

Access to political leverage and the importance of social power relationships is a notable theme in Clancy's discussion of pulpwood marketing structures in New Brunswick over the period 1960–1975. Political patronage is featured also in Leger's account of the forest industry on the Acadian Peninsula over the period 1875–1900, where the most accessible and better quality forests accumulated in the hands of large-scale capital interests.

In addressing the implications of the concentration of capital and political influence, the dominant theme becomes the disenfranchisement of small-scale producers in economic, social, and political terms. Discussion of the Nova Scotia Forest Improvement Act highlights transgressions of private property rights, and this is a theme of Antoft's account of foreign ownership of land in Nova Scotia as well. In several of the other papers, the alienation of public land by private capital emerges as one consequence of government policy decisions.

The implications, for rural small-holders and rural communities, of government policies that achieved concentration of capital in the forestry sector are described coherently by Parenteau. The loss of sense of community, out-migration of young people, and the spread of disadvantage and poverty amongst rural people are central themes. The establishment of dependency relationships and the exploitation of labour is documented by Leger, and Colpitts also makes reference to the community impacts in her study of Alma.

The consequences of capital accumulation for the quality of forest management and of the physical environment are also addressed in the book. Bissix and Sandberg use O'Riordan's typology of environmental attitudes, which refers to ecocentric and technocentric beliefs. Cote addresses environmental implications as well, in describing a survival strategy adopted by traditional settlers in New Brunswick who were forced into short-term exploitation rather than longer-term conservation management.

There is little in this volume that would lead to a positive impression of developments in the forestry sector in the two provinces over the last 100 years. It is an unabashedly negative account. The concluding chapter offers little cause for optimism about the future, with its emphasis on the obstacles to genuine change and to the removal of inequalities. Readers looking for an account of the development of the forestry sector that entertains a range of views will not find it in this book.

The close attention to historical detail that is common to all of the chapters leaves an impression of parochi-

alism. Thus, many readers without a direct interest in the very specific events that have shaped the development of the forestry sector in these two provinces will struggle through these intensive historical accounts. The quality of the individual chapters is variable and this is especially evident in the ability of the individual authors to rise above the specificity of the individual circumstances and to present an account that transcends this parochialism. Colpitts' analysis is a sound integration of historical detail with more general themes. Similarly, Parenteau deals successfully with structural changes in the rural farm economy, issues of ownership, government policy, and unequal political representation, and the implications of the concentration of capital for traditional rural communities and small-scale commodity producers. Yet the balance of the total package is of concern. Ten separate essays are drawn together by a common ideology and locational context, but there does not seem to be any other inherent logic to the collection or its organization.

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The First Immigrants from Asia: A Population History of the North American Indians

by A.J. JAFFE, with the assistance of CAROLYN SPERBER, Plenum Press, New York, 1992, xxiii + 333 pp, cloth. US \$39.50 (ISBN 0-306-43452-2)

Anyone who has attempted to chart population change over time knows the difficulties involved in such an undertaking. Problems abound, whether the unit of analysis be a town, a city, a region, or a country. Data are missing or are incomplete, categories are invented or are dissolved, methods of assessment are left unexplained, and consistency in presenting findings is often nowhere apparent. Imagine, then, the complexities that would arise if the beast to be tackled were not one country but two, both of them, territorially, among the largest political entities on earth: Canada and the United States. To the vastness of geographical space add an enormity of human time: perhaps 30 000 years or more. This is the daunting task that A.J. Jaffe and his assistant Carolyn Sperber set themselves. Perhaps not surprisingly, given the nature of the project and, especially, the manner in which the authors have decided to marshal their information, results are mixed.

Jaffe and Sperber (p. 2) have three aims: '(1) to document the changing population characteristics of the North American Indians from the earliest times

possible; (2) to ascertain the extent to which their population characteristics may be converging, or resembling, those of the general population of Canada and the United States in the 20th century; and (3) to relate these changing demographic characteristics to changes in the natural and social environments.' To these ends, they divide their text into two parts, the year 1492 serving conveniently to separate one body of evidence from another. In Part One, 'The First Arrivals,' the events and circumstances of pre-Columbian native life are discussed with an emphasis on quality of existence, threats or spurs to survival, and improvements or setbacks to living together as distinct groups in distinct ways. Care is taken to fit whatever statistics are available into a bigger picture. Thus we are informed that 'the average length of life in ancient times among the North American Indians who did not have agriculture was 14 to 15 years for women and 16 to 17 years for men.' Acquiring agricultural skills, which occurred in the course of the first millennium AD, meant that 'life expectancy rose by 2 or 3 years' (p. 66). The demands of childbirth and child raising meant that 'men lived longer than did women' (p. 60). In Part Two, 'What Columbus Had Wrought,' European penetration is seen to usher in a period of marked demographic change. The 'numbers game' is considered 'not worth playing,' but Jaffe and Sperber reckon that a native population of 1 200 000 in AD 1600 hit bottom in 1920 at 400 000, to recover, by the 1980s, to an estimated 1 500 000 (p. 104). Inuits and Aleuts are excluded from these, and other, calculations. At European contact, native numbers in the United States were 'four or five times as great as in Canada' (p. 105). Roughly the same proportional difference prevails today, despite the tricky question of deciding who is, and who is not, an 'Indian' (pp. 277-78). Comparisons and contrasts are noted in the experience of native peoples under French and British, then American and Canadian sovereignty.

The reader is likely to emerge from a cover-to-cover reading of *The First Immigrants from Asia* with a sense of fatigue, for it is a choppy, factual, encyclopaedic tome. Most of its 13 chapters and 13 appendices, as well as a Foreword by George J. Stolnitz and an Afterword by Douglas H. Ubelaker, are less than 20 pages in length, with the text splintered throughout into sections and subsections. The book probably works best as a reference tool, one to be consulted quickly and returned to the shelf rather than perused at leisure. Scores of tables and graphs provide easy access to a plethora of figures, but it is worth reiterating that Jaffe and Sperber take pains to make the figures tell a story, albeit as rather truncated and, at times, simplistic episodes of an elaborate, nuanced epic.

The Columbus quincentenary, faults and all, left us with several works which illuminate the native past in North America. Well worth looking at alongside Jaffe and Sperber are Sheila Ryan Johansson's review essay 'The demographic history of the Native peoples of North America: A selective bibliography,' in the *Yearbook of Physical Anthropology* 25 (1982), pp. 133-52, and books by Henry F. Dobyns *Their Number Become Thinned: Native American Population Dynamics in Eastern North America* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1983), and Russell Thornton, *American Indian Holocaust and Survival: A Population History since 1492* (Norman and London: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987). Also worthwhile are John W. Verano and John W. Ubelaker, eds., *Disease and Demography in the Americas* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992), William M. Denevan, ed, *The Native Population of the Americas in 1492*, 2nd ed (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1992), and Karl W. Butzer, ed, 'The Americas before and after 1492,' a special issue of the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 82, 3 [1992].

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