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Yannick Marec; Jean-Pierre Daviet; Bernard Garnier; Jean Laspougeas; Jean Quellien, *La Normandie au 19e siècle. Entre tradition et modernité*. Rennes: Editions Ouest-France, 2015, 606 pp. Maps, tables, figures, bibliography, and index. 27€ (pb). ISBN978-2-7373-3796-3.

Review by Roger Price, Aberystwyth University.

A distinguished group of historians previously associated with the Centre de Recherche d'histoire Quantitative at the University of Caen have collaborated to produce in this volume an immensely—and sometimes overwhelmingly—detailed history of the “new” Normandy (the departments of Calvados, Eure, Manche, Orne and Seine-Inférieure) emerging from the Revolutionary and Imperial periods, and to explain the development of this very diverse region as far as the outbreak of the First World War. The essential structure of the work is reminiscent of the Labrousseau and *Marxisant* regional studies emerging from *doctorats d'état* submitted in the 1960s/70s with clear distinctions between economic, social, political and “cultural” structures, and an awareness of the shifting balance(s) between “continuity” and “change” combined with a sharp grasp of often very localised geographical distinctions. The complicated division of labour between the contributors is outlined in a brief *Avant-Propos*.

Consideration of economic and demographic developments forms a central feature of the volume. A substantial series of statistical tables and maps serves as a basis for analysis and illustration. Thus, in both agriculture and industry the nineteenth century saw substantial innovation stimulated by the improved access to markets and the intensification of competition resulting from improved roads, maritime facilities, and river ports, and, from the 1840s, by the emerging rail network. The development of a more productive agriculture involved the emergence of new and modified crop cycles and the spread of dairy farming and horse breeding. As a result, following poor harvests around mid-century, dearth ceased to be a cause of popular anxiety even in those areas in which relative isolation or unsuitable soils remained a potent cause of stagnation and poverty. In industry, too, outcomes varied. A first industrial revolution from c.1800, especially in the Rouen area, was associated in particular with textiles mechanisation employing water and subsequently steam as power sources. It was followed towards the end of the century by a second, running from the 1880s to the 1950s, and characterised by the emergence of new power sources and the final triumph of concentrated factory production at the expense of more dispersed rural manufacture—a major cause of rural out-migration.

The development of a prosperous urban bourgeoisie made up of landowners and professionals, as well as merchants and industrial entrepreneurs, together with the social tension promoted by changes in the labour market(s) are also clearly defined. So too are the political developments associated with a deeply rooted conservatism motivated by traditional monarchist political loyalties, religious faith, and social fear. The politicisation associated with the introduction of manhood suffrage in 1848 and the emergence of both a moderate republican and a revolutionary socialist challenge to the socio-political status quo is reviewed at length as is the regional and local impact of a succession of repressive regimes—a conservative republic (1848-52); a Second Empire (1852-70) following the December 1851 coup-d'état; the Moral Order regime established in response to the catastrophic defeat and German invasion in

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1870/71 and the intense anxiety aroused amongst conservatives by the Paris Commune; and finally a Third Republic committed to democracy, educational reform, economic prosperity and imperial expansion. Following these chapters with a straightforward chronological basis, the final two chapters, covering education, tourism, sport, *sociétés savantes*, art and architecture (in “À la recherche de l’âme normande”), regionalism and the press offer interesting information but are something of a rag-bag. Moreover, whilst each chapter is accompanied by a valuable *orientation bibliographique*, the absence of footnotes is a major shortcoming in a book which, whatever the audience intended by its publisher, is certainly richly academic in tone and content—an enterprise for which its contributors deserve to be warmly applauded.

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