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Barr, Brenton, M., ed. *Calgary: Metropolitan Structure and Influence*. Victoria: University of Victoria, 1975. Western Geographical Series, Volume XI. Pp. xx, 271. Maps, tables, illustrations. \$4.00

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[See table of contents](#)

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BOOK REVIEWS

Barr, Brenton, M., ed. Calgary: Metropolitan Structure and Influence. Victoria: University of Victoria, 1975. Western Geographical Series, Volume XI. Pp. xx, 271. Maps, tables, illustrations. \$4.00.

The city of Calgary is Canada's current exponent of the dynamic growth syndrome. Periodically, in a resource-oriented economy such as ours, the focus of entrepreneurial attention shifts from one source of wealth to another, and Calgary together with Alberta's hinterland has enjoyed such attention for the last two or three decades. So far as the geographer is concerned, this process is especially interesting when its ramifications can be localized and converted into spatial relationships between places; by implication the closer the places are to the 'mother lode' of business activity then the more likely the area is to become a "functional" region resplendent with similar growth-generating economic activities. The inclination of the historian is rather different and he would be much more concerned with tracing the sequence of growth and the accumulation of its feedforward effects. If such an interpretation of the historian's role is correct then this book will be somewhat of a disappointment because it largely ignores the time element in Calgary's evolution. Indeed, despite several variously-dated photographs and some background information on the early oil industry and real estate situation, all of the papers in the book deal with issues pertaining to the present. Notwithstanding this, the book provides an eminent collection of descriptive analyses reviewing not only Calgary's urban structure but also the impact of that structure on the surrounding region.

The emphasis of the book is overwhelmingly on economic geography. In fact, five out of the total of seven essays are primarily economic, and only the overview of the city's socio-economic structure by Davies allows for a major social input. Moreover, most of the essays are essentially static, that is, they are not concerned with changes

through time. Although some illustrative material is occasionally provided to indicate trend patterns for particular phenomena, the onus is placed squarely on the structure of Calgary as of the 1970's. The exception is the paper by Smith and Harasym which examines the evolution of Calgary urban planning.

According to the preface, the book is divided into two parts with the first four essays comprising Part I and the final three essays embodying Part II. The former is concerned with tracing Calgary's metropolitan dominance outside of its own environs and is examined through the disposition of inter- and intra-industry linkages and hierarchical servicing relationships. Part II, however, concentrates on the internal structure of Calgary and this is expressed by means of the city's retail sector and shopping patterns as well as a summary exposition of the form of socio-economic differentials within the metropolitan area.

Brenton Barr proffers the first essay in the book and that investigates linkages between Calgary-based manufacturing and suppliers and demand outlets outside of the city. The analysis dismisses sophisticated modelling approaches to inter-industry linkages on the grounds of data deficiency and instead is a straightforward description of sectoral interrelationships. In fact, the prime significance of this essay is to indicate the prevailing grave problems of information access faced by the serious researcher and, as a byproduct, it shows how analytical inferences can be drawn from limited amounts of primary questionnaire data. In large measure, the paper is a plaintive appeal on behalf of all geographers to bureaucratic agencies which not only refuse to release material collected through their offices, but fail to organize it in any rudimentary spatial manner. Thus, the statistical material disclosed by government is curtailed not just through problems of confidentiality - a serious problem in a country such as Canada with many one or two plant company towns of which no information can be made available - but because the data is presented in administrative subdivisions rather than in coherent geographical terms. Of course, as

soon as the enquirer wishes to delve into dynamic studies the problem becomes compounded because governments are notorious for not abiding by consistent procedures in collecting time-series information. An even worse calamity is that for many variables there are no temporal data bases whatsoever. Given such barely surmountable problems one must be sympathetic to any analyst attempting to explain urban and regional structure, and this data problem may be the explicit reason for the static nature of the Calgary studies.

In spite of these constraints, Barr concludes that the manufacturing complex centred on Calgary is only weakly developed and, rather surprisingly, does not have an integrated petroleum processing or conversion facility. The city, however, does serve a significant role as an oilfield support base with many firms in the metal pipe, control equipment and transport equipment industries and this is attributed to its early start as the regional oil capital. Nevertheless, Calgary appears to have a dichotomous position with respect to its functional standing. On the one hand, it manufactures goods for its own regional market (especially for oilfield supplies) and even for interregional markets (e.g. foodstuffs); on the other hand, most of the intermediate products used in manufacture are imported from other centres in Canada. Calgary thus appears to slot into the role of a hinterland centre which is itself subservient to the larger economic complex of the core region along the Windsor-Quebec City axis. If the city is ultimately a relatively unsophisticated economic satellite of the core, Barr poses the question as to what the future can hold for it.

The second essay by McEwen and Barr turns from the general to the specific in industry linkages and ascertains Calgary's role in Southern Alberta's mobile home fabricating sector. Again, the general dearth of published data is highlighted but the researchers believe that by concentrating on one industry they can achieve the necessary depth of insight from questionnaire and personal contact inquiries. The study reveals that a correlation exists between mobile home construction and

the oil industry and goes on to conclude that, as in the general case, most of the semi-processed inputs for the industry derive from afar rather than from Calgary suppliers.

