

loaded terms such as demonstrators, but editors in the newsrooms back in Vancouver or Toronto decided such questions. Another example of probable editorial influence is the fact, which Lambertus passes over without much comment, that Grand Chief Ovide Mercredi's visit to Gustafsen Lake was quickly cast as a failure by the press. It is highly likely that editors, and perhaps reporters, recalling Mercredi's inability to deliver a First Nations "Yes" vote on the Charlottetown Accord in 1992, were merely continuing a press tendency to portray him as a political failure. More analysis of both editors' contributions and the influence of media owners would have strengthened the account.

These comments are more suggestions than criticisms, for Lambertus has contributed significantly to our understanding of how confrontations between Aboriginal groups and state authorities are portrayed in Canada.

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LAMBTON, Gunda — *Sun in Winter: A Toronto Wartime Journal, 1942 to 1945*.  
Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2003. Pp. 286.

This memoir represents a significant addition to literature on the Canadian experience in the Second World War. While there are numerous first-hand published accounts of Canadians in uniform, comparatively few works describe life on the home front. Indeed, only in recent years have there appeared significant academic studies of Canadian communities at war delineating the multi-dimensional impact of the conflict upon those who remained behind to keep the home fires burning brightly.

Gunda Lambton was a British War Guest who arrived with her two small children in Barrie, Ontario, in late 1940 and soon after moved to Toronto. Her journal conveys many fascinating, and sometimes surprising, details about wartime life in the Queen City. For instance, readers learn about the trials people often endured in locating decent accommodation and childcare, as well as — with gas rationing in effect — coping with packed public transit vehicles in war-congested cities. In Lambton's case, difficulties with landlords or the need for proximity to work or a crèche resulted in five moves during one two-year stretch, to places that she sometimes found by literally walking up and down streets seeking out "For Rent" signs. Her book effectively conveys the formidable challenges and stresses experienced by women left on their own, many with children and paltry funds, who in numerous cases were forced to accept shift work in war plants that tremendously complicated their ability to obtain satisfactory childcare. *Sun in Winter* is also very strong in describing the wartime workplace, in which Lambton held several positions, including inspector at Victory Aircraft, the maker of Lancaster bombers. She makes clear that in many cases, including her own, such participation produced not only profound fatigue, but also pride and growing self-confidence.

Despite its many gems of information, *Sun in Winter* is not without its faults. For instance, quite distinct from the three-quarters of Canadians who, according to the

Canadian Institute of Public Opinion, listened to a radio broadcast about the war each day, Lambton often comes across as merely glancing at events overseas. At several junctures, the war takes a back seat to descriptions of her love of art or to detailed accounts of vacations in the countryside. The limited extent to which *Sun in Winter* captures the mood of wartime Canada also projects from its many passages telling of Lambton's sympathy for the victims of the war, including Japanese-Canadians and German casualties of allied bombing raids. The book also reveals Lambton's heavy involvement with the labour movement — including a wartime job with the United Steelworkers of America — and the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation. Indeed, her friends and work colleagues often read as a veritable who's who of Canada's political left, and it often seems that more pages are devoted to discussing ideological debates within the CCF than the war itself.

The book also suffers considerably from the lack of a general introduction. Many issues Lambton covers require greater explanation and reference to a broader context. While she writes at length about accommodation shortages in Toronto, they were, in fact, far less severe than those in many other cities, including Vancouver, Halifax, and Ottawa. She portrays tenants as being at the mercy of landlords, but very strict rental rate and eviction control guidelines were administered by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. Then there is the matter of the British War Guests. From her account, readers do not get a sense of how many such refugees came to Canada; the number who were privately sponsored, like Lambton and her children, versus publicly financed through the Children's Overseas Reception Board; how well the newcomers adapted; and how many settled permanently — like the author and her children — rather than returning home. The text also contains some mistakes — like the comment that wives with husbands in uniform received a Mother's Allowance rather than a Dependant's Allowance — and lapses in copy editing. Still, *Sun in Winter* remains an important addition to the few first-hand accounts on Canada's home front. It is a lively and often poignant reminder of the hardships faced by those left behind and a story of a woman who, like millions of others, not only helped win the war, but also emerged as more confident, resourceful, and independent.

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LÉGARÉ, Anne — *Le Québec otage de ses alliés : les relations du Québec avec la France et les États-Unis*, Montréal, VLB éditeur, 2003, 328 p.

Voici un ouvrage de grande qualité qui éclaire fort heureusement les relations internationales majeures du Québec. Anne Légaré y dénonce brillamment des illusions optimistes en ce qui a trait aux prétendus appuis apportés à la cause du Québec aux États-Unis et en France. Elle démontre que la position américaine à l'égard du Québec doit être comprise d'abord et avant tout à la lumière des relations exceptionnelles qu'entretiennent le Canada et les États-Unis. Après avoir fait la critique d'un concept de l'américanité québécoise susceptible à ses yeux de conforter l'américan-