

**Bookchin, Murray. *The Limits of the City*. Second revised edition. Montreal: Black Rose Books, 1986. Pp. xi, 194. \$29.95 cloth, \$14.95 paper**

John H. Taylor

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L'ouvrage de Ronald Rudin, est divisé en deux parties à peu près égales. La première, qui couvre la période pré-confédérative, (1759-1867) nous résume la croissance démographique anglo-québécoise. En 1861 celle-ci compte déjà pour 25% de la population du Québec. Le professeur Rudin analyse la contribution des diverses ethnies et confessions religieuses à ce mouvement démographique, et explique l'origine des classes sociales et des particularismes régionaux qui allaient marquer profondément l'évolution de la minorité de langue officielle au Québec. Et il s'attarde de façon particulière au système d'éducation et à la vie politique afin de mettre en lumière les nombreuses divisions qui minaient l'unité des anglo-québécois et les relations qui liaient minorité et majorité. Dans la deuxième partie de l'ouvrage, consacrée à la période post-confédérative (1867 à nos jours) l'auteur se penche sur les mêmes problèmes, mais dans un contexte de mise en minorité accrue des anglo-québécois. Ils se voient peu à peu dépouillés de leur influence à la faveur de forces économiques qui font de Toronto la nouvelle métropole du Canada et qui attirent hors du Québec une importante partie de leurs effectifs. Obligés de s'adapter, ils vont, selon Rudin, opter de plus en plus pour le bilinguisme et se refaire une place au sein de la société québécoise. Mais, dorénavant «minoritaires» dans toute l'acception du terme, et face à de nouvelles règles du jeu, ils devront apprendre à lutter pour la survie de leur langue et de leurs traditions.

Pierre Louis Lapointe  
Archiviste régional  
Archives nationales du Québec, Hull

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At its core, this is the volume first published in 1973, but it is bracketed in the revised edition with a lengthy new introduction and a final chapter entitled "Theses on Libertarian Municipalism."

The new material draws out more explicitly the operational implications of the original analysis, which charted, within a Marxist framework, the emergence of the bourgeois city. In this new material Bookchin distinguishes more explicitly between "urbanization" and "citification," and between "statecraft" and "politics." And he also brings to bear more pointedly the ecological implications of the malignant nature of contemporary city growth, concerns reflected in more recent work like *Toward an Ecological Society* (1980).

Bookchin's central concern remains "the development of a new, civically oriented, confederal politics." He argues that "libertarian municipalism constitutes the only viable social

and political alternative . . . to the impasse of proletarian socialism . . . and the rampant urbanization that will dissolve all community ties that exist today and replace the traditional forms of social articulation by the sinews of bureaucratization" (p. 25).

John H. Taylor  
Department of History  
Carleton University

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White, Randall. *Ontario 1610-1985, A Political and Economic History*. Toronto and London: Dundurn Press, 1985. Pp. 352. 52 illustrations; maps; index. \$34.95 cloth; \$16.95 paper.

Bothwell, Robert. *A Short History of Ontario*. Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers Ltd., 1986. Pp. x, 222. Illustrations, maps, index. Paper \$13.95.

The past few months have seen the appearance of two histories of Ontario, both intended for the popular market, and both of which claim to be the first such book to appear since 1928. The authors of both claim to have written political and economic, rather than social, histories, and both cover the history of the territory which became the province of Ontario from the days of Huronia to the fall from power of the provincial Tories in 1985. Randall White, formerly a provincial government economist, wrote his *History of Ontario* as a general introductory volume to the Ontario Heritage Foundation's projected Local History Series. Robert Bothwell, a political historian at the University of Toronto, was apparently commissioned by Hurtig publishers to write his *A Short History of Ontario*.

Bothwell's book is about a hundred pages shorter than White's, but it is in many ways the more satisfactory of the two. The major problem with White's book is that it makes for tedious reading. Though this may come as no surprise to generations of school children and western Canadians, it is hardly a forgivable lapse in a book addressed to a general audience. White's book is not, be it said, poorly written, though his competent prose cannot compete with Bothwell's pleasant, breezy style. More important, White's prose bogs down in detail in the sense that he attempts to include every major event of political significance, and this proves his undoing. Bothwell notes that the political issues of the early 1800s were transitory, and skips to the War of 1812; White would have been well advised to have taken a similar course in numerous places. He could also have departed from chronology a little more and have drawn together certain themes so he could deal with them in a meaningful way in one place. Urbanization, for example, turns up in a number of places (though not in the index), but one tires of reading how the