The benefits trickled up: The political geography of water provision in Paris, Ontario, 1882-1924

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Abstract
The social and political factors which affected nineteenth-century waterworks development have been relatively well researched in the United States. The few Canadian studies have found inequities in the systems of water provision. Using Paris, Ontario as a case study, an attempt is made to fill this research gap in Canada. The research centres on the identification of the social classes which paid for the Paris waterworks and which received the benefits. The spatial distribution of these social classes is determined and then compared to the spatial pattern of waterworks development. A similar comparison is done between the functional zonation of the town and the spatial pattern of waterworks in order to test an hypothesized emphasis on the needs of the owners of the means of production. The correlations found are explained in the course of an examination of nineteenth-century laws concerning council membership and municipal voting. The legislative bias in favour of the owners of capital is anticipated by both Marxism and critical theory. The primary data source used were the local newspapers of the day, which in many instances propagated much of the prodevelopment misinformation. In addition to the analysis of events which occurred after the completion of the waterworks system, there is a detailed examination of the statements and actions of the proponents and opponents of the system before the undertaking was authorized by council and by the electors. The proponents are prominent industrialists and merchants whose coordinated development efforts are generally well-received by municipal politicians and newspaper editors. Support is thus found for Habermas' theories concerning the legitimizing role of the state, and the systematic distortion of communication which is characteristic of capitalism.

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The new political geography of Europe. Edited by Nicholas Walton and Jan Zielonka. The European Council on Foreign Relations does not take collective positions. So far the emergence of this new political geography has been obscured by a media focus on the politics of Brussels and Berlin. It is true that a visitor from Chile or China arriving at Place Schuman in Brussels may feel like they are visiting the capital of the “United States of Europe”. This reinvention ought to be a bottom-up process. By now most countries are chiefly focused on their own grievances and concerns with only occasional glances towards Berlin and Chancellor Angela Merkel. This needs to change if any pan-European project is to emerge.