

Bone, Robert M. (1992) *The Geography of the Canadian North*.  
Toronto, Oxford University Press, 284 p. (ISBN 0-19-540772-5)

John K. Stager

Volume 37, numéro 101, 1993

Géopolitique du territoire québécois

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/022361ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/022361ar>

[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

Éditeur(s)

Département de géographie de l'Université Laval

ISSN

0007-9766 (imprimé)

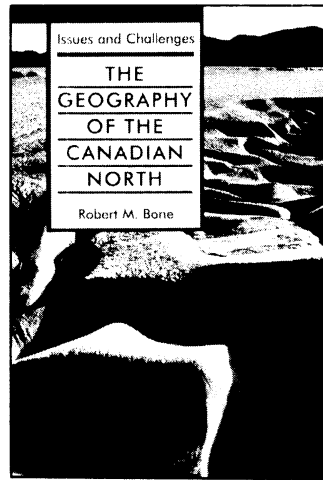
1708-8968 (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

Citer ce compte rendu

Stager, J. K. (1993). Compte rendu de [Bone, Robert M. (1992) *The Geography of the Canadian North*. Toronto, Oxford University Press, 284 p. (ISBN 0-19-540772-5)]. *Cahiers de géographie du Québec*, 37(101), 404–405.  
<https://doi.org/10.7202/022361ar>

BONE, Robert M. (1992) *The Geography of the Canadian North*.  
Toronto, Oxford University Press, 284 p.  
(ISBN 0-19-540772-5)



The prospect of having a comprehensive geographical overview of the Canadian North must surely have heightened the anticipation of Robert Bone's book. Until now, there has not been an up-to-date volume giving focus to the great range of information and concerns about the north that are quite extensive but in very scattered sources. Subtitled his book *Issues and Challenges*, the author poses a geographer's task of using the resource economy to understand the northern economy, the northern environment and the native society both within and on the edge of it. Furthermore, he argues that the geographic distinctions between the Subarctic and Arctic underlies much of the explanation of the northern economy and people.

The book begins with a review of northern perceptions and the physical base described comprehensively to include climate, vegetation, landforms, ice, permafrost, and some hydrology. Canada-scale maps are used to illustrate the phenomena; they are clear and indeed the cartography for the whole book well done. The chapter on historical background sketches prehistory and language; admits the Europeans to the scene; reviews Arctic whaling; and then has the book refer to "The Beginnings of the Canadian North". This is the time of Confederation and after when Canada assumed responsibility for the rest of the unclaimed continent. Mention is made of the native people, the Indian Act and the background for aboriginal rights and claims. But the entry of the resource developers — the past gold rushes, government development policies and programmes, military responses of WW II and the Cold War — all are quickly brought together to set the scene for the main discussion of the modern North.

The process of northern development begins with population geography. Here is where we get the true definition of the North, based on 29 census areas. It is where confusion begins to creep in. The inclusion of Thunder Bay and territory, and the lac Saint-Jean country certainly skews northern numbers. In fact there is a breakdown in the Subarctic/Arctic separation, and throughout the book it is hard to keep information and illustrations inside the natural boundaries. Gradually as

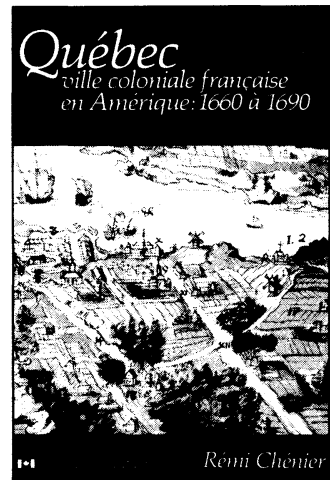
---

the discussion progresses through resource development, mega projects and the impact of industry on environment, it seems that the arguments drift away from the north somewhat, and we get essays about the processes in development economies and environmental decay. It comes back when talking about the native population, the native economy and land claims. It ends with northern realities, namely the region is still a hinterland, has a burgeoning native population, n° outmigration, a desperate needs for jobs, but hope is in the new self respect and self governance through settled claims. This is coupled with the more sensitive understanding by the metropolitan society that is still dominant in the country.

The book is easy to read; it may be a bit repetitious but that reinforces learning. An innovation is the inclusion of *vignettes* that give interesting capsules of information to supplement the chosen case studies that are woven through the text. Professor Bone has drawn considerably on his own long experiences in the field. He has also provided us with an excellent bibliography of sources that students will welcome. I shall certainly use this book as a text.

John K. Stager  
Department of Geography  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver

CHÉNIER, Rémi (1991) *Québec, ville coloniale française en Amérique: 1660 à 1690*. Ottawa, Lieux historiques nationaux, Service des parcs, Environnement Canada (Coll. «Études en archéologie, architecture et histoire»), 293 p. (ISBN 0-660-92996-1)



Cet ouvrage s'insère dans le cadre des recherches consacrées à la ville de Québec par le Service canadien des parcs. L'auteur aborde l'histoire de Québec sous le thème de l'urbanisation et s'en sert comme modèle pour définir le concept de ville en Nouvelle-France.

L'ouvrage se divise en quatre parties et comporte de nombreux plans, cartes, graphiques et tableaux.