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*Allied Power: Mobilizing Hydro-Electricity During Canada's Second World War.* By Matthew Evenden. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2015. xii + 273 p., notes, ill., index. ISBN 978-1-44262-625-6, \$32.95

Sean Kheraj

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[See table of contents](#)

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and into a tangled, unglamorous, and intangible world of meetings and memos, Enros shows that the history of science policy is a critical part of understanding science.

*Matthew Wallace, Canada Foundation for Innovation*

***Allied Power: Mobilizing Hydro-Electricity During Canada's Second World War.*** By Matthew Evenden. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2015. xii + 273 p., notes, ill., index. ISBN 978-1-44262-625-6, \$32.95.

In 1939, Canada was an energy oddity in the Western world. 98% of Canada's electricity was generated by the flow of moving water and by the end of the Second World War, according to Matthew Evenden, "Canada had become a hydro-electric superpower" (4). In thinking about energy, Evenden's *Allied Power* reveals new insights into Canada's contributions to the war effort and the substantial role that hydro-electric power played in waging war.

The narrative begins with the establishment of "power control," the federal wartime agency responsible for overseeing planning for the development and conservation of hydro-electric power. Under the leadership of Herbert J. Symington, a politically-connected Montreal lawyer with some experience in the hydro business, power control coordinated numerous projects across Canada to both expand and ration the hydro-electric power supply for the war effort. *Allied Power* examines regional case studies of the work of power control in four provinces, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia.

Evenden's regional survey begins in Quebec. By 1939, Quebec was the largest producer of hydro-electric power in Canada and thus it was the focal point of much of Symington's work with power control. The abundance hydro-power resources in that province facilitated the development of significant aluminum-production capacity. In a war that was so dependent on air power, aluminum production was critical. Evenden explores the diplomacy between Canada and the US in negotiating agreements concerning aluminum production and the expansion of hydro-power capacity to support Alcan's operations on the Saguenay River. Aluminum was so central to the manufacturing of aircraft (and thus central to wartime production planning) that it was the only commodity specifically detailed in the 1942 Hyde Park declaration. The construction of the

Shipsaw power project was the largest hydro-electric power project completed in Canada during the Second World War.

Evenden follows this analysis of Quebec with an examination of the second-most abundant province when it came to hydro power, Ontario. Here the story was one of deferred ambitions. Difficulties in Canada-US diplomacy delayed any major hydro-electric power expansion on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system until after the war (except diversions on the Ogoki River and Long Lac). And efforts to develop the Ottawa River resulted in hard-won agreements between Ontario and Quebec, but no dam construction until after 1945. Instead of expanding hydro power in Ontario, power control sought to conserve and divert that power to wartime industries. In one of the most fascinating chapters of the book, Evenden examines wartime electricity conservation programs in Ontario and Quebec where power control targeted ordinary consumers (especially women), playing upon patriotic anxieties to encourage voluntary reduction of power consumption. The purpose, however, was not to reduce overall power consumption in Canada; it was a program to divert power to wartime manufacturing. The collection of posters that Evenden includes in his analysis reveals power control's various persuasive strategies.

The final two chapters consider power projects in Western Canada, one on the Bow River and another on the Kootenay. Calgary Power stirred controversy by opportunistically seizing on the wartime emergency to fulfill its long-held ambition to transform Lake Minnewanka into a hydro-electric storage reservoir. Prior to the war, park advocates successfully resisted such industrial development within the boundaries of Banff National Park. Under the pretense of the need to supply power to a Calgary-based ammonium nitrate plant, Calgary Power won approval to build the reservoir in Banff. In Trail, BC, the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company required additional hydro power for its smelters to complete war contracts. Here, once again, Canadian and American diplomacy facilitated the construction of the Brilliant Dam on the Kootenay River to meet the wartime demand.

