

Donald Dennie. *Une histoire sociale du Grand Sudbury: le bois, le roc et le rail* (Sudbury, Prise de parole, 2017), 390 pages

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his penultimate chapter, cleaner water allowed invasive species to thrive, for example, but was part of a public movement to reclaim the river as a recreational pathway rather than an industrial corridor. In the conclusion the author covers more recent developments and isn't shy about applying historical lessons to current and future debates about the city's liquid trajectory.

Sinking Chicago is an engaging read, sophisticated but accessible to non-academics. The same is true of *Montreal, City of Water*, a slightly updated English-language translation of a book originally published in 2011 in French. This city in Quebec does not have the flood problems that its Illinois counterpart has historically dealt with, in large part because of the physical setting and topography. The book surveys the different urban aspects of water in Montreal, interspersed with selected case studies. Dagenais synthesizes differing approaches to the uses of water that are often separated: manipulation and levels; channelization and navigation; pollution and water quality; cultural and social meaning; and recreation. The author delves into the ways that hydrological "perceptions" change over time. Indeed, the way that water is perceived in Montreal helps determine chapter organization.

Montreal, City of Water is divided into two primary sections: the first, from the mid-nineteenth to the start of the twentieth, was marked by the construction of water supply and sewer systems as well as harbourfront development. The second period corresponds to the second half of the twentieth century when the waterways and their banks were urbanized with the increasing use of powerful technologies. Chapter 1 provides a historiographic survey of how Montreal's geography and water was perceived in pre-modern times. The next chapter is about the dual perception of water as both a menace and resource. After 1850 the "sanitary ideal" became widespread, with the concomitant result that water was commodified and brought under the aegis of municipal government. Chapter 4 continues the emphasis on sanitation in the nineteenth century. Problems arose when the same water that accepted pollution and waste became the source of the public water supply, especially with growing scientific awareness of disease. Montreal dealt with this problem in several ways. One was to convert water into infrastructure by transforming and covering waterways—that is, turn them into sewers. Regulation of water quality and quantity required the intrusion of local government into more aspects of daily life, particularly since government had the requisite expertise and technocrats. And surrounding communities and suburbs became linked to Montreal through the linking of water infrastructure: Montreal made its sewage the problem of surrounding communities.

Over time, Montreal's waterfront was transformed into a harbour and industrial zone. While many might think first of the St. Lawrence River and Mont Royal reservoirs when it comes to Montreal and water, Dagenais turns the reader's attention

to other water bodies, such as the Rivière des Prairies on the north end of the island. There, the extension of Montreal's water networks beyond the historic city proper involved efforts such as hydroelectric dams.

Since the 1970s there has been a drive to reconnect with the city's water, especially the St. Lawrence. But this also leads to a mythologizing of past relationships to the river and the false notion that Montreal had become disconnected from its waterways. As Dagenais shows, the city had always been tightly connected to its waters, but the nature of those connections has changed over time, variously favouring industrial, economic, public health, and other interests. *Montreal, City of Water* demonstrates the reciprocal relationship between the city and its flows: how spreading urbanization transformed Montreal's hydrology, and how its waterways and modifications contributed to urban development.

Dagenais and Platt both prove that the historical development and current status of these cities cannot be fully understood without reference to their watery past. The two authors strikingly demonstrate the ways that water is politicized, and the ways that politics can hinge on water. Neither *Sinking Chicago* nor *Montreal, City of Water* is framed as declensionist stories, as the authors equally show that the urban aquatic health in Montreal and Chicago is better than it was a few decades ago—though not nearly as good as it needs to be, especially considering the unpredictability of climate change. *Montreal, City of Water* and *Sinking Chicago* will be of interest not only to students and denizens of these great cities, but to urban water, planning, and environmental historians in general, as well as recreation and public health scholars. Those interested in urban and municipal governance will have much to relish in these two books, which should be required reading for any planners, politicians, or bureaucrats responsible for the future of Montreal or Chicago.

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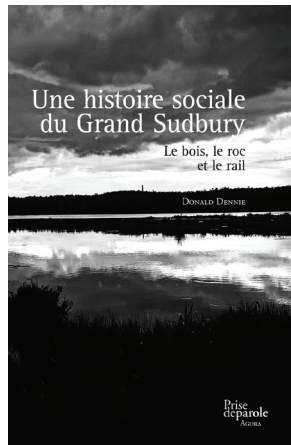
Donald Dennie. *Une histoire sociale du Grand Sudbury: le bois, le roc et le rail* (Sudbury, Prise de parole, 2017), 390 pages

Wood, rock, and rails have, as Donald Dennie tells us, provided important settings for the human history of today's Greater Sudbury. Readers of this work, the first full-length history of the region written in French, learn something of each factor; but they will encounter more of the human factors that were at work. Dennie's interest in class conflict and entrepreneurial roles adds useful insights into the "Nickel Belt," revealing it as much more than a mining region. The interplay of forest, field, mine, and urban commerce offers much to readers unfamiliar with the region.

