

Reviews

the long march toward liberation remains unfulfilled.

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Ludger Beauregard, ed.
**L'AVENIR DE L'HISTOIRE ET DE
LA GEOGRAPHIE.**
Québec: Comité international
d'historiens et de géographes
de langue française, 1976.
132 pp.

Here is a "book" which can be highly recommended on several grounds. The topic is important, the contributors stimulating, the editing excellent, the presentation clear. At the same time it provides the anglophone reader of French with an up-to-date overview of what a fairly wide sample of his/her francophone colleagues in the fields of history and geography are thinking and saying about their subjects.

This little volume is not so much a book as a record of a *colloque* held at Bromont, Québec, in the fall of '74. The gathering was organized by a special sub-committee of the International Committee of French-speaking Historians and Geographers. Thus although the participants were largely from Québec, they also included scholars from Africa, Belgium, France and, improbably, England.

The record of their meetings is divided into four main sections: reviews or minutes of the various sessions; written reflections of the participants of the discussions (What a brilliant idea this! How often does one's best thought occur *after* the formal discussion has finished!); re-

flections on the basic themes of the *colloque* solicited *before* the meeting; and two articles received later.

An odd mixture, it might well be thought. That it succeeds as a book is due equally to the high-level of the contributions and the quality of the editing. Of the four sections, the one with the most immediate appeal is that dealing with individual reactions. It is this section which will particularly attract the anglophone reader of French desiring to make an easy acquaintance with the spontaneous views of his/her French counterparts. Having done this, sheer curiosity and not a little intellectual excitement should spur him/her on to a perusal of the other sections.

It would be invidious even if it were possible in a brief notice to comment on the variety of opinions expressed. Some twenty-four people took part; almost everyone had something of interest to say. Suffice it here to mention the main themes; History, Geography and Education, Research and Society.

One general observation may be permitted: virtually all participants agreed that their disciplines were in a state of crisis; that the crisis stemmed from a number of causes, intellectual and cultural; that the business of education at all levels was made more difficult as a result; and that everyone intended to go on teaching and studying and researching history and geography regardless!

(Copies may be obtained from, Ludger Beauregard, Département de Géographie, Université de Montréal, Montréal.)

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