

lands, her analysis is enriched, and her readers enlightened. Unfortunately, the book's quality of production is somewhat uneven. It is well illustrated (unlike Forkey's, which lacks illustration altogether), but suffers from many typos.

Canadian environmental history is taught often, though not exclusively, as an upper-level undergraduate special topics class or seminar. In such a course, Forkey's book could be (and has already been) used as an introductory text to the field and its main concerns. Such courses do not often use survey textbooks, so it is harder to envision how MacDowell's book might find a place in the classroom. Nevertheless, these are landmark texts in a vibrant and growing field, and Canadian historians will be glad of their appearance.

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*Debating Dissent: Canada and the Sixties*. LARA CAMPBELL, DOMINIQUE CLÉMENT, and GREGORY S. KEALEY, eds. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2012. Pp. 384, \$75.00 cloth, \$29.95 paper

The long-awaited collection *Debating Dissent: Canada and the Sixties* brings together a host of established and emerging scholars to create what should become the de facto guide to understanding social movements during that tumultuous decade. Avoiding the pitfalls of some edited collections, the editors have crafted a book that is greater than the sum of its (already considerable) parts. Exhorting readers to consider the 1960s as more than just a decade, but rather as a "social, political, cultural, and economic phenomenon" (1), *Debating Dissent* should find considerable uptake as both a course reader and a scholarly introduction to the period, and appeal to both a general readership and experts in the field.

I was skeptical when I first read in the introduction that "*Debating Dissent* is far from a disparate collection of chapters: it is a deeply integrated account where each of the essays speaks to the others" (5). Yet it achieves this lofty goal. Each essay contains signposts connecting it to other chapters and pointing it toward a central argument. A notable example is José Iguarta's essay on the sixties in Quebec, which takes this practice to a new level, drawing out in his own piece themes found in other essays and, where relevant, fleshing out the Québécois perspective in the work of other contributors.

The topics are well selected and cover a wide range, notably on the theme of policing. While some deal very well with familiar sixties topics, such as Roberta Lexier's chapter on English-Canadian student

movements and Marcel Martel's take on the Sir George Williams riot, other chapters deal with new subjects. Catherine Carstairs takes an expansive, long-sixties view of the rise of health food consciousness and nutritional awareness. Erika Dyck provides fascinating insight into the "psychedelic sixties," drawing on provocative evidence to reassert the significance of several Canadian (especially Saskatchewan-based) clinical drug researchers. Catherine Gidney looks at the efforts of faculty members and the Canadian Association of University Teachers to advocate for greater power in university governance. Michael Boudreau addresses the 1971 Gastown riot, providing invaluable insight into Vancouver in the 1960s, including the causes that led to the police riot and its tumultuous aftermath. (Similar themes emerged in Vancouver some four decades later, after the final Stanley Cup game in 2011.) Scholars Steve Hewitt and Christabelle Sethna address how the RCMP struggled and ultimately failed to understand the women's movement, which proved particularly difficult for the white, all-male force. Taken together, these chapters help expand our understanding of the sixties.

Other topics deal convincingly with how identities were awakened and transformed during the period. Peter McInnis's take on wildcat workers is a laudable inclusion in the book; thanks to him and Bryan Palmer's earlier work on a similar theme, the importance of young working-class men to the decade (previously almost unknown) has now been convincingly demonstrated and incorporated into the narrative. James W. St G. Walker's essay on Rocky Jones and the Black United Front in Halifax makes clear that Canada's Black Power movement needs to be included in our narratives of the sixties, as does the important role played by Atlantic Canadian activists. As Atlantic Canada still struggles with legacies of its history of black segregation and removal, this essay is important. Those seeking to understand the contemporary Idle No More movement should read Bryan Palmer's insightful essay on the birth of Red Power, which takes us through the story of a curiously understudied phenomenon. Rounding out the book are three more chapters. There is an insightful elucidation of English-Canadian nationalism by Stephen Azzi, and an exploration of linguistic rights and constitutional debates by Matthew Hayday, who shows how the lack of consensus on and eventual rejection of the proposed Victoria Charter laid the groundwork for constitutional debates in the 1970s and 1980s. Finally, as noted above, José Iguarata wraps up the collection with an overview of the sixties in Quebec. Iguarata's masterful essay strikes just the right balance between accessibility for a new reader and providing new insights for scholars. While readers may have seen some

of these chapters elsewhere (such as Palmer's and McInnis's articles), perhaps owing to the long lag between the 2008 workshop at the University of New Brunswick and the late 2012 publication, the consolidation of all these works is very valuable.

*Debating Dissent* should emerge as the pre-eminent anthology on the sixties for Canadian scholars. The affordable price tag from the University of Toronto Press makes it ideal for courses on postwar Canada, social movements, and the sixties themselves. Although the book is ideal for pedagogical purposes, it could have been enhanced by placing endnotes at the end of each chapter rather than at the end of the whole reader. Overcoming many of the standard shortcomings of edited collections, this book firmly establishes the significance of the sixties as an idea, while the synergy between established and new scholars makes this a particularly vibrant and valuable contribution.

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*Elusive Destiny: The Political Vocation of John Napier Turner.* PAUL LITT. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011. Pp. 494, \$39.95

Canadians tend to remember John Turner from what they saw of him on television in the 1980s, and that hasn't been good for his legacy. "I had no option" (276), he stammered during the 1984 leaders' debate, after being pressed by Brian Mulroney about making unseemly patronage appointments. "I'm a hugger" (274), he protested, trying to explain why the cameras had caught him patting the bums of two female colleagues. Those gaffes, made worse by Turner's wooden television persona, contributed to the crushing defeat of his Liberals in the 1984 election. There was a brief moment of redemption four years later when Turner, battling against the free trade agreement, stunned Mulroney with the charge, "I happen to believe you've sold us out" (378). But that moment was fleeting. He lost the election of 1988, and with it his last chance to be remembered for something other than being the shortest-serving prime minister of the twentieth century.

This image of Turner as "yesterday's man" (279), a rusty and out-of-touch politician who blew it in 1984 and lost again, if with greater dignity, in 1988, is an enduring one. But Paul Litt makes a convincing argument in *Elusive Destiny* that his subject deserves better. Turner was the leading English-Canadian Liberal of his generation, and his positive impact as a Cabinet minister under Pierre Trudeau – thoroughly documented by Litt in what is easily the most engaging and revelatory part of the book – makes for inspiring reading (well, it will