

White, C. Langdon, Foscue, Edwin J., and McKnight, Tom L. *Regional Geography of Anglo-America*. 3rd edition. Englewood Cliffs (N.J.), Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1964. 524 pages, maps, illus., chapter bibliographies, appendices, index.

John M. Crowley

Volume 8, numéro 15, 1963

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/020471ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/020471ar>

[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

Éditeur(s)

Département de géographie de l'Université Laval

ISSN

0007-9766 (imprimé)

1708-8968 (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

Citer ce compte rendu

Crowley, J. M. (1963). Compte rendu de [White, C. Langdon, Foscue, Edwin J., and McKnight, Tom L. *Regional Geography of Anglo-America*. 3rd edition. Englewood Cliffs (N.J.), Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1964. 524 pages, maps, illus., chapter bibliographies, appendices, index.] *Cahiers de géographie du Québec*, 8(15), 118–119. <https://doi.org/10.7202/020471ar>

At this writing we are still waiting, therefore, for a good, up-to-date textbook on the geography of Anglo-America.

John M. CROWLEY

WHITE, C. Langdon, FOSCUE, Edwin J., and McKNIGHT, Tom L. **Regional Geography of Anglo-America.** 3rd edition. Englewood Cliffs (N. J.), Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1964. 524 pages, maps, illus., chapter bibliographies, appendices, index.

A new edition, the third, of *Regional Geography of Anglo-America*, with the addition of Tom L. McKnight of U. C. L. A. to the authorship, is to be put on the market by Prentice-Hall in January, 1964. Since this book is widely used as a textbook for regional courses on Anglo-America in colleges and universities, this bringing up to date is most welcome. The second edition appeared 10 years ago.

The format and cover of the book have of course been modernized. The cover is now pastel. A colored map of the regions treated has been added inside the front cover. The form of the title page, chapter headings, and subtitles has been completely changed. This has involved a considerable wastage of space, such as the beginning of sections near the bottom of a nearly blank page and the duplication of photos at the outset of each chapter. The result is nevertheless pleasant. Many new photos have been used.

The basic structure of the book, as well as the greater part of the text material, remains unchanged. The volume commences, as before, with an introductory chapter entitled « Anglo-America and Its Regions, » followed by a chapter each on « The City and Industrial Geography » and « The American Manufacturing Region. » Each of the remaining chapters treats one of the 16 regions into which the continent plus Hawaii has been divided. The regions are unchanged from the previous edition, except that a chapter has been added on the Hawaiian Islands. True, Hawaii became a state since the publication of the previous edition, but it can scarcely be justified as a part of *Anglo-America* ! The new edition, as did the preceding one, concludes with useful appendices on « The Physical Background of Anglo-America » and « Occupance and Land Use in Anglo-America. » The map changes in these appendices are to be complimented.

The principal weaknesses of the book remain. The first of these is the treatment of cities. In *Regional Geography of Anglo-America* cities are treated in the chapter on city and industrial geography (a condensed version of a general urban geography) and in lists of cities along with their populations at the end of each chapter. Aside from this, they are merely mentioned as points of reference or as being important in some particular industry, such as manufacturing or tourism. Since most Anglo-Americans live in cities, surely our important urban agglomerations deserve more attention than that !

The second principal shortcoming is the handling of manufacturing. The chapter on the American manufacturing belt is in itself quite acceptable. The problem is that the manufacturing belt, or region, is dissected by several of the regions treated in subsequent chapters. In these chapters, manufacturing is so ignored that the reader is not struck by its importance in the region in question. An excellent example is the chapter on « The Atlantic Coastal Plain and the Piedmont, » which includes the southwestern half of Megalopolis. If the American manufacturing « region » is a *region*, it merits being treated as such, not being parcelled into four or five other regions.

The third major drawback of the book is the super-orthodox and unimaginative order of presentation within the regional chapters. Almost all of the chapters commence with the physical setting followed by settlement and so on. The one happy exception is the chapter on « The Subtropical Pacific Coast » (most of California), which begins with « Water : Great Problem of the Region » followed by « Population : Sensational Regional Growth. » Unfortunately, the treatment of each of the subdivisions of this region (Southern California, the Central Valley, and so on) commences with « the natural environment. » In short, the book does not make exciting reading and does not treat first things first.

