

## Book Notes / Références Bibliographiques

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[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

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# BOOK NOTES/ RÉFÉRENCES BIBLIOGRAPHIQUES

Gregory S. Kealey and Greg Patmore, ed., *Canadian and Australian Labour History* (St. John's, Newfoundland: Committee on Canadian Labour History 1990).

THIS COLLECTION BRINGS together six papers presented to a Canadian-Australian labour history conference that took place in December 1988. The historiographic essays by Robin Gollan and Gregory S. Kealey avoid the difficulties of comparative history, a task undertaken only by Australian industrial relations contributors Richard Mitchell and Greg Patmore, who comment on arbitration and conciliation and pre-World War I labour relations on the railways. Judy Fudge offers an assessment of the development of Canadian labour law in the 1940s while Bettina Bradbury summarizes the experience of gender and girls' work in the 'family economy'.

Max Swerdlow, ed., Gregory S. Kealey, *Brother Max: Labour Organizer and Educator* (St. John's, Newfoundland: Committee on Canadian Labour History 1990).

FORMER TLC AND CLC executive member, Max Swerdlow offers his reminiscences of a life spent as a working-class educator and organizer. From his days "riding the rods" in hungry thirties to his role in founding the Labour College of Canada, Swerdlow touches down on various Canadian regional experiences and a number of themes of neglected importance in the history of Canadian trade unionism.

Daniel Drache and Meric S. Gertler, ed., *The New Era of Global Competition: State Policy and Market Power* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press 1991).

THIS BOOK TAKES the worldwide reorganization of markets and the complementary state initiatives of the 1980s as a starting point for a wide-ranging collection of essays that address the threats facing Canadian workers in the 1990s and the alternatives that open out before them. Twenty essays are gathered in six sections. The book commences with a discussion of the world economy and the Canadian state's response to recession, proceeds through comments on freer trade, industrial restructuring, the social costs of adjustment, and closes with essays on policy directions and democratic oppositional alternatives.

Paul Axelrod, *Making a Middle Class: Student Life in English Canada during the Thirties* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press 1990).

THIS USEFUL MONOGRAPH explores an aspect of higher education rarely detailed in the explosion of official histories of specific institutions: student life and its connections to the social order. Axelrod's assimilation of student experience to the aspirations of a gendered middle class gives the book a focus and an analytic edge, but it also provides grounds for theoretical difference and debate.

## 402 LABOUR/LE TRAVAIL

J.M.S. Careless, *Careless at Work: Selected Canadian Historical Studies* (Toronto: Dundurn Press 1990).

COLLECTING ESSAYS GROUPED around Careless's long-standing interests in George Brown, the metropolitan approach to Canadian history, urban locales and regional identities, and historiographic innovation, this book presents a useful introduction to one of Canadian social history's most creative promoters.

Jim Silver and Jeremy Hull, ed., *The Political Economy of Manitoba* (Regina, Saskatchewan: Canadian Plains Research Center 1990).

FIFTEEN ARTICLES SANDWICHED between an introduction and a conclusion cover much of the history and political economy of the prairie province that stood as the first labour stronghold of the Canadian west. Most notable for readers of this journal will be Errol Black's "Labour in Manitoba: A Refuge in Social Democracy," three essays relating to joblessness, plant shutdowns, and the restructuring of the textile industry in the post-1975 years, and the closing discussions of budgeting and planning under New Democratic Party governments.

Simon Rosenblum and Peter Findlay, ed., *Debating Canada's Future: Views from the Left* (Toronto: James Lorimer 1991).

INTRODUCED BY ED BROADBENT, this set-to among friends is less a debate on the left than it is a laying out of alternatives for those already either committed to the New Democratic Party or cosying up to it in some way. To be sure, there is a lot of room for differences of opinion in a crowd that includes Leo Panitch and Desmond Morton, John Calvert and John Richards, but this book is hardly a debate among the various strands of 'the left'. Rather, it covers the themes that have long exercised Canadian social democracy, themes which by now almost define

the various sectional interests of a party of many parts. Whatever the debate, recent resolutions at NDP conventions seem to have settled the discussions rather decisively.

Heather MacDougall, *Activists and Advocates: Toronto's Health Department, 1883-1983* (Toronto: Dundurn Press 1990).

THIS CENTENNIAL HISTORY explores the changing history of health and those who attempted to insure the effectiveness of a municipal public health service in Canada's premier urban locale.

Gordon Laxer, ed., *Perspectives on Canadian Economic Development: Class, Staples, Gender, and Elites* (Toronto: Oxford University Press 1991).

A CURIOUSLY ECLECTIC collection of essays, this text brings together neo-classicalists and conventional and radical advocates of the staples approach, as well as commentators on elites and the national policy, political economists concerned with class, and feminists. Readers will get pieces of Pentland, Drache, Watkins, Panitch, Cohen and Fox, and a justification for the selection of these and other authors in Laxer's introduction.

Richard M. Reid, ed., *The Upper Ottawa Valley to 1855* (Ottawa: Carleton University Press 1990).

A LENGTHY INTRODUCTION sets the stage for a useful compilation of documents on the timber society of the Ottawa Valley in the pre-confederation years.

Jeri Dawn Wine and Janice L. Ristock, ed., *Women and Social Change: Feminist Activism in Canada* (Toronto: James Lorimer 1991).

