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**Review of *The Geography of Manitoba: Its Land and Its People*  
Edited by John Welsted, John Everitt, and Christoph Stadel**

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**The Geography of Manitoba: Its Land and Its People.** Edited by John Welsted, John Everitt, and Christoph Stadel. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 1996. xv+327 pp. Figures, maps, tables, notes, index. C\$54.95 paper (ISBN 0-88755-635-3).

*The Geography of Manitoba*, a wide-ranging look at Canada's Keystone Province, comprises a collection of papers grouped into four sections dealing with the province's physical geography, people, resources and industries, and recreation. Supplementing the major essays are brief case studies (thirty-nine in all) that examine specific topics related to the sections within which they appear. The text is amply supported throughout by excellent black-and-white maps, as well as by illustrations, photographs, tables, and several color plates.

Manitoba's dominant physical characteristics are addressed in three essays and several case studies in the opening section. Although brief, these clearly rendered overviews of geology and landforms, general climatic patterns, and ecoclimatic regions together provide a physical background to enhance the reader's understanding of the remainder of the book.

The second section deals with the broad topic of Manitoba's human landscape. Understandably the largest of the four, its papers are quite diverse. The patterns of occupation of the province's Aboriginal people are examined in two essays and a few case studies covering prehistory to the present. Most of this information concerns the people living on the Prairie or its margins, but modern data concerning Native people in northern communities are also presented. Several other papers deal with the history of non-native settlement, from the initial migrations into the Red and Assiniboine River valleys during the early nineteenth century, through the era of mass immigration following 1870, to the present state of Winnipeg, the province's dominant city, and other southern communities. Two additional essays examine the province's long-term population trends and electoral behavior.

Manitoba's economic activities and natural resources are examined in the book's third part. Although probably best known for agricultural production, and especially grain crops, the province's economic base is actually a diverse one. Consequently, additional essays examine its mining and extractive industries, manufacturing, and water resources.

A brief section organized under the heading of recreation rounds out the volume and includes two major essays: one on tourism and recreation, the other a summary of the history of professional team sports in the province. The editors' "Outlook," concluding this section and the book, attempts to predict future trends that will influence Manitoba's physical and human geography.

A few omissions require noting. There is no section or paper dealing with the key topic of transportation, for example, nor are the fur trade and the forest industries considered in the context of economic or resource activities. On the whole, however, *The Geography of Manitoba* is an excellent overview of the physical and human geography of a complex province. While directed towards the undergraduate geographer and members of the public, there is much here to serve more senior geographers and, especially, scholars from other academic disciplines. Moreover, although much of the province lies within the limits of the Canadian Shield, Manitoba has also been very much oriented towards the Prairies. Consequently, researchers will find this work useful as a general introduction to a region that has long

played a significant role in shaping the face of the Northern Great Plains.

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