

conspicuously absent from the arena of social housing. Again this gives a distorted picture even in the age of market supremacy. Surely their traditional initiatory roles in the development process have not dissolved into thin air? This is not the picture that one associates with housing in the U.K. This omission has the effect of obscuring the view of housing within a wider social and political context.

Finally, it should be noted that the authors do make an attempt to relate the provision of housing with the political regime, especially in the last chapter in which the probable impacts of the coming into power of the latest Labour government are explored. But here again the treatment is somewhat perfunctory. One wishes for a more reasoned exposition of how different regimes relate to the critical issue of housing. This could provide a valuable lesson for countries which have raised the privatization banner. We could learn from the 'beneficiaries' of Thatcherism.

In sum, this is a wide ranging but rather basic text. As an introductory textbook it is targeted to a rather narrow audience. As such it certainly covers the pertinent terrain and can be considered as perhaps adequate. For more in depth treatment of housing's social role one must look elsewhere.

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#### TROUBLES IN THE RAINFOREST: BRITISH COLUMBIA'S FOREST ECONOMY IN TRANSITION by Trevor J. Barnes and Roger Hayter (eds.). Canadian Western Geographical Series, Vol. 33, 1997.

This volume is the product of a conference in a series of conferences across Canada in honor of the centenary of the birth of Harold A. Innis, Canada's famed economic historian. Books of conference papers are usually a disjointed fare. It is to the credit of the editors that this conference book reads like a comprehensive whole. Although the authors retain their own perspectives, the commonality of their overall topic provides for a unifying theme. Nevertheless, the chapters vary in their tone and some useful information has not been provided at all.

British Columbia's approach to development has been the 'staples' approach which Innis had so well identified "... harvesting timber transforms ecological capital into economic capital", writes C. S. Binkley in Chapter 2 of the volume. The province's

“forest cutting policies were formed when the government saw no end to the timber supplies while it was desirous of increasing capital and employment.” The end to the timber supplies is today obvious and this is where the ‘troubles’ are rooted in.

Binkley, a forester himself, is very capable in posing the province’s dilemma. “The recent creation of Forest Renewal B.C. (FRBC) nominally provides the capital needed for investment in forest management.” But Binkley points out the components of wishful thinking of the FRBC strategy. Binkley’s careful discussion of the need for establishing a sustainable forest harvesting policy contrasts sharply with R.M. M’Gonigle’s passionate discussion of the conflicts over the end uses of the forests (Chapter 3). M’Gonigle’s position is best illustrated by a rhetorical question he poses in his chapter: “As global corporatism triumphs, and sustainability withers, why do progressive critics (especially those in the Innisian mode) hesitate to move beyond the maladapted legacy of the liberal state and its social-democratic variant?” I can see red flags flying through the forest.

W.N. Cafferata, chief forester for one of the large timber corporations, brings the tone back to cool and rational in discussing the industry’s changing ways. “The problem to be addressed in the coastal forests of British Columbia is ... arguably not an environmental problem at all, but a social and political problem” (Cafferata, Chapter 4). “In the spring of 1994 over 30,000 people gathered on the steps of the legislative building (in Victoria, B.C.) to protest against proposed land use changes on Vancouver Island.” This is how Thomas Gunton begins his contribution (Chapter 5) to the book. Discussing the question of forest land use, Gunton finds some common ground with Binkley and Cafferata and some even with M’Gonigle.

Jeremy Wilson’s contribution (Chapter 6) “...focuses on change resulting from shifts in government policy.” A political scientist, Wilson is adept at analyzing the role of government in the province’s forest economy. “The Harcourt government implemented an extensive package of moderate forest policy reforms. Its initiatives required the mobilization and direction of an immense amount of bureaucratic and political energy.” The more controversial policy suggestions have been ignored by the government, “in keeping with the pre-election emphasis on inoffensiveness.”

Bruce Willems-Braun focuses in Chapter 7 “on what contemporary articulations of staples theory include and exclude, or, said differently, what the economic theory of and from the margins itself marginalizes.” Willems-Braun subjects many much used concepts to a critical inspection. “North American environmentalism brings together and often combines two visions of nature: wilderness (nature as absence of culture) and ecology (nature as system). In their applications in British Columbia, both present problems.”

Chapter 1 of the book is a general introduction by the book’s editors. Chapters 2 to 7 form Section I: ‘the forests’. B.W. Wilkinson begins Section II of the book, ‘the forest industry’ with Chapter 8. “... (R)esource products are of much greater importance (for British Columbia than for Canada as a whole), accounting for 90 percent of total exports. Forest products alone were over three-fifths of provincial merchandise sale abroad....” Patricia Marchak discusses B.C. forest industry in a global

context (Chapter 9). "Change has occurred (in the B.C. forest industry) since 1980, with causes both local and global. Resource depletion and the time span required for replacement of northern forests are major causes of change at the local level." In other words, can we profit from sustainable logging? Subtropical and tropical environments provide much faster replenishment rates than B.C. "American companies have moved some of their northwest coast operations to pine and hardwood plantations in southeastern states, and some have invested in companies in the southern hemisphere."

