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Artibise, Alan F.J., and Stelter, Gilbert A., eds. *The Usable Urban Past: Planning and Politics in the Modern Canadian City*. Toronto: Macmillan, 1979. Pp. viii, 383. Maps, illustrations. \$9.95

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relations" (*UQ*, p. 348). He analyzes the successes and failure in Santiago, Paris, and Montreal in the early 1970s. As in sociology generally, he uses typologies, here based on kinds of demands, responses, and successes/failures. Certainly, though optimistic about local movements, he is willing to criticize them.

In *CCP* a chapter is devoted to environmental movements. His uncertain conclusion - "the fight for the environment in the United States will either remain a vast mystification undertaking, or become a powerful lever of change" (p. 166) - while undoubtedly correct points to a fundamental difficulty I see in current Marxist work (and others too!). How are we able to handle the "land" question? Seemingly, we cannot handle it as easily as the "labour" question, not that these can be separated cleanly, nor indeed can they be separated from the greatest of the three in our present system, capital, because they can substitute for one another, and certain realities can take on different faces. The city can be viewed from the point of view of all three separately and simultaneously. To avoid a tangle, let me reduce the labour question to class signifying divisions among people, the land question to place or nation. Historically, the Marxist preoccupation has been with labour and on the class struggle. Yet it is obvious, for example, that E.P. Thompson is talking about the making of the *English* working class and that the people in China feel they are not only "red" but Chinese, a sense of collectivity antedating 1949. Now Castells talks of the city in terms of collective consumption; therefore in reality the place question, neighbourhoods, communities, and

the like become far more important than in traditional Marxism (though Marx himself was more subtle). Thus, I don't believe Castells can really make a clear distinction between reformist and radical movements when it comes to the urban environment. When the left comes to power, it has to deal with the whole community not just represent the working class. Ultimately, if Marxists hope for the classless society, then everyone would participate. Class issues remain and may become more serious; yet land, place, and, indeed, community questions are in the last analysis more fundamental.

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Artibise, Alan F.J., and Stelter, Gilbert A., eds. *The Usable Urban Past: Planning and Politics in the Modern Canadian City*. Toronto: Macmillan, 1979. Pp. viii, 383. Maps, illustrations. \$9.95.

The Usable Urban Past: Planning and Politics in the Modern Canadian City is a major addition to the study of North American urbanization. The thirteen essays are thoroughly researched, well written, and cogently argued. Moreover, the uniformly high quality of the contributions points to the exemplary state of urban research in Canada, which, on a proportionate basis and with the exception of Quebec and the Maritimes, is more organized and advanced than that of Great Britain and the United States (despite the obligatory caveat in the editors' introduction about the sorry state of Canadian urban historiography). Finally, *The Usable Urban Past* has a unity and a coherence usually

lacking in edited volumes. This is the result in part of the fine sectional introductions by Alan F.J. Artibise and Gilbert A. Stelter and in part of the tendency of the contributors to refer to other chapters in the volume.

The book begins with a general essay by geographer James W. Simmons on "The Evolution of the Canadian Urban System." Distinguishing between high order centres (Montreal and Toronto) and the smaller cities which were and are dependent upon only one or two products, Simmons explains the linkages among Canadian cities, especially in the recent period. It is similar to, although less detailed, less economically-oriented, and less historical, Eric E. Lampard's 1968 article on "The Evolving System of Cities in the United States."

With the exception of the Simmons article, *The Usable Urban Past* is divided into two major sections, the first of which, "Politics and Municipal Government," is covered in articles by John C. Weaver, James D. Anderson, Terry Copp, Alan F.J. Artibise, and J.E. Rea. Weaver places Toronto's civic affairs between 1880 and 1915 in a broad national and international context, giving particular attention to the changing structure of "the Ward" or foreign quarter and to the up-and-down career of "boss" Beattie Nesbitt. Artibise's essay on elites and prairie urban development reinforces themes he has made elsewhere and solidifies his reputation as the leading authority on the western cities, while J.E. Rea's brief contribution on twentieth century Winnipeg is sophisticated in terms of roll call analysis and disappointing in terms of its failure to put annexations

and non-partisan elections into a larger context. Similarly, Copp focuses a bit too narrowly on Montreal during the Great Depression, avoiding what would seem to me to be useful comparisons with other Canadian cities or with American communities of roughly similar size, such as Boston, which were faced with many of the same difficulties in a somewhat different context during the 1930s.

