
Paul Voisey
The bibliography does not highlight these theories well. That is not to say that the authors are not aware of the importance of them, for in their other work such knowledge is demonstrated. It is just that the mass of references conceals the theoretical work, and the material is not organized to give empirical examples of analyses of theoretical concepts. The compilation cannot, therefore, be regarded as something that will stimulate scholarly inquiry.

Reviewers can gain amusement from searching for obvious materials that are ignored. Given my particular university base, I have to comment that the work of the late Dr. W.A. Mackintosh on transport development in the prairies should not have been overlooked, because the interrelationship between transport development and settlement in that area is vital. Furthermore, the predilection of the compilers for Canadian and British authors has led them to ignore much of the work on Canadian settlement undertaken by German geographers, and published, for example, in the Marburg geographical series.

Thus, the bibliography is of limited use. Artibise and Stelter are making lasting contributions to scholarship in Canadian urban history, but this compilation will not, of itself, stimulate others. The materials have obviously been of importance to the authors and their students, and perhaps the compilation should have remained one of those mimeographed computer listings that is passed around and built upon by other like minds.

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What to include, what to leave out — that is perhaps the greatest problem urban biographers face. Don Kerr and Stan Hanson limit their study of Saskatoon to the fifty years before 1932 but to little else; they bombard the reader with a host of topics, all supplemented with useful illustrations, maps, tables, and graphs. If a central theme emerges from this avalanche, it is the cyclical, boom-bust nature of Saskatoon's development and its impact on population growth, land speculation, and construction, as well as on municipal government and its ability to finance and provide utilities and services. The authors succeed best when they stick to these themes, in large measure they focus as closely on failures as victories. The boosters make their inevitable appearance and while the authors recognize their importance in securing rail connections, favourable freight rates to stimulate wholesaling, and the provincial university, a discussion of their inability to lure major industry to the city is one of the best sections of the book. Clearly the boosters' activities did not affect Saskatoon as much as powerful external forces beyond their control. The city's relationship with its hinterland is not explored systematically, but the authors leave no doubt that Saskatoon's destiny remained linked to the pace of rural settlement and the fortunes of agriculture. Hence its boom-bust cycles paralleled those of other prairie cities and of the west as a whole. There is little to question in this discussion, but neither do the authors offer interesting new interpretations to ponder.

Sandwiched between these themes are slices of social history: women, immigrants, crime, prohibition, culture,
recreation, charities, housing, working conditions, and many other topics appear briefly. While descriptive
glimpses of life in Saskatoon emerge, the authors attempt
no analysis of social structure and no conceptual frame-
work ties these subjects together. Those acquainted with
recent prairie historiography may weary when familiar
accounts of these matters are simply plugged into the
local scene. The authors select some dubious topics for
discussion. Discourses on trench warfare and airplane
combat in Europe, and on the rise of various farm protest
movements seem out of place. Instead of telling us more
about the important economic, social, and cultural role
that the University of Saskatchewan played in the city,
they squander a dozen pages on a faculty political squabb

In short, this book deserves an assessment from two
perspectives. It is a comprehensive, reliable, well written
book for the general reader who knows little about prairie
history. Students of the field will learn more about Sas-
katoo itself, but not so much about the nature of prairie
urban development and social life generally.

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Many of us who teach Urban Sociology have been
looking for a Canadian text for years. Peter McGahan
has written the first Canadian Urban Sociology text. Congratulations!

Some books were available on Canadian urban prob-
lems, urban demography, urban planning, urban history,
but no one had attempted a comprehensive Canadian
urban sociology. Many of us tried to copy by using Amer-
ican urban texts, and/or by piecing together Canadian
urban readings. Here we have a first attempt at a Cana-
dian urban sociology.

The introduction, eleven chapters and a conclusion have
been ordered into six major parts: the classical founda-
tions of urban sociology, growth of the urban system,
entrance to the urban system, spatial shape of the urban
system, urbanism, and regulating the urban system.
McGahan treats the major areas of beginnings, ecology,
demography, social organization, social psychology and
social planning which we are accustomed to.

In laying the classical foundations, he discusses typol-
ogical perspectives beginning with European theorists
(Tönnies, Durkheim and Simmel), the Chicago School
(Park, Wirth), the folk-urban typology (Redfueild, Lewis),
and the rural-urban continuum (Sorokin and Zimmer-
man). He also devotes a chapter to the ecological
perspective focusing on the Chicago School where he gets
into Park's natural areas, Mackenzie's concentration,
centralization, segregation, invasion and succession, and
Burgess' concentric zone theory.

Part two on urban growth is devoted to Canadian
demography. McGahan has a delightful philosophical
mind which seeks to place the numerical demographics
into historical, and ecological, context to provide meaning
and explanatory power. He is interested in the meaning
of growth as a process discussing the early colonial town,
the commercial center, and then goes on to look for these
in Ontario (Toronto, London, Oshawa, Whitby) and the
west (Winnipeg, Victoria, Vancouver). He then continues
to develop metropolitan growth, touching on typical
demographic (age, sex, mobility) questions, and ending
up with functions and classification of cities using the
metropolitan centers of Canada to discuss quality of life.
Here he uses tables and data freely as demographers
must.

Part 3, devoted to entrance into the urban system,
deals with internal and external migration (demographic
mobility and immigration). Regional shifts in migration,
migration in urban and metropolitan centers, profiles of
migrants, community destination, patterns adjustment of
various ethnic groups are illustrated with diagrams, tables,
figures and case studies, all part of internal migration.
McGahan views Canada as an urban system into which
immigrants enter. He traces the immigration flow to show
when and where newcomers arrived. He introduces their
settlement patterns, their ethnicity, socio-economic sta-
tus, focusing especially on postwar economic and social
adaptation. He explores immigrant maintenance of iden-
tity and assimilation by showing the problems of Italians
in Toronto, Greeks in Vancouver, and Asians in Calgary. Ethnicity receives considerable attention.

In chapters 7 and 8 (part 4), the author deals with
the process (evolution), and structure of urban space usu-
ally referred to as ecology. The usual concentric, sector
and multiple nuclei growth models are discussed, but what
is new, is that he uses Canadian cities such as Toronto,
Winnipeg and Montreal as his data. In connection with
multiple nuclei he goes into social area analysis and fac-
torial ecology as we would expect. To highlight internal
urban structure he compares St. John's, Montreal, Regina
and Vancouver by the dimensions of socio-economic, fam-
ily, religious, and economic status. All the twenty-two
metropolitan centers of 1971 are compared by residential
segregation indexes, with more intensive comparisons of
Toronto and Winnipeg. Although I was aware of many
of these studies, McGahan has a way of bringing them
all together in a very effective way.