

## Book Notes / References Bibliographiques

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# BOOK NOTES/ RÉFÉRENCES BIBLIOGRAPHIQUES

Gerry Berkowski and Nolan Reilly, *1919: The Winnipeg General Strike* (Winnipeg: Manitoba Department of Culture, Heritage, and Recreation 1985).

PREPARED TO introduce and guide the participant in the Winnipeg General Strike Walking Tour, this brochure is beautifully illustrated with photographs of the events of 1919, the personalities and their workplaces and homes, and the setting in which the Strike erupted. There are useful introductions to the nature of working-class Winnipeg and the streets and places where advocates and opponents of the General Strike clashed. This is popular history at its best: accessible, attractive, and firmly rooted in a sophisticated reading of the past.

Carl Berger, *The Writing of Canadian History: Aspects of English-Canadian Historical Writing since 1900* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press 1986).

BERGER'S AWARD-WINNING discussion of Canadian historiography, first published in 1976, appears in a second edition. The new edition is concluded with an addition, serving as a conclusion, entitled "Tradition and the 'New' History." While this quick once-over of the writing of the last decade, concentrating on the broadening of research and the interpretive assault on conventional historiographical wisdoms, will please few of the regionalists, feminists, and labour historians who have contributed greatly to the expansion in historical writing, they all get at least a part of their due. Berger has little appetite for the polemical ex-

changes that are now a recognized aspect of some fields, but he is generally fair-minded in his final judgments. Marxist labour histories even come in for some praise for their accomplishments.

Ben Forster, *A Conjunction of Interests: Business, Politics, and Tariffs, 1825-1879* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press 1986).

PROTECTIONISM is at the core of Canadian economic life, past and present. Forster explores the formative years of Canadian protectionism in this study of business, politics, and tariffs in the years 1825-1879. The earlier years are sketched quickly, and the study focusses more on the political dimensions of protectionism than on its economic impact, but this work will nevertheless prove of importance to all interested in nineteenth-century Canada.

Robert A.J. McDonald and Jean Barman, ed., *Vancouver Past: Essays in Social History* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press 1986).

THIS COLLECTION of essays on Vancouver constituted a special issue of *B.C. Studies*. Most of the essays focus on housing, neighbourhoods, and the historic development of reform, with emphasis on schooling, crime, and health care. Labour historians will find McDonald's "Working-Class Vancouver, 1886-1914" essay the most pertinent, but virtually all of the studies have something to say about class and social differentiation within the

coast province's major urban center. Patricia Roy closes the volume with a discussion of 50 years of writing on Vancouver's history.

Bernard L. Vigod, *Quebec before Duplessis: The Political Career of Louis-Alexandre Taschereau* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press 1986).

FOR LABOUR HISTORIANS and those with an interest in industrial relations this study is of use in detailing the beginnings of Workmen's Compensation and other labour legislation, in which Taschereau took considerable interest. Vigod's interpretation, often stressing Taschereau's benevolence, may not be accepted by all, but his study does provide a particular perspective on the issues of central concern to Quebec labour in the pre-Duplessis years: Catholic unionism and state relations with the labour movement.

John Richards and Don Kerr, ed., *Canada, What's Left?* (Edmonton: Newest Press 1986).

IN MAY 1984, 50 people met in Edmonton to debate the relationship of the New Democratic Party to labour and to discuss the relevance of "a new social contract." Most of the participants are associated with social democracy although some, such as Leo Panitch, drew forceful distinctions between reform-oriented social democratic politics and the struggle for socialism. The essays in this volume — concerned with the culture of politics, contemporary unionism, the market economy, industrial democracy, and decentralization — convey the current concerns and dilemmas of the social-democratic left.

Alex Macdonald, *'My Dear Legs': Letters to a Young Social Democrat* (Vancouver: New Star 1985).

ALEX MACDONALD IS British Columbia's longest sitting MLA, having represented the Co-Operative Commonwealth Federation and the New Democratic Party in the Victoria legislature for more than 25 years. Hugh Legg is

an NDP researcher half Macdonald's age. The letters to 'Legs' printed here are an extended commentary on decades of social democratic political activity, reflective of the tenacity and dilemmas of reformism.

Mary C. Grimes, ed., *The Knights in Fiction: Two Labor Novels of the 1880s* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press 1986).

T. FULTON GANTT'S *Breaking the Chains: A Story of the Present Industrial Struggle* and Frederick Whittaker's *Larry Locke, Man of Iron; or, a Fight for Fortune: A Story of Labor and Capital* are reprinted in this useful text. Both novels originally appeared in serial form in working-class and popular newspapers in the 1880s. The former presented the Knights of Labor as the saviour of the working class, while the latter also features the Order as a key player in an unfolding strike led by the story's hero, Larry Locke. Both pieces of fiction extol the working-class culture of the 1880s at the same time that they try to influence the workers of the period to realize their power. Grimes provides a helpful introduction to these two novels, one of which was written by her grandfather, T. Fulton Gantt.

