

## Book Notes / Références Bibliographiques

Volume 27, 1991

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/llt27bn01>

[See table of contents](#)

---

### Publisher(s)

Canadian Committee on Labour History

### ISSN

0700-3862 (print)

1911-4842 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

---

### Cite this article

(1991). Book Notes / Références Bibliographiques. *Labour/Le Travailleur*, 27, 363–368.

# BOOK NOTES / RÉFÉRENCES BIBLIOGRAPHIQUES

Patrick Burman, *Killing Time, Losing Ground: Experiences of Unemployment* (Toronto: Wall & Thompson 1988).

BASED ON APPROXIMATELY 75 interviews and active involvement in helping to set up an Unemployment Working Centre, this examination of joblessness in London, Ontario is a unique exploration of the dimensions of alienation attendant upon being out of work. It strives to appreciate the human contours of a structural problem and complements analysis of labour markets, state policies and welfare practices with appreciation of the routines of daily life and identifications, family relations, and self-definitions of the unemployed themselves.

Raymond Leger, *423 Days on the Picket Line* (Fredericton: Unipress n.d.).

THIS MAGAZINE-FORMAT illustrated history of the 1987-1988 battle of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, Local 1065 against the Coca-Cola Empire is beautifully produced and aimed at a popular audience. It conveys well the commitments of the strikers and the widespread union support they received from other workers. Because of innovative tactics, impressive solidarity, and wide support 80 New Brunswick workers faced down a large multinational.

Bryant Fairley, Colin Leys, James Sacouman, ed., *Restructuring and Resistance: Perspectives From Atlantic Canada* (Toronto: Garamond 1990).

THE ESSAYS GATHERED in this volume grew out (for the most part) of a 1985 conference at Queen's University. They share a focus on the debilitating impact of capitalist restructuring of Atlantic Canada, but they pit different perspectives against one another. At issue are the respective strengths and possibilities of struggles paced by gender, class, or a populist alliance of primary producers.

James Pitsula and Ken Rasmussen, *Privatizing a Province: The New Right in Saskatchewan* (Vancouver: New Star 1990).

NEW STAR HAS PUBLISHED a number of books on the New Right, especially as it has influenced British Columbia. Saskatchewan's experience is now added to territory covered, and this book marches us through the history of the province in the 1980s. Readers of this journal will find the chapter on "The Assault on the Unions" instructive.

Janice Williamson and Deborah Gorham, eds., *Up and Doing: Canadian Women and Peace* (Toronto: Women's Press 1989).

BRINGING TOGETHER 37 activists and scholars, this volume presents a wide-ranging and innovatively-ordered com-

mentary on the history and politics of women's peace involvement in Canada.

Jesse Vorst, et al., eds., *Race, Class, Gender: Bonds and Barriers* (Toronto: Garamond 1989).

THIS FIFTH ANNUAL collection of the Society for Socialist Studies presents ten essays that tackle many of the themes most will associate with the title: immigrant women and the state's policies toward them, native women, the relationship of gender and race, the nature of patriarchy, and the organizations and mobilizations of women in Canada and the Third World.

Murray E. Fulton, ed., *Co-operative Organizations and Canadian Society: Popular Institutions and the Dilemmas of Change* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press 1990).

THIS EDITED COLLECTION will be of use to those involved in the co-operative movement and in co-operative enterprises. It details the dilemmas and problems arising when co-ops emulate their mainstream business rivals in order to succeed, thus undermining their own uniqueness and social vision.

Peter Russell, *Attitudes to Social Structure and Mobility in Upper Canada, 1815-1840: 'Here We Are Laird Ourselves'* (Lewiston, N.Y.: Edwin Mellen Press 1990).

DRAWING ON PRINTED sources, newspapers, and archival sources this text presents snapshots of life in Upper Canada, covering in detail no single stratum but presenting chapter discussions of farming, commerce, and women and fleshing out themes such as upward mobility and character.

David Keane and Colin Read, eds., *Old Ontario: Essays in Honour of J.M.S. Careless* (Toronto: Dundurn Press 1990).

THIS BEAUTIFULLY-PRODUCED volume honours one of Canada's premier social historians. The essays, authored by his students and admirers, are wide-ranging and cover the diversity of topics that Careless himself explored. Much of the volume attends to the pre-1870 years and there is little direct attention to the working class. But essays by Gerald Tulchinsky on Toronto's late nineteenth-century clothing industry and Paul Romney's useful discussion of class, religion, and nationality in the Toronto election of 1836 will prove useful to readers of this journal.

