

## Book Reviews

They could indulge themselves because they were well paid, better in any case than their British comrades-in-arms, a fact that was also resented.

The 94,000 Royal Canadian Air Force personnel who served overseas generally did not encounter such difficulties. They were in action from the beginning, at first mainly in RAF units, later in their own. There certainly was no boredom, and no lack of recognition from the local people. The more than 30,000 Royal Canadian Navy men had no problems of adjustment at all, and they caused none. The great majority of them were, after all, transients who spent just a few days at a time in an overseas port.

Still, things improved as time went on. Resentments disappeared. Real friendships developed, and more than that, deep affections. By the time their friendly invasion of Britain was over, 45,000 or so Canadian servicemen had married local girls and had fathered more than 21,000 children. Thus, as the authors put it, "the war left behind it as a legacy a network of affectionate transatlantic connections whose extent is quite impossible to assess in figures but whose existence is beyond doubt." To have achieved this was also a victory.

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### Restoring the balance of payments

by Christopher J. Maule

***Beyond Adjustment: The Asian Experience* edited by Paul Streeten. Washington, D.C.: International Monetary Fund, 1988, 274 pages, US\$15.00.**

This collection of articles not only examines the adjustment experience of selected Asian countries in the 1980s but compares Asia to Latin America's less satisfactory adjustment record. Although it is too early to write history, some lessons can be drawn from this period to test certain economic and political theories of development, as well as to suggest revised explanations.

The study of adjustment by countries to restore balance of payments equilibrium, a fiscal balance, higher growth rates and lower inflation is the study of both economics and politics. It is not surprising therefore that one conference provides only shafts of light on how balance might be restored and why adjustment was needed.

The reader can pick from a menu of interesting articles. My choice included Paul Streeten's roll call of changes in the world economy that call for adjustments by developing countries. He lists these problems in need of solution:

- (1) growing debt service, combined with fewer loans and higher interest rates;
- (2) deteriorating terms of trade, whether resulting from rises in import prices, such as that of oil, or drops in export prices, such as those of major export crops;
- (3) high levels of inflation in the world;
- (4) slower growth in the OECD countries; and
- (5) technical innovations, such as those in electronics, that change the location of industries;
- (6) continuing high rates of population growth;
- (7) urbanization;
- (8) scarcities of land and certain raw materials;
- (9) scarcities of foodgrains;
- (10) policies adopted by the developed countries to protect their industry, agriculture and services;
- (11) environmental pollution;
- (12) international migration;
- (13) natural disasters, such as prolonged droughts; and
- (14) man-made disasters, such as the arms race and wars.

If the other papers had addressed these issues explicitly, the book would have provided comprehensive coverage of the adjustment process. As it is, there are interesting papers on the role of public enterprises by Bhatt and Kim, which raise questions about the desirability of revising management procedures rather than privatizing the firms. Other papers stress the importance of export promotion and the extent to which the market-oriented economies of Korea and Taiwan are supported "by the highly visible and strong arm of the state." And finally my choice included discussion of the study of the political economy of development, by drawing attention to the strength of pressure groups

to oppose both freer trade and the interests of importer and consumer groups.

Like the search for a cancer cure, our understanding of what makes development, and in this case adjustment, work is only partial. The contributions in these papers aid our understanding. Further analysis of the 1980s is likely to be rewarding because our knowledge of the process has improved, the statistics needed to test the theories are more readily available and computers can reduce the drudgery of analysis.

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### Foreigners welcome

by Gertrud Neuwirth

***Coming Canadians: An Introduction to a History of Canada's Peoples* by Jean R. Burnet. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1988, 253 pages, \$12.95.**

*Coming Canadians* is the latest volume in the series *Generations: A History of Canada's Peoples*, in which fourteen histories of ethnic groups of non-British and non-French origin have previously been published under the joint sponsorship of the Multicultural Directorate, Department of the Secretary of State, and McClelland & Stewart. The book's sub-title as an "Introduction" to the series is, therefore, somewhat misleading as it does not fully convey what Jean Burnet has accomplished in writing it. By building upon and incorporating the historical research and findings of the earlier volumes as well as of other scholars Jean Burnet has in fact given us a formidable synthesis not only of the history of all "coming Canadians," but also of Canada's development into a multicultural society.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part deals with immigration and settlement of members of the various ethnic groups from the early days up to 1980. In the second and major part, with Howard Palmer as co-author of Chapter 6 (Education), and assisting in the revisions to Chapter 8 (Ethnicity and Politics), Burnet traces

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