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## Book Review: Reflections on Native-Newcomer Relations: Selected Essays

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essays effectively reflect the author's range of interests and include some of his more important published contributions to the field as well as five papers previously unpublished.

J. R. Miller's work has focussed particularly on government-Aboriginal relations in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and fully half the collection fits this category: the four essays on policy and those under "The Crown." These focus on treaties, rights, government policies, and residential schools, the areas this historian knows most intimately from his own research. The remaining six pieces tackle historiographical and methodological issues and, in the section on academe, apply lessons from history to contemporary issues.

The focus here is entirely on Canada, but its portion of the Great Plains figures quite substantially in the book. The articles most relevant to the Plains include "From Riel to the Metis," a historiographical analysis of Métis history; "Owen Glendower, Hotspur, and Canadian Indian Policy," in which the consideration of Native agency centers largely on events and institutions in the West; and an article on the signing of the Plains treaties of the 1870s entitled "'I will accept the Queen's hand': First Nations Leaders and the Image of the Crown in the Prairie Treaties."

This collection showcases Miller's trademark qualities of thorough research, careful documentation, clear lines of argument, and engagement with difficult issues. Particular themes, arguments, and quotations do recur in pieces on related topics, which can make the collection somewhat repetitive when read in a short time frame. There are controversial positions here, such as those taken in "'I can only tell what I know': Shifting Notions of Historical Understanding in the 1990s." This 1994 essay contends that feminist and post-modernist theories have undermined the only justification for academic freedom by rejecting notions of a single, authoritative truth. Such arguments will undoubtedly attract less attention now than in the heat of this academic battle, when the paper was written. On the whole, the collection holds together well and

*Reflections on Native-Newcomer Relations: Selected Essays.* By J. R. Miller. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004. viii + 304 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography. \$65.00 cloth, \$27.95 paper.

*Reflections on Native-Newcomer Relations* is a compilation of essays authored by one of the most prominent Canadian historians in the field of Native-newcomer relations. It contains twelve essays written between 1988 and 2004, four of them under the heading "Policy," and the others paired under the headings "Historiography," "Methodology," "The Crown," and "Academe." There is also an introduction that places each essay in its historical context and describes how it came about. Though the criteria of selection and the collection's overall goal are not explained, the

has much to offer both specialists and a more general audience.

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