James D. Anderson's article on "The Municipal Reform Movement in Western Canada, 1880-1920" is among the most interesting essays in the book. Although he frequently chastizes other scholars for failing to appreciate the indigenous character of the local reform movement, I was struck less by the subtle differences between the American and the Canadian experiences than by the extent to which the issues in Calgary, Winnipeg, and Edmonton (non-partisan elections, abolition of ward representation, etc.) mirrored those which agitated reformers south of the border. A major difference between the two nations, and one which has thus far not received adequate attention, is the impact of property qualifications for voting in Canadian cities.

The second half of *The Usable Urban Past* is organized under the theme "Planning and the Realities of Development." Two of the essays are particularly distinguished. Thomas I. Gunton's study of the ideas of the Canadian planning profession between 1909 and 1931 is extraordinarily wide-ranging and informative. Bringing together trends and concepts from the three major English-speaking countries, he demonstrates the value of comparative research and is able to pinpoint those Canadian

responses and problems which were unique. Similarly, P.J. Smith's essay on "The Principle of Utility and the Origins of Planning Legislation in Alberta, 1912-1975" is superb. Tracing the influence of British ideas, especially Utilitarianism, on the thinking of Canadian reformers, he is able to make an excellent case study of Alberta and the relevance of its experience for those of us who have never visited that province.

Although I would prefer that the other authors also focus more on the comparative dimension, Peter Moore's, "Zoning and Planning: The Toronto Experience, 1904-1970"; Max Foran's, "Land Development Patterns in Calgary, 1884-1945"; Oiva Saarinen's, "The Influence of Thomas Adams and the British New Towns Movement in the Planning of Canadian Resource Communities;" and Shirley Spragge's, "A Confluence of Interests: Housing Reform in Toronto, 1900-1920" maintain the high standards of the book. Walter Van Nus' study of zoning between the wars is solid, but in need of a broader framework.

Artibise and Stelter have appended "A Brief Guide to Canadian Urban Studies" to the book. Taken individually or as a group, these essays will be of considerable utility to both American and Canadian scholars because the two countries have shared so much in terms of language and geography even while diverging substantially in terms of their political and cultural traditions. I plan to adopt the book in my course in American urban history.

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[Canada, Department of Agriculture]. *List of Canadian Patents, From the Beginning of the Patent Office, June, 1824, to the 31st of August, 1872.* Ottawa: Roger & Co., 1882. Fascimile reproduction by Gordon Publications and Reproductions, 929 Alpine Avenue, Ottawa, K2B 5R9, 1979. Pp. 222. \$7.50.

Canada's present accumulation of patents of invention, poetry, and political platforms are all part of a record of human creativity, need, and ingenuity. The most distinctive feature of the patents of invention is the degree to which they have been ignored almost completely by Canadian scholars. Perhaps the fascimile reproduction of the very scarce *List of Canadian Patents* will encourage greater use of an exceedingly rich mirror of Canadian culture. Not all patented ideas became saleable products; nonetheless, like unfulfilled political promises, they do provide insight into the nature of society, its perceived problems, aspirations, potential, achievements, and failures.

The first Patent Act in Canada was passed in March 1824 in Lower Canada, and two years later a similar act was passed in Upper Canada. By August 1872 almost 5,000 patents had been issued in what then constituted Canada, and to date there are over 1,000,000. In 1873 the *Canadian Patent Office Record* appeared and with it the first regular publication of Canadian patent information. In apparent recognition of the difficulty of obtaining information on pre-1873 patents, the *List of Canadian Patents* was published, a slim blue covered paperback which since then has been referred to in patent circles as The Blue