

region does not extend to the Fraser Canyon, as is shown in Figure 1.6. On the same map, Osoyoos is misplaced. Vernon does not belong on the map of the Kootenay region (Figure 1.7). The “modified Mediterranean climate” does not apply to the whole Coast but only to a small stretch around Victoria (31). Cherry Point Refinery is not in Puget Sound but on the Strait of Georgia (157). First Nations did domesticate dogs, and at least one crop – tobacco – was cultivated (169). The Provincial Museum and the Royal British Columbia Museum are the same institution (191). Typos include “Wells Gray Park” (23), “Wenatchee” (39), “Ootsa reservoir” (161), “Courtenay” (217), “Michel” (219), “Fort d’Original” (Figure 4.2, 58), and “Natural gas pipeline” (Figure 11.6).

Missing is a full-page overview map of British Columbia. McGillivray recognizes this and encourages students to acquire a map to use with the book; I recommend the Tourism BC road map of the province. Unfortunately,

there is no up-to-date atlas of the province, but A.L. Farley’s *Atlas of British Columbia* (1979) can be found in most libraries and is still a good resource from a historical point of view.

But there is a great deal to recommend this text. It is the best book on British Columbia’s geography to date and will, I hope, maintain its value as a text for many years. For best use in the classroom, however, it needs to be supplemented with other materials. It should be used as an overview in conjunction with other important books and articles on British Columbia, which McGillivray has utilized extensively. The Internet and films are also recognized sources of additional information.

A student workbook to accompany the text would be a welcome addition. Despite its minor problems, as an instructor who has used this text in a course on BC geography, I have found it very satisfactory. I hope that a future edition will fix those pesky errors and keep it up to date.

Radical Roots: The Shaping of British Columbia

Harold Griffin

Vancouver: Broadway Printers, 1999. 258 pp. Illus.
(Betty Griffin, 403-2222 Bellevue, West Vancouver)

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AS THE FOUNDING EDITOR of *The People*, the weekly newspaper of the BC branch of the Communist Party of Canada, the late Harold (Hal) Griffin made a key contribution to British Columbia’s radical past. After Hal’s death, his

widow Betty brought *Radical Roots* through to publication. The result is a book that deals with a diverse number of topics and takes the reader through British Columbia’s past from prehistory to the present. Readers will benefit from this well written and

thoroughly researched book, which provides alternative readings of many events in BC history.

Hal Griffin begins by discussing the physical origins of British Columbia as well as the experiences of the First Nations peoples. Griffin notes that the First Nations were a much more diverse group than many scholars have argued. He points out that “there are 160 linguistic stocks and more than 1,200 sub-dialects among the native peoples of the Americas.” Griffin moves on to the rise of exploration in Europe and how this led to the European colonial powers “discovering” British Columbia. He comments on the North West Company and the Hudson’s Bay Company and on how issues of class, race, and ethnicity made their way into the history of these two enterprises. Griffin provides a stimulating discussion of the battles between English fur traders and settlers and the First Nations and the Métis. He adds to our knowledge of how issues of money and power played themselves out in the relations between White settlers and Native peoples.

A key point in Griffin’s text is the discovery of gold in California in the late 1840s and the subsequent migration of miners to British Columbia – a migration that helped to populate the colony. This led to the further disruption of the Native way of life, with diseases like smallpox being introduced into the First Nations population. Griffin also discusses the dislike of White elites for the Natives and their, ultimately successful, efforts at stripping the First Nations of their land. Throughout the book, the themes of moving, changing, exploration, and searching provide links between different topics.

British Columbia’s entry into Confederation plays a prominent role

in Griffin’s text. He is particularly interested in Amor De Cosmos’s role in attacking the elites that ruled British Columbia. De Cosmos fought for liberal reforms, such as responsible government, and provided the driving force for bringing British Columbia into Confederation. Griffin views British Columbia’s union with Canada as a progressive step. It prevented British Columbia’s annexation to the United States and served as an instrument of reform.

Griffin continues by discussing the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). In keeping with his left-wing sympathies, he argues that the building of the CPR was the “fulfilment of a dream of riches” for a small group of capitalists. Griffin offers an astute analysis of the plight of the Chinese workers. He also describes an early miners’ strike that, although it ended in failure, laid the groundwork for successful battles against capitalism. Griffin comments on the early contributions of the Knights of Labor and the Socialist Party of Canada to British Columbia’s radical heritage. There are also good discussions of the 1907 race riot against the Chinese workers and the *Komagata Maru* incident of 1914. Griffin demonstrates that British Columbia’s “development” was forged through the oppression of Natives, immigrants, and workers.

Hal Griffin provides an important account of BC history. He offers alternative readings of much studied events such as Confederation and the potlatch. And he does this in a writing style that is entertaining and engaging. Scholars and general readers will find much useful information in *Radical Roots*. However, there are two small problems that merit mentioning. Griffin’s choice of topics is somewhat

eccentric. In a book entitled *Radical Roots*, one would expect to find significant material surrounding the 1930s, a key decade in British Columbia's history. Events such as the On-to-Ottawa Trek and the Post Office Sit-Down Strike of 1938 are given short shrift. Similarly, there is virtually no mention of the post-Second World War period. A discussion of the Solidarity movement, for example, would have added a great deal.

Betty Griffin has said that Hal wanted to entitle this work *The Way*

to Cathay; after Betty took on the task of publishing the book, she decided to rename it *Radical Roots*. Given the book's themes of movement, change, and searching, *The Way to Cathay* would have been a better title. Despite these small caveats, *Radical Roots* provides an important and entertaining look at BC history. Betty Griffin should be commended for the effort that she put into getting the book published.

*The IWA in Canada:
The Life and Times of an Industrial Union*

Andrew Neufeld and Andrew Parnaby

Vancouver: IWA Canada/New Star Books, 2000. 321 pp. Illus. \$50 cloth

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BRITISH COLUMBIA'S HISTORY cannot be written without reference to trees: their use, their value, their presence or absence are central to the symbolic vision and material practices of the province. And there has been (arguably) no more important an organization related to the work done with the province's trees than the IWA (once the International Woodworkers of America; and, since 1994, the Industrial, Wood and Allied Workers of Canada). The publication of an official history of the IWA in Canada, then, is intrinsically important for BC historians.

Andrew Neufeld and Andrew Parnaby provide a story that, in its broad outlines, should be familiar to

many, rooted as it is in key developments of twentieth-century labour history. An entire chapter (perhaps the best) traces the pre-IWA origins of labour organization in the forests. The formation of the IWA in 1937, they argue, must be seen in the context of the efforts of previous workers and organizations – including the International Workers of the World, the One Big Union, the Lumber Workers Industrial Union (headed by later British Columbia Co-operative Commonwealth Federation leader Ernest Winch), and the Communist Party of Canada – to battle harsh working conditions. With these origins in place, the book's narrative moves on to the organizing efforts of the Depression and the breakthrough