Third entry is provided by Zieber's essay on the localization of oil administrative and servicing facilities in Calgary. As an aside, the paper sketches the history of the Alberta oil and gas resource from the days of the Turner Valley strike in 1914. The development of regional energy is neatly associated with the evolution of office functions in Calgary and particularly those connected with the oil industry. Yet, even in the oil industry administrative capacity for which Calgary has an obvious comparative advantage, there are serious omissions with much of the higher-order financial and investment brokerage functions being located in Toronto. Again, we are witnessing the peripheral dependency role enjoyed by Calgary relative to the Central Canadian core. Yet Calgary has distinct economic advantages and Zieber's essay focuses on a prominent, but frequently overlooked, fact of life which stems from the penalties of geographical separation, that is, that businesses interested in a similar field (oil, in this case) locate together because such clustering facilitates contact between them and reduces the uncertainties involved in any operation which necessitates mutual involvement of a variety of activities. Agglomeration benefits of this nature are frequently dismissed because communications costs are confused with materials transportation costs which are said to be of declining importance to firms in this day and age.

The final essay of Part I introduces central place theory or the study of the systematic ordering of settlements in a given piece of territory in terms of both the hierarchy of size and function, and the extent of regularities in the spatial distribution of settlements. In light of this, Davies and Gyuse try to determine the effect of Calgary's growth on the growth rates and functional changes of all other places within the metropolitan hinterland. To some degree, the essay is

simultaneously attempting to determine Calgary's role as a leading central place and as a growth centre. However, the city's presumed growth transmitting role is somewhat stymied because the authors exclude manufacturing and major office functions and devote their attention to the commercial structure of the central place system. They arrive at a classification of centres based on relative functional standing in 1951 and 1971 and convincingly show that interim-level places are becoming increasingly obsolescent in Southern Alberta (a situation which also applies to Saskatchewan). In point of fact, with the exception of Calgary, only the relatively larger centres within Calgary's commuting zone and one or two revitalized settlements based on primary resources appear to have experienced positive aspects of development. This result does not augur well for the bulk of communities located throughout Southern Alberta.

The theme of internal urban structure which underlies Part II is more ambivalent than the essence of Part I and hence the three contributing essays read somewhat disjointedly. For instance, while the objective of the essay by Harasym and Smith is ostensibly to give an outline of planned retail outlets in residential areas, much debate is given over to an elaboration of urban planning philosophy in general and its particular reception by Calgary planners. In itself, this is quite interesting and it provides an understanding of the changing perceptions of planners to organized mixed social group living in so-called neighbourhood units. Moreover, constant elaboration of planning styles through examples from actual suburban developments gives the reader an insight into local detail which, in turn, adds a counter-balancing flavour to the more formal, economically-static papers which comprise the rest of the readings. Incidentally, the laissez-faire system of land boom early twentieth century Calgary still influences city planners and persuades them to make allowances to commercial developers with their aspirations for sites and space which would be regarded as unusually lenient elsewhere.

Concern for retailing is repeated in Johnson's essay on

shopping linkages. Now, however, the specialist retailing activity of food provision is the sole focus of attention. Nevertheless, Johnson's orientation is more behavioural for he is interested in determining the differences in patterns of shopping for food items which derive from the social status of the consumer. To this end, he examines food-store linkages for two city neighbourhoods with markedly different income profiles. His results indicate that the individual's propensity to shop at a distance from home, the type of outlet patronized and frequency of purchase are to some extent income-dependent.

The seventh and final essay in the book is by Davies and purports to be a summary of all socio-economic relationships resplendent in the city. To fulfil this objective, use is made of principle component analysis and higher-order factoring methods. These techniques produce clarified indices of the major elements affecting city structure. As such, they do a thorough job and are probably the best objective descriptive techniques available (and therefore, widely used throughout the social sciences). However, they are not free from criticism and one could question Davies' procedure whereby uncorrelated principle component axes (the summary indices) are subsequently rotated to give higher-order solutions when the preliminary requirement for rotation is a degree of correlation between axes. Nevertheless, the results are skillfully interpreted and their re-organization through cluster analysis to give geographical plots provides an instant graphical display of socio-economic variations throughout the city. The implications of analysis are not surprising in themselves but point to differences in society depending on Family, Social Status, Ethnicity and Migrant Status.

In conclusion, the book is a competent piece of geographical analysis which sheds considerable light on the economic structure of Calgary and Southern Alberta. In so doing, it fills a gap for that subject region and indicates how geographical methodology can be utilized to increase our understanding of the symbiotic relationships between town and country. Probably the major implication to emanate

from the book is the persistent tale of a subordinate economic structure vis à vis the national economic mainstream elsewhere. This Core:Periphery situation is a matter of great concern for all Canadians and issues of city and regional development are ultimately dependent upon how we come to terms with it. For the present, further understanding of the heartland:hinterland relationship is urgently required and this calls for the talents of historians as well as other social scientists.

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Lorimer, James, Ross, Evelyn, et al. The City Book: The Politics and Planning of Canada's Cities. Toronto: James Lorimer and Company, 1976. Pp. 223. Maps, tables, illustrations. \$6.95 paper. \$12.00 cloth.

This book is another in the recent outpouring of reports on urban politics and issues from as the editors describe it, an "empirical, reform-oriented" perspective. In essence it is a series of case studies of the manner in which urban policies, urban programmes, and city politicians develop in opposition to the interests and needs of home-owners and tenants wishing to live the "good life" in the largest Canadian cities. The original source of the chapters is City Magazine, a new periodical which appeared in 1974. The magazine, in this selection from its articles, quite successfully fills a gap which had existed of information about urban affairs across the country. Much was previously known about Toronto. Now City Magazine and this book provide information about other municipalities. For this reason it is a useful book.

It is useful, as well, because it provides, in contrast to most journalistic accounts, a good deal of background material on the