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Sir John A. Macdonald: His Life, Our Times. Vol. Two: 1867 - 1891. Reviews of Nation Maker. Prologue to Nation Maker. The prologue that summarizes Volume Two is available here. Contents of Nation Maker. Source Notes: for Nation Maker. From Confederation to his death in 1891, Macdonald was guided by a single principle: that Canada, even though in 1867 still only a colony of Britain and both then and for a long time afterwards utterly over-shadowed by its giant neighbor, would survive and mature ...

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[9780307356444] RICHARD GWYN is an award-winning author and political columnist. He is widely known as a commentator for the Toronto Star on national and international...

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country over the next quarter century and
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His Life, Our Times Paperback –
Illustrated, Aug. 21 2012 by Richard J.
Gwyn (Author) 4.7 out of 5 stars 34 ratings

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Few people know the answer: Sir John A. Macdonald. Early in 1885, while proposing enabling legislation, Canada's first prime minister argued that this country "should have the honour of first...

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Richard Gwyn (Canadian writer) The Northern Magus: Pierre Trudeau and Canadians, John A.: The Man Who Made Us, Nation Maker: Sir John A.

Macdonald: His Life, Our Times. Richard John Philip Jermy Gwyn, OC (May 26, 1934 – August 15, 2020) was a Canadian journalist, author, historian, and civil servant.

An exciting story, passionately told and rich in detail, this major biography is the second volume of the bestselling, award-winning John A: The Man Who Made Us, by well-known journalist and highly

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Life Our Times Richard Gwyn. John A. Macdonald, Canada's first and most important prime minister, is the man who made Confederation happen, who built this country over the next quarter century, and who shaped what it is today. From Confederation Day in 1867, where this volume picks up, Macdonald finessed a reluctant union of four provinces into a strong state.

The bestselling, award-winning author of *The American Invasion of Canada* “has given great drama and immediacy to that turning point in Canadian history” (Maclean 's). On Easter Monday 1917 with a blizzard blowing in their faces, the four divisions of the Canadian Corps in France seized and held the best-defended German bastion on the Western Front—the muddy scarp of Vimy Ridge. The British had failed to take the Ridge,

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and so had the French who had lost 150,000 men in the attempt. Yet these magnificent colonial troops did so in a morning at the cost of only 10,000 casualties. The author recounts this remarkable feat of arms with both pace and style. He has gathered many personal accounts from soldiers who fought at Vimy. He describes the commanders and the men, the organization and the training, and above all notes the thorough preparation for the attack from which the British General Staff could have learned much. The action is placed within the context both of the Battle of Arras, of which this attack was part, and as a milestone in the development of Canada as a nation. “ This wonderful book brings to life the amazing men who came across the Atlantic nearly a century ago and won a famous victory which helped change a nation forever . . . the wonderful prose of

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Pierre Berton is all from the heart and you should share in it. ” —War History Online “ The cinematic writing plunks the reader in the midst of the actual battle, and a judicious use of quotes from soldiers ’ diaries and letters helps provide a ground-level perspective. ” —Quill & Quire

Have we lost our past, and, in turn, ourselves? Who is slamming shut our history books -- and why? In an indictment that points damning fingers at our education system, the media and our government's preoccupation with multiculturalism to the exclusion of English Canadian culture, historian J.L. Granatstein offers astonishing evidence of our lack of historical knowledge. He shows not only how "dumbing down" in our education system is contributing to the death of Canadian history, but how a

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multi-disciplinary social studies approach puts more nails in the coffin. He explains how some teachers think studying the Second World War glorifies violence and may worsen French-English conflicts if conscription is mentioned, And he tells how the pride Canadians should feel over their past has been brushed aside by efforts to create a history that suits the misguided ideas of successive ministers of Canadian heritage and multiculturalism. Finally, he shows that there is hope, and there are steps we must take if we are to renew our past -- and ensure our future. With his intelligent and outspoken "blow the dust off the history books" approach to his subject, J.L. Granatstein has produced a brilliantly argued book that addresses a subject too important to ignore. Published to coincide with the anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge (April 9, 1917), and appearing at a time when our education

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system is coming under ever sharper attack
Who Killed Canadian History? is a timely
and provocative release. A recent test on
Canada given to 100 first-year students at
an Ontario university revealed the
following statistics: -- 61% did not know
that Sir John A. Macdonald was our first
English-speaking prime minister -- 55%
did not know that Canada was founded in
1867 -- 95% did not know that 1837 was
the date of the Rebellions of Upper and
Lower Canada -- 92% did not know the
year of the first Quebec referendum

A biography of Canada ' s first prime
minister, a legendary political strategist
who helped found a new nation in 1867.
Shocked by Canada ' s 1837 rebellions,
John A. Macdonald sought to build
alliances and avoid future conflicts.
Thanks to financial worries and an alcohol
problem, he almost quit politics in 1864.

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The challenge of building Confederation harnessed his skills, and in 1867 he became the country ' s first prime minister. As "Sir John A.," he drove the Dominion ' s westward expansion, rapidly incorporating the Prairies and British Columbia before a railway contract scandal unseated him in 1873. He conquered his drinking problem and rebuilt the Conservative Party to regain power in 1878. The centrepiece of his protectionist National Policy was the transcontinental railway, but a western uprising in 1885 was followed by the controversial execution of rebel leader Louis Riel. Although dominant nationally, Macdonald often cut ethical corners to resist the formidable challenge of the Ontario Liberals in his own province. John A. Macdonald created Canada, but this popular hero had many flaws.

