

Higgins, B. and Savoie, D.J. (1988) *Canadians and Regional Development at Home and in the Third World*. Moncton : Canadian Institute for Research on Regional Development, 329 p.

T. G. McGee

Volume 33, numéro 89, 1989

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/022046ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/022046ar>

[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

Éditeur(s)

Département de géographie de l'Université Laval

ISSN

0007-9766 (imprimé)

1708-8968 (numérique)

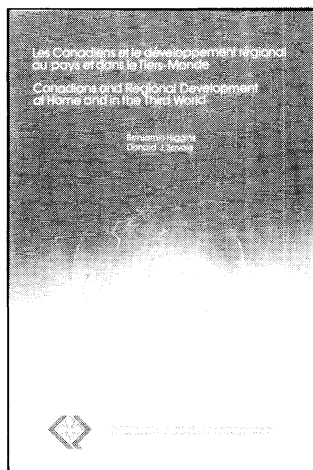
[Découvrir la revue](#)

Citer ce compte rendu

McGee, T. G. (1989). Compte rendu de [Higgins, B. and Savoie, D.J. (1988) *Canadians and Regional Development at Home and in the Third World*. Moncton : Canadian Institute for Research on Regional Development, 329 p.] *Cahiers de géographie du Québec*, 33(89), 290–291.  
<https://doi.org/10.7202/022046ar>

question appelée à se poser avec de plus en plus d'acuité. Manifestement, nous sommes nombreux à vouloir relever le défi.

Jean HÉBERT  
Montréal



HIGGINS, B. and SAVOIE, D.J. (1988) *Canadians and Regional Development at Home and in the Third World*. Moncton: Canadian Institute for Research on Regional Development, 329 p.

This is not an easy book to review, in part because of the complex theme that it addresses, namely the evaluation of the Canadian experience of regional development at home and abroad. The two editors, who have both been heavily involved with regional development for a long period, begin with an intriguing issue: « Gradually we became aware of a somewhat curious phenomenon: Canada is a country that has attached high priority to regional development, regional policy, and regional planning, both at home and abroad; but the way in which regional policy is formulated, regional planning is undertaken, and regional development programs are implemented, is very different in the two contexts » (p. 1).

Further, they suggest that these differences led to better results in developing countries than in Canada. They attempt to test this assertion through case studies of regional planning in Canada and the Third World. Of the three case studies of Canada, the most thorough and interesting to me is that on Quebec, written by Desrosiers *et al.* This is a fascinating review of the relationship of Montreal and the rest of the province, particularly in terms of the Higgins-Martin-Reyauld Report of 1970 which advocated a shift of emphasis from aiding disadvantaged regions to concentrating investment on Montreal. This was advocated, as is freely admitted by Higgins, in order « to counter the arguments of Jacques Boudeville and others to the effect that the expansion of Montreal was "stifling" growth elsewhere in the province » (p. 282). This echoes the « growth pole » debate which dominated the literature concerned with the role of spatial planning in the Third World in the 1970s.

The case studies of the Third World are more uneven. Higgins' short review, entitled *CIDA in South and Southeast Asia* presents two case studies: the role of land development schemes in regional development in Malaysia and Sri Lanka. While the author concludes it is too early to assess the success of the Sri Lanka scheme, the project in Malaysia commenced even earlier has been very successful, and as part of a much larger programme of land development, has played a major role in opening-up the agricultural frontier to the land-hungry peasantry. The title is something of a misnomer, for Higgins does not choose to evaluate CIDA's role in these projects.

One would certainly like to see more information on how regional planning ideologies influenced CIDA's development of projects in the region. Certainly there is no doubt that these ideologies had considerable impact on the development of projects in Indonesia.

The other Third World studies are drawn from Botswana and Haiti. Luthi's excellent analysis shows how the uneven distribution of water resources in Botswana creates the need for developing an inter-regional water system. As a result of studies of the needs it is made clear that real costs will be lowest if inter-regional integration of water systems is carried out, which would be greatly aided by government encouragement of regional development in the northern part of the country.

The final section of the book presents a succinct summary of the case studies and a conclusion by the editors. While they do not use the term «state», it is clear that the delicate balance of power that exists between the Federal and Provincial governments in Canada, compared to the much greater coercive powers of the State in developing countries, is the key to understanding why «[R]egional planning plays a more vital role in developing countries than in Canada» (p. 324). One might add that the different phases of incorporation into a world trading system are also important elements in this comparison.

This is a well-edited and interesting volume of papers which bridges the gap between researchers and policymakers. It is a valuable addition to the literature on regional development in Canada and the Third World.

T. G. McGEE  
University of British Columbia

ESTABROOKS, M.F. and LAMARCHE, R.H., eds. (1987) *Telecommunications: A Strategic Perspective on Regional and Business Development*. Moncton: The Canadian Institute for Research on Regional Development. xi × 225 p.

This volume consists of papers presented by academics, government officials, and private entrepreneurs at a November 1986 conference. The Foreword and Introduction are in English and in French; all other chapters are in English only. The fifteen chapters are arranged into four sections.

«Historical, Technological and Socio-Cultural Perspectives» (Section 1) contains five chapters on interrelationships among telecommunications technologies, regulatory policies, and Canadian and other societies. Of special interest are Gilles Paquet's speculations regarding the *dematerialization* and *detritorialization* of economic processes in information socio-economies; transactions are the basic units of economic analysis and people jockey to control the forum where information is exchanged. The dark side of such societies receives attention: Rodney Dobell notes that information technology makes nations vulnerable to overseas competition and that technology itself is no guarantee of development or growth.

Section II (Telecommunications and Urban and Regional Development) opens with Lamarche's information model of regional development. «Cities that set up their own telematic networks will be able to provide information network support to their businesses but cities without them could lose an important segment of their economy to either the national centres or to other regional centres» (p. 102). Subsequent chapters contend that telecommunications will favor prosperous core regions at the expense of less-favored peripheries (Andrew Gillespie and Mark Hepworth), and that an emerging set of world «city-states» are more closely linked to each other than to their home nations (Mitchell Moss). Gerhard Hanneman describes teleports — an infrastructure feature upon which the global network economy depends.

The section (III) on «Telecommunications and International Development» contains chapters by Bjorn Wellenius on Third World development and by Peter Cowhey on international trade.