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Ramsay Cook, *The Teeth of Time: Remembering Pierre Elliott Trudeau* (Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2006).

Released in between Max and Monique Nemni's *Young Trudeau* and John English's *Citizen of the World*, Ramsay Cook's memoir of his friendship with Pierre Elliott Trudeau, *The Teeth of Time*, attracted only a modest amount of media attention. Written with access to Trudeau's personal papers, the aforementioned biographies delve into his early intellectual formation and his journey to federal politics. Cook, who turned down offers to write such a biography of his friend, has instead provided us with a more personal take on the man whom he met in 1961 at the wedding of Jacqueline and Blair Neatby, and with whom he remained friends for forty years. The resulting product is a fascinating exploration of the careers of two men who sought to explain Quebec to English-speaking Canada, one as historian, one as politician, and both as public intellectuals.

Ramsay Cook's place in the Canadian historical profession needs little explanation. A quick leaf through the pages of *Nation, Ideas, Identities: Essays in Honour of Ramsay Cook* gives a brief, but impressive overview of the current generation of Canadian historians who trained under this redoubtable academic. In many ways, *The Teeth of Time* serves two parallel purposes, providing personal insights into Pierre Trudeau, while also giving us greater insight into the intellectual and political development of Cook himself, as he developed his understanding of Quebec, the Canadian constitution, and English-French relations. The two men shared much in common in terms of their political beliefs, but they worked within different spheres. While both would move from an early attachment to the federal New Democratic Party (NDP) into the Liberal fold, Trudeau the politician and Cook the historian would not always march in lockstep on their interpretation of how best to respond to political crises. At no point was this more evident than in the October Crisis of 1970.

Cook devotes a particularly significant amount of attention to Trudeau's handling of the Front de libération du Québec (FLQ) terrorist attacks in Montreal of October 1970, which comprises Chapter Four of his book. For Cook, who wrote an MA thesis on the history of civil liberties in Canada, in which he called for the replacement of the War Measures Act with less repressive legislation, the invocation of this same Act by the Prime Minister was cause for deep concern, as it was for so much of Canada's left-wing academic community. For many, the invocation

of the Act remains a permanent stain on Trudeau's record as an advocate of civil liberties. Cook wrestles with this aspect of Trudeau's legacy, and remains conflicted. Although he trusts his friend's judgment on the severity of the crisis, he wonders whether special legislation passed through Parliament might have been more appropriate. Clearly Trudeau wrestled with this decision as well, as is clear from Cook's account of a November 1970 meeting he had with the Prime Minister and a group of academics in which Trudeau attempted to clarify the reasons for the government's decision. Although Cook remains ambivalent about what Gérard Pelletier later termed "*la moins mauvaise solution*" to the crisis, he also defends Trudeau's motivations against those who claim, falsely in Cook's opinion, that this decision was forced by Trudeau on Premier Robert Bourassa and Montreal mayor Jean Drapeau, rather than the other way around.

It is somehow prescient that *The Teeth of Time* was published just months before the Canadian parliament passed a resolution recognizing that the Québécois people constitute a 'nation'. Indeed, it was concern that this type of resolution would be given legal weight which led Ramsay Cook to leave the NDP in the 1960s, when it was advocating such policies, to follow Pierre Trudeau, who adamantly rejected any constitutional move which would lead to special status for any province. The first two chapters of his book, covering this period of the Cook-Trudeau friendship in the 1960s, Cook's most active period as a public commentator on Quebec issues (including a brief stint as a speechwriter for Trudeau), are a fascinating study in how historians can become engaged in Canadian public debate. There have been few English-speaking scholars since Cook who have made such a concerted effort to engage with Quebec history and political science, and yet it is precisely this type of bridge-building which has made his work so important to Canadian historiography.

If there is a weakness to the book, it is that the final two chapters, which cover everything from the October Crisis to Trudeau's passing in September 2000, are much more fragmentary in nature than the preceding ones. This is likely a reflection of the less frequent contact enjoyed by the two men in the later years of their relationship. However, after reading detailed accounts of meetings from when Trudeau was considering entering the Liberal leadership race, it is hard not to be disappointed that there are not equivalent tales from the period when the Constitution was being adopted, or the Meech Lake Accord years.

The Teeth of Time is a very personal interpretation of the man who was Prime Minister for sixteen years, written by a man who is also nearing the end of a long and distinguished academic career. It is reflective in nature, without being maudlin. Readers will enjoy some of the more personal glimpses of a man often termed arrogant by his critics – an assessment that Cook vigorously disputes, contending that Trudeau was only arrogant with those who asked him questions out of the desire to score political points, rather than to actually hear what he had to say. Images of a judo-wrestling Prime Minister are contrasted against some revealing glimpses into

the author himself, most notably a naked shouting match with a former Ontario Premier in the Glendon College gym (oddly, not the one who recently skinny-dipped with CBC comedian Rick Mercer). As a contribution to Canadian political and intellectual history, and as a commentary on public engagement by intellectuals, *The Teeth of Time* is a valuable, and often entertaining, addition to the literature.

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William Tetley, *The October Crisis, 1970: An Insider's View* (Montreal & Kingston, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2007).

Before opening the book, my initial reaction was, "Not another book on the 1970 October Crisis!" There is a sense that so much has been written on this tragic event and if someone decides to publish a book on this, he has something new to reveal. Unfortunately this book does not bring a new perspective on this event that captured Canadians' attention in 1970. Even the author seems to have anticipated my reaction and those of others since he devoted a portion of his introduction to a justification for the publication of another book on the October Crisis.

I have to confess that I expected a lot from this book since the author was a member of Premier Robert Bourassa's cabinet. At that time, he was Minister of Financial Institutions. Although William Tetley warns his readers that his book is "not a work of history ... it is a commentary on a particular event ..." (XXV), I was disappointed because the book does not contain many new elements that would make this a must read. In the author's defence, I should mention that he refers occasionally to his personal diary. Also, the book is the result of a careful reading of every book, article and official report that has been published on the issue since 1970.

William Tetley's book is divided into twenty-one chapters, including a conclusion, around a series of issues such as the calling out of the army, the invocation of the War Measures Act, the conduct of the federal and provincial governments and the Duchaine report. For those who want to learn anything about how the Provincial Liberal party, the caucus, the Cabinet, the inner circle surrounding Premier Bourassa and the Premier himself experienced these difficult events, the reader will be disappointed. Although the author has included excerpts from a diary that he kept during the Crisis, I wished he would have written more from the perspective of being an elected official and a Cabinet member and revealed more about the states of mind of those who surrounded him, other politicians and the Cabinet. From time to time, Tetley mentioned that he approved the decisions made by Premier Bourassa such as not negotiating with the Front de libération du Québec, calling in the army, or asking the federal government to invoke the War