intellectuelles soit comme proviseurs dans leur milieu d'origine soit comme érudits dans les cercles savants de l'époque. C'est d'ailleurs cette tendance qui commence à se dessiner vers la fin du règne de Qianlong à l'horizon des graves problèmes que va connaître le mandat impérial par la suite.

Au total, Man-Cheong réussit le tour de force d'insérer son kaléidoscope de la promotion des *jinshi* de 1761 dans le contexte de l'historiographie récente, représentée notamment par B. Bartlett, P. Crossley, E. Rawski ou J. Waley-Cohen, qui démontre à quel point les grands souverains mandchous du XVIIIe siècle ont habilement contribué à redéfinir une identité « chinoise » chez les élites qui se mettaient à leur service. Nous comprenons ainsi de mieux en mieux comme se réalisait alors la symbiose entre les intérêts de l'État et les aspirations de la société.

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MORTON, Desmond — *Fight or Pay: Soldiers' Families in the Great War.* Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2004. Pp. xvii, 326.

Desmond Morton seems set on cornering the growing market on the historiography of the rich Canadian experience in the First World War. He may yet succeed. In 1982 he issued a fine study describing the unbelievably convoluted command arrangements that had plagued the Canadian military effort in Britain from 1914 to 1917, a flawed organization created by the Minister of Militia and Defence, Sam Hughes. It took considerable effort to untangle the mess after Hughes was forced from office halfway though the conflict. Seven years later, with the well-published J. L. Granatstein, he produced an attractively appointed general book, intended for a popular audience, about the Great War from the Canadian perspective. Then in 1992 and 1993 came two more monographs, the first dealing with the bitter and often boring experience of Canadian prisoners of war in German captivity, the second examining the grim hardships endured by Canadian soldiers in the bloody trenches. This short review looks at his latest study of that now distant conflict from the point of view of soldiers' families back in Canada and the various efforts, both governmental and privately organized, to care for military dependents.

In some ways, Morton's effort is a worthy companion piece to a book, co-authored with Glenn Wright in 1987, that focused on efforts by Canadian veterans to obtain compensation for their often problematic transition back to civilian life at war's end. This book does not portray an especially happy story. As one who teaches modern North American history in a university environment, I have often found it difficult to relay to students born in an era of unprecedented prosperity just how difficult daily life could be for people inhabiting an era that utterly lacked formalized and universally available welfare systems. In this regard, Morton's book succeeds admirably. The book is replete with plaintive and even horrifying accounts of individuals and families left destitute by the war, especially women and children aban-

doned by husbands all too eager to join the distant fight, not always for patriotic reasons. Indeed, as Morton relays, one dependent and ill father in Ontario, left alone after the unexpected death of his wife, starved to death while his son was overseas.

It was not supposed to be that way. Effectively mining archival and secondary sources (and Morton rightly points out just how difficult finding relevant personal records can be after such a passage of time), the author demonstrates that the various governmental and private efforts to support military dependents were anything but simple or straightforward. The Patriotic Fund, established by Herbert Ames, Morton avers, was designed in part to demonstrate how systematic thrift and counselling on such subjects as child rearing and cleanliness could liberate working-class families from grinding poverty. But while Canadian troops and their families usually obtained much greater levels of financial support than did Americans, Australians, or Britons — Canadian wives without children, for example, received more than three times as much money per month than their British compatriots — unfairness abounded. Residents of some provinces or large cities fared much better than others financially, while others faced obtrusive perusals of their private lives. Moreover, the families of men not on active service (men called up for garrison duty in Canada) often received no benefits at all, even if their menfolk were posted some distance from home. One woman in Montreal, responsible for administering private aid to families, kept a so-called "black book" of wives. Any woman thought to have disgraced her calling as a soldier's spouse by engaging in unbecoming conduct, be it sexual or financial, could be expunged from the aid list. If a soldier deserted, any support funds allocated to his family in Canada ceased. If troops lost pay while recovering from venereal diseases, their families, too, felt the pinch. Criminal convictions overseas also caused the financial tap to run dry.

Pensions for injured soldiers or for the dependents of the honoured dead also proved problematic given the scale of losses suffered in the Great War. Over 60,000 dead and more than 100,000 wounded, many permanently disabled in whole or in part, had not been expected. While amputations were obvious and could be accounted for, the cases of men injured by poisonous gas (some men took years to die from the effects of mustard or chlorine gas) or suffering from more nebulous psychological problems, so-called "shell shock", were much harder to assess and quantify. Inevitably, as Morton makes clear, mistakes were made, some quite egregious, by increasingly parsimonious postwar governments seeking to limit official liability. For example, the Pension Board could strip away an ex-soldier's pension entitlement for "the man's own good" if it suspected a psychological root to a veteran's inability to earn a living. Nor were pensions particularly generous. One former soldier, having lost all of his teeth and his lower jaw, was paid only $8 per month as he was deemed still able to earn a living. Not surprisingly, various veterans' associations, unions, and other supportive groups spent much of the inter-war period lobbying Ottawa for better treatment. They were not always successful.

Fortunately, as Morton concludes, the bitter lessons of the experience of the First World War were learned when it came time to fight the Second World War. Rather than relying on the vagaries of patriotic charity, Canadian families and soldiers were

able to count upon a better organized and funded federal government to provide for their financial and social needs in an even longer conflict.

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NELLES, H. V. — *A Little History of Canada*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2004. Pp. xi, 268.

H. V. Nelles approaches this new history of Canada in an intriguing and imaginative manner. Canada, he says, is a story of transformation. Accordingly, he organizes his work around the dynamic forces of change rather than the more traditional dates we associate with other histories. "My starting and ending points [for each chapter] are not the major political events ... but rather moments of relative equilibrium when a new order has been consolidated" (p. vii).

Following this principle, Nelles divides the book into four periods, running from the first human habitation to the present. In each section he pursues the primary dynamics that reshape the land we know as Canada. In the first section he follows the development of Native communities, their interaction with the first European explorers, and the development of a permanent and relatively mature European settlement by 1740. He then looks at the transformation to a British colony by 1840, a British-based but independent Dominion by 1939, and the evolution of an independent, continentally oriented, and multicultural nation in the last part of the twentieth century. In doing so he gives us a potential new framework for interpreting Canadian history. The search for such a framework, as all Canadian historians know, has been elusive since the fragmentation of historiography in the 1960s. Viv Nelles has thus made an important and innovative contribution to the way we look at our own history.

As the title promises, this is very much a "little history", with a text only 250 pages long, so Nelles is forced to make choices on what to include in his reinterpretation. Perhaps the greatest strength of the work is the seamless way in which he has incorporated the story of Native communities into this framework. Space is also devoted to military events, from Wolfe at Quebec, through the War of 1812, to considerable detail on World War II. (Ironically, the war that might have had the greatest impact on "transforming" Canada, World War I, receives relatively less attention.) In contrast, enthusiasts of labour history will find relatively little.

Such choices are inevitable and are also inevitably bound to raise debate among professional and amateur historians alike. More important, perhaps, are two structural issues. First, I would argue the book requires one more division. To take Canada from 1840 to 1939 as one transformation is, in my opinion, simply too much transformation. In 1840 Canada was still an overwhelmingly agricultural society, made up of separate British colonies in the east and vast fur trading territories in the west. French Canada's place in the nation was in doubt in the wake of rebellion and Lord Durham's assimilationist views. Responsible government, though near, had not yet been granted, and the United States was still a distrusted adversary of the mother country.