

Book Notes / Références Bibliographiques

Volume 22, 1988

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/llt22bn01>

[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

Éditeur(s)

Canadian Committee on Labour History

ISSN

0700-3862 (imprimé)

1911-4842 (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

Citer cet article

(1988). Book Notes / Références Bibliographiques. *Labour/Le Travailleur*, 22, 377–382.

BOOK NOTES/ RÉFÉRENCES BIBLIOGRAPHIQUES

Craig Brown, ed., *The Illustrated History of Canada* (Toronto: Lester & Orpen Dennys 1987).

MUCH PRAISED AND beautifully illustrated, this volume is well-suited to grace elegant sitting rooms. Its collaborators make their way through the history according to their own choices of what is important, and the chronologically-arranged chapters do not necessarily share a format or set of preoccupations. Labour's treatment is spotty at best, to put it charitably, and the Canadian Labour Congress only gets mentioned when the New Democratic Party is founded, meriting inclusion in this volume as a backer of the new social democratic organization. At least this is factually correct and violates no historical context. The description of the Hamilton Nine-Hour procession of 1872, presented in the well-known *Canadian Illustrated News* engraving, however, will shock working-class historians and would have puzzled contemporary workers. The Hamilton of 1872 is characterized as a 'blue-collar' city, and the march is said to have been composed of 'steelworkers.' The editor should be informed that blue collars were not much in vogue in 1872 and that steelworkers were a phenomenon of the future.

Pradeep Kumar, et al., *The Current Industrial Relations Scene in Canada, 1987* (Kingston: Queen's Industrial Relations Centre 1987).

ONCE AGAIN THE QUEEN'S ILR Centre has produced an invaluable reference work. For those interested in the current litera-

ture on industrial relations, as well as developments in the labour movement, trends in public policy, aggregate data on economic performance and productivity, indicators of collective bargaining concerns, or instances of labour legislation this is an indispensable guide.

Chris DeBresson, et al., eds., *Work & New Technologies: Other Perspectives* (Toronto: Between the Lines 1987).

THIS SOCIALIST STUDIES publication draws together papers from two sessions at the 1983 and 1984 Learned Societies meetings, as well as contributions on technological change and the workplace to the 1986 Blue Collar Conference on Workers and Their Communities. The result is an interesting mix of the academic and the union perspectives. A bit long on rhetoric and short on original research, the papers nevertheless present an interesting introduction to the subject.

G. Blaine Baker, et al., *Sources in the Law Library of McGill University for a Reconstruction of the Legal Culture of Quebec, 1760-1890* (Montreal: Faculty of Law and Montreal Business History Project 1987).

INDICATIVE OF THE growing connections forged between historians and law faculties, this useful bibliography is introduced by a 63-page attempt to situate Quebec's legal development in terms of socio-economic periodization, historiography, and the wider literature relevant to understanding such themes as credit,

labour, women, and resistance. It is an excellent starting point for appreciating the place of law in the making of bourgeois society.

Robin Wylie, *Saskatchewan Workers: A List of Sources* (Saskatoon: Department of History 1987).

AVAILABLE FOR \$5 from the author at Department of History, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 0W0, this 68-page bibliography lists primary sources on labour available at the Saskatchewan Archives Board, references in the Archives Reading Room in Saskatoon, and material in the Main Library of the University of Saskatchewan.

W.J. Eccles, *Essays on New France* (Toronto: Oxford University Press 1987).

ECCLES WIDELY-SCATTERED essays, including some published abroad, are gathered together in this collection. Readers of this journal will perhaps find his "Social Welfare Measures and Policies in New France," originally published in Seville in 1966, of most interest.

J.M. Bumsted, *Land, Settlement, and Politics on Eighteenth-Century Prince Edward Island* (Kingston and Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press 1987).

THIS STUDY ATTEMPTS to revise the populist view of the province's early history as a contest between resident heroes and landlord villains by laying stress on British colonial policy. Bumsted's researches will be welcomed; his interpretation will no doubt be challenged.

Morley Gunderson, Noah Meltz, Sylvia Ostry, eds., *Unemployment: International Perspectives* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press 1987).

MAINSTREAM ECONOMISTS FROM around the

world gathered in 1984 at the Centre for Industrial Relations in Toronto to discuss unemployment. Papers and commentaries on them zeroed in on American, Canadian, and Western European experiences, as well as on the contribution of industrial relations to the unemployment issue.

Brooke Hindle and Steven Lubar, *Engines of Change: The American Industrial Revolution, 1790-1860* (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press 1986).

THIS ILLUSTRATED VOLUME traces the major developments in American technology, business, economics, and labour organization in the period associated with the rise of industrial capitalism. It contains a useful bibliography and might be a foundation text for a course covering aspects of working-class life in the antebellum years.

