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Review of *Sharing The 49th Parallel: A Handbook for Montana Officials*

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Sharing The 49th Parallel: A Handbook for Montana Officials. Montana State University: 49th Parallel Institute, 1983. Maps, charts, documents, relations policies. 182 pp.

This book presents an encyclopedic summary of the political, economic, geographic, and social structure of Canada, written to provide public officials in Montana with background information to use when Canadian issues become relevant to their decision processes. This review is written by a Canadian who is reasonably knowledgeable about his country but who knows nothing about the information gaps in the minds of Montana officials; it should be interpreted within this context.

The book includes three sections. The first reviews the legislative, judicial, and economic systems, emphasizing those aspects where Canadian evolutionary patterns have deviated

from those in the United States. The second describes Canada's industrial structure, emphasizing the resource and service sectors which dominate the Western region. The third examines two issues which are particularly significant to Montana: conflict over water use in transboundary river basins and the policies of Western provincial governments that are designed to stimulate industrial development.

Generally, the book deserves commendation. It is well organized and clearly written. Any sins of commission, which include the normal array of outdated information and howlers (e.g., a map which implies that fur trapping is more important than manufacturing and an antiquated version of the national anthem) are not a major detraction.

However, I believe that the sins of omission are more serious. While the book adequately describes Canada's geography and institutional arrangements, it does not capture the essence of the character of Canadians. Living in close proximity to the United States makes Canadians schizophrenic: we are attracted by your glamor but repelled by your need to dominate, and the manner in which we resolve our affliction will be of significance to the future of both nations. Insights into this issue can best be obtained by exploring the work of Canadian poets, novelists, and artists, but the authors of *Sharing The 49th Parallel* have failed to do this. As a result, their book is not as useful as it might otherwise be.

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