James T. Kloppenberg, *Uncertain Victory: Social Democracy and Progressivism in European and American Thought, 1870-1920* (New York: Oxford University Press 1986).

KLOPPENBERG RANGES widely over radical, socialist, social democratic, and progressive thought, touching down on geographic and cultural ground that reaches from James to Dewey, Luxemburg to the Webbs. Stressing the extent to which social democracy and progressivism transformed the ideas of revolutionary socialism and laissez-faire liberalism, Kloppenberg argues that these philosophically-rooted orientations to the world charted the course of twentieth-century politics. Their victory, he argues, was rooted in the willingness to recognize uncertainty, and to accept that reform was an endless struggle.

Neville Kirk, *The Growth of Working Class Reformism in Mid-Victorian England* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press 1985).

LIKE JOHN FOSTER, Neville Kirk sees the liberalization of class politics in mid-Victorian Britain as the central feature of the political economy of the 1850s, 1860s, and 1870s. Pursuing this theme through discussions of living standards, labour leaders and trade unions, the ideology and practice of respectability, work relations, and popular Toryism, Kirk's argument takes its empirical evidence from the cotton districts but reaches beyond the local confinements of such previous inquiry to argue that while economic realities set the limits within which reformism emerged, liberalization was by no means reducible simply to a knee-jerk reaction to economic stimuli. An opening chapter on the rise of reformism in the mid-Victorian years situates nicely the evolution of liberalization as both an historiographical concern and a historical process.

Michael Hanagan and Charles Stephenson, ed., *Proletarians and Protest: The Roots of Class Formation in an Industrializing World* (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood 1986).

MANY OF THE articles in this collection focus on the relationship of town and country in the transition to industrial capitalism. Urban and rural forms of proletarianization are contrasted, with attention paid to migration, the role of the state in labour recruitment, and the resulting variations of class consciousness. There is a little here for every national specialist, with essays on Scandinavia, Latin America, Europe and Africa. The editors provide a useful introduction.

Charles Tilly, *The Contentious French: Four Centuries of Popular Struggle* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press 1986).

THIS IS A CANVAS of "popular contention: over four centuries of French history. It aims to show how much the growth of the state and the development of capitalism concurred at the expense of ordinary people, and of how polit-

ics at all levels was grounded in conflict. Tilly pays attention to the differences in the kinds of struggles associated with specific periods, but it is in the nineteenth-century that he sees a fundamental shift in the *repertoire* of collective action. The movement is away from parochial and patronized struggles toward national and autonomous forms of conflict: food riots and charivaris are replaced with strikes and planned insurrections. Statemaking, wage labour, and capitalist property forms insured new kinds of contention, and this book will give you tables, diagrams, and historical evidence from particular regions to convince you of this. Whether you are indeed drawn to the argument depends on how you like to be convinced. But regardless of the reader's views this is a book to grapple with. How does Tilly manage to write so much?

Sarah C. Maza, *Servants and Masters in Eighteenth-Century France: The Uses of Loyalty* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press 1983).

THE FIRST major study of domestic service in France from the late seventeenth to the early nineteenth century, this book is an important comment on the transformation of a pivotal occupation from a male-oriented station of aristocratic conspicuous consumption to a female, household-centered foundation of middle-class life. Maza probes the fascinating area of loyalty, arguing that the physical and psychological gulf separating masters and servants by the early nineteenth century had eroded loyalty and in its place conditioned the fear, anxiety, and self-consciousness of the middle class. Her book ends with a quote from Eliot's Prufrock: I have seen the moment of my greatness flicker, And I have seen the eternal Footman hold my coat, and snicker, And in short, I was afraid.

John Riddell, ed., *The German Revolution and the Debate on Soviet Power—Documents: 1918-1919 Preparing the Founding Congress* (New York: Pathfinder 1986).

THE SECOND volume in the edited collection

of documents in "The Communist International in Lenin's Time," this is, like its predecessor, *Lenin's Struggle for a Revolutionary International*, an invaluable assembly of revealing key documents, many of them unavailable elsewhere in English. Central here are the failure of the German Revolution and the founding of the German Communist Party as well as the international debate on Soviet power and the Bolshevik preparations for the March 1919 founding of the Comintern. All of the pivotal actors in these events are present here — Lenin, Trotsky, Zinoviev, Radek, Luxemburg, Liebknecht, Noske, and Kautsky — and the documents are organized in nine separate chapters, followed by a chronology of main events, a glossary, and a short and selective listing of further reading.

Barbara A. Hanawalt, *The Ties That Bind: Peasant Families in Medieval England* (New York: Oxford University Press 1986).

THIS SYNTHETIC account of the peasant family stresses the persistence of the family and its relative resistance to change. It should serve as a valuable text for specialists as well as providing insights into the nature of the family that those working on other periods and matters can use effectively.

