

McGahan, Peter. *Urban Sociology in Canada*. Toronto: Butterworths, 1982. Pp. 402. Tables

Leo Driedger

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recreation, charities, housing, working conditions, and many other topics appear briefly. While descriptive glimpses of life in Saskatoon emerge, the authors attempt no analysis of social structure and no conceptual framework ties these subjects together. Those acquainted with recent prairie historiography may weary when familiar accounts of these matters are simply plugged into the local scene. The authors select some dubious topics for discussion. Discourses on trench warfare and airplane combat in Europe, and on the rise of various farm protest movements seem out of place. Instead of telling us more about the important economic, social, and cultural role that the University of Saskatchewan played in the city, they squander a dozen pages on a faculty political squabble.

In short, this book deserves an assessment from two perspectives. It is a comprehensive, reliable, well written book for the general reader who knows little about prairie history. Students of the field will learn more about Saskatoon itself, but not so much about the nature of prairie urban development and social life generally.

Paul Voisey
Department of History
University of Alberta

McGahan, Peter. *Urban Sociology in Canada*. Toronto: Butterworths, 1982. Pp. 402. Tables.

Many of us who teach Urban Sociology have been looking for a Canadian text for years. Peter McGahan has written the first Canadian Urban Sociology text. Congratulations!

Some books were available on Canadian urban problems, urban demography, urban planning, urban history, but no one had attempted a comprehensive Canadian urban sociology. Many of us tried to copy by using American urban texts, and/or by piecing together Canadian urban readings. Here we have a first attempt at a Canadian urban sociology.

The introduction, eleven chapters and a conclusion have been ordered into six major parts: the classical foundations of urban sociology, growth of the urban system, entrance to the urban system, spatial shape of the urban system, urbanism, and regulating the urban system. McGahan treats the major areas of beginnings, ecology, demography, social organization, social psychology and social planning which we are accustomed to.

In laying the classical foundations, he discusses typological perspectives beginning with European theorists (Tönnies, Durkheim and Simmel), the Chicago School

(Park, Wirth), the folk-urban typology (Redfield, Lewis), and the rural-urban continuum (Sorokin and Zimmerman). He also devotes a chapter to the ecological perspective focusing on the Chicago School where he gets into Park's natural areas, Mackenzie's concentration, centralization, segregation, invasion and succession, and Burgess' concentric zone theory.

Part two on urban growth is devoted to Canadian demography. McGahan has a delightful philosophical mind which seeks to place the numerical demographics into historical, and ecological, context to provide meaning and explanatory power. He is interested in the meaning of growth as a process discussing the early colonial town, the commercial center, and then goes on to look for these in Ontario (Toronto, London, Oshawa, Whitby) and the west (Winnipeg, Victoria, Vancouver). He then continues to develop metropolitan growth, touching on typical demographic (age, sex, mobility) questions, and ending up with functions and classification of cities using the metropolitan centers of Canada to discuss quality of life. Here he uses tables and data freely as demographers must.

Part 3, devoted to entrance into the urban system, deals with internal and external migration (demographic mobility and immigration). Regional shifts in migration, migration in urban and metropolitan centers, profiles of migrants, community destination, patterns adjustment of various ethnic groups are illustrated with diagrams, tables, figures and case studies, all part of internal migration. McGahan views Canada as an urban system into which immigrants enter. He traces the immigration flow to show when and where newcomers arrived. He introduces their settlement patterns, their ethnicity, socio-economic status, focusing especially on postwar economic and social adaptation. He explores immigrant maintenance of identity and assimilation by showing the problems of Italians in Toronto, Greeks in Vancouver, and Asians in Calgary. Ethnicity receives considerable attention.

In chapters 7 and 8 (part 4), the author deals with the process (evolution), and structure of urban space usually referred to as ecology. The usual concentric, sector and multiple nuclei growth models are discussed, but what is new, is that he uses Canadian cities such as Toronto, Winnipeg and Montreal as his data. In connection with multiple nuclei he goes into social area analysis and factorial ecology as we would expect. To highlight internal urban structure he compares St. John's, Montreal, Regina and Vancouver by the dimensions of socio-economic, family, religious, and economic status. All the twenty-two metropolitan centers of 1971 are compared by residential segregation indexes, with more intensive comparisons of Toronto and Winnipeg. Although I was aware of many of these studies, McGahan has a way of bringing them all together in a very effective way.

