

Geographic Macedonia is bound to alarm Greeks and Bulgarians. Indeed, this is precisely the sort of language that has stoked Greek fears of irredentism by its northern neighbour—an enduring stumbling block in the negotiations between Athens and Skopje.

Nevertheless, while Rossos asserts Macedonianism, his book is not a polemic. He provides historical advocacy for the Macedonians; however, he does not go so far as to make grandiose claims of exclusive blood connections between them and the people of Alexander's Ancient Macedon. This will not please the neo-nationalists in Skopje, who are casting their lineage back far beyond nineteenth-century awakenings. Nor will the hard-line nationalists likely enjoy reading Rossos' call for more trust and respect to be shown towards the country's Albanian minority.

*Macedonia and the Macedonians: A History* is a well-written and accessible survey which will be helpful for those seeking to understand one of Europe's least known nations and a useful reference for this historically complex region. As Professor Rossos rightly points out, failure to recognize and respect the Macedonians will only foster regional instability in the future. Despite its shortcomings, this book is a welcome addition to the historiography of the region.

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**Andrew Smith, *British Businessmen and Canadian Confederation: Constitution Making in an Era of Anglo-Globalization* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2008). 240 pp. ISBN 9780773534056 (cloth). \$95.00.**

Reflecting on Canada's past and the antecedents to Confederation give rise to the examination of the factors that coalesced to give birth to this great nation

144 years ago on Prince Edward Island. Canadian Confederation has been extensively examined by historians, many of whom focus on the passing of the British North America Act as an inevitable step in the natural progression of Canada. Some argue that the spectre of the American Civil War galvanized colonial officials into action, while others attributed the momentous occasion as a convenient solution to political deadlock in the colonies. However, beginning in 1995, scholars such as Ged Martin began revising the interpretation of Canadian Confederation, arguing that the British were not merely onlookers but rather played a prominent role in Confederation.

Adding to the revisionist approach initiated by Martin, Andrew Smith's well researched and judiciously argued monograph, *British Businessmen and Confederation: Constitution Making in an Era of Anglo-Globalization*, seeks to revise traditional interpretations while also striving to correct Martin's omission of the crucial role that British business played in driving the Confederation agenda. Smith deviates significantly from the traditional historiography by placing financial motivations at the forefront of the debate. Smith significantly enhances our interpretation and understanding of Canada's political genesis by examining the previously underdeveloped facet of finance.

By 1867, Confederation was not a novel concept. Smith argues that the idea of federation had been suggested in the past but only really began to pick up steam after British businessmen began rallying behind it for the sake of their enterprises. As British North American investments began failing in the 1860s, British investors responded to the crisis by favouring the idea of politically united colonies. A federated British North America coupled with close ties to the Empire would ensure the continued inflow of capital to Canada, which would be imperative to keep investments afloat. Even within British North America, Smith reveals how "many of the Fathers of Confederation were personally involved in projects that were dependent on the continued inflow of British capital" (18). Indeed, he argues that the Fathers of Confederation and their business associates in the British investment community were self-interested and rational economic actors. For example, George-Etienne Cartier was the chief solicitor for the Grand Trunk Railroad, John A. Macdonald was gainfully employed by the British-controlled

Trust and Loan Company of Upper Canada, and Charles Tupper had a vested interest in the development of the Halifax-Québec Railway. Therefore, in addition to their political motivations, the Fathers of Confederation also had financial incentives, much like their British counterparts—they needed the union to ensure a continued transatlantic flow of capital in order to guarantee the survival and long-term viability of their investments.

In this respect, Smith takes a more materialist approach to the subject matter. While materialist perspectives are not novel and more often prosaic than laudatory accounts, in many instances they are subverted in favour of a more celebratory narrative. Smith's approach helps us situate Canadian Confederation in a more accessible paradigm for understanding why it occurred and why it happened when it did.

In addition to contributing to the revisionist writing on Confederation, Smith's study is also important because it brings something to the table for imperial economic historians. Specifically, he develops a Canadian perspective to Peter J. Cain and Anthony G. Hopkins' much heralded idea of the 'gentlemanly capitalist' theory of imperial development. Their thesis posits that the financiers at the centre of London, the City, used their clout to run the British Empire for their own purposes at the expense of other interests, namely London's industrialists.

Elaborating on Cain and Hopkins, Smith divides the British businessmen and investors into two groups—the Liverpool school, comprised mainly of industrialists, and the London School, comprised mainly of investors. Championed by Richard Cobden and John Bright, the Liverpool group consisted of classic liberals, and opposed state intervention in the economy as well as costly imperialist expansion. Conversely, the London faction favoured state intervention in the colonies. Smith refines the Cain and Hopkins thesis by noting that pro-Imperial financiers in the City were not entirely antithetical to members of the manufacturing sector. Through his inclusion of Manchester manufacturer Edward Watkins, Smith demonstrates how investors from the City and industrialists could have similar aims.

Consequently, this reveals that the ‘gentlemanly capitalist’ model is not as black and white as Cain and Hopkins purport. Smith illustrates this through his discussion of how investors from the City and manufacturers to the north of London combined their resources and formed the British North American Association in January 1862 to hasten the idea of political union across the Atlantic for financial purposes. While it is important for us not to lose sight of the political achievements that the Fathers of Confederation had made, Smith wants his readers to remember that British and Canadian capitalists were equally important to the founding of Canada.

Nevertheless, Smith’s account is lacking attention towards the issue of globalization. While the word is emblazoned in the book’s subtitle, the issue is dealt with only minimally in the concluding chapters and leaves the reader with some unresolved issues.

In the end, it is hard to disagree with Smith’s opening sentence and ultimately his treatise—“British businessmen played a crucial role in the achievement of Canadian Confederation” (3). Given the outcome of the discussions on 1 July 1867 as well as Smith’s brilliant study of the key players involved, *British Businessmen* is a successful account of Canadian Confederation that is sure to turn heads for quite some time. As historical studies shift further away from inward-looking accounts, Smith provides his Canadian peers with a gem on how to carry out an excellent transnational study. This book is a recommended read for economic historians in general and Canadian scholars in particular. Future discussions of Canadian Confederation would not be convincing without an inclusion of Smith’s groundbreaking work.

Prior to embarking on his journey to pen *British Businessmen*, Smith completed his PhD at the University of Western Ontario. He has since served as an assistant professor of history at Laurentian University. In 2010, he took

his talents to England where he is currently a senior lecturer in history in the Department of International Studies and Social Science at Coventry University.

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