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Review of *The Community in Canada: Rural and Urban* Edited by Satadal Dasgupta

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The Community in Canada: Rural and Urban. Edited by Satadal Dasgupta. Lanham: University Press of America, 1996. xi+363 pp. Tables, figures, and references. \$39.50 paper (ISBN 07618-0209-6).

This book surveys studies of rural, small town, and urban community in Canada. The first third of the book, written by Dasgupta, provides definitions and perspectives of community. The remainder of the book contains a selection of studies of communities in Canada, mostly sociological and mostly from the 1960s and 1970s.

Dasgupta begins with Hillery's 1955 classification of ninety-four definitions of community, noting that all but three of these definitions involve "a group of people in 'social interaction.'" Theories and perspectives on community are organized into five categories: ecological, ethnographic, social system, social or interactional, and conflict approaches. The author examines theoretical approaches developed by social scientists, but more Canadian approaches and materials could have been introduced. For example, in the discussion of settlement patterns, Dasgupta makes no mention of the Canadian Frontiers of Settlement studies of Carl Dawson and associates in the 1930s.

Dasgupta examines approaches to the study of community power, the folk-urban continuum, and urban influences on rural social organization. This first section of the book provides a good, although dated, overview of community studies. There is no discussion of the meaning of community in postmodernity or in cyberspace, or how current discussions of communitarian theory relate to community.

Two selections from the classic *Next Year Country* by Jean Burnet are provided as examples of community in villages and towns in a grain producing region of the Canadian prairie. Studies of changes in rural communities in Quebec and Prince Edward Island, and in ranching and fishing regions, show how residents of these regions developed new forms of community life as transportation and communication improved, and as agriculture and fishing became commercialized.

Along with Burnet's work, six studies of small towns provide a good overview of those communities. These examine single industry, resource-based towns and towns in agricultural regions. Fred Dahms shows how

residents of a region of Ontario with many small towns in close proximity create a "dispersed city." Studies by Mathews, Gold, and Jackson analyze how small town residents deal with issues of leadership, power and conflict.

This book examines communities in cities and suburbs through six studies written between 1964 and 1974. These describe many of the continuing and emergent features of Canadian cities during that period: suburbanization, slums, land use, and networks of kinship and community. Over the last twenty-five years, Canadian cities have been transformed by population growth, new patterns of immigration, and changing commercial patterns, but the book contains little analysis of how these affect community in urban and surrounding regions.

The book has an extensive bibliography but no index. Unfortunately, there is no reference to classic studies such as the mid-1950s Royal Commission on Agricultural and Rural Life in Saskatchewan, or studies from the Centre for Community Studies at the University of Saskatchewan in the bibliography. There is also little mention of current research on community, or of studies of ethnic, First Nations, and northern communities.

In conclusion, the book is a good introduction to the wide range of community studies that took place in Canada from the 1950s through the 1970s. This book is suitable for a middle to upper level undergraduate course in community, but would need to be supplemented by more recent materials on community in Canada. **Paul Gingrich**, *Department of Sociology and Social Studies, University of Regina*