

to circumvent the dilemma posed by the advent of the New Economic History in Canada twenty years earlier.

Not wishing to accept either that Western Expansion was a mistake, or that the free play of market forces is bad for Canada, the authors of the three papers in question reasserted the Mackintosh hypothesis that Confederation and the National Policy of 1878-1926 made good economic sense. Following the lines a Neoclassical model of export-led growth, they have interpreted the data to support the proposition that Western expansion in the period was economically efficient, and that the entailed investments paid off in material terms.

It is a tribute to the rigour with which the Queen's project was carried out that the data produced have been used by Albert Fishlow, at the 1986 Conference, and by Edward Chambers, at the Meeting of the Canadian Economics Association in 1987, to refute the interpretation that its authors have put upon it.

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Valerie Fildes — *Breasts, Bottles and Babies: A history of infant feeding*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1986. Pp. 462.

Although there have been a number of papers which have studied some issue related to the history of infant feeding, none have examined this topic as extensively. The primary focus of this book is the period from 1500 to 1800. Maternal breastfeeding (neonatal feeding practices, incidence and practice of maternal breastfeeding, problems of lactation and instruments associated with breastfeeding), wet nursing (as a social institution, as the cause of infantile diseases and death, medical opinions about breastfeeding), mixed or supplementary feeding (the foods used, medical opinion about mixed feeding, the practice of mixed feeding), artificial feeding or feeding by hand (incidence, reasons, medical opinion, feeding vessels) and weaning practices (age, method, weaning diet, diseases associated with weaning) are extensively discussed with rich pictorial illustration of feeding practices and feeding vessels. Extensive use is made of quotations from primary sources of their translations. Tables are well utilized to present detailed information concisely. There is also an interesting discussion of infant feeding from antiquity to the Renaissance as an introduction to the major analysis of the following three centuries. Unfortunately, the conclusion of the study at the year 1800 leaves the reader inquisitive about the effect of the medical discoveries of the 19th century on subsequent infant feeding and does leave the text incomplete. A concluding chapter, which briefly highlighted the changes in infant feeding occurring in the 19th century, would have provided a more satisfying conclusion just as the first chapter, which reviewed practices of infant feeding prior to the 1500s, set the stage for detailed examination of infant feeding from 1500 to 1800.

Although this text provides an exceptionally comprehensive and intriguing discussion of the history of infant feeding, there are several deficiencies.

First, on several occasions Valerie Fildes relies on scientifically unvalidated psychological theory to account for major historical events. For example, Fildes accepted a hypothesis that there is a critical period of bonding between mother and child beginning a few minutes after birth and lasting for a period of 12 hours. Fildes then concluded: "It is therefore not surprising that some mothers, especially in the 16th and 17th centuries, were apparently indifferent and content to put their offspring out to nurse. In contrast, women who did breastfeed their infants early on had great love for their children and experienced hopeless grief at their deaths (p. 90)." Fildes also argued that the increased incidence of maternal breastfeeding towards the end of the 17th century led to imprinting of maternal instinct and behavior with greater maternal love towards children in subsequent decades. Critical

periods for bonding and the relationship between maternal breastfeeding and parent-infant bonding are popular beliefs but have not been experimentally validated. The beliefs are challenged by the bonding which does occur between many bottle-fed babies and their mothers, and by babies and their fathers, in both cases in the absence of breastfeeding. Adopted children and their adoptive parents also experience strong bonding even though there is usually both delayed contact after birth and no maternal breastfeeding. Similarly, Fildes utilized the theory of Eric Erikson (1967) concerning sudden weaning and acute infantile depression to account for the prevalence of adult melancholia in the late 16th and 17th centuries among the upper classes who may have been suddenly weaned as infants with the loss of their mother figure in the form of the wet nurse. Again, Erikson's theory, while interesting, has never been validated. It is an unwarranted conceptual leap to argue for a relationship between a traumatic but short-lived event in infancy to chronic adult melancholia, a condition which also became fashionable, according to Fildes, after the 1621 publication of *Anatomy of Melancholia* by Burton.

Secondly, Fildes accepted the premise that parents and other adults, in her period of study, were largely indifferent towards the needs of infants and children and that parent-child relationships evolved from century to century (Lloyd DeMause, 1974). On occasion, Fildes refers to this premise to explain deficiencies in practices of infant feeding. For example, Fildes explained that 16th-century writers may not have connected mixed feeding with the occurrence of infantile ailments because of their general indifference towards children's disease. Yet Fildes notes that one of the first books in the vernacular to appear with the printing of books in the 15th century was Metlinger's (1493) treatise on pediatrics and childcare. Understanding the relationship between infant ailments and childcare has very frequently been hampered by the difficulty in assessing and measuring pain and discomfort in infants. The argument about pervasive indifference towards infants and children particularly in the centuries following the Renaissance has recently been challenged by Christina Hardyment, Steven Ozment, and Linda Pollock.

Thirdly, Fildes frequently argues that if a historical text criticized a certain feeding practice then that practice was likely to be commonplace. Although it is probable that a given practice occurred since it was criticized by a contemporary, its criticism does not alone provide sufficient evidence of prevalence. For example, in recent years, there has been considerable concern about (treetproofing) children to insure that children are safe from harm when they are unsupervised by adults. However, one would not suggest that the abuse of children in such situations is commonplace, only that it is of concern and that some specific event has likely drawn attention to this problem.

Finally, although there are some general criticisms of this book, it nevertheless remains a comprehensive, well-researched, and well-written text providing the reader with an extensive reference list for further study.

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Jean-Pierre Gagnon — *Le 22^e bataillon (canadien français) 1914-1919. Etude socio-militaire*, Les Presses de l'Université Laval en collaboration avec le Ministère de la Défense et le Centre d'édition du Gouvernement du Canada, Ottawa et Québec, 1986, 460 p. ill. cartes.

Le Service historique du Ministère de la Défense nationale du Canada, sous le label de l'Université Laval, inaugure une collection socio-militaire par la publication de la remarquable thèse que Jean-Pierre Gagnon a consacrée au 22^e bataillon, expéditionnaire, participa à des combats comptant parmi les plus durs de la première guerre mondiale. M. Gagnon a préparé cette thèse à l'Université Laval sous la direction du professeur Jean Hamelin.

Le choix de cet ouvrage est très significatif. En effet il constitue une étape dans l'historiographie militaire. D'une part il représente un point d'aboutissement de l'évolution récente de l'histoire générale