

## Book Notes / References Bibliographiques

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[See table of contents](#)

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# BOOK NOTES / RÉFÉRENCES BIBLIOGRAPHIQUES

Stephen McBride and John Shields, *Dismantling a Nation: The Transition to Corporate Rule in Canada*, 2nd ed. (Halifax: Fernwood Publishing 1997)

"NEO-LIBERALISM," the authors maintain, "is about shifting decision-making power to the marketplace and establishing a government policy environment that is driven by corporate priorities." This book traces the development of the Canadian state from the creation of the Keynesian welfare state through the dismantling of the post-war social order, Meech Lake, NAFTA, and the Liberal policies of the Chrétien government.

Franca Iacovetta, Paula Draper, and Robert Ventresca, eds., *A Nation of Immigrants: Women, Workers, and Communities in Canadian History, 1840s-1960s* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press 1998)

THIS COLLECTION of nineteen essays taken from journals, edited collections, and monographs published in the 1980s and 1990s, covers a broad range of topics and themes. Crafted primarily as a text for courses in immigration, survey, and social history, short introductions to each of the nine organizing topics sketch historiography and suggest questions for readers. There is an important emphasis on working-class and female immigrants, and readers are invited "to consider Canada's remarkably diverse immigrants and

their children, and the clashes and accommodations that have characterized relations between newcomers and hosts ...."

Veronica Strong-Boag and Anita Clair Fellman, eds., *Rethinking Canada: The Promise of Women's History*, 3rd ed. (Toronto: Oxford University Press 1997)

FIRST PUT TOGETHER over a decade ago, 19 of the 27 essays in this revised and updated edition are new. Each of Canada's regions is represented, and the articles span New France to the 1990s. This volume pays particular attention to First Nations women, women of colour, and immigrant women, reflecting recent trends in historiography. Useful introductions accompany each article.

Roberta Hamilton, *Gendering the Vertical Mosaic: Feminist Perspectives on Canadian Society* (Toronto: Copp Clark 1996)

AN INTRODUCTION to feminist perspectives and theories of the women's movements, *perspectives on the state*, challenges to the state, work, and representation and subjectivity. Building on John Porter's classic sociological work, *The Vertical Mosaic*, the book examines class, race, sexuality, Québec nationalism, and Aboriginal women.

## 298 LABOUR/LE TRAVAIL

Daniel Azoulay, ed., *Canadian Political Parties* (Toronto: Irwin Publishing 1999)

ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY, 22 essays analyze political parties from 1867 to the 1900s. Devoted to the "more successful and enduring political organizations," the essays examine the Progressives, Communists, Social Credit, and the Union Nationale as well as the Conservatives and Liberals. "Classics": such as W.L. Morton and Frank Underhill on the Progressive movement and the development of national parties are here alongside more recent work. Two essays provide broad overviews, and each section: The Rise of National Parties, 1867-1919, The Emergence of Protest Parties, 1918-1945, and Continuity and Change, 1946-1998, is introduced by the editor in a useful essay.

Brian Gobbett and Robert Irwin, *Introducing Canada: An Annotated Bibliography of Canadian History in English* (Lanham, MD, and London: The Scarecrow Press, and Pasadena and Englewood Cliffs: Salem Press 1998)

ONE OF THE MCGILL Bibliographies series, this volume is an extensive bibliography of monographs and journals devoted to Canadian history. It is divided by category: General Texts and Reference Materials, Native Aspects of History, Political History, Economic and Business History, Intellectual, Cultural, Education, and Science History, Working-Class and Labour History, Women's and Family History, Ethnic and Immigration History, Regional and Urban History, and External Relations and Military History. Each category is further subdivided, and within each subdivision, books are listed alphabetically by author. The books are ably described in entries of between 100 and 200 words, and short essays introduce each category and the historiography. Thorough author and subject indexes make it easy to find particular books. This

is an excellent guide to Canadian history written in English, and will be of great use to scholars and students.

Eric Hobsbawm, *Uncommon People: Resistance, Rebellion, and Jazz* (New York: The Free Press 1998)

THE SECOND COLLECTION of Hobsbawm's essays in two years, *Uncommon People* is, in the author's words, "almost entirely about the sort of people whose names are usually unknown to anyone except their family and neighbours.... My point is ... that collectively, if not as individuals, such men and women are major historical actors. What they do and think, makes a difference." The essays span the early 1950s to the mid-1990s, and range in-topic from "The Machine Breakers" to "Revolution and Sex" to "Epitaph for a Villain: Roy Cohn," to "Jazz Comes to Europe" to "The Old World and the New: 500 Years of Columbus."

