



Honorary Protestants: The Jewish School Question in Montreal, 1867-1997 (Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History)

By David Fraser

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When the Constitution Act of 1867 was enacted, section 93 guaranteed certain educational rights to Catholics and Protestants in Quebec, but not to any others. Over the course of the next century, the Jewish community in Montreal carved out an often tenuous arrangement for public schooling as “honorary Protestants,” based on complex negotiations with the