Evenden's book tells a national story of power policy and development, but one that is by necessity regional and international in its approach. To understand the unprecedented expansion of federal control over hydro-electric development in Canada during the Second

World War, both history and geography matter. The historical geography of both Quebec and Ontario account for the divergent outcomes of power policy in these two provinces during the war. Quebec benefitted from its natural inheritance of hydro power prior to the war, as did Ontario. But the different approaches to pre-war hydro-electric development (one driven by private power corporations and another by a public state corporation) influenced wartime policy. The geography of the international border also influenced outcomes, for instance, delaying projects on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system and shaping the development of the Brilliant Dam on the Kootenay River. In the west, a combination of a legacy of industrial under-development and topography shaped conditions in Alberta and BC. The unpredictable, modest flow of the Bow River could not provide the same scale of hydro power as that found in Quebec and Ontario. A storage reservoir at Lake Minnewanka attempted to address these geographic deficiencies. Smelters in Trail were located at too great a distance and across too rugged a terrain to allow for efficient interconnections with power supply from the Lower Mainland, necessitating the development of the Kootenay River instead.

Of course, geography is not deterministic in Evenden's analysis. It is complementary to historical forces, human choices. Evenden's great accomplishment in this work is to reveal the interactions between history and geography. He ably traverses the diverse terrain of Canada, successfully illuminating the national (and international) story within the regional variability. Such scope and ambition is rare in Canadian environmental history and *Allied Power* offers a successful model for future scholarship.

*Sean Kheraj, York University*

## Technology / Technologie

*La télévision de Radio-Canada et l'évolution de la conscience politique au Québec.* Par Denis Monière et Florian Sauvageau (dirs.). Québec: Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 2012. xi + 221 p., notes, bibl. ISBN 978-2-7637-9932-2, 29.95 \$.

L'idée de ce livre est venue d'un colloque organisé à l'occasion des 60 ans de la télévision de Radio-Canada. Alors que le paysage médiatique est en profonde transformation, mesurer l'apport de la télévision publique dans l'évolution de la

conscience politique est un exercice complexe mais pertinent. Cette contribution trouve particulièrement sa place dans le grand débat autour des changements vécus par la société d'État ces dernières années. Le livre réunit 13 collaborateurs, tous analystes et spécialistes chevronnés provenant de l'intérieur du monde des médias ; la réflexion est donc profonde.

Les textes présentés abordent la télévision sous l'angle culturel, linguistique et politique pour examiner son rôle dans « la dynamique conflictuelle des représentations identitaires » (6) et comprendre son influence sur la conscience politique. La réponse variera selon l'époque étudiée. Les chapitres qui se concentrent sur les débuts de la télévision de Radio-Canada nous laissent le sentiment que celle-ci a indéniablement contribué à façonner la conscience collective dans ses trois premières décennies.

Aujourd'hui cependant, l'influence de la télévision dans l'évolution de la conscience politique est beaucoup plus complexe. Le livre s'intéresse aussi à la transformation et à l'avenir de la télévision publique dans le grand contexte, extérieur à Radio-Canada, des nouvelles technologies de communications et des changements sociaux qui en découlent. L'hypothèse que la télévision contribuerait de moins en moins au développement d'une conscience politique québécoise est développée (89). De plus, la « privatisation tranquille » (25) compromettrait le rôle de Radio-Canada en tant que service public. L'ouvrage soulève des réflexions qui alimentent substantiellement le débat sur la mission que doit avoir la société d'État et, plus largement encore, sur l'idéologie du courant néolibéral qui a fait réduire les budgets des pays occidentaux à leur service public d'information.

Le livre traite beaucoup de l'influence de l'information sur l'évolution de la conscience politique. Paradoxalement, cela a suscité des critiques des gouvernements fédéraux et ce, depuis les années 1960. On a depuis longtemps reproché à Radio-Canada d'avoir une méthode « particulière » de conception de l'information en mettant l'accent sur la régionalisation dans son choix de nouvelles. L'information diffusée par la SRC reflèterait plus la réalité québécoise que la globalité canadienne. N'empêche : la qualité du traitement de l'information et des émissions d'affaires publiques est un élément majeur rappelé par les auteurs. Mais on mentionne aussi la montée de l'infodivertissement dans la programmation des chaînes de télévision et Radio-Canada, pour