

Book Reviews

Robert Bothwell and J.L. Granatstein, *Trudeau's World: Insiders Reflect on Foreign Policy, Trade, and Defence, 1968–84* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2017). 400 pp. Hardcover \$45.00.

Premier diplomatic scholars Robert Bothwell and J.L. Granatstein released *Pirouette: Pierre Trudeau and Canadian Foreign Policy* with the University of Toronto Press in 1990 and made a substantial contribution towards our wider understanding of Canada's former Prime Minister. Bothwell and Granatstein conducted 180 extensive interviews between 1986 and 1988, which, along with other research, formed the basis of their study. The interviews were done while Trudeau and his contemporaries of international affairs were very much alive. Nonetheless, they were surprisingly candid. Those interviews have rested in Bothwell's collection at the University of Toronto archive until now. *Trudeau's World: Insiders Reflect on Foreign Policy, Trade, and Defence, 1968–84* is the publication of some of those original interviews, making the authors' primary interview material broadly available to the public. The authors note in their introduction that they did not record their original interviews but, rather, took meticulous notes which were used to draft detailed summaries of those conversations. *Trudeau's World* presents an edited collection of those summaries to readers with short commentaries at the outset of each chapter.

Trudeau's World is a collection of summaries of interviews with foreign policy, trade, and defence personnel from the Trudeau era. The subjects, which include Hon. Marc Lalonde, Hon. R. Gordon Robertson, Hon. Michael Pitfield, Hon. Gérard Pelletier, Ivan Head, and Allan Gotlieb, among many others, offer a diversity of views from the Trudeau era. Bothwell and Granatstein believe now, as they did in 1990, that Trudeau's motives were "unexceptionable ... but that the result may have been ... disproportionately small ... compared to the effort expended." *Trudeau's World*, therefore, "aims to explain not just the *what* of Canadian foreign and defence policy, but the *how* as well" (12). The conversations touched on the interviewees' opinions of politicians as well as the major difficulties Canada faced with the United States, the European Union, NATO, the Soviet Union, and China during the Trudeau years. The interviews also offer insights into Trudeau's efforts to patriate the Canadian constitution, which involved the Margaret Thatcher government in London and the provincial premiers in Canada. Readers will notice that much of the interviews were done with men, as Bothwell and Granatstein observe this was because "virtually all the senior officials and ministers in the Privy Council Office, the Prime Minister's Office, Na-

tional Defence, and External Affairs were men” (4–5).

The interviewees’ opinions on the unpopular Michael Pitfield are particularly fascinating. While Bothwell and Granatstein certainly characterized Pitfield as an unpopular public servant in *Pirouette*, the various interviews add substantial colour to the criticisms of a man who some thought had it out for the Department of External Affairs (DEA) (Granatstein and Bothwell, *Pirouette*, 207). Pitfield served as the Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to Cabinet under Trudeau from 1975–1979 and 1980–1982. In particular, *Trudeau’s World* demonstrates that Pitfield’s efforts to reorganize the DEA drew significant ire from many of the subjects whom Bothwell and Granatstein interviewed. Marshall Crowe, for example, a former deputy cabinet secretary, remembered that Pitfield “loved tinkering with machinery” and that “he had too much influence on Trudeau” (43). This tinkering, Gotlieb remembers, was about taking foreign policy decision power away from the DEA and restoring it to cabinet. Mark MacGuigan attested that Pitfield’s efforts resulted in “endless, time-wasting re-organization” of the DEA (79). William Barton, a former diplomat with the DEA, asserted that Pitfield “did more harm to the Canadian public service than any other single individual in the last hundred years” (102). Gordon Smith, former Deputy Minister of DEA, believed that Pitfield saw the department as “elitist” while he overlooked the irony that Pitfield was an elitist himself (110). This view was also shared by diplomat Thomas Delworth (122). Evidently, the dislike of Pitfield was not just limited to a professional context as negative personal views were also raised. MacGuigan called Pitfield “devious” (43) while Gotlieb, a former Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs (USSEA) had a “terrible falling out with Pitfield” where they barely spoke outside of work for five or six years (95). As the interviews do on many subjects, the strong personal feelings directed towards both Michael Pitfield the public servant and the person bring life to the literature.

At times, the collection of interviews sheds light on the long development curve of diplomacy. For example, Paul Martin Sr. articulated the transformation of Canada’s policy towards China from the 1950s through to the Trudeau Government’s decision to recognize the People’s Republic of China in 1970. His comments in *Trudeau’s World* explain that though Prime Ministers Louis St. Laurent and Lester Pearson were interested in recognition, broader circumstances prevented the maneuver (299–300). Nonetheless, Martin’s comments drew attention to the fact that recognition of the PRC was never high on St. Laurent or Pearson’s agenda, while Trudeau came to office with a pre-developed curiosity on the question (Trudeau’s travels to China with his friend Jacques Hébert in the late 1940s are explored in Nemni and Nemni, ch. 5, “Trudeau Transformed”). The real problem, Martin Sr. remarked, was that the DEA “didn’t have many very well-informed people” on the question of China (300). It is clear that from Canada’s perspective, Trudeau ushered them in a direction that his predecessors

were prepared to go. Yao Gang, a senior Foreign Ministry official who later became ambassador to Canada, recounted the Chinese perspective of the discussions, exploring the political context in Canada, the US influence over Canada, and Canada's position on Taiwan (301–304). The section offers a terrific commentary on the Canadian government's development of its policy China policy and the PRC's response to Canadian political affairs.

While *Trudeau's World* does a tremendous job showcasing interviews on personnel, politicians, the major powers, and China, the book lacks any context of Trudeau's focus on social justice and its impact on international affairs. Trudeau told the *Globe and Mail* that a "Just Society" was a "a society in which each individual Canadian was put in a position where he can develop himself to the utmost" (cited in Paul Litt, *Trudeamania*, 2016). The interviews in this collection do not bear a connection between the "Just Society" and international relations. Nonetheless, *Trudeau's World* hearkens back to a time during the 1980s when historians regularly published primary materials. This monograph will be well-received by scholars and graduate students alike in history and political science. It will also be a useful source for undergraduate students in Canadian foreign policy courses. The interviews fuse together large themes in the history of Canadian international affairs while they also remind us that their work stands the test of time.

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Sarah D. Wald, *The Nature of California: Race, Citizenship, and Farming since the Dust Bowl* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2016). 297 pp. Paperback \$30.00, Hardcover \$90.00.

Eight decades after John Steinbeck published his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Grapes of Wrath* remains the best-known portrait of California farm workers in US literature. This tale of the Joad family, who escape the Oklahoma dust bowl only to become exploited farm workers in California, remains influential in part because of the Joad family's most salient characteristic: their whiteness. In *The Nature of California*, literary and environmental studies scholar Sarah D. Wald argues that *The Grapes of Wrath* is one of numerous works of US art and literature that have white-washed labour and environmental history. Bringing a fresh eye to well-known classics—including *The Grapes of Wrath* and Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*—and examining a number of lesser-known works, Wald appropriately places non-white actors at the center of California's farm labour history. In the process, she also provides timely insights into issues of citizenship, environmental responsibility, and