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The first full-scale biography of Canada ' s first prime minister in half a century by one of our best-known and most highly regarded political writers. The first volume of Richard Gwyn ' s definitive biography of John A.

Macdonald follows his life from his birth in Scotland in 1815 to his emigration with his family to Kingston, Ontario, to his days as a young, rising lawyer, to his tragedy-ridden first marriage, to the birth of his political ambitions, to his commitment to the all-but-impossible challenge of achieving Confederation, to his presiding, with his second wife Agnes, over the first Canada Day of the new Dominion in 1867. Colourful, intensely human and with a full measure of human frailties, Macdonald was beyond question Canada ' s most important prime minister. This volume describes how Macdonald developed Canada ' s first

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life. On Times Richard Gwyn
true national political party, encompassing French and English and occupying the centre of the political spectrum. To perpetuate this party, Macdonald made systematic use of patronage to recruit talent and to bond supporters, a system of politics that continues to this day. Gwyn judges that Macdonald, if operating on a small stage, possessed political skills – of manipulation and deception as well as an extraordinary grasp of human nature – of the same calibre as the greats of his time, such as Disraeli and Lincoln.

Confederation is the centerpiece here, and Gwyn ' s commentary on Macdonald ' s pivotal role is original and provocative. But his most striking analysis is that the greatest accomplishment of nineteenth-century Canadians was not Confederation, but rather to decide not to become Americans. Macdonald saw Confederation as a means to an end, its purpose being to

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serve as a loud and clear demonstration of the existence of a national will to survive.

The two threats Macdonald had to contend with were those of annexation by the United States, perhaps by force, perhaps by osmosis, and equally that Britain just might let that annexation happen to avoid a conflict with the continent ' s new and unbeatable power.

Gwyn describes Macdonald as

“ Canada ’ s first anti-American. ” And in pages brimming with anecdote, insight, detail and originality, he has created an indelible portrait of “ the irreplaceable man, ” – the man who made us.

“ Macdonald hadn ’ t so much created a nation as manipulated and seduced and connived and bullied it into existence against the wishes of most of its own citizens. Now that Confederation was done, Macdonald would have to do it all over again: having conjured up a child-

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nation he would have to nurture it through adolescence towards adulthood. How he did this is, however, another story. ”

“ He never made the least attempt to hide his “ vice, ” unlike, say, his contemporary, William Gladstone, with his sallies across London to save prostitutes, or Mackenzie King with his crystal-ball gazing. Not only was Macdonald entirely unashamed of his behaviour, he often actually drew attention to it, as in his famous response to a heckler who accused him of being drunk at a public meeting: “ Yes, but the people would prefer John A. drunk to George Brown sober. ” There was no hypocrisy in Macdonald ’ s make-up, nor any fear.
—from John A. Macdonald

The first volume of Gwyn's definitive

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biography of John A. Macdonald follows his life from his birth in Scotland in 1815 to his emigration with his family to Kingston, Ontario, and through his careers as lawyer and politician up to 1867, when he achieved his goal of Canada's Confederation.

Cape Cod is magical at any time of year. However, many permanent residents, including sisters Rachel and Beth Brewster, find it hard to make ends meet during the cold, lonely winter months, which is why they must work extra-long hours at multiple jobs all through the short summer season to save enough for the rest of the year. To complicate matters, Beth is only fifteen and is restricted as to how many hours she can work during the school year. It wouldn't be so bad if their mother weren't an alcoholic who absolutely refuses to help with the bills.

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Then the dead bodies begin cropping up in the neighborhoods and marshes surrounding scenic Lewis Bay. The Yarmouth and Barnstable Police begin to see a pattern linking both Rachel and Beth to the murders, but they can't seem to assemble enough proof to make an arrest. Meanwhile, a regular patron of a bar where Rachel frequently works in the evening provides some help in the young woman's search for a better-paying job, and life becomes hell for Beth as she is stalked by several teenage boys who have their own ideas about what constitutes a loving relationship.

The adventure-filled story of the legendary Hudson 's Bay Company is inextricably linked to the formation of a Canadian nation stretching from sea to sea to sea. In an absorbing and lively new book on The Bay, James Raffan explores the forces that

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moulded a man, a company and a country. The histories of Sir George Simpson and the HBC in the golden years of the 19th century are in many ways one history, for Simpson ' s professional acumen and personal ambitions propelled a failing business to a position of great wealth and political power. At its height, the HBC trading territory covered an astonishing one-twelfth of the world ' s surface. Raffan captures the many contradictions of the larger-than-life man at its centre: a brilliant manager who kept an iron grip on his fur forts from east to west, ensuring British power across the land; a pompous dandy who was most at home in a voyageur-paddled canoe; a man ashamed of his illegitimate birth but who went on to sire 13 children with eight different women, only one of whom was his wife; a master businessman who laid the foundations for the single greatest

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business enterprise of its day. Emperor of the North is the vibrant tale of a man who shaped much more than a fur-trading company—he launched an empire of ideas that led to the creation of a country.

Meticulously researched, highly readable and wonderfully illuminated by maps and archival photographs, Emperor of the North is a delight for history buffs, armchair adventurers and biography fans alike.

Examines Canadian participation in the American Civil War, arguing that the confederation of Canada occurred when it did because of the pressures of the war, and shows how the political climate of the time unified Canada.

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