In Chapter 10, Otto Forgacs, another corporate forest man, tells us that "Profitability is a constant concern. Contrary to the opinion of many members of the public, the financial performance of the industry in British Columbia, when viewed over several business cycles, has been poor." The solution appears to lie in the manufacture of higher value-added products. "High wood costs have reduced the competitiveness of coastal British Columbia mills producing commodities, including standard newsprint, which is relatively low in the hierarchy of value-added paper products." The forest industry section of the volume ends with another chapter by the editors (Chapter 11). "First, we review the two general systems of industrial organization found within the coastal forest sector since the end of World War II: Fordism and flexible production." The Fordist system, large corporation with mass production, is what seems to be wrong with British Columbia's forest economy. But a "shift towards mass production is evident among MacMillan Bloedel's wood processing facilities, a shift which began with the modernization of its sawmill division of Port Alberni in 1980 (Alberni Pacific Division)." The authors also clearly set out the last section of the volume (on forest based communities) in Chapter 11. "As dominant mills decline and company paternalism becomes less important, forestry communities are necessarily more actively involved in planning local economic development and diversification." (Hayter and Barnes, Chapter 11).

R. Cole Harris' contribution (Chapter 12), is by far the most literate and, therefore, enjoyable of the contributions. It also serves to provide the reader with a better understanding of British Columbia: the geography, not the Innisian dilemma. True, Harris does not resolve the dilemma but he does provide a broader historical framework for it. If there only had been a geographical effort as well (where exactly is the rainforest?). "Within British Columbia, imperial visions merged with the realities of colonialism. As distances diminished, newcomers were able to possess the 'wilderness' more comprehensively." Never mind the dilemma, let's enjoy the divine drama. "In short, introduced systems of transportation and communication incorporated British Columbia within the modernizing world, and created patterns of settlement and land use that bore... characteristics... of modernity." Harris' contribution is followed by T.A. Hutton's (Chapter 13). "While a full comprehension of the dynamics of the core-periphery structure requires considerable elaboration, the asymmetrical nature of inter-regional relationships represents perhaps the essential feature." Hutton's focus is primarily on Vancouver as British Columbia's metropolis. "As observed above, staples extracted within British Columbia's periphery have been

important stimuli to industrial production in Vancouver over the past century.” But the B.C. metropolis is really just a part of the hinterland of the higher-order metropolises. Whether we deal with ‘core’ or with ‘periphery’ depends on our perspective. “Such a modification of metropolitan - hinterland linkages is present in British Columbia, where the parameters of core-periphery relationships have been subject to the external influence of more dominant metropolises.” Hutton makes the point that Vancouver is increasingly independent of its hinterland. “Although the empirical evidence available is somewhat threadbare or fragmentary in places, the discussion points quite clearly to comprehensive changes in the tight bonding between core and periphery...”

Maureen Reed and Alison Gill (Chapter 14) discuss the responses to change in a forest resource community. We shift from abstract to concrete space. “As a result of the failure of top-down regional development policies of the 1960s and 1970s, the concept of local development was increasingly discussed and embraced in the 1980s.” The community under study is Squamish. Recreation/retirement functions are gaining in significance in what was a lumber town. This leads to conflicts in perspective. “In the following section, a discussion of changing demographics and local politics in rapid growth settings produces a context where different groups have conflicting goals and objectives related to economic development. In development decisions, not all people affected by the decisions have an equal say. “There remain several outstanding issues with respect to community-based planning in Squamish. There is need to develop ways to include the concerns and issues of under-represented groups.”

The book profits from ending with G.R. Walter’s essay (Chapter 15) which is both readable and cerebral. “British Columbia is generally viewed as having a prosperous economy. Nonetheless, there is concern for the economic sustainability of its forestry regions and particularly their communities.” The chapter focuses on the sustainability of communities but, even more significant, on the relationships between the Pareto criterion, communitarianism, and bioregionalism. Placed at the front of the book, this chapter could have better focused our attention on the real conflicts at hand but the editors may have been wise in not promising too much at the outset and having us instead read through the growing chaos (in our minds) until we reach Euclid in Chapter 15.

Readers who lack basic knowledge of British Columbia’s geography will not be helped by the absence of physiographic and other maps of the province. Much of the book deals with abstract space anyway. Each of the authors writes with authority and the entire book forms a cohesive whole. The photographs are below standard, the errors are few and benign. The volume lives up to the expectations which the series has earned from us.

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