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Review of The Prairie West: Historical Readings

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this volume with much more than a supplementary reader for survey courses in the history of prairie Canada. *The Prairie West* stands on its own as a rich collection of thoughtful essays of lasting value. It is to be recommended to all reference and academic libraries as well as to all serious readers.

Is there an equally competent reader on the American Plains West?

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The Prairie West: Historical Readings. Edited by R. Douglas Francis and Howard Palmer. Edmonton, Alberta: Pica Pica Press, 1985. Notes, illustrations, maps, tables. xiv + 660 pp. \$21.00.

The Prairie West makes available thirty-two essays which provide "both overview interpretations and current research" on the history of the Canadian Prairie West. Although the book lacks an index (which would make its content more easily accessible for readers with very specific interests), each of the volume's fourteen sections is preceded by a very competent and instructive introduction as well as a "Selected Bibliography."

After an overview of newer research on the book's title subject (Gerald Friesen) and a synthesis of some of the major characteristics of prairie society (W. L. Morton), a baker's dozen of topics are covered by competent essays presented in a roughly chronological order ranging from "Native Peoples and the Fur Trade" to "The Modern West: Politics and Economics." Without slighting other essays, several especially interesting selections might be noted, including "Fur Trade Social History" (Sylvia Van Kirk), "Immigration and Settlement Policy, 1896-1905" (D. J. Hall), "Utopian Ideals and Community Settlement, 1880-1914" (A. W. Rasporich), and "Evolution of the Social Credit Movement" (John A. Irving).

Francis and Palmer have provided us in