

## Book Notes / Références Bibliographiques

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# BOOK NOTES / RÉFÉRENCES BIBLIOGRAPHIQUES

Francis Wheen, *Karl Marx* (London: Fourth Estate 1999).

IN THIS POPULAR BIOGRAPHY of Marx, the author declares "it is time to strip away the mythology and try to rediscover Karl Marx the man." Wheen reveals Marx the family man, the *bon vivant*, the curmudgeon, the political in-fighter, with insight and a journalist's sense for the good story. Marx's ideas, however, receive considerably less attention and analysis. There is little new here, but the writing is engaging. David McLellan's work remains the standard for those who wish to understand the ideas of the man as well as the man himself.

Robert Chodos, ed., *Compass Points: Navigating the 20th Century*. (Toronto: Between the Lines Press and the Compass Foundation 1999).

OVER 100 SHORT ESSAYS by as many authors provide a series of eclectic snapshots of the last century. The authors range from George Woodcock to Margaret Visser to Stanley Ryerson to Michael Bliss to André Lévesque. While the primary focus is Canada and Canada in the world, topics range from Woody Allen to T.E. Lawrence to the Antigone Movement to Rwanda and Mother Teresa. The articles are arranged by decade and short introductions provide some context.

The collection stresses the themes of arts and culture, notable individuals, politics and economy, religion and spirituality, science and technology, and society. Many of the articles were first published in the Jesuit magazine *Compass*; others were commissioned for the book.

William R. Haycraft, *Yellow Steel: The Story of the Earthmoving Equipment Industry* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press 2000).

A STRAIGHTFORWARD business history by a former Caterpillar executive, *Yellow Steel* examines the companies that form the global earthmoving equipment industry. The emphasis is on the design, technology, and evolution of the industry and its major players, corporate and individual, from the 19th century to the present, with most of the emphasis on the post-World War II era. The author pays attention to economic trends and their impact on the industry; perhaps not surprisingly, labour relations and the environment do not merit much attention.

Paul Le Blanc, ed., *Rosa Luxembourg: Reflections and Writings* (Amherst: Humanity Books 1999).

LUXEMBOURG'S IDEAS on class, revolution, economics, and communism are presented in some of her essays and speeches that are not well known and are not easily available. As interesting as her own work are the appraisals of Luxembourg by Luise Kautsky, Lelio Basso, Raya Dunayevskaya, Le Blanc, Andrea Nye, and Claire Cohen. In addition, Le Blanc provides a useful introduction to Luxembourg's life and ideas and an extensive bibliography.

Daniel Guérin, ed. Paul Sharkey, trans., *No Gods, No Masters: An Anthology of Anarchism*. Two volumes. (Edinburgh: AK Press 1998).

LONG A CLASSIC in French, this recent translation of anarchist writings includes excerpts from standard works by writers such as Max Stirner, Emma Goldman, Peter Kropotkin, Michael Bakunin, Buenaventura Durruti, and Errico Malatesta, and manifestoes, letters, and unpublished material to provide a rich collection of primary documents on the theory and history of anarchism in the 19th and 20th centuries. Guérin, long an anarchist and gay activist, provides introductions to each author and to important events in the history of the movement. The collection draws on obscure writers and movements as well as those that are better known to provide a compelling outline of the history of anarchist theory and action.

Lynne Bowen, Robert Dunsmuir, *Laird of the Mines* (Montreal: XYZ Publishing 1999).

PART OF The Quest Library series that includes biographies of Pauline Johnson, Tommy Douglas, Norman Bethune, and Agnes MacPhail, this volume at first seems an odd fit. But Bowen, whose previous works include the histories of Vancouver Island mining, *Boys Whistle* and *Three Dollar Dreams*, has written a nuanced and interesting biography of BC's best-known and best-hated robber baron that pays considerable attention to labour and race. A non-academic study, it is written in a popular, accessible style, and draws on primary and secondary sources.

Nikolai Bukharin, *How It All Began: The Prison Novel*. (New York: Columbia University Press 1998).