That said, *Une histoire sociale du Grand Sudbury* is often familiar for the minority who have followed regional historical

literature more closely. Longstanding historical indifference was punctuated only by a few popular histories¹ and amateur local works. Matters improved in the 1970s, when Gilbert Stelter was at Laurentian University; his articles and those of his students raised standards for Nickel Belt history. Several generations of graduate students followed, investigating elements of regional history from business to politics to pollution to its varied populations. The centennial of Sudbury achieving town status saw new book-length publications.² Dennie himself offered *À l'ombre de l'INCO*,³ which focused on the region's francophones.

Dennie mines these works and many more; while his citations are (perhaps for reasons of space?) basic, his bibliography is wide ranging. There are some curious absences—several doctoral theses, both recent and the first thesis to attempt an overview of the region's early history, are not cited. Perhaps noting these gaps is to quibble—Dennie clearly has long experience assessing the historical evolution of Greater Sudbury.



Other issues seem more important. An overview of the region should offer a significant discussion of the First Nations' long history in the region. Fur trade histories and work on the Robinson Huron Treaty offer insights—Indian Affairs records offer another entry. But Dennie offers only passing comment (11–13). Even the notorious sale of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek (Whitefish Lake) timber late in the nineteenth century receives no attention. While this book is a regional overview, in an era of recognition and reconciliation such cursory comment is insufficient.

Beyond commenting on what is *not* in Dennie's book, one can note that his long-established interest in the area's Franco-Ontarians, notably in the once-agriculture sector termed "The Valley," results in a somewhat uneven coverage of the region. Perhaps this imbalance is inevitable, as scholars are more comfortable writing about what is most familiar. Here, readers anticipating a "regional" coverage will find little about various parts of the Nickel Belt, especially its southwestern periphery, points north beyond the "Valley" and points east/southeast. One finds few references to centres like Cartier, Wahnapiatae, or Whitefish, or, indeed, most of the mining centres. All much diminished now, they nevertheless served as useful "central places" for residents in the era preceding convenient automobile travel. That is not to say that Dennie is unaware of these places, but regional studies are best served when featuring geographic balance. Clearly this task is challenging; or even confusing—Saarinen's recent regional coverage⁴ (2013) can disconcert through its valiant efforts to "look everywhere."

Tension between detail and overall coverage also emerges in dealing with social history. Dennie offers good coverage of francophone populations and adds useful social class analysis. That discussion also balances earlier tales of "entrepreneurial vigour" by pointing out the important, very pro-business role of the state in exploiting the various resources of the region. Timber, minerals, and even agriculture were "boosted" by state infrastructures and economic support; as the local mining economy grew, the state also sided with the mining firms when farmers tried to protect their livelihood. Earlier works feature economic "progress," ignoring the often-severe tensions between businesses and local workers and farmers. Here, workplace confrontations, as well as struggles between agricultural and mining economies, get sound discussion. A succinct history of unionization at the nickel mines (even if very light on pre-1945 failures) is a welcome feature, although Dennie seems sympathetic to "Mine Mill's" confrontations with the United Steelworkers.

If balance raises occasional eyebrows, so too do details. Inevitably, brief overviews sacrifice specifics, but that means what one does conclude matter even more. Take ethnic organizations—Dennie rightly notes the roles of many such groups, from British to Eastern European, Finnish, and more. French-Canadian organizations and activities get the lion's share of attention, and there is much to be garnered from that material. However, in dealing with other ethnic populations, the (necessary) generalizations often counter conclusions found in the increasingly numerous studies of religious, economic, and cultural organizations. Here we still find "radical" Finnish immigrants, likely reflecting use of the badly dated Cold War-era M.A. thesis by Martha Allen⁵ that celebrated church and criticized the "Left." More recent works, some listed in Dennie's Bibliography, reveal a complex combination of Finns with Socialist, Social Democratic, Conservative, and even pragmatic stances. Similarly, more use of recent work on Ukrainians and other ethnic groups would enhance the discussion of social organization as a factor in regional growth.

Once again, it is important to balance concerns with praise—as with social class, Dennie does well outlining and evaluating the evolution of the region from a hodgepodge combination of towns, villages, mining sites, and rural setting into a formal, organized region. This tale of centralization, of control shifting to Sudbury is well told. Dennie effectively parallels the rise of urban dominance with the rise of monopoly control in the nickel industry; his coverage of the 1920s merger that made INCO the global nickel firm is especially clear. Where in 1900 one found pretenders for leadership of the Nickel Belt, by 1930 Sudbury was well placed, not least because INCO grew weary of housing its workers. Regionalization in 1972, mandated from Toronto, was "icing on the cake," confirming Sudbury's domination. Given the passage of nearly a half-century since 1972, one hoped for more on the steps leading to "Greater Sudbury" as depicted by the book's last map (354). Unfortunately there is

only passing reference to the emergence of that quite different, more southern, and geographically sprawling community. Having taken Dennie to task for elements not covered, it seems only fair to note that offering the history of this complex, modern half-century represents a task of herculean proportions requiring a larger volume.