Friedrich A. Sorge, *The Labor Movement in the United States: A History of the American Working Class from 1890 to 1896*, translated by Kai Schoenhals (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood 1987).

THIS VOLUME CARRIES on where the earlier Greenwood collection of Sorge's writings on the history of the American working class from colonial times to 1890 breaks off. The 1890s are a critical decade in the making of the modern American labour movement and in bringing Sorge's writing on these years together, Schoenhals and Greenwood are to be commended. The book offers a fascinating perspective on the financial crisis of 1893, the role of law in class relations, the American Railway Union and the Pullman Strike, and the relations of the Knights of Labor, the American Federation of Labor, and the Socialist Party.

Ann Fagan Ginger and David Christiano, eds., *The Cold War Against Labor*, Volumes I and II (Berkeley: Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute 1987).

THE MEIKLEJOHN INSTITUTE, founded in 1965 in an attempt to use law and history in the enhancement of freedom, full employment, and peace, sponsored a 1980 conference that attracted 750 people to discuss how the Cold War had affected them. These volumes are the results of the proceedings, with 88 participants presenting their briefs on how they involved themselves in the labour movement and survived the wounds of the Cold War.

Manning Marable, *Black American Politics: From the Washington Marches to Jesse Jackson* (London: Verso 1985).

AS JACKSON GEARS up for another run at the presidency, this account of the shifting contours of black political involvement and protest deserves a reading.

Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner, eds., *'Slaves of the Depression': Workers' Letters About Life on the Job* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press 1987).

JOBLESSNESS NO DOUBT characterized the depression decade. But many more still worked than did not. And in these collected letters the working class reveals how a decade of unemployment affected the employed, who faced insecurity, deteriorating conditions, accelerating problems of health and safety, and disruptions in their domestic lives.

John P. Altgeld, *Reasons for Pardoning the Haymarket Anarchists* (Chicago: Charles H. Kerr 1986); Henry E. McGuckin, *Memoirs of a Wobbly* (Chicago: Charles H. Kerr 1987); Upton Sinclair, *The Flivver King: A Story of Ford-America* (Chicago: Charles H. Kerr 1987).

THESE TITLES REPRESENT but a few of the reprints and originals that the Charles H. Kerr publishing house, now more than 100 years strong, is offering in inexpensive, often pocket-sized, editions.

Colin Jones, et al., eds., *Politics and People in Revolutionary England* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell 1986).

FOURTEEN ESSAYS EXPLORE aspects of the history of mid-seventeenth century England. Hill offers a piece on political discourse, Goldsmith on radical egalitarianism, and Cromwell at home and abroad comes in for treatment by a number of the contributors. Inspired by the work of Ivan Roots, this volume contributes to the debate about the nature of the English Civil War.

Martin Pugh, *The Tories and the People, 1880-1935* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell 1985).

THE POPULAR BASES of Toryism are explored in this account, with special attention paid to the conservative party's attentiveness to women through the Primrose League, a social vehicle for blurring class lines and breaking down the distinction between social and political life.

R.J. Morris, ed., *Class, Power and Social Structure in British Nineteenth-Century Towns* (Leicester: Leicester University Press 1986).

THIS COLLECTION OF four essays introduced by R.J. Morris is strongest on the religious component of class formation, with John Seed's "Theologies of Power: Unitarianism and the social relations of religious discourse, 1800-1850," confronting the matter directly and essays by Joan Smith (on skill and sectarianism) and David Gadian (dealing with the north-west industrial towns and presenting, among other things, a perspective on

religion and education). The reciprocities of power and subordination in the nineteenth-century urban setting come across nicely, a consequence of the stress on social structure and its place in providing a context within which styles of life and community traditions evolved.

Janet Wolff and John Seed, eds., *The Culture of Capital: art, power and the nineteenth-century middle class* (Manchester: Manchester University Press 1988).

SOCIOLOGISTS, ART HISTORIANS, and social historians examine the patronage networks, artistic exhibitions, gender relations, and class components of art in the northern city in an attempt to get beyond the complacency and conventionality of treatment of the nebulous middle classes. While a step removed from anything remotely resembling working-class history, the collection nevertheless explores the construction of a world view that influenced profoundly class relations in a century that saw capital and labour consolidate a precarious stability in their dealings with each other.

Chanie Rosenberg, *1919: Britain on the Brink of Revolution* (London: Bookmarks 1987).

THIS SHORT STUDY details the upheavals in Britain associated with 1919, providing all-too-brief glimpses of police strikes, shorter hours campaigns, miners activism, and upheaval on the railways. As the state tottered and reformist-minded trade union tops capitulated, the crisis was handled and the threat of revolution passed. Produced by the Socialist Workers Party, this account will introduce those unfamiliar with the British experience to the bare contours of the post-World War I revolt, but those wanting deeper treatment will have to turn elsewhere.