EDITOR OF *PRAVDA*, head of the Communist International, member of the Politburo, Bukharin was, for a time, "the favourite of the entire [Bolshevik] party." He joined with Stalin against the Left Oppositionists, then turned against Stalin to head the Right Opposition that opposed the rapid industrialization programs of 1929-33. Bukharin was removed from positions of influence in 1929, and was the most important victim of Stalin's show trials in 1938. Imprisoned in Lubyanka in 1937-38, Bukharin wrote four books, including an autobiographical novel about his childhood in pre-revolutionary Russia. The novel, titled *How It All Began*, and the three other volumes, were made public when NKVD and KGB files were opened after the fall of the Soviet Union and after Bukharin had been "rehabilitated" by Gorbachev. The novel, with an introduction by Bukharin biographer Stephen F. Cohen, is a fascinating glimpse into the Russian revolutionary movement.

Neil Tudiver, *Universities for Sale: Resisting Corporate Control over Canadian Higher Education* (Toronto: James Lorimer 1999).

A PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK at the University of Manitoba, Tudiver documents the decline of Canadian universities and their ongoing takeover by business. He examines the constraints on academic freedom, the resistance to unionization, the pressure to conduct profitable research, the drive to eliminate "frills" and liberal education, and other issues. None of this will be news to *L/LT* readers, but Tudiver outlines the crisis cogently and compassionately.

Cynthia R. Commachio, *The Infinite Bonds of Family: Domesticity in Canada, 1850-1940* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press 1999).

ONE IN THE University of Toronto Press "Themes in Canadian Social History" series, this volume is an overview of domestic life in Canada. A synthesis of the historical literature, it summarizes issues and trends that shaped families; it is designed for undergraduate and graduate students.

Harry Fisher, *Comrades: Tales of a Brigadista in the Spanish Civil War*. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press 1998).

THE AUTHOR, long the chief of communications for the TASS news agency in New York, was one of the first American volunteers to fight in Spain. Fisher fought in all of the major battles the Abraham Lincoln Battalion engaged in, and his memoirs are powerful and poignant.

Eve Blau, *The Architecture of Red Vienna, 1919-1934* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press 1999).

IN 1919, VIENNA became the first major European city and capital to elect a Social Democratic council. In the face of powerful opposition from the conservatives who still controlled national politics, the council embarked on an ambitious project to redesign and reshape the infrastructure of the city. Workers' housing — ultimately some 64,000 units for about 10 per cent of the city's total population — was created around schools, theatres, co-ops, clinics, and libraries. This beautifully designed and well-illustrated book explores how ideology and politics shaped architecture and "how the architecture of Red Vienna itself constructed meaning in relation to the ideological conflicts...in the interwar period." The result is a detailed analysis of power, politics, art, and architecture, and of a bold experiment that resisted fascism with bricks and, at the end, bullets.

Alan Kidd, *State, Society, and the Poor in Nineteenth-Century England* (New York: St. Martin's Press 1999).

THIS VOLUME is part of the Social History in Perspective series of in-depth studies for students. Like the others in the series, this book provides a clear survey of recent research of the subject. Kidd's overarching argument is the post-1945 welfare state may be a phase in welfare history rather than its culmination. Understanding earlier conceptions of the role of philanthropy, the state, welfare, and self help in their own right, rather than as precursors to the welfare state, Kidd examines voluntary charities, self-help organizations, and family care, as well as public welfare and working class strategies.

Stefan Berger and Angel Smith, eds., *Nationalism, Labour, and Ethnicity, 1870-1939*. (Manchester: Manchester University Press 1999).

NATIONALISM AND ETHNICITY have often been presented as obstacles to socialism and working class solidarity. This collection of essays, dedicated to Eric Hobsbawm, breaks away from the facile assumption to investigate the relationship in more depth. Individual studies of France, Britain, Spain, Germany, Poland, Russia, the US, Australia, South Africa, and India allow for international comparisons. The nine contributors seek more subtle answers to questions about how the nation was defined, the impact of imperialism, the relationship of class loyalties to national loyalties, and the degree to which nationalism really is an ideology of integration.

Sherrie A. Inness, *Tough Girls: Women Warriors and Wonder Women in Popular Culture* (Pennsylvania: University of Pennsylvania Press 1999).

INNESS EXAMINES "tough women" in American popular culture, from Emma Peel in *The Avengers* to *Xena: Warrior Princess* to argue that while the representation of women has included those who act in ways that have historically been viewed as male, this simultaneously undercuts women and reinforces their subordinate status.

M.L.