

**Gerald Walsh.
A GLOBAL HISTORY 1870 TO
THE PRESENT.**

**Toronto:
McClelland & Stewart, 1975.
144 pp., illus. b & w.**

To pass on any information intelligibly requires dexterity in the arrangement of words and ideas. To reduce the past century to a summary that is both lively and lucid, and somehow understandable, (albeit based upon popular interpretation of events) requires a feat in selection, organization, analysis and synthesis of events, trends, and preoccupations of modern mankind. Gerald Walsh proves once more that he has an infinite capacity for sifting his material and manipulating it to form desired patterns. To it he has added an unerring eye for the graphic detail to support the written word, whether it be a sketch, map, or chart, pointed political cartoon or revealing photograph.

In choosing a format so like the daily newspaper, with at least one illustration per page, author and publisher have brought an immediacy and excitement to the text. However, the use of black-page section and chapter introductions with white print, though dramatic, may prove trying to some readers.

If newspapers and newsmagazines have had an impact upon the format, we may be thankful that it is Geoffrey Barraclough, Barbara Ward, René Dubos and such who have influenced Walsh's thinking. Indeed, he quotes as his point of departure from the traditional treatment of world history Barraclough's statement:

What we have to ask is whether historians who have made Europe the pivot of their story have not concentrated too exclusively on the old world that was dying and paid too little attention to the new world coming to life.

With senior high school students in mind, the author establishes a solid framework of four sections, each with a succinct introduction which sets the direction of his thinking. Carefully chosen titles in turn highlight his intentions for each part, to wit: "Our Globe: Two Views in Time," "The Twentieth Century Power Shift," "The West: Impact and Response" and "Emerging Global Trends."

Walsh is every bit as directive in his choice of chapter headings. For instance, in Part Two the reader explores the shift of power, both economic and political, under "The Dwarfing of Europe," "The Rise of the Russian Empire," "The Rise of the American Empire." He will have to hunt, however, for the British Empire. Its existence is noted only as it makes an impact upon or elicits a response from the United States and, in Part Three, from China, Japan, India or the African nations.

The complexity of World Wars I and II is neatly packaged: "From Balance of Power to Global Politics." While the detail of the so-called Eastern Question has been condensed, "the Sick Man of Europe" still retains his place in the historical lexicon, as does "the tinderbox of Europe," and "Balkanization" (applied to Africa). Current words such as "bi-polarism" and "flash points" have been added. With the shift of emphasis from European dominance to confrontation of the two super-powers, the unwary may be led to accept such simplistic statements as:

Germany's defeat had been brought about by the United States' strength in World War I: in World War II, Hitler's Germany was defeated by the United States and the Soviet Union.

From the welter of new material on India, for example, the discovery of Naoroji and Tilak to take their places alongside Gandhi and Nehru may well be dwarfed by the apt catch-phrase, "The British left a legacy of poverty."

It is in his introduction to Part Four that Gerald Walsh confirms this reviewer's suspicion that the writing of this volume represents his commitment as a humanist to those who would have hope in the future, if they could. He says:

We live in a dangerous world, but not a hopeless one. The problems are difficult and the price of failure appears catastrophic. Whether we solve them or not will depend on our will, ingenuity, our breadth of vision and our humanity.

From this point on Walsh makes it seem relatively easy for us to conclude along with Barbara Ward and René Dubos that hope for the future lies in going beyond "the multiple pluralisms... to achieve just enough unity to build a human world."

On several scores then there is cause to be grateful for this book, though some may wonder where the inductive process in history has gone. For students who have neither the interest nor capacity to be their own historians, *A Global History* may well fill a need. For those to whom a picture says more than a thousand words, the illustrations alone give some feeling for the past century. And finally there are those who may find in it an historical perspective with which to dispel the gloom and doom of hourly newscasts.

Why then should we quarrel about the omissions, the cataloguing of events, the flat judgmental statements? They are as nothing, if the readers are caused to reflect on their own humanity and their commitment to it.

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and C. Vincent.

**REGIONAL PATTERNS:
DISPARITIES AND
DEVELOPMENT.**

Toronto:

McClelland and Stewart, 1975.
88 pp. \$2.50.

R. C. Langman.

**POVERTY POCKETS: A STUDY
OF THE LIMESTONE PLAINS OF
SOUTHERN ONTARIO.**

Toronto:

McClelland and Stewart, 1975.
95 pp. \$3.25.

**R. R. Krueger and John Koegler.
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN
NORTHEAST NEW BRUNSWICK.**

Toronto:

McClelland and Stewart, 1975.
63 pp. \$3.25.

Patricia Sheehan.

**SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE
ALBERTA FOOTHILLS.**

Toronto:

McClelland and Stewart, 1975.
63 pp. \$3.25.

The Canada Studies Foundation and the Canadian Association of Geographers have jointly sponsored the publication of a series of books entitled: "Regional Patterns." The Series is noteworthy in two respects. Firstly it focuses upon poverty, one of the most persistent problems facing Canada, a facet of Canadian life that is all too frequently ignored in the classroom. Secondly, it provides a set of texts written by geographers and providing geographical perspectives on the subject. It should have a wide appeal at different levels, from high school to first year university, in social science and social studies courses.

Regional Patterns: Disparities and Development is jointly authored by R. R. Krueger (series editor), R. Irving, and C. Vincent. This is intended as the overview or source book of the series. Krueger provides a very short description of the nature and causes of disparities in