

Bibliographies

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[See table of contents](#)

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cinnati.” In fact, the national non-farm homeownership data describes a steady increase: 36.9% in 1890; 38.4% (not one third) in 1910; 46.0% in 1930; 53.4% in 1950; 62.0% in 1970. Admittedly, the homeownership percentages may have dropped in many major centres, but even this conclusion is challenged by John Bodnar, Roger Simon and Michael Weber in their study of Pittsburgh (1900–1960): “in the first thirty years of the twentieth century homeownership among Pittsburg households increased substantially as it did in all large cities.” Perhaps the dream functioned more effectively than Wright wishes to concede. Nevertheless, the book has so much valuable information that I am convinced that it was not all written with smoke and mirrors. Passion and commitment merely guided the sometimes reckless research in problematic and contentious directions.

Uncertainty about Wright’s use of history to understand housing “crises” (a term that is never defined and for good reason as it is exceedingly slippery) extends to the question of why there has been a “preoccupation with the private dwelling.” She is too fair to proclaim that industry advertising, home journals and pattern book compilers duped the middle class — and the working class too, for Olivier Zunz’s Detroit study points to class as a minor variable in explaining homeownership. But that impression of manipulation is the one she leaves by default. It seems to be an uncomfortable thought for social critics, writing as historians, to suggest that patterns of the past might have conferred benefits and satisfaction to large numbers. Isn’t it conceivable that the detached home and the segregated neighbourhood had institutional support because of popularity? As Pogo once said in another context, “I have seen the enemy and he is us.”

This provocative and occasionally irritating book must be admired for its scope and for its value as a stimulus.

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Levine, Gregory, Richard Harris and Brian Osborne. *The Housing Question in Kingston, Ontario, 1881–1901*. Kingston, Ontario: Queen’s University, Department of Geography, 1982. Pp. 142. Tables.

This “report on an investigation” is an unpolished account of a pioneering research effort that set about to place an empirical and quantitative approach (based on assessment rolls) within a Marxist theoretical framework. The two finished papers that resulted from the project present solid and revealing information, but they are something of a disappointment when they follow a bold claim that earlier Canadian studies “are deficient in that theory is often left implicit and is often inappropriate for the questions considered and much of the empirical work is of a preliminary nature.” Such a critique presented in this volume definitely amounts to giving a hostage to fortune.

Nevertheless, “Housing in Kingston in 1881” presents sound observations. Fourteen freeholders owned 16 per cent of the city’s total rental stock; several appeared “to be concerned with renting (sic) low value accommodation to the working class.” More generally, the paper’s discussion of space, tenancy, and class is a sensible list of questions and conjecture. One hardly needs to have dipped into Marxist theory, an exercise much promoted, to have arrived at the clear observations and calls for much research. “The Single Tax Movement in Kingston, 1881 to 1901” serves as a reminder that the control of housing by a bourgeoisie did not pass without the criticism of a structuralist argument about the origins of wealth and poverty nor without political movements that took up the theoretical attack. The imposition of class analysis is not as crude as this summary, for, as the paper honestly points out, the adherents of the Single Tax were varied and the debate “was largely carried out by members of the bourgeoisie and the petty bourgeoisie.”

John C. Weaver
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Shumsky, Neil L. and Timothy Crimmins, editors. *Urban America: A Historical Bibliography*. Clio Bibliography Series, Santa Barbara: America Bibliographical Center - Clio Press, 1983. Pp. xi, 422. \$55.00 (U.S.).

This volume contains 4,068 abstracts of articles concerned with the development of, and life in, American cities from prehistoric times to the present. The abstracts originally appeared in volumes eleven through seventeen of *America: History and Life* published by ABC - Clio Information Services of Santa Barbara, California.

The database of *America: History and Life* contains abstracts of articles appearing in more than 2,000 journals printed in 42 languages. Of these, about 700 are published in the United States and Canada, and they include journals of local historical societies, as well as those dealing with history in general, the humanities and the social sciences.

Urban America contains several sections of particular interest to Canadians. Most notably there is a distinct section devoted to “Canadian Urban History and Life” that includes 299 entries, but one other major section is also very useful since it covers “Historiography, Methodology, Bibliography and Teaching.” This helpful volume also includes extensive author and subject indexes and a list of periodicals.

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Smith, Dwight L., ed. *The History of Canada: An Annotated Bibliography*. Clio Bibliography Series. Santa Barbara: American Bibliographical Center - Clio Press, 1983. Pp. xi, 327. \$55.00 (U.S.)

The 3,362 entries in this volume are based on the same sources as those noted above for *Urban America*. This volume, however, contains a short but interesting introduction that discusses “bibliographical history” in Canada written by Alan MacDonald of the University of Calgary. The bibliography’s headings follow chronology — ranging from “The Native Peoples” and “Pre-Columbian Exploration and Exploitation” to “The Contemporary Scene, Since 1945.” There is also a long section on Canada’s regions.

For urban specialists, the bibliography is best approached through the subject index where topics such as urban history, urban renewal, urbanization, housing, city planning, public housing, and so on can easily be located. *The History of Canada* also contains an extensive author index and lists of abbreviations and periodicals.

This volume joins several others in the Clio Bibliography Series that are devoted, at least in part, to Canada. Previous volumes include *Indians of the United States and Canada* (two volumes), *The American and Canadian West*, and *European Immigration and Ethnicity in the United States and Canada*.

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Moscovitch, Allan, with the assistance of Theresa Jennissen and Peter Findlay. *The Welfare State in Canada: A Select Bibliography, 1840–1978*. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 1983. Pp. xxxviii, 246. \$13.95.

The first major reference work of its kind in the social welfare field in Canada, this volume is a selected bibliography of works on Canadian social welfare policy. The entries in Part One treat general aspects of the origins, development, organization, and administration of the welfare state in Canada. Among headings of particular interests to urban studies specialists are sections on municipal government and intergovernmental relations. The entries in Part Two treat particular areas of policy such as unemployment, disabled persons, prisons, child and family welfare, health care, and day care.

The Welfare State in Canada also contains a number of other useful sections such as an introductory essay on “Social Welfare and Social Policy in Canada: Historical Background and Sources”; a “user’s guide”; several appendices on archival materials; and an extensive chronology of Canadian social welfare legislation.

This pioneering volume will be of wide interest to students, researchers, and social welfare analysts, administrators, and practitioners. The volume should also help stimulate research in the field.

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