

waste sites are disproportionately situated next to communities comprised of racial minorities or the poor) and the more recent concept of sacrifice zones (areas that are severely degraded with pollution to serve the interests of industry with no regard for the people that live there). Herein lies my only complaint: Angus could have provided a bit more of a comparative dimension to the book, analyzing how the Adams Mine fight fits with, or is distinct from, other well-documented struggles against toxic waste dumping throughout North America. This is a minor quibble, however, as Angus' story is hardly narrow in scope. His account of the Adams Mine controversy is fascinating and significant, bound to hold any reader with an interest in environmental politics, protest movements, or waste management issues.

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**Stephen Azzi, *Reconcilable Differences: A History of Canada-US Relations* (Oxford University Press, 2014). 320 pp. \$62.95 Paperback.**

Stephen Azzi's *Reconcilable Differences: A History of Canada-US Relations* grapples with the evolving relationship between Canada and the United States from the beginning of the American Revolution through to the present-day. Azzi focuses on some of the parallel social and cultural movements throughout the period. By directing the reader towards a number of political, economic, and military realities, *Reconcilable Differences* offers a concise account of Canadian-American relations.

As Azzi explains in his preface, four ideas provide the backbone to his study. Azzi contends that the Canada-US border has always been fluid and that the border itself did not stop the free movement of people and ideas for much of their history. As such, Azzi asserts that to understand the histories of these two distinct countries individually requires a background of them both. Azzi sees the Canadian-American relationship differently from region to region. For example, Azzi explains that while Canada and the United States were warring in the Niagara peninsula from 1812 to 1814, residents of New Brunswick and Maine experienced a relatively peaceful relationship with no fighting in the area. Crucially, however, *Reconcilable Differences* sees the Canadian-American relationship as complex and not easily explained; there is neither one rule nor practice that defines the widely varying or similar intricacies of this relationship. Finally, while Azzi acknowledges that political developments are critical to understanding Canada-US relations, other factors must be considered to uncover the dynamic ways in which this relationship has evolved.

Despite acknowledging that Canadians often identify themselves as “*not American*” or “*better than American*,” Azzi asserts that the similarities between Canada and the United States far outweigh these sentiments. (261) He argues that the Loyalists who came to British North America in the wake of the American Revolution were far more American than British. Consequently, loyalist identity was mytholo-

gized during the War of 1812 to accommodate for the obvious tensions apparent with the outbreak of war so soon after the end of the revolution. This opening chapter on the Loyalists serves as a microcosm of Azzi's argument: Canada and the United States are two countries with a great many number of similarities.

Azzi explains the formation of a North American "consensus" at the onset of the Cold War through an analysis of the formalization of the Canada-US economic and military agreements during the Second World War. He chronicles the period as a realization that the Canadian-American alliance was "founded on a common world view and an understanding that each country had an interest in the security of the other." (118) In particular, he points to the similar ways in which both nations responded to Jewish refugees, Hitler's growing aggression, Japanese internment and the solidification of the North American alliance with an emphasis on Donald Creighton's forked road thesis. Azzi asserts that the Igor Gouzenko affair and other events of the period, "forge[d] a consensus in North America that the Soviets posed a lethal threat to Canada and the United States." (135)

*Reconcilable Differences* is not a typical history of Canada-United States foreign relations. Azzi also draws extensively on the similar yet often independent social and cultural movements evolving on both sides of the forty-ninth parallel. He effectively integrates key debates in the Canadian scholarship often referencing the work of Creighton, C.P. Stacey and W.L. Morton, among others. The study goes beyond the traditional diplomatic history. At times, Azzi does not effectively integrate the comparative approach he uses for political and social movements. For example, while he demonstrates the relationship between Canadian and American labour movements, he cannot reemploy that model elsewhere as seen with his loosely unrelated examination of law and order in the Northwest where he discusses little interaction. Moreover, it is not always apparent how a number of these sections fit within Azzi's examination of Canada-US relations.

Regardless of Azzi's wide scope, he is at his finest when he concerns his study with foreign relations policy. *Reconcilable Differences* will be a valuable tool for students in a foreign policy course or interested readers seeking a broader insight into the larger political, social, and cultural issues of North American diplomacy.

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