The reviewer must frankly state that the treatment of the distinctive ethnic character of French Canada (pp. 74-75) and of the role of Québec in the formation of the Dominion of Canada

(p. 506) is distinctly mediocre. To give less attention, in a regional textbook, to the French Canadians, an ethnic group which accounts for nearly one-third of the population of Canada, than to the Eskimos is absolutely inexcusable! In fact, the one-third page devoted to the French Canadians does not even mention that they speak French — an obvious fact, perhaps, but how many Americans (including geographers) are aware of it?

Happily, the merits of the book also remain in the new edition. The great value of this text is that it is a clear, authentic, and well-balanced (except for the bias against cities mentioned) account of the regional geography of the United States and Canada. Few errors of fact, few errors of interpretation, few highly controversial points of view. No beating around the bush, as in many texts, about regions which are named and described but never delimited on a map. These are probably the principal reasons for the wide adoption of previous editions as a course textbook.

Despite its relative poverty of fresh ideas and lack of an imaginative plan of presentation, this book in its new edition remains one of the most, perhaps the most, acceptable current texts in English on Anglo-America.

John M. CROWLEY

BARROWS, Harlan H. **Lectures on the Historical Geography of the United States as given in 1933**, sous la rédaction de William A. Koelsch. University of Chicago, Department of Geography, Research Paper No. 77, 1962. 248 pages. « Reading list. »

La publication de ce volume commémoratif est d'un grand intérêt, d'une part pour tous ceux qui suivent le développement de la géographie américaine et, d'autre part, pour tous ceux qui s'intéressent à la géographie historique des États-Unis. Le livre contient les exposés d'un cours sur la géographie historique des États-Unis, donné par Harlan H. Barrows à l'université de Chicago en 1933. L'objectif de cette note n'est pas de juger le contenu du cours de Barrows mais plutôt, premièrement, d'en signaler la publication aux lecteurs et, deuxièmement, de le situer un peu dans le cadre de l'évolution de la géographie américaine. Le lecteur trouvera à cette fin des renseignements plus élaborés dans la préface du volume.

C'est une joie de pouvoir lire le cours d'un homme aussi important dans l'histoire de la géographie aux États-Unis que Harlan H. Barrows presque comme si on se retrouvait 30 ans en arrière. On ne peut négliger l'importance de ce cours à l'égard de la méthodologie de la géographie historique en Amérique. D'une part, Barrows utilisait largement les œuvres de sa contemporaine Ellen C. Semple, un autre grand personnage de cette période-là dominée par le déterminisme. D'autre part, un grand nombre de géographes reconnus sont diplômés de l'université de Chicago, qui a le plus ancien département d'études supérieures en géographie sur le continent américain. Étant donné que le cours fut répété avec des modifications pendant 38 ans, l'influence de Barrows par l'intermédiaire de ses étudiants, dont plusieurs sont actuellement parmi les grands maîtres de la géographie, ne peut être sous-estimée. Pour nous, de la jeune génération de géographes, ce volume nous permet d'entrevoir l'enseignement reçu par plusieurs de nos prédécesseurs.

Ce cours de géographie historique ressemble beaucoup, par son plan, à l'œuvre bien connue de Semple, *American History and its Geographic Conditions* (1^{re} édition 1903), bien que Barrows n'était pas d'accord avec M^{lle} Semple sur certains points fondamentaux. Plusieurs cours donnés par les anciens étudiants de Barrows ont utilisé le même plan. La similitude est frappante entre le plan du cours de Barrows et celui de l'excellent livre de Ralph H. Brown, *Historical Geography of the United States* (New York, Harcourt Brace, 1948). On ne peut pas résister à la tentation de les comparer. Ni l'un ni l'autre ne traitent de la géographie des États-Unis tout entiers à un moment donné du passé. Au contraire, chaque chapitre des deux ouvrages envisage, en règle générale, un secteur des États-Unis au cours de sa période pionnière. Autrement dit, les chapitres suivent le développement initial du pays et la marche du peuplement vers l'ouest.

Parmi les chapitres de ce genre du livre de Barrows, on peut citer : « The Early Geography of the Coastal Plain and Piedmont, » « The Early Geography of the Ohio Basin » et « The Early Geography of the Pacific Northwest. » D'autres chapitres de son volume examinent un sujet ou un événement particulier qui a eu lieu dans une certaine région à une certaine époque, par exemple : « Political Geography of the Louisiana Purchase » et « Geography of the Early Movement of