Daniel Roche, *The People of Paris: An Essay in Popular Culture in the 18th Century* (Berkeley: University of California Press

1987).

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN 1981 in French, this translated version explores the spatial and exchange relations of the Parisian people, with specific attention paid to dress, housing, and reading. The life styles of the Parisian people are interrogated through mortuary files, the structure of the neighbourhood and buildings, and the tavern, and Roche and his *équipe* (for this a study based on team research) conclude that the critical component of the popular culture of the Paris people was their mobilization, setting the stage for popular involvement, perhaps, in the revolution.

William M. Reddy, *Money & Liberty in Modern Europe: A Critique of Historical Understanding* (New York: Cambridge University Press 1987).

MONEY AND LIBERTY, despite the title, are really not what this book is about, though the author's perception of and commentary on them are the most useful aspects of this work. Central to Reddy's project is the notion that class and interest associated with class are no longer adequate analytic categories. Instead honour and the individual, constructed through language and disciplined by money, assume importance in a relentless, if at times idiosyncratic attempt to recast our understanding of the past. Marxism, and Reddy's struggle to set it right, are at the heart of this book, but reading the text will prove an exercise in frustration for most Marxists and non-Marxists, who will find Reddy all too cavalier in his handling of basic processes and analytic terms. It is unlikely in the extreme that his refinement — the concept of exchange symmetry — will gain much use.

Colin Barker, *Festival of the Oppressed: Solidarity, Reform and Revolution in Poland, 1980-1981* (London: Bookmarks 1986).

SOLIDARNOSC GETS A standing ovation in this study, which is based almost entirely on secondary sources. Depicted as the mightiest and most advanced workers' movement of the modern world, Solidarnosc's blemishes — its links to a conservative Catholic church and its leaders' program of antagonism to essential premises of socialism — are either rationalized or air-brushed out of existence.

Gerald Michael Greenfield and Sheldon L. Maram, eds., *Latin American Labor Organizations* (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood 1987).

TWENTY-SIX EXCEEDINGLY useful essays cover the historical development and current organizational form of the labour movement in Latin and Central America. This guide should be indispensable to anyone working in the history and contemporary affairs of Latin and/or Central America, or anyone needing access to in-

formation on the labour situation of the American southern hemisphere.

Simeon Larson and Bruce Nissen, eds., *Theories of the Labor Movement* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press 1987).

RIGHT, LEFT, AND CENTRE come together in this collection of essential statements on the labour movement as everything from an agent of revolution to a pernicious monopoly, with business unionism, industrial reform, psychological reaction, and moral force accounted for along the way. Students in industrial relations classes, historical surveys, and sociology seminars could profit from this text, which gives them the obvious — Marx, Lenin, Friedman, Perlman, and Veblen — as well as the esoteric: Frank Bohn on sabotage; Carleton Parker on labour unrest; and three papal encyclicals.

BDP

**CANADA'S
QUARTERLY**

WORKER CO-OPS

**FOR
CONCERNED
WORKERS**

**Join the network...
subscribe today!**

INDIVIDUAL

Canada	1 yr. \$15	/ 2 yrs. \$28
U.S.	1 yr. \$16	/ 2 yrs. \$30
Abroad	1 yr. \$18	/ 2 yrs. \$33

INSTITUTIONAL

	1 yr. \$18	/ 2 yrs. \$33
--	------------	---------------

Send cheques payable to:
Worker Co-ops
 Centre for the Study of Co-operatives
 Diefenbaker Centre
 University of Saskatchewan
 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
 S7N 0W0

REVIEW

FERNAND BRAUDEL CENTER

A Journal of the
Fernand Braudel Center for the Study of
Economies, Historical Systems, and Civilizations

The contents of Vol. XII include:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Constantine V. Vaitsos | Radical Technological Change and the
New "Order" in the World-Economy
1886-1986: Beyond Haymarket? |
| Giovanni Arrighi,
Terence K. Hopkins &
Immanuel Wallerstein | |
| Jonathon Friedman | Culture, Identity, and World Process |

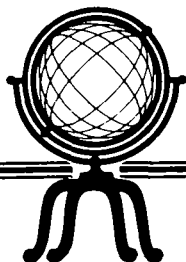
and

a special issue (XII, 3, Summer 1989) on *The French Revolution and the World-System*, including articles by Maurice Agulhon, Josep Fontana, Patrice Higonnet, and Patrick K. O'Brien.

A brochure containing the Tables of Contents of past issues is available on request.

Vol. X, No. 1, our Anniversary Issue: *The Work of the Fernand Braudel Center*, is still available.

Institutions \$70/yr.
Individuals \$28/yr.
Non-U.S. addresses,
additional \$6/yr.



Managing Editor, *Review*
Fernand Braudel Center
SUNY-Binghamton
Binghamton, NY 13901