

Antisemitism in Canada: History and Interpretation 9780889202160 Alan Davies 1992 304 pages Wilfrid Laurier Univ. Press, 1992

This book is the first collection of scholarly essays to treat the topic of antisemitism in Canada, a complete history of which has yet to be written. Eleven leading thinkers in the field examine antisemitism in Canada, from the colonial era to the present day, in essays which reflect the saga of the nation itself. The history of the Jewish community, its struggles and its fortunes is mirrored in the wider history of Canada, from Confederation to the present. The contributors cast light on Canadian antisemitism through a thorough examination of old and new tensions, including Anglo-French, and "Judeo-Communism: Historical Interpretations", was presented as a serious work of scholarship treating the participation of Jews in the communist movement. Unfortunately, the book turned out to be replete with grave factual and interpretational errors, which means that it fails to satisfy the standards of the historical discipline. It appears that the author was unable to summon the necessary analytical distance and objectivity. The book reads like punditry coupled with an intensely personal lecture on the History of Jews in Poland and Russia and their role in Canada's racist and antisemitic immigration restrictions made it almost impossible for Jewish people to immigrate to Canada before, and during, the Second World War. One immigration official summarized Canada's policy toward Jews at the time as "none is too many". The history of antisemitism in Canada continues to spark discussion and dialogue in the 21st century, including at Victoria Beach. In 2012, St. Michael Church in Victoria Beach hosted a screening of the film *The Paper Nazis*, by Winnipeg-based filmmaker Andrew Wall. To learn more about the history of antisemitism in Canada, visit the theatre in the Museum's Examining the Holocaust gallery on Level 4. Ask yourself: Are there people around us who are being treated like "the unwanted" now?