

today, and that are discussed in Parliament and in the press, as well as at academic conferences' (page 9). Mindful of the dangers of 'advocacy history' (page 111), here is history of national relevance.

Carter overtly attempts to create an Aboriginal-centric history of the region(s). She consistently emphasizes the ancientness of Aboriginal populations and cultures, and that encounters with newcomers did not represent an immediate break with that past, despite dramatic effects on Aboriginal demographics, economies, and cosmologies. By describing Aboriginal people as explorers and discoverers and conceptualizing 'contact' as the story of how two Old Worlds collided and intertwined, she demonstrates how the 'broader issue of encounters of cultures have shifted' (page 31). Her tone is also perceptible in subtler ways, oftentimes a matter of refocusing attention away from Europeans. For instance, while relations between Aboriginal women and European men were a central aspect of the fur trades and directly responsible for the creation of a new Aboriginal people — the Métis — Carter points out that most Aboriginal women in western Canada were not involved in this way. Nor did their and their male kinfolk's lives revolve around European trade or technologies: 'The posts did not act as magnets for the surrounding population, as historians have often assumed' (page 61).

Throughout, Carter adopts historian Richard White's term 'middle ground' to describe the post-contact world. '[I]n the history of Western Canada, there were many opportunities to create mutual accommodation out of mutual interest, and times when it appeared that coexistence or a progressive partnership might be possible, but these developments were always impermanent' (page 34). If the volume has any thesis, it revolves around this theme, and how middle grounds emerged, thrived, and collapsed. She selected 1900 as the date to end her study because 'it was then that any hope of partnerships for the twentieth century was finally laid to rest' (page 13). Explorations of native roles in this relationship characterize the book's core chapters on fur trade interactions, the variety of settlements (indigenous, Métis, and non-Aboriginal) at the forks of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, the nature of Métis society, change and continuity in Blackfoot/Siksika society, and finally to the Canadian colonizing of the west (for example, treaties, agricultural resettlement, and the Indian Act).

My only criticism is Carter's claim to focus on 'western Canada,' while giving no rationale for the exclusion of Canada's most westerly province, British Columbia. I found this particularly puzzling, as she calls for revisionist thinking on how we view not only the history of human occupation in the Canadian west, but the land itself. For example, Carter challenges the oft-applied term 'Prairie Provinces,' labelling it a misnomer for a region that properly encompassed three geographic zones — grasslands, aspen parkland, and boreal forest (taiga) — or makes the point that the forty-ninth parallel marking the boundary between British/Canadian and American claimed territory was no border in any real sense for the peoples

who lived there until the final decades of the nineteenth century. Why must the Rockies remain such a conceptual barrier to historians of the Canadian west? Surely, to borrow a phrase from BC historian Jean Barman, 'the west beyond the west' deserves full integration into any examination of Aboriginal people and colonizers in western Canada.

Despite the lack of a truly western Canadian focus, ultimately, this book delivers on what it sets out to do. This text has great potential as an introductory piece to issues and themes that can then be explored in further detail through other sources. Carter's selected bibliography (divided chapter by chapter, in lieu of footnotes), directs readers to the scholarly interpretations she has highlighted or where to find more information on particular topics. While I am sure this work will be widely used in survey courses in Canadian history, it could also effectively serve comparative courses on colonialism/post-colonialism and indigenous studies. (Susan Neylan, Department of History, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1Z1, Canada.)

ANTARCTIC MARINE GEOLOGY. John B. Anderson. 1999. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. vii + 289 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-521-59317-4.

The understanding of the marine geology of the Antarctic continental shelf and surrounding oceans has improved dramatically during the last 30 years. The name of John Anderson has figured prominently throughout this period, and through a combination of marine geophysical studies and shallow coring of sea-floor sediment, he has probably done more than anyone else to enhance understanding of this region. It is therefore fitting that he should write what can be regarded as the definitive account concerning Antarctic marine geology.

This book aims to introduce graduate students and researchers to the geological history of Antarctica and the unique processes that operate there. Although there are several useful accounts of these topics, this is the first time that the subject has received comprehensive treatment. The book, in fact, is more wide-ranging than the title implies, and will thus be of value to all earth scientists and others working in Antarctica.

The first of six chapters provides a concise account of the Antarctic environment and its influence in a global context. Useful summaries of the different types of ice masses, icebergs, sea-ice distribution, and physical oceanography are presented. Chapter 2 deals with the geological history of the continent, describing first the general structure and crustal components, and outlining sequentially all orogenic events from start to finish. Particularly interesting topics are the composite crustal configuration of West Antarctica, the uplift of the Transantarctic Mountains, and the break-up of Gondwana. The discussion is followed by a short summary of Antarctic stratigraphy, using a series of palaeomaps to illustrate the distribution of strata through geological time. The emphasis

here is on the onshore record, and the Cenozoic successions, drilled offshore, are left to the final chapter.