"Urbanism" deals with the fate of kinship and community in the urban system. McGahan uses a number of inserts which demonstrate parental ties, and the social significance of the neighborhood for life in the city. Here he uses French-Canadian patterns in Montreal for example, and gets extensively into social network analysis. In chapter 10 he discusses the fate of community in the slums and the suburbs. The working class neighborhood in Toronto and "ordered segmentation in Chicago contrast life in the slums very well with the myth and lifestyle of suburbia."

An urban sociology text would not be complete without a short section on planning. McGahan begins with a discussion of political power and participation. Influentials in Banff, Alberta, are illustrated, and the characteristics of aldermen and mayors in five Alberta cities are compared by using inserts. Urban renewal in Africville, Nova Scotia, and relocation of the Lord Selkirk park area in Winnipeg provide further evidence of Canadian planning. He briefly concludes with an appeal for a national urban policy, and need for more research.

As you can tell, I like the volume. That is why I have spent most of this space outlining what the book contains. I have not been very critical because this first attempt at a Canadian urban sociology text is good. The 43 pages of bibliography show that the author has done a thorough job of reviewing, and integrating what Canadian research has been done, with American urban theory and research. There is a good balance between theory, empirical data and illustrations. McGahan has found an amazingly fine spread of urban research from Victoria to St. John's so that students across Canada should be able to identify with their own regional urbanism, and learn from the rest of Canada as well. The volume is very readable; Butterworth's has put its best into it. I plan to adopt it and use it in my classes.

Professor Leo Driedger
Department of Anthropology and Sociology
University of British Columbia

Thorpe, Frederick J. *Remparts lointains; La politique française des travaux publics à Terre-Neuve et à l'île Royale, 1695-1758*. Cahiers d'Histoire de l'Université d'Ottawa, No. 11. Ottawa: Editions de l'Université d'Ottawa, 1980. Pp. 196. Tables, maps, illustrations. \$6.75 (paper).

"Fish — that's why we're here, and that's why you're here too." Thus succinctly did a former mayor of Louisbourg describe the historical background of settlement in Cape Breton — "we" being today's inhabitants of the small fishing town, and "you" being the Parks Canada

employees undertaking the ambitious reconstruction project of the original fortified French town.

The importance to France of the North American fishing grounds and the lengths various ministers of *la Marine* went to protect fishing interests in the Gulf of St. Lawrence in the period 1663-1763 are brought out clearly and forcefully in Thorpe's dissertation. Equally forcefully, he dismisses theories of grand military design and strategically situated fortifications. Louisbourg is less plausible as the "Guardian of the Gulf" and mighty fortress than as a flourishing commercial port providing the mother country with a commodity more valued than the furs of Canada. That the town and its fortifications took the form they did is explained as the inevitable outcome of involving the French Corps of Engineers, with their marked anti-colonial bias and their system of contracting out.

The author sketches with broad, deft strokes the economic background in France following Louis XIV's reign, as well as the complex system of checks and balances employed by the civil service. The bureaucratic bag and baggage of a centralized government were applied wholesale to the Gulf possessions so that the colony, far more than the rest of New France, looked continually back to Europe for instructions, staff and even basic supplies. One of the most serious shortcomings of the Ile Royale colony was its failure to seek out systematically and to make full use of local resources, or even to draw on those of the other French colonies — an error convincingly explained by Thorpe as due to the sanguine belief of the French government in the short-term nature of the construction work required.

Given the self-perpetuating nature of bureaucracies, the Ile Royale venture became a long-term commitment occupying much of the careers, and indeed life-spans, of engineers, contractors and administrators. The government found itself embarked upon the most ambitious colonial construction program it had ever undertaken, spending more money on the fortifications of Louisbourg than on those of Quebec. Yet these expenses should not be exaggerated: we are shown that the colony's budget never exceeded 2.2 per cent of the ministry's total budget, and was often less than one per cent (Appendix IV).

That such a program would cause conflicts, tensions and frustrations among those charged with carrying it out is readily understandable; Thorpe succeeds in highlighting the difficulties that faced, or arose between, the protagonists so that the gap of two centuries is closed. The squabbles, the cost overruns, the supplies that fail to materialize — all could have been stories from yesterday's newspapers.