

200 YEARS OF U.S.-RUSSIA DIPLOMACY

Separated by only 55 miles over the Bering Strait, the United States and Russia have been engaged almost from the very beginnings of the fledgling American democracy. Like the strait itself, however, proximity has offered both great opportunity and, at times, rough waters.

This exhibition celebrates more than 200 years of diplomatic history between these two great nations – from the settlement of Alaska by Russian explorers through expanding frontiers, beyond the suspicions kindled by the Russian Revolution to the alliance of World War II, from the tension and rivalry of the subsequent Cold War era, through détente, on to a rekindling of cooperative relations in the present day.

Throughout, while diplomats pursued official channels, regular citizens of both countries connected with each other through demonstrations of bravery in battle, compassion in times of need, and skill in science, education, sports, and the arts.



Map, "North Western America showing the territory ceded by Russia to the United States, 1867."