

advance Timorese self-determination. Webster provides an excellent look at this history, tracing developments in Timor, Ottawa, and elsewhere, and taking Canadian policy-makers to task for their failure to live up to their often soaring rhetoric about Canada's promotion of human rights.

Challenge the Strong Wind makes several important interventions. First, it reinforces the need to revisit the triumphalist view that the 1970s saw a 'rights revolution' take hold in Canada and elsewhere. Second, it makes clear that Canadian relations with Asian countries deserve far more attention than they receive currently. Certainly, a focus on Canada's dealings with Asia – and the wider global South – reveals aspects of Canadian foreign policy not seen with Western Europe or the United States. However, as he admits, 'Canadian policy toward the Global South is formed as an afterthought to relationships considered more central' (p. 15), such as those with key economic and security partners. Third, it highlights the importance of activist groups. Other studies of Canada's international human rights policy have focused on human rights activists, not only because activists are important transnational actors but because they put pressure on government actors, sometimes successfully altering policy. Not so with East Timor, in part, Webster makes clear, because there was no Timorese diaspora in Canada, meaning that politicians found few votes in opposing Indonesian misrule. Overall, Webster's carefully researched book offers a much-needed corrective to mythmaking about Canada's role in the world.

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Barbara Belyea (ed.), *Peter Fidler: From York Factory to the Rocky Mountains* (Louisville: University Press of Colorado, 2020), 268 pp. Cased. \$52. ISBN 978-1-64642-015-5.

Publications of Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) journals accompanied by narratives explaining the lives of their original authors have appeared sporadically for the past century, each providing opportunities to learn new facets of the complex undertakings of life and trade in North America during the infancy of European occupation. Barbara Belyea's publication of Peter Fidler's 1792–3 journey from York Factory to the Rocky Mountains does far more than present another account; it takes the practice of publishing trade journals to new heights. While painstakingly maintaining the feel of a handwritten account, Belyea diligently explains antiquated terminology and complex individual and intercultural relationships, enhancing the reading experience and highlighting previously overlooked pre-ethnographic descriptions of Native life.

Fidler's journals alone would make for compelling reading, encapsulating both the monotony and the intensity of trade life in the late eighteenth century. His first journal, chronicling the voyage from York Factory to Buckingham House, is almost meditative in its repetition, conveying the daily practices of setting and following a course and demonstrating the attention early traders paid to documenting their process. The inclusion of hand-drawn images, located as they were found in the original text – often bisecting words, sentences, or entire paragraphs – adds to the feeling of reading the journal as written by Fidler but without the slog of deciphering faded, handwritten text.

As Belyea herself attests: '[r]emarkable in the journals ... are Fidler's descriptions of Native societies living on the western plains and across the continental divide' (p. 20). Wintering away from the familiar surroundings of the HBC trade post, Fidler writes extensively about his experiences with a Chipewyan band, shifting his writing from

meticulous navigational notes to expansive descriptions of life on the plains. This writing gives remarkable insight into both writer and subject. It provides accounts of the lives of Native people rarely found in such detail while reflecting the mixed feelings, from disdain to awe, and sense of duty to provide objective records that now enable ethnohistorians to understand the mindset of HBC servants. Where the mask of objectivity slips, Fidler's personality is equally engaging. Describing a pipe smoking ceremony in which he was asked to share the custom of his own people, Fidler observes that 'I made several curious motions with it that they could not comprehend, or myself either' (p. 121), a rare levity in otherwise distanced writing.

While Fidler is compelling, it is in Belyea's comprehensively researched notes that the journal truly comes to life, fleshing out points of interest and giving the reader insights essential to fully appreciating his experiences. Linking each explanation to a specific phrase, entry, and page makes it easy to follow, as if Belyea were alongside the reader to point to key passages and share her clear passion for the content. Making primary documentation accessible is a difficult skill of which Belyea shows complete mastery. The depth of information makes this a compelling read for first-time readers of fur trade documents or seasoned researchers of HBC endeavours.

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Barry E.C. Boothman, *Corporate Cataclysm: Abitibi Power & Paper and the Collapse of the Newsprint Industry, 1912–1946* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020), 704 pp. Cased. \$95. ISBN 978-1-4875-0556-1.

As Barry E.C. Boothman shows in this study of a company that became insolvent during the early 1930s, bankruptcy and insolvency are little understood except by specialists. Indeed, most business histories cease after a failure. Furthermore, the archival records of failed companies rarely survive. Boothman notes that in Canada there have been few academic studies of bankruptcy and insolvency apart from specialised legal scholarship. In this history of Abitibi Power & Paper he provides an exemplar of a business history of an insolvent company.

The first third of the book traces the history of Abitibi Power & Paper from its foundation in 1912 to its insolvency in 1932 when Canada was mired in the depths of the Great Depression. The second third of the book traces the history of the company during its receivership which lasted 14 years. Boothman then provides a short epilogue summarising key events in the history of Canadian newsprint manufacturing and insolvency law from 1946 to the present day.

For much of the twentieth century newsprint was one of Canada's major exports. As Boothman shows, the newsprint manufacturing industry in Canada was not well managed by its business leaders. Furthermore, the federal and provincial governments did not provide a particularly effective oversight of the industry. The largest market outside Canada for newsprint was its neighbour to the south, the United States. Boothman shows American newspaper publishers became the industry's principal foreign customers. It was an unequal relationship. For example, he notes the two leading American newspaper chains, Hearst and Scripps-Howard, were the largest consumers of newsprint in the world by the late 1920s. The emergence of a monopsony contributed to low profit margins. Boothman notes that during the Great Depression newsprint imports from