Philip Girard and Jim Phillips, eds., *Essays in the History of Canadian Law, III: Nova Scotia* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press 1990).

LIKE THE PREVIOUS two volumes of the Osgoode Society on the history of Canadian law, this one presents wide-ranging essays covering a number of topics. Unlike the earlier ventures, edited by David Flaherty, this text is regionally restricted. All of the essays have some contextual relevance for working-class history, but most directly applicable to an understanding of labour are Jim Phillips' discussion of vagrancy law, R. Jane Price's analysis of female criminality in Halifax (which supplements Judith Fingard's recent studies), and Margaret McCallum's important statement on the 1888 Mines Arbitration Act.

Cheryl Krasnick Warsh, *Moments of Unreason: The Practice of Canadian Psychiatry and the Homewood Retreat, 1883-1923* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press 1989).

THIS EXAMINATION OF the Homewood Retreat illuminates the histories of women,

the family, medicine, and psychiatry in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Ronald Rudin, *In Whose Interest? Quebec's Caisses Populaires, 1900-1945* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press 1990).

QUEBEC'S IDENTIFICATION with cooperative financial institutions is striking. This careful study explores the making of the Caisses Populaires and provides insights that will be useful to historians of labour organizations and working-class daily life.

J. Carroll Moody and Alice Kessler-Harris, eds., *Perspectives on American Labor History* (DeKalb, Illinois: Northern Illinois University Press 1989).

DEDICATED TO Herbert Gutman, this collection of essays originated in one of Gutman's last intellectual passions: the search for a viable synthesis of American working-class history. Gutman and others laid the groundwork for a 1984 conference, at which most of the essays gathered together in this text were first presented. What emerges most starkly, however, is the fractured character of the historiography of labour, if not of its history. Somewhat dated with the passing of five years between presentation and publication, these essays nevertheless serve as a useful reminder of the problems and possibilities of synthesizing class experience in ways that address other important and reciprocal histories, most especially those of capitalist development, gender, and the impact of the state.

Peter Oresick and Nicholas Coles, eds., *Working Classics: Poems on Industrial Life* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press 1990).

COLLECTED HERE ARE 74 writers and 169 poems. They cover the range of post-World War II North American industrial poetry, with verse that addresses mining

and fish cleaning, blast furnaces and sewing machines. Canadians and readers of this journal will note the inclusion of Tom Wayman in the anthology. Indeed, Wayman, with seven poems is well represented. Moreover, in placing his writing alongside US industrial poets we see Wayman in a larger North American setting, one that highlights his work in interesting and useful ways.

Robert Asher and Charles Stephenson, eds., *Labor Divided; Race & Ethnicity in United States Labor Struggles, 1835-1960* (Albany: State University of New York Press 1990).

THIS USEFUL COMPILATION of essays covers the Asian, Hispanic, African-American, Northern and Western European, and Southern and Eastern European experiences, although it is the latter two couplets that get the lion's share of attention. Still, this anthology does try to touch a lot of bases, albeit ones that are less efforts at synthesizing complex and long histories than they are slices of that difficult totality. The African-American contribution, for instance, covers one state, one union, and one decade. The introduction tends to rely on these slices too much and could perhaps have reached toward some kind of more comprehensive generalization.

Don Fitz and David Roediger, eds., *Within the Shell of the Old: Essays on Workers' Self-Organization* (Chicago: Charles H. Kerr 1990); and *George Rawick, 1930-1990: In Memoriam* (Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts: Midnight Notes 1990).

GEORGE RAWICK DIED in St. Louis on 27 June 1990. For forty years he had been a part of the workers movement, his later period consumed with writing and teaching. He understood the centrality of black Americans in the formation of the US working class and produced his studies of the slave community as a conscious effort

to write the first chapter in the history of American labour. Politically, his personal history carried him away from Stalinism and Trotskyism into alliance with C.L.R. James and the Forest-Johnson tendency. Working-class self-activity was, for George, always paramount. These two publications mourn his loss and commemorate his contribution. The Fitz-Roediger collection presents a number of short essays by activists and scholars influenced and impressed by the Rawick contribution, the stress being most emphatically on people's history and its insights into working-class self-organization and self-activity. The Midnight Notes pocket-sized memoriam reproduces two of Rawick's essays, one addressing racism the other the often-cited *Radical America* piece on self-activity.

Kathryn Grover, ed., *Fitness in American Culture: Images of Health, Sport, and the Body, 1830-1940* (Amherst, Massachusetts: University of Massachusetts Press 1989).

