

Scientia Canadensis

Canadian Journal of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine
Revue canadienne d'histoire des sciences, des techniques et de la médecine

Scientia
Canadensis

Canada in NORAD, 1957-2007: A History. By Joseph T. Jockel.
(Montreal/Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press 2007. x +
225p., notes, app., maps, index. ISBN 978-1-55339-135-7 hc. \$85
978-1-55339-134-0 pb. \$34.95)

Adam Chapnick

Volume 32, Number 2, 2009

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/038166ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/038166ar>

[See table of contents](#)

Publisher(s)

CSTHA/AHSTC

ISSN

0829-2507 (print)

1918-7750 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this review

Chapnick, A. (2009). Review of [*Canada in NORAD, 1957-2007: A History.* By Joseph T. Jockel. (Montreal/Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press 2007. x + 225p., notes, app., maps, index. ISBN 978-1-55339-135-7 hc. \$85 978-1-55339-134-0 pb. \$34.95)]. *Scientia Canadensis*, 32(2), 93–95.
<https://doi.org/10.7202/038166ar>

Copyright © Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association /
Association pour l'histoire de la science et de la technologie au Canada, 2009

This document is protected by copyright law. Use of the services of Érudit (including reproduction) is subject to its terms and conditions, which can be viewed online.

<https://apropos.erudit.org/en/users/policy-on-use/>

Érudit

This article is disseminated and preserved by Érudit.

Érudit is a non-profit inter-university consortium of the Université de Montréal, Université Laval, and the Université du Québec à Montréal. Its mission is to promote and disseminate research.

<https://www.erudit.org/en/>

opportunities, as well as the location of its factory. Later developments, such as the move to component manufacturing or the rise and fall of Canadian-design-production, also deserve to be placed in the context of larger patterns in the history of North American aviation and aircraft production. To do so would provide a deeper understanding of how these patterns influenced production practices and how developments in manufacturing techniques potentially influenced these larger trends.

Despite any shortcomings, this book provides an important stimulus for investigations into the history of aircraft production and producers that move beyond the existing corporate histories. At the same time, it raises a series of questions whose answers will enrich our understanding of Canadian aviation history. For historians of technology more generally, Campbell's work articulates an important challenge: that our work should not ignore the shop floor and the knowledge embedded in the production process nor the ongoing dialogue between design, object, and techniques of manufacture.

MARIONNE CRONIN
University of Toronto

***Canada in NORAD, 1957-2007: A History.* By Joseph T. Jockel.** (Montreal/Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press 2007. x + 225p., notes, app., maps, index. ISBN 978-1-55339-135-7 hc. \$85 978-1-55339-134-0 pb. \$34.95)

It is highly unusual for an American scholar to take a sincere interest in Canada and Canadian history. Joseph T. Jockel, a professor of Canadian Studies at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, is a rare exception, and students of Canada's national past should be grateful. Already the author of the standard history of the founding of the North American Air (and now Aerospace) Defence Command (NORAD), in his new book, Jockel extends his analysis ahead fifty years, focussing on the Canadian contributions to the most significant bilateral institution of Canada-US defence cooperation between 1957 and 2007.

The book has three specific goals, all of which are met impressively. Jockel aims to describe and assess Canadian participation in NORAD missions, to document the history of NORAD as a Canada-United States bi-national command, and to track the institutional evolution of NORAD as a security agreement. His analysis is divided into five main chapters and a conclusion, with each substantive section ending during one of the

many renewals of the NORAD accord. The organization is logical, and lends itself well to Jockel's intended focus.

Writing contemporary history is challenging, particularly when one is focused on military issues that demand government secrecy, and Jockel's successful efforts to gain access to relatively recent archival material are therefore particularly notable. It is not surprising that the historical research is more rigorous for NORAD's early period, but the book in its entirety is based on documentary evidence that should allow it to remain a definitive account of the Canadian experience for many years to come.

Although *Canada in NORAD* is not based around a single, comprehensive argument, Jockel makes a number of thoughtful and refreshing observations that echo thematically throughout the text. The first, and it is largely implicit, is that for the vast majority of the half century of NORAD's existence, the United States has behaved as a cooperative and supportive Canadian partner and ally. Certainly, there were times—such as during the construction of the original radar lines across northern Canada in the late 1950s—that continental cooperation made strategic sense. But even as Ottawa became increasingly less important to Washington's ability to defend itself against foreign bombers and missiles, the United States continued to dedicate the time and effort necessary to keep the accord alive and palatable to Canadian political leaders with changing interests and priorities.

Surely, some might argue, even if Canada's contribution was limited, it has always been in Washington's best interest to maintain cooperative and cordial relations with its partner in the security of the northern half of the western hemisphere. But Jockel's evidence presents the United States as much more than that, a remarkably generous ally that only deliberately used its advantage in size and power to Canada's detriment on one particular occasion when Ottawa was less than fully cooperative with President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative.

Jockel also points out the ever-present flaws in Canadian civilian-military relations. One can sense his frustration and reluctant acceptance of a culture in Ottawa that is so risk averse and politically sensitive to charges of cooperating too closely with the United States that clear national interests are often set aside to maintain domestic harmony. It is ironic, he notes, that the more "independent" Canadian defence policy became in the 1970s and 1980s, the less control Ottawa was able to exercise over the protection of its sovereign territory (p.122).

A third and final observation worth noting is how quickly NORAD and its related binational responsibilities diminished in overall importance. In 1958, President Eisenhower was so committed to closer bilateral defence collaboration that he appeared to have been willing to hand over

complete control of American nuclear weapons on Canadian territory to Ottawa, an offer that was quickly turned down by a government in Ottawa that wanted to continue to portray itself (wrongly) as nuclear-free. By as early as 1960, however, advances in military technology had made Canada's geography and the contributions of its military far less critical to US security needs. As a result, as Jockel writes convincingly, "although the US military may have acquired 'the habit' of involving Canadians in continental defence, if NORAD were dissolved or downgraded to a task force, it is most unlikely that it could ever be restored" (p.197).

Students of the history of science and technology will appreciate Jockel's ability to convey relatively intricate details about radar lines and missile defence in accessible language. The maps he has chosen to include are equally clear and understandable. The book is at times burdened by too many cumbersome abbreviations, but this is as much a fault of military culture's excessive use of lengthy, awkward terminology as it is a problem with this text in particular.

One might quarrel with an occasional interpretation (this reader considers C.D. Howe's parliamentary announcement that Canada would not pursue a nuclear weapons program ample evidence of an official Canadian renunciation [p.13]), the book as a whole is authoritative. While future historians with access to still closed cabinet documents and other archival material might refine some of the detail, *Canada in NORAD* will have a place on scholars' bookshelves for a long time. It is also written sufficiently accessibly to be of interest to educated non-specialists with an interest in North American defence cooperation, military history, and civil-military relations. What is needed now is a similar book from the American point of view. Perhaps Jockel will write that one next.

ADAM CHAPNICK
Canadian Forces College

Industrie laitière et transformation agricole au Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, 1870-1950. Par Régis Thibeault. (Québec : Presses de l'Université Laval, 2008. xxi + 256 p., tab., maps, ill., bibl., ann. ISBN 978-2-7637-8500-4 37,95\$)

Tirée d'une thèse de doctorat complétée en 2002, cette étude aborde la question agricole sous l'angle du passage d'une agriculture diversifiée et traditionnelle à une agriculture intégrée à l'économie de marché. Cette