The comparative brevity of *Une histoire sociale* has, as revealed here, consequences, but it also serves readers with an interest, but not a passion for Sudbury-area history. Academics may wish the tale was told in more depth, but there is much to praise in Dennie's work. Small quibbles—why have an antiquarian list of township name origins?—are inevitable, but there are also small elements to praise, like photographs published from private collections that add interest (e.g., Blezard Mine, 1890, 73). Comparatively extended discussion of women entering the mineral workforce during World War II is another moment of real interest to any reader.

In the end, *Une histoire sociale* can be challenged; nevertheless, this readable, many-faceted history of the “Nickel Capital of the World” is a welcome French-language addition to the literature. High time: francophones played crucial roles in Nickel Belt history, a history relevant to anyone interested in Canadian, resource-sector, or ethnic histories. Criticisms notwithstanding, Donald Dennie's work is well worth reading and considering.

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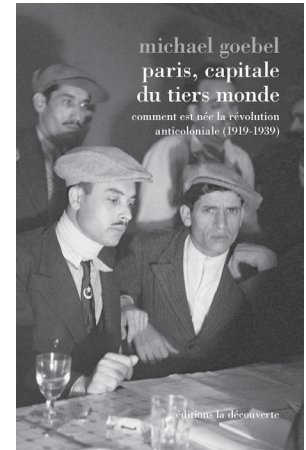
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Notes

- 1 D.M. LeBourdais, *Sudbury Basin: The Story of Nickel* (Toronto: Ryerson, 1953); Charles Dorion, *The First 75 Years: A Headline History of Sudbury, Canada* (Ilfracombe: Arthur H. Stockwell, 1958).
- 2 Graeme Mount, *Sudbury Region: An Illustrated History* (Burlington: Windsor Publications, 1986); C.M. Wallace and A. Thomson, eds., *Sudbury: Rail Town to Regional Capital* (Toronto: Dundurn, 1993).
- 3 Donald Dennie, *A L'Ombre de l'INCO: Étude de la transition d'une communauté Canadienne-française de la région de Sudbury (1890–1972)* (Ottawa: Les Presses de l'Université d'Ottawa, 2001).
- 4 Oiva Saarinen, *From Meteorite Impact to Constellation City: A Historical Geography of Greater Sudbury* (Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2013).
- 5 Martha Allen, “A Survey of Finnish Cultural, Economic, and Political Development in the Sudbury District of Ontario” (M.A. thesis, University of Western Ontario, 1954).

Goebel, Michael. *Paris, capitale du tiers monde. Comment est née la révolution anticoloniale (1919-1939)*. Paris, Éditions La Découverte, 2017. 447 p. Traduit de l'anglais par Pauline Stockman.

Ce livre s'attache à rechercher les origines du tiers monde post-impérial dans le brassage des émigrés non européens qui se côtoient à Paris durant l'entre-deux-guerres. On attribue à l'économiste-démographe Alfred Sauvy l'invention en 1952 de l'expression « tiers monde » pour désigner les pays décolonisés ou en cours de décolonisation qui n'appartenaient pas aux deux mondes qui se partageaient l'univers après 1945, soit le capitalisme et le socialisme.



L'auteur soutient que le tiers monde et l'ère de la conférence de Bandung trouvent leurs racines dans l'anticolonialisme international qui germe à Paris dans les milieux de migrants au cours des années 1920 et 1930. Pensant à Hô Chi Minh, Messali Hadj et Zhou Enlai, entre autres, il remarque que de nombreux dirigeants nationalistes et leaders postcoloniaux sont formés en Occident, dans ce microcosme d'échanges cosmopolites.

Le nationalisme anti-impérial, promoteur d'un ordre mondial nouveau post-impérial, serait issu des contacts, réseaux et interactions entre activistes présents dans ce carrefour international qu'est le Paris de l'entre-deux-guerres. Ces échanges jouent un rôle de moteur et de courroie de transmission pour la formulation de revendications nationalistes. Dans ce contexte d'interfécondation parisienne, les similitudes se dégagent et l'impérialisme n'apparaît plus comme des injustices isolées mais comme un système. Les différents conflits deviennent susceptibles d'analyse à travers un prisme mondial. L'argument central de l'auteur est qu'il faut traiter l'histoire de l'opposition à l'impérialisme sous l'angle de l'histoire sociale de l'immigration, laquelle serait l'ancrage de l'histoire intellectuelle de l'anti-impérialisme.

Le titre de l'ouvrage peut paraître criard. L'éditeur en est-il responsable? La version anglaise était intitulée *Anti-Imperial Metropolis. Interwar Paris and the Seeds of Third World Nationalism*. Sentant sans doute le besoin de se distancier de son titre, ce qui est peu commun, l'auteur affirme dès l'introduction qu'il est excessif et anachronique de qualifier Paris de capitale du tiers monde et qu'il serait incorrect de situer l'apparition du tiers monde avant la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Quant au sous-titre, il ne suggère pas que Paris soit l'unique point d'origine de la révolution anticoloniale (p. 10-11). Affranchi des considérations publicitaires, le sujet est ainsi ramené à ses justes proportions.