THE BODY AND ITS presentation is now a central topic of concern for many historians and social scientists. This collection of essays addresses how sport, advertising, eating, education, and therapy relate to this history. Much of the writing focusses on masculinity and should help those interested in the gendered aspects of class formation reformulate an understanding of how American workers were made.

Suzanne Mackenzie, *Visible Histories: Women and Environments in a Post-war British City* (Kingston and Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press 1989).

MACKENZIE CHRONICLES the ways in which women interacted with and altered the environment in the resort city of Brighton between 1945 and the 1980s. The result is a useful study of official versus unofficial views of an urban milieu, with the public story enhanced by a

reading of private lives orchestrated around childcare, family, fertility, and domestic and paid women's work.

Philip D. Curtin, *Death by Migration: Europe's Encounter with the Tropical World in the Nineteenth Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1989).

THIS ACCOUNT, STRUCTURED around an almost entrepreneurial assessment of "relocation costs" might prove infuriating to many, but the discussions of hygiene and disease as they relate to the military conquests of imperialism are an important feature of the rise of empire and one which labour historians should begin to try to assimilate into their work, if not address explicitly.

Caroline Cahm, *Kropotkin and the Rise of Revolutionary Anarchism, 1872-1886* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1989).

CAHM PUTS TO REST the notion that Kropotkin was uninterested in the revolutionary role of the proletariat. Her important book relates Kropotkin and his thought to late nineteenth-century anarchist thought, specifically bakuninism and anarcho-communism; addresses Kropotkin's relation to whole ideology and practice of 'propaganda by deed'; and closes with a section on Kropotkin's evolving views on trade unionism.

Tony Judt, ed., *Resistance and Revolution in Mediterranean Europe, 1939-1948* (New York: Routledge 1989).

WITH ESSAYS ON THE Comintern and the Communist Parties of France, Italy, Greece, and Yugoslavia, this text presents an important perspective on the southern European history of the 1940s.

Boris Kagarlitsky, *The Dialectic of Change* (London: Verso 1990).

KAGARLITSKY HAS GAINED a quick reputation in the West as the leading figure in the left opposition to Gorbachev, a voice struggling to keep Marxism and socialism alive in a hostile climate. Much was heard of and made of Kagarlitsky six months ago; less so now as Gorbachev's critics from the right drown out, domestically and internationally, the voice of the left. This book presents Kagarlitsky's view of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe at the end of the 1980s, as well as interview statements on his own organization, the Moscow Popular Front for Perestroika. The problem is that no sooner is this statement translated and published in English than it is dated and left behind by events.

Mary Kaldor, *et al.*, eds., *The New Detente: Rethinking East-West Relations* (London: Verso 1989).

EASTERN EUROPEAN RADICAL advocates of peace join with American and British activists and writers to assess the underlying social, economic, and political conditions for a new detente.

Erik Olin Wright, *et al.*, *The Debate on Classes* (London: Verso 1989).

NO NEW LEFT REVIEW writer has so focussed theoretically on class as Erik Olin Wright. This collection presents his general framework and then moves into commentaries and rejoinders involving Wright in dialogue with a host of critics, including Michael Burawoy, Guglielmo Carchedi, Peter Meiksins, Johanna Brenner and others.

Michael Evan Gold, *An Introduction to Labor Law* (Ithaca, New York: New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations 1989).

THIS SLIGHT VOLUME presents a clear and straightforward introduction to the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act in the US.

BDP

# POPULAR ACADEMICS

- Looking for a news flash?
- Read the paper. But if you're
- tired of getting only half the
- story on environmental
- issues, then there is another
- choice.

- **Alternatives** journal offers
- full length research articles
- written by authors with
- state-of-the-art knowledge
- about environmental poli-
- tics, law, policy and practice.
- Can they be read in ten
- minutes or less? No. Cover-
- ing the length and breadth
- of the issues takes time.

And it's time well spent. **Alternatives** is committed to "popular academics"—providing reliable information in an accessible style.

Upcoming issues will focus on nature and the arts, aboriginal peoples and a special 20th anniversary edition of **Alternatives**.

**Subscribe today!**



**Taking you beyond the news**

- .....
- ☐ I'd like to subscribe for one year (four issues).      ☐ I'd like to subscribe for two years (individuals save \$5).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ subscription(s) to **Alternatives**.

Individuals: \$21.40\* for one year and \$37.45\* for two years (inside Canada); \$25 and \$45 outside Canada. Institutions: \$42.80\* for one year and \$85.60\* for two years (inside Canada); \$50 and \$100 outside Canada. Make cheques payable to **Alternatives**, c/o Environmental Studies, University of Waterloo. Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1. (519) 885-1211 ext. 6783.

La

\* Includes 7% GST.