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Gregory S. Kealey and Greg Patmore, ed., Canadian and Australian Labour History (St. John’s, Newfoundland: Committee on Canadian Labour History 1990).

This collection brings together six papers presented to a Canadian-Australian labour history conference that took place in December 1988. The historiographic essays by Robin Gollan and Gregory S. Kealey avoid the difficulties of comparative history, a task undertaken only by Australian industrial relations contributors Richard Mitchell and Greg Patmore, who comment on arbitration and conciliation and pre-World War I labour relations on the railways. Judy Fudge offers an assessment of the development of Canadian labour law in the 1940s while Bettina Bradbury summarizes the experience of gender and girls’ work in the ‘family economy’.

Max Swerdlow, ed., Gregory S. Kealey, Brother Max: Labour Organizer and Educator (St. John’s, Newfoundland: Committee on Canadian Labour History 1990).

Former TLC and CLC executive member, Max Swerdlow offers his reminiscences of a life spent as a working-class educator and organizer. From his days “riding the rods” in hungry thirties to his role in founding the Labour College of Canada, Swerdlow touches down on various Canadian regional experiences and a number of themes of neglected importance in the history of Canadian trade unionism.


This book takes the worldwide reorganization of markets and the complementary state initiatives of the 1980s as a starting point for a wide-ranging collection of essays that address the threats facing Canadian workers in the 1990s and the alternatives that open out before them. Twenty essays are gathered in six sections. The book commences with a discussion of the world economy and the Canadian state’s response to recession, proceeds through comments on freer trade, industrial restructuring, the social costs of adjustment, and closes with essays on policy directions and democratic oppositional alternatives.

Paul Axelrod, Making a Middle Class: Student Life in English Canada during the Thirties (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press 1990).

This useful monograph explores an aspect of higher education rarely detailed in the explosion of official histories of specific institutions: student life and its connections to the social order. Axelrod’s assimilation of student experience to the aspirations of a gendered middle class gives the book a focus and an analytic edge, but it also provides grounds for theoretical difference and debate.

Collecting essays grouped around Careless’s long-standing interests in George Brown, the metropolitan approach to Canadian history, urban locales and regional identities, and historiographic innovation, this book presents a useful introduction to one of Canadian social history’s most creative promoters.


Fifteen articles sandwiched between an introduction and a conclusion cover much of the history and political economy of the prairie province that stood as the first labour stronghold of the Canadian west. Most notable for readers of this journal will be Errol Black's "Labour in Manitoba: A Refuge in Social Democracy," three essays relating to joblessness, plant shutdowns, and the restructuring of the textile industry in the post-1975 years, and the closing discussions of budgeting and planning under New Democratic Party governments.


Introduced by Ed Broadbent, this set-to among friends is less a debate on the left than it is a laying out of alternatives for those already either committed to the New Democratic Party or cosying up to it in some way. To be sure, there is a lot of room for differences of opinion in a crowd that includes Leo Panitch and Desmond Morton, John Calvert and John Richards, but this book is hardly a debate among the various strands of 'the left'. Rather, it covers the themes that have long exercised Canadian social democracy, themes which by now almost define the various sectional interests of a party of many parts. Whatever the debate, recent resolutions at NDP conventions seem to have settled the discussions rather decisively.


This centennial history explores the changing history of health and those who attempted to insure the effectiveness of a municipal public health service in Canada's premier urban locale.


A curiously eclectic collection of essays, this text brings together neo-classicalists and conventional and radical advocates of the staples approach, as well as commentators on elites and national policy, political economists concerned with class, and feminists. Readers will get pieces of Pentland, Drache, Watkins, Panitch, Cohen and Fox, and a justification for the selection of these and other authors in Laxer's introduction.


A lengthy introduction sets the stage for a useful compilation of documents on the timber society of the Ottawa Valley in the pre-confederation years.


Twenty essays focus on areas of feminist activism in Canada. Unfortunately, there is all too little on trade union women
as immigrant women, farm women, academic women, and feminist community activists get more concentrated study. There is an essay on women's occupational health, but it is surprising that the experience of Trade Union Sisters, the pro-choice mobilizations within various unions, or the attempts to break the back of gender-structured workplaces receive so little overt attention.


*Jane Lewis provides* a stimulating introduction to the issue of motherhood, which is then explored in five preliminary essays on midwives, the shift in childbirth from homes to hospitals, and the experience of single mothers giving birth. With the exception of an essay on Vancouver, all of these studies focus on Quebec and Ontario. The remaining eight chapters range broadly from birth control and abortion to La Leche League and new reproductive technologies. This collection provides a stimulating introduction to the reproductive realm in Canadian history.


Fifteen radical sociologists offer their personal statements on what turned them to the left in the 1960s. This collection may well tilt the making of the new left in decidedly sociological disciplinary directions, but it will prove useful for those now concerned to excavate the history of the 1960s.


Perhaps the most electric of *The Year Left* volumes, this text focuses on place and contains two Canadian contributions, Susan Ruddick's assessment of the Montreal Citizen's Movement and Jonathan Pierce's discussion of social democracy in the Yukon.


*This study examines* the ways in which class, race, and racism interacted, presenting a complex picture of class relations of difference in which racism is not simply a dichotomization of white and black.


Marcus Lee Hansen's contribution to the history of American immigrants is assessed in this collection, which provides a useful introduction to the major interpretive issues now dominating the field of American ethnic studies.


No labour process shift is now more promoted than the issue of flexibility in production. The length and nature of the working day, mediated by changes in policies around parental leaves, job sharing, and retirement, is now central to the politics of everyday life on the job. This collection of essays explores the meaning
of this development in Europe, the United States and Japan.


**BASED ON A SURVEY OF 300 U.S. CORPORATIONS**, this study looks at the ways in which business accommodates those employees who have dependents, either elderly parents or children. This is thus a study of productivity-pushed innovations structured by the changing demographics of contemporary working-class life.


**THIS WIDE-RANGING COLLECTION** brings together feminist scholars from the United States, Europe, and Australia. None of the essays deal with labour, the focus being far more explicitly on academia and professional women. But readers of this journal may find Jill Conway’s “Politics, Pedagogy, and Gender,” and Susan Bourque’s and Kay Warren’s “Technology, Gender, and Development” stimulating.


**HERLIHY ARGUES THAT** the Middle Ages sealed the fate of women in terms of their displacement from the public sites of work, a process that marked them out as a dependent stratum.


**THESE ESSAYS CUT ACROSS MANY CURRENTS** in contemporary thought — deconstruction and postmodernism, mass culture and the humanities — to fashion a statement on what Jay sees as the crisis of modern socialist thought.


**THIS ECLECTIC, IDIOSYNCRATIC, AND ILLUMINATING BOOK** is a testimony that new things can still be said about Innis and McLuhan, and in ways that relate to the current preoccupation with national mythologies and the social construction of identity.


**NO SUBJECT HAS BEEN MORE THOROUGHLY REPUDIATED** of late than the proletariat. Here is another book that argues that Marx and the working class are obsolete.


**SCRUTINIZING THREE REBELLIONS** — an 1831 slave revolt, the Morant Bay uprising of 1865, and the working-class rebellion of 1938 — Bakan uncovers continuities in the ideological currents of popular resistance.

BDP