Chapter 3 provides a fascinating account of the geomorphology of the continental shelf, and the processes responsible for the pronounced bathymetry of the sea floor. Of particular interest is the recognition, using remote-sensing methods, of a variety of relief forms that have counterparts on land in northern latitudes, such as moraines, drumlins, and flutes, as well as features resulting from subsequent iceberg scour. A number of regional descriptions testify to the varied bathymetry of the continental shelf.

Sedimentology is the topic of chapter 4, combining assessments of the following environments: subglacial, the grounding zone, proglacial bays and fjords, continental slope and rise, and abyssal plain. These general reviews are followed by a number of case studies. The interpretations rely heavily on seismic data, but the recent developments in understanding glacio-marine sedimentation, based on process studies, in other parts of the world, or indeed Antarctica, are not given the attention that is warranted. Furthermore, a weakness in this discussion is the absence of a recognizable approach to dealing with glacial sedimentary facies. Thus genetic and non-genetic terms are interspersed, resulting in confusion concerning both the nature of representative facies and how they are interpreted.

Chapter 5 shows how the results of marine geological and geophysical surveys can be used to determine evolution of the continental margin. In a number of case studies, drill-hole and short-core data, together with geophysical data, are reviewed and sequence stratigraphy defined. Key areas include the Ross Sea, the Pacific–Antarctic margin, the Bransfield Basin, the Weddell Sea margins, Wilkes Land, and Prydz Bay, all of which are considered in detail. This chapter emphasizes how the continental margin has evolved under the long-term influence of glaciation on the continent.

The final chapter is a review of Antarctica's glacial history. The author reminds the reader of the key, but frequently ignored, fact that glaciation has affected Antarctica for a time span that is larger, by an order of magnitude, than in the northern hemisphere, possibly extending back into the Eocene. The author reviews the means of obtaining 'proxy' records from the deep sea, which, although detailed, suffer from the difficulty of reading the ice-sheet signal. The opposite is the case for the continental shelf record, although even here there needs to be careful evaluation of sediments and seismic data. This leads the author into outlining the history of the Antarctic cryosphere, presented in chronological fashion, beginning with the debatable evidence for Cretaceous, Palaeocene, and Eocene glaciations, and including an interesting discussion concerning the dispute about the stability of the East Antarctic ice sheet during Pliocene time. The chapter continues with a summary of case studies relating to Late Quaternary ice-sheet activity, with reviews of whether the West Antarctic ice sheet collapsed

and the extent of the ice sheet during the Late Glacial Maximum.

The book concludes with a comprehensive reference list of well over 1000 entries and a brief index. Overall the volume is well presented, although there are a few typographical mistakes and the odd incorrect reference. There are numerous line drawings, which although not always aesthetically appealing, are at least clear. The photographs are the most disappointing aspect, with poor contrast and sharpness — a pity, in view of the spectacular sites depicted.

In summary, this book represents a significant achievement in drawing together a wide range of disparate information. Although it is not without flaws — notably the treatment of sedimentology — the book is a valuable addition to the literature. It will prove to be essential reading for all Antarctic marine and glacial geologists, whilst students taking advanced courses in glacial sedimentology will find much of relevance. (M.J. Hambrey, Centre for Glaciology, Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of Wales, Aberystwyth SY23 3DB.)

PROTECTING THE ARCTIC: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND CULTURAL SURVIVAL. Mark Nuttall. 1999. Amsterdam: Harwood Academic Publishers. viii + 195 p, soft cover. ISBN 90-5702-355-5. £13.95; US\$22.00.

In a year or two the Eskimo would go to the traders if the traders did not come to the Eskimo. And if neither Eskimo nor trader had the enterprise to seek the other, the Indians are eager to act as middlemen between. Commerce in goods may, therefore, be said to have begun, commerce in ideas cannot help following close behind...From the point of view of the ethnologist and sociologist the results of these new forces is clear, the rapid change of ideas, institutions and material surroundings.

These are the thoughts of the famous anthropologist and explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson, jotted down in his diary on 10 April 1912 (see Pálsson 2001). In these words Stefansson predicts the changes implicated by what are now called globalisation processes. *Protecting the Arctic* is also written by an anthropologist who obviously worries and cares about the course that events have taken in the Arctic. It is, however, not a very emotional product or advocacy manifesto but rather a comprehensive account of the major issues involving cultural viability, changing human–environmental relations and perceptions, and the close and multi-faceted relations between the local and the global. The argument is designed to make the reader better understand these relations and the problems they involve.

In chapter one, Nuttall sets the stage for the book and introduces its main themes. He also states that his purpose is to stimulate debate and pave the road for further research and analysis. He starts off with an outline of Arctic indigenous peoples and the problem of cultural survival, which for him, at least, is as important as the more widespread environmental discourse on biological