David Brody, *Steelworkers in America: The Nonunion Era* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press 1998)

FIRST PUBLISHED in 1960, this book quickly became one of the founding works of the "new labour history." This edition includes a symposium, first published in *Labor History* in 1993, with seven labour historians who discuss the impact of the book.

Edward P. Johanningsmeier, *Forging American Communism: The Life of William Z. Foster*, 2nd ed. (Princeton: Princeton University Press 1998)

THIS PAPERBACK has corrections and a new preface that outlines Johanningsmeier's research in Russian archives and material he discovered since the first edition of the book was published in 1994. Commenting on the debate over

Moscow's control of Communist parties in other countries, the author concludes that recent revelations continue "to point ... to indigenous factors as the most compelling explanations for [Foster's] radicalism."

Eric Arnesen, Julie Greene, and Bruce Laurie, eds., *Labor Histories: Class, Politics, and the Working-Class Experience* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press 1998)

DAVID MONTGOMERY is perhaps North America's pre-eminent labour historian. Thirteen of his former students have contributed essays to this *Festschrift*, and the result is a rich collection of articles grouped in three sections that highlight some of the areas Montgomery has emphasized in his work: Politics and the State, Class and Culture, and Labour Activism and Workers' Organizations. The essays are wide-ranging and important, and the editors have written a useful preface and introduction that situate Montgomery's work and nicely sum up current debates in labour history. The result is a fine book that underlines the contributions of this scholar as teacher and historian.

Calvin Winslow, ed., *Waterfront Workers: New Perspectives on Race and Class* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press 1998)

FIVE AUTHORS: Eric Arnesen, Calvin Winslow, Howard Kimeldorf, Colin Davis, and Bruce Nelson, examine dock labour in topics ranging from biracial unionism to the 1907 New York strike to the Wobblies in Philadelphia to the 1948 New York strike to race relations on the West Coast. The main focus is race, for the waterfront was always cosmopolitan, and race and ethnicity were sources of division and solidarity.

Jim Davis, Thomas Hirsch, and Michael Stack, eds., *Cutting Edge: Technology, Information, Capitalism, and Social Revolution* (London: Verso 1997)

WHAT ARE the implications for capitalism, the left, and humanity of the "electronics revolution"? More pointedly, what is the dialectic between technological development and capitalist social relations? Seventeen articles explore different aspects of the question, such as trade union responses to technological change, business cycles in the technoeconomy, Marx's theory of machines, automation and alienation, and information as commodity.

Robert W. McChesney, Ellen Meiksins Wood, and John Bellamy Foster, eds., *Capitalism and the Information Age: The Political Economy of the Global Communication Revolution* (New York: Monthly Review Press 1998)

FOURTEEN SHORT ESSAYS examine the history and political economy of communications from leftwing perspectives. Topics include propaganda, the information economy, neoliberalism in telecommunications, democracy, socialism, the new technology, and education. The authors include Noam Chomsky, Ellen Meiksins Wood, Edward Herman, and Elaine Bernard.

Robert Cantwell, *When We Were Good: The Folk Revival* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1996)

CANTWELL EXAMINES the folk music revival of the late 1950s and 1960s in a highly personalized account to explore the "postwar social landscape" and cultural process. For the author, "what is most interesting about the revival is not its political affiliations, but the absence of them. For we were good, and wanted to be. The left, in any case, was itself subject

### 300 LABOUR/LE TRAVAIL

to the more pervasive cultural influences with which this book is concerned and inseparable from them.”

Kenneth M. Jennings, *Swings and Misses: Moribund Labor Relations in Professional Baseball* (Westport: Praeger 1997)

THE AUTHOR, a professor of industrial relations, applies the principles of the discipline to labour relations in baseball over a 25 year period. Particular attention is given to the 1994 baseball strike.

Emily Toth, *Ms. Mentor's Impeccable Advice for Women in Academia* (Pennsylvania: Penn State University Press 1997)

THIS BOOK should be read by every graduate chair, new professor, and graduate student. Presented in a question and answer format, like that of Miss Manners, this book offers the lowdown on academic life in the 1990s. It is filled with tips and hints, ranging from dealing with sexual harassment to making a good impression with job applications. It is realistic without being cynical, positive without being Pollyannaish. There is a moderate reformist tone to much of the advice, but it is balanced, useful, and practical.