Robin Gollan, *Revolutionaries and Reformists: Communism & the Australian Labour Movement, 1920-1950* (Sydney: Allen & Unwin 1985).

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED in 1975, the reissuing of this text provides students of the international communist movement with a valuable synthesis of the CP's relationship to the Australian labour movement. The bulk of the book details the 1939-1955 years, and emphasis is placed on the deforming impact of the Cold War. Two introductory chapters do address the 1920s and the period of the Popular Front, crucial years in establishing the foundations upon which post-1939 developments would take place.

Joan Smith, Immanuel Wallerstein, and Hans-Dieter Evers, ed., *Households and the World-Economy* (Beverly Hills: Sage 1984).

A VOLUME in the "Explorations in the World-Economy Series," this collection is composed of 17 essays organized in three parts. The first section, dealing with households, subsistence, and the capitalist world-economy is largely theoretical in focus and offers perspectives on how household structures, wage labour, and modes of production relate to each other. Next comes a series of articles that address the relationship of the household to the state and capital accumulation. Finally, the book closes with four contributions on the internal structure of households, especially gender relations within the household and the historical functioning of the domestic economy.

John Bellamy Foster, *The Theory of Monopoly Capitalism: An Elaboration of Marxian Political Economy* (New York: Monthly Review Press 1986).

CONCERNED MAINLY with the work of Baran and Sweezy, this account of Monopoly capitalism is in fact an extended comment on the particular political economy of a distinguished group of economic writers whose Marxism has been developed through *Monthly Review*. It is a clear and forceful elaboration of basic Marxist concepts such as economic surplus, capital accumulation, imperialism, and value. A closing chapter tackles the difficult question of socialist construction and the post-revolutionary society.

Bade Onimode, *An Introduction to Marxist Political Economy* (London: Zed 1985).

ONIMODE'S BOOK is a nice companion and complement to Foster's *Monopoly Capitalism*. Covering much of the same ground — value, exploitation, the theory of the falling rate of profit, the state and accumulation, the nature of the transformation of capitalism — this text is nevertheless far more oriented to the Third

World, and consequently imperialism enters into the argument more persistently.

Daniel Zwerdling, *Workplace Democracy: A Guide to Workplace Ownership, Participation, and Self-Management Experiments in the United States and Europe* (New York: Harper 1984).

ZWERDLING PRESENTS a series of case studies of "democracy at the workplace," most of them drawn from the United States. He also has topical chapters on what labour thinks about workplace democracy and about specific countries, such as Yugoslavia and Great Britain.

James Curran, ed., *The Future of the Left* (Cambridge: Polity Press 1984).

TWENTY-THREE authors offer their reflections on the crisis of the British Labour Party, the new social movements, and the price currently being paid as a consequence of the new right's entrenchment in power. Most of these essays appeared in the magazine *New Socialist*, and anyone interested in the British Labour Party will find this book an eclectic gathering place for the opinions of the unaligned left. Pessimism seems the order of the day, with Gareth Stedman Jones, Raymond Williams, and Stuart Hall all making much of the "crisis of labourism." It is time, apparently, for the Labour Party to go back to the drawing board.

Herbert A. Applebaum, *Blue Chips* (Lawrenceville, Va.: Brunswick 1985).

THE ANTHROPOLOGIST author of these short stories about the lives of construction workers has worked in the industry. His fiction conveys the nature of working-class experience in ways that actually address some of the significant social issues of our time. "Now We Got Women," for instance, outlines the difficult entry of women into traditional male spheres of construction work, while "Break-Up" outlines the personal costs associated with

work that takes men away from their homes. These stories are far from "politically correct" and there is little attempt to paint workers as heroic figures. But they do tend to depict people who work for a living as they are, flawed but attempting to grapple with their lives.

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Dione Miles, comp., *Something in Common - An IWW Bibliography* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press 1986).

THIS 560-PAGE bibliography of the Wobblies opens with a foreword by Philip Mason, Director of the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs at the Walter P. Reuther Library of Wayne State University, and a useful introduction by the compiler. After a helpful "IWW Chronology," comes an annotated bibliography of books (Number 1-235), articles (236-3349), theses (3350-3549), pamphlets (3550-4746), IWW newspapers and magazines (4747-4806), government documents (4807-4895), and miscellaneous writings including plays, poetry, and novels (4896-5048). An excellent author/subject index completes the volume. While no bibliography can ever be definitive, there's unlikely ever to be a more complete listing of IWW material.

R. David Myers, *Samuel Gompers: A Selected List of References About the Man and His Time* (Washington: Library of Congress 1986).

THIS ANNOTATED bibliography was compiled to mark the centenary of Gompers's election as President of the American Federation of Labor. In about 50 pages, the compiler lists and describes 120 items by or about Gompers. While primarily covering items familiar to all labour historians, the list does include some surprises such as the 768 pages of reminiscences of John P. Frey, available on microfiche. This useful pamphlet can be purchased from the United States Government Printing Office (1986-155-642/50474).

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