ence in Planter Studies held in 1987. The participants and their papers covered a broad spectrum of topics and methodologies, from immigration patterns through community development and on to material culture. Margaret Conrad suggested, in her introduction to that volume, that "most of the research is tentative . . . and little of it is definitive. Much remains to be done." (13) *Making Adjustments*, the second volume in the series, presents the new developments within the field.

The essay which perhaps contains the most "food for thought" and best reflects the themes of the book is John Reid's "Change and Continuity in Nova Scotia, 1758-1775." Rather than rejecting "geopolitical" studies of the past, Reid suggests that the work of passé historians can now be cautiously reexamined. For within their sense of the grand sweep of Empire lies the seeds of understanding the complex shifts within the political, economic and social realities of life in Nova Scotia during this period. At work in these collective survival strategies were the notions of continuity and change which characterize Maritime history. Given the new thrust of historical investigation in the 1990s, these "societal realignments" can now be discussed in terms of ethnicity, the environment and native and non-native relations and, although Reid does not mention it, I would also suggest gender and class.

The multidisciplinary approach utilized by Planter scholars provides a lively interdisciplinary perspective to the volume. There is room within the field to include Joan Dawson's interpretation of contemporary maps, Marc Lavoie's look at archaeological evidence and Nancy Vogan's study of Planter music traditions, as well as pieces in the more "traditional" realms of history, such as Julian Gwyn's essay on the Planter economy or Donald Desserud's exploration of the concept of Planter neutrality during the American Revolution. Like any volume of conference proceedings, however, not all essays are created equal. Some are more scholarly, others more accessible and the level of research and analytical varies.

As the range of papers suggests, Conrad is quite right in stating that "the larger cultural and comparative context seems to be a more rewarding avenue for research than one that focuses narrowly on the Planters themselves." (11) So, it would appear that Planter Studies, like many of the sub-fields within Canadian history, has matured and begun to look beyond itself for both questions and answers. The proceedings from the 1993 Conference, which has the family as its theme, will no doubt further contribute to all historians' understanding of the totality of our past.

**Lorraine Coops**
**Queen's University**

Michael Piva, *The Borrowing Process: Public Finance in the Province of Canada, 1840-67* (Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press 1992).

As left-leaning provincial governments across Canada champion austerity programs, Michael Piva's historical examination of the fiscal crises of the Province of Canada prior to Confederation may be more timely than he or his publishers expected. In this solidly documented account of the history of public finance in the Union period, Piva reminds us of an earlier set of debt crises which successive governments struggled to resolve, or avoid. Indeed, Piva contends that the public debt helped give birth to the Dominion of Canada in 1867.

This book will prove to be a valuable resource for those scholars interested in economic development and state formation in Victorian Canada. We can all thank Piva for wading through a complex set of Department of Finance documents, and for making sense of the trade and public finance statistics of the period. Piva shows that it was worth the effort, demonstrating the importance of the borrowing process to economic development and to state formation.

Scholars obsessed with Canada's staple exports have often forgotten that Canadians consistently imported far more goods than they exported, creating a potential balance of payments crisis. Piva argues that governments overcame these continuing trade deficits by importing capital. Prior to the 1840s, defence spending by the British government provided the flow of money which allowed Canadians to pay for imports. During the Union period, provincial government expenditures functioned in a similar fashion. The Canadian state borrowed money from British investors to

assist in the construction of canals and railways, and thus continued to permit Canadians to live beyond their means. State expenditures financed from abroad, Piva underlines, were not always so positive. By the late 1850s, the flow of imported money slowed considerably. As imports continued to exceed exports, an increasing proportion of the money the Canadian government borrowed in Britain never circulated through the domestic Canadian economy. Instead, the money flowed to British investors, clipping their coupons on money they already had loaned the Canadian government. Deficit spending became a burden rather than a benefit because of one fatal flaw in the system — the export of staple products, or any other products, constantly failed to generate enough income to sustain Canadian lifestyles.

Piva thus places the state, and state spending, at the centre of the Canadian economy. State expenditures in the 1840s and 1850s not only helped create an infrastructure of railways and canals, but they actually kept the economy functioning. Piva also illustrates how the state itself was transformed by the borrowing process. As the public debt mounted and the borrowing process became strained and complex, institutions and accounting policies were put in place to acquire greater control over the economy. By Confederation, "the government of Canada was in possession of a modern administrative bureaucracy, able to exploit the full range of options open to a small country." (217)

Unfortunately, it is easy to lose sight of these important conclusions in the welter of detail provided by Piva. In the analysis in each chapter, Piva does seem to get lost in the thickets, devoting much attention to untangling the intricate details of various foreign borrowings. Given the importance Piva attaches to the arguments about the economy and state formation in the conclusion, I feel that the chapter on Canada's balance of trade is situated quite late in the book, and that the discussions of the impact of the debt on the institutional planning and decision-making capacity of the Canadian state are quite brief and general. Subjects such as the strategies adopted by Canadian governments to cut government spending, which might have suggested the ways in which the fiscal crises affected public sector workers, do not receive any attention. Readers of this journal will also be disappointed that there are few explicit references to the class nature of the Canadian state, although much can be inferred from the work.

In short, this book makes a solid and important contribution to our understanding of the Canadian economy and the process of state formation prior to Confederation, but I would not put it high on my holiday reading list, or, for that matter, on the reading list of anyone not specializing in economic or public policy history.

**Ken Cruickshank**
**Trent University**

Mordecai Briemberg, ed., *It Was, It Was Not: Essays & Art on the War Against Iraq* (Vancouver: New Star Books 1992).

On the weekend of 16-17 February 1991 over 120 people, including representatives of 17 Ontario university anti-Persian Gulf war coalitions, met in Toronto. Two goals were shared by all participants: the need to build unity among anti-war groups, and the need for deepening activists' understanding of the issues involved. *It Was, It Was Not* takes its cue from these two goals. It is intended, writes editor Mordecai Briemberg, "to surface your memories, to stimulate a recalling of events and personal responses, to summon these for consideration, so you can extend reflection beyond the 43-day definition of 'reality.'" (ii) In addition to a better understanding of the issues surrounding the Gulf war, the book aims to inspire us to act and speak out: "We did more than voice our individual thoughts and feelings. We combined with others, and together we tried to prevent, and later to halt, this war ... We have not been heard enough and we will not be silent now." (295)

The contents of *It Was, It Was Not* are arranged into four sections. The first, "War Fronts," examines the political, military, propagandistic, and environmental aspects of the war. The second, "Rediscovering the Middle East," introduces us to the people and politics of the region by including essays on the people of Iraq, the historical roots of its territorial border questions, Israeli-Iraqi relations, Palestinian oppression and resistance,