

difficult without undertaking time-consuming work looking at other estate documents. At times the volume does appear a little disjointed and might have been rectified by an examination of, for example, the petitions from the Marquis of Anglesey's Welsh and English estates. This continuity would have further highlighted the regionalist aspects of these stylised requests. Overall the research outlined within this volume provides a new and pioneering approach to social relationships within a variety of estates. It will be of interest and much use to agricultural historians, as well as to those interested in the rural community and estate management and it adds significantly to our scant knowledge of the tenant farmer. Consequently this research is a valuable contribution to the historiography of the estate and its management structures and frameworks particularly in the Celtic world.

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Iain J. M. Robertson, *Landscapes of Protest in the Scottish Highlands after 1914: The Later Highland Land Wars*, Farnham, Ashgate Publishing, 2013. x + 256 pp. £65 hb. 9781472411372.

For generations, the modern history of Gaelic Scotland and its people impinged little on Scottish or British historiography. From the 1970s, Jim Hunter's E. P. Thompson-inspired 'history from below', Eric Richards' detailed accounts of the Highland Clearances and, later, the historic-geographical approach of Charles Withers, helped to raise the region's profile to the extent that in 1994 R. H. Campbell published an article entitled 'Too Much on the Highlands: A Plea for Change'. Despite this plea, local and thematic studies, and works that place the Highlands in a comparative political, social or cultural context, have continued to refine our understanding of *Gáidhealtachd* history. Iain Robertson's new contribution, however, helps to fill a notable lacuna. A well theorised and cogently argued contribution to Scottish social history and more general protest studies, Robertson notes that (227) the book was born 'out of the realisation that we have not paid sufficient attention to land disturbances in the Highlands of Scotland after 1914 when compared to that given to earlier events'.

In many respects, *Landscapes of Protest* is testament to an increasingly sophisticated interdisciplinary turn that interrogates traditional historical narratives. Employing methods from historical geography, memory studies and sociology, Robertson scrutinises various elements of the early twentieth-century land wars in the Hebrides. He uses a voluminous amount of manuscript sources, but supplements these with oral testimony based on interviews which in themselves will become source material for subsequent generations. The first section of the book, presented as 'background' to the main thesis, doubles as an extremely useful historiographical synthesis of existing scholarship on the events surrounding the Highland Land Question, particularly in terms of constructing models of tenant resistance to landlord authority.

Landscapes of Protest raises interesting questions about the heterogeneity of the *Gáidhealtachd*, and it succeeds in presenting a general picture from a microhistorical starting point. Robertson addresses two main audiences: historians of the Scottish Highlands and historians of social protest movements. Despite the author's own concerns (14) about pursuing a structure that might please both audiences at the expense of narrative coherence, this approach generally succeeds. Robertson also makes convincing claims about the spatial element of protest, based on the 'truism' that 'space matters' (176). The adoption of the 'taskscape' concept (4) from Tim Ingold's anthropological work, and more recently used by Katrina Navickas in her studies on northern English Luddism, is welcome in the context of Scottish Highland protest research, and presents the Highland landscape as something other than a passive backdrop to protest.

In stressing that the 'microhistorical approach is one that offers much to the historian', Robertson develops some of his key ideas through three case studies, shifting the focus very much from the regional to the local (161–93). The three Hebridean localities under investigation are Cheesebay (North Uist); Park (Lewis); and Raasay, and these studies allow a narrative that incorporates the story of the event with the 'popular memory' of the event. As a result, Robertson asserts (192) that 'collective memory can constitute a powerful resource for the political culture of subordinate groups'. Despite the author's justifiable complaint (227) that 'history has given less weight to the later Land Wars than it has to those of the 1880s', an ironic by-product of this highly competent interdisciplinary study is that it is likely to force a methodological reassessment of various aspects of the 'earlier' Highland Land Wars from around 1874 to 1914.

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Anne Rowe and Tom Williamson, *Hertfordshire: A Landscape History*, Hatfield, University of Hertfordshire Press, 2013. 335 pp. £18.99. 9781909291003.

Rowe and Williamson's work is the first general account of Hertfordshire's historical landscape since Munby's contribution to the *Making of the English Landscape* series in 1977. The subject is ripe for revisiting. Hertfordshire is a small county and has no uniquely characteristic landscape. Although it has considerable diversity within its boundaries, the defining features tend to flow over the county borders, and become indistinguishable from neighbouring areas of Essex or Cambridgeshire. The landscape history of the county has also been heavily influenced by its proximity to the capital.

The work describes the Hertfordshire landscape first by area and then by theme. Four main areas are distinguished. The 'champion region' is dealt with initially. This thin strip in the north of the county historically had more in common with classic Midland open fields than the ancient, wooded landscape more often associated with Hertfordshire. East Hertfordshire, by contrast, constituted what is described as 'one of the several versions of "ancient" countryside' that characterised the county. This area displayed a highly dispersed settlement pattern, with some nucleated villages, but numerous isolated farms