

Book Reviews/Comptes rendus

EVELYN KALLEN. *Ethnicity and Human Rights in Canada*. 3rd ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press. 2003, 270 p., Glossary, Notes, References, and Index

This is the third edition of an important book first issued in 1982. Precedent-setting back then, there have been other books and chapters of edited volumes since then that breached the same issues and topics as Kallen did, but lacked her peerspective, breadth of knowledge, or/and ability of analysis. So, Kallen's *Ethnicity and Human Rights in Canada* still remains the sole work to examine with great verve, perceptiveness, creativity, and application of diverse skills, a human rights perspective on ethnicity, racism, and systemic inequality in Canada.

Following a far-reaching introduction, "Conceptualizing the Human Rights Approach," there are nine chapters proceeding from fundamental verities or history, analyzing changes through to today. Each chapter focuses on an essential topic in the evolution of ethno-racial and religious human rights in Canada, ranging from "Human Unity and Cultural Diversity," through "Ethnic Integration... Models and Government Policies of Incorporation," to "The Legal Framework for Protection of Minority Rights in Canada." Though *Ethnicity and Human Rights* has much that is virtually identical in content to the 1995 second edition, there is considerable new textual material, updated statistics, and for the first time, exemplar information in "boxes," a technique apparently now deemed *de rigueur*.

While Kallen is proficient in summarizing statistical information, her forte is theoretical and conceptual constructs and their application to the Canadian situations of yesteryear, recency and tomorrow involving ethno-racial problems and progress. Some of this involves summarizing others' ideas and theories, but Kallen's best writing, immensely creative, thought-provoking and absorbing, is her own. That material will be as brilliantly informative to new readers as it has been for both university-college students and their professors over the past 20+ years. Even after two decades, Kallen's theoretical analyses using her own conceptual constructs contribute to the reader insights that are always rewarding even for those familiar with her ideas.

The sources for much of these analyses are contained in the eight tables setting out independent and dependent variables for each topic and Kallen's identifying concept. The body of each table either identifies the

condition extant or the identifying conceptual name for each cell in the cross-tabular matrix. Kallen's production here harkens back to the tradition of the classical sociological theorists formulating what they deemed to be the central differences within society and the names they attributed to these situations or conditions. While Kallen's formulations are not as integrated as those sociological classicists, they nevertheless welcome reveal the essentialities of ethno-racial conditions and relations in Canada as they once existed *versus* presently, thereby enabling us to appreciate advances.

Although Kallen's theoretics may sometimes not be easily and immediately understood,

a rereading reveals to the reader useful knowledge, even when the text is most difficult or complex. Perhaps the most durable and widely applicable of Kallen's conceptual labels of categorization are those in Table 6.1, her "Models of Ethnic Integration"—the "Melting-Pot", "Mosaic," "Dominant Conformity," and "Paternalism." The Table sets out the criteria for assigning a scenario or condition to each conceptual category. Thus, from the content of the table and the accompanying textual examination, one learns, for instance, why (1) there is *no* society that ever has been or is a "Melting-Pot," (2) America maintains a "Dominant Conformity" control of its minorities, and (3) Canada truly is a Mosaic. Each of the seven other tables are equally informative and enlightening regarding the aspect of problem, conditions, and their resolution in ethno-racial conditions in Canada.

So, since it first came out in 1982, its wide use for ethno-racial communities, race-relations, and other courses, the 3rd edition of Kallen's *Ethnicity and Human Rights in Canada* is even more enhanced by its enduring creative and constructive analyses, now amplified by the informative "Boxes." I unreservedly recommend its informative and diverse subject matter. It will be as valued and appreciated as its earlier editions, by students, professors, and others seeking a better understanding of ethno-racial conditions and relations in Canada.

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