Ironically, while the book is in many respects a defence of a model that includes farmer input, farmers fail to emerge as social agents in the UGG history. The voices of farmers are mostly absent. There is a rather shallow analysis of the differences among the farmers who joined the pools versus the farmers who were loyal to the UGG. Earl is content to simply point out the ideological differences between the two sets of farmers. But he fails to provide any indication of what factors predisposed some farmers to each side of the argument. Furthermore, as farmer ideology shifts over time, there is little indication in this book as to why. Earl's insider involvement in the UGG and the grain trade causes him to be mainly interested in the views of corporate leaders. The arguments of farmer representatives on the Agricore board about why the company should be kept intact are interesting but vague. The book would have been strengthened with some clear examples in different periods of what difference the semi-cooperative character of the UGG made to farmers' lives as viewed by farmer members.

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Cook, Tim, and J. L. Granatstein, eds. – *Canada 1919: A Nation Shaped by War*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2020. 338 p.

In the First World War, Canada mobilized more than 650,000 men and women, of whom 66,000 perished and 172,000 suffered lesser injuries—an impressive feat for a country of eight million, still a stripling among nations. The war also saw an unprecedented degree of state intervention in the economy and everyday life, and more than a few violations of civil liberties. But arguably as consequential as anything that happened during the war itself were the events of 1919, when wartime developments were accepted, modified, or outright rejected. In that year, Canada was no longer the country of farms and villages of the Laurier boom, but not yet the industrial powerhouse over which Mackenzie King was to preside. This collection of essays by established historians and emerging scholars, based on a 2019 conference at the Canadian War Museum, provides a richly detailed, if not quite comprehensive, portrait of Canada on the precipice of modernity.

The very process of repatriating Canadian troops from Europe, as Dean Oliver and William F. Stewart make clear in their chapters, was something of a bureaucratic bungle: soldiers were subjected to mind-numbing boredom and delays, culminating in the 1918/1919 demobilization riots in Britain. Their work nicely augments Desmond Morton's treatment of this topic. Serge Marc Durflinger forces a reconsideration of traditional thinking in his account of the thunderous reception offered the 22nd Battalion, the fabled Van Doos, upon their return to the City of Québec. Kandace Bogaert's chapter demonstrates that the federal government did build upon the rudimentary welfare state created in wartime for the benefit of soldiers

and their dependents, but tried to do so on the cheap, with inadequate pensions that led, against the backdrop of a sharp postwar recession, to disillusionment.

As Jeff Keshen notes, while the government may have acquired unprecedented powers while hostilities persisted, too many policymakers clung to prewar orthodoxies, and were keen to unleash the private sector and curtail state initiatives once the war was over. Attachment to the prewar order and fear of Bolshevism on the part of Canada's governing classes clashed with soldiers' disillusionment in the streets of Winnipeg. David Bercuson revisits the General Strike, during which respectively angry and complacent veterans added to the militancy of both the strikers and those who broke them. It was not only inflation and unemployment with which returning veterans and their families had to contend, but also the influenza pandemic, which Mark Osborne Humphries, who has written at greater length on the topic, limns in an unexpectedly timely contribution.

It was a dramatically changed political landscape to which the veterans returned. The imposition of conscription and the Borden government's ruthless machinations surrounding the 1917 election had generated fierce hostility in Quebec and most of rural Canada, leading to the splintering of the two-party system that had prevailed under Macdonald and Laurier. The formation of the Progressives as a low-tariff party of agrarian protest and the rise of the United Farmers of Ontario, who formed a provincial government in 1919, inaugurated the new age of multi-party politics with which, J. L. Granatstein contends, we live, mutatis mutandis, today. On the international stage, Canada counted for more in 1919 too. As Norman Hillmer informs us, Borden adroitly augmented Canada's autonomy with a separate signature on the Treaty of Versailles and membership in the new League of Nations, but those pundits and policymakers who hoped for a strong Canadian role within a more integrated British empire saw their aspirations founder on intractably domestic preoccupations on the part of the electorate and thus its politicians. What standing Canada might have rested on a flimsy military base, because, as Roger Sarty and Douglas Delaney note in their chapters, the impressive wartime military machine was rapidly dismantled. The army, navy, and rudimentary air force were pared to the bone, with the result that in 1939 Canada was as woefully unprepared for war as it had been in 1914, mired as it was in isolationism and antimilitarism. And the hankering to find scapegoats for the losses of the Western Front was persistent, leading to a libel suit involving Canada's leading general of the war, Sir Arthur Currie, which Tim Cook ably recounts in a brisk précis of his book on the topic. Still, there were gains to be made from association with wartime sacrifice, as Jonathan Vance shows in his treatment of corporate commemorations of the war effort.

Participants neglected in some of the older accounts get their due here. Brian R. MacDowall poignantly chronicles the bitter homecoming experienced by Indigenous veterans, who found themselves still deprived of full citizenship. And Melanie Morin-Pelletier recounts the fate of the nurse veterans, who found less scope for postwar advancement than they might have hoped for. The most problematic effort in this vein is Kristine Alexander's study of children's immediate postwar experiences, based on their letters to the editors of children's periodicals.

The accumulated evidence is too slender to bear much interpretation, and one always suspects parental guidance of the child's pen.

While the quality of the individual contributions is generally high, there are a number of odd and frustrating omissions. The shadow of the postwar slump looms large over the book, but the fortunes of the economy receive no systematic treatment. A chapter on economics, perhaps comparing the rocky transition of 1919 to the smoother one of 1945, would have been welcome. Among the wartime intrusions on everyday life, perhaps none was more controversial than prohibition, which was enacted at the national level during the war and abandoned piecemeal by the provinces, starting with Quebec in 1919. Yet this topic is ignored. Nor is there any treatment of one of the war effort's most problematic features, the internment of "enemy aliens," which remained in force until 1920. And while 1918 may have seen the end of combat on the Western Front, 4,000 troops took part in the Siberian intervention into 1919, an aspect of Borden's effort to boost Canada's stature and autonomy. This is not even mentioned.

Despite these quibbles, this is an illuminating collection, which should inform both the student of the period and the general reader. It is well produced by UBC Press, with apposite illustrations from the collections of the Canadian War Museum. (But surely Laura Brandon's fine piece on the Group of Seven and the Burlington House exhibition deserved full-colour reproductions rather than black and white.) There is no finer place to start in order to learn about the beginnings of the transition from Borden's Canada to that of Mackenzie King.

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Popkin, Jeremy D. – *A New World Begins: The History of the French Revolution.* New York: Basic Books, 2019. 627 p.

This detailed and lively survey of the French Revolution provides a summary of modern scholarship aimed at a popular audience. It is in the same genre (and has a similar length) as Simon Schama's *Citizens: A Chronicle of the French Revolution* (1989), but the focus and intent of Jeremy Popkin's book are very different. Popkin seeks to move beyond older interpretations and provide a balanced assessment of the period as the beginning of modern democratic society. Moreover, as an eminent authority on the revolution's history in both metropolitan France and the Caribbean, Popkin attempts to fully incorporate recent research on the struggles over women's rights and the colonial questions of race and slavery into the wider narrative of the French Revolution. The fact that every chapter addresses these issues is the book's most impressive accomplishment.

The first five chapters examine French society on the eve of revolution and the developments behind the crisis of the Old Regime. In discussing the Enlightenment, Popkin includes the diversity of opinion on questions of women's rights and racial