TWENTY ESSAYS FOCUS on areas of feminist activism in Canada. Unfortunately, there is all too little on trade union women

as immigrant women, farm women, academic women, and feminist community activists get more concentrated study. There is an essay on women's occupational health, but it is surprising that the experience of Trade Union Sisters, the pro-choice mobilizations within various unions, or the attempts to break the back of gender-structured workplaces receive so little overt attention.

Katherine Arnup, Andrée Levesque, and Ruth Roach Pierson, ed., *Delivering Motherhood: Maternal Ideologies and Practices in the 19th and 20th Centuries* (London and New York: Routledge 1990).

JANE LEWIS PROVIDES a stimulating introduction to the issue of motherhood, which is then explored in five preliminary essays on midwives, the shift in childbearing from homes to hospitals, and the experience of single mothers giving birth. With the exception of an essay on Vancouver, all of these studies focus on Quebec and Ontario. The remaining eight chapters range broadly from birth control and abortion to La Leche League and new reproductive technologies. This collection provides a stimulating introduction to the reproductive realm in Canadian history.

Martin Oppenheimer, Martin J. Murray, and Rhonda F. Levine, ed., *Radical Sociologists and the Movement: Experiences, Lessons, and Legacies* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press 1991).

FIFTEEN RADICAL SOCIOLOGISTS offer their personal statements on what turned them to the left in the 1960s. This collection may well tilt the making of the new left in decidedly sociological disciplinary directions, but it will prove useful for those now concerned to excavate the history of the 1960s.

Mike Davis, et al., ed., *Fire in the Hearth: The Radical Politics of Place in America; The Year Left, IV* (London: Verso 1990).

PERHAPS THE MOST electric of *The Year Left* volumes, this text focuses on place and contains two Canadian contributions, Susan Ruddick's assessment of the Montreal Citizen's Movement and Jonathan Pierce's discussion of social democracy in the Yukon.

Roberta Senechal, *The Sociogenesis of a Race Riot: Springfield, Illinois, in 1908* (Chicago and Urbana: University of Illinois Press 1990).

THIS STUDY EXAMINES the ways in which class, race, and racism interacted, presenting a complex picture of class relations of difference in which racism is not simply a dichotomization of white and black.

Peter Kivisto and Dag Blanck, ed., *American Immigrants and Their Generations: Studies and Commentaries on the Hansen Thesis after Fifty Years* (Chicago and Urbana: University of Illinois Press 1990).

MARCUS LEE HANSEN'S contribution to the history of American immigrants is assessed in this collection, which provides a useful introduction to the major interpretive issues now dominating the field of American ethnic studies.

Karl Hinrichs, William Roche, and Carmen Sirianni, ed., *Working Time in Transition: The Political Economy of Working Hours in Industrial Nations* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press 1991).

NO LABOUR PROCESS shift is now more promoted than the issue of flexibility in production. The length and nature of the working day, mediated by changes in policies around parental leaves, job sharing, and retirement, is now central to the politics of everyday life on the job. This collection of essays explores the meaning

of this development in Europe, the United States and Japan.

LouEllen Crawford, *Dependent Care and the Employee Benefits Package: Human Resources Strategies for the 1990s* (New York: Quorum Books 1990).

BASED ON A SURVEY OF 300 U.S. corporations, this study looks at the ways in which business accommodates those employees who have dependents, either elderly parents or children. This is thus a study of productivity-pushed innovations structured by the changing demographics of contemporary working-class life.

Jill K. Conway, Susan C. Bourque, Joan Scott, ed., *Learning About Women: Gender, Politics, & Power* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press 1989).

THIS WIDE-RANGING collection brings together feminist scholars from the United States, Europe, and Australia. None of the essays deal with labour, the focus being far more explicitly on academia and professional women. But readers of this journal may find Jill Conway's "Politics, Pedagogy, and Gender," and Susan Bourque's and Kay Warren's "Technology, Gender, and Development" stimulating.

David Herlihy, *Opera Muliebria: Women and Work in Medieval Europe* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press 1990).

HERLIHY ARGUES THAT the Middle Ages sealed the fate of women in terms of their displacement from the public sites of work, a process that marked them out as a dependent stratum.

Martin Jay, *Fin de Siecle Socialism; and other essays* (New York and London: Routledge 1988).

THESE ESSAYS CUT across many currents in contemporary thought — deconstruction and postmodernism, mass culture and the humanities — to fashion a statement on what Jay sees as the crisis of modern socialist thought.

Graeme Patterson, *History and Communications: Harold Innis, Marshall McLuhan, and the Interpretation of History* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press 1990).

THIS ECLECTIC, idiosyncratic, and illuminating book is a testimony that new things can still be said about Innis and McLuhan, and in ways that relate to the current preoccupation with national mythologies and the social construction of identity.

David W. Lovell, *Marx's Proletariat: The Making of a Myth* (London and New York: Routledge 1988).

NO SUBJECT HAS BEEN more thoroughly repudiated of late than the proletariat. Here is another book that argues that Marx and the working class are obsolete.

Abigail B. Bakan, *Ideology and Class Conflict in Jamaica: The Politics of Rebellion* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press 1990).

SCRUTINIZING THREE rebellions — an 1831 slave revolt, the Morant Bay uprising of 1865, and the working-class rebellion of 1938 — Bakan uncovers continuities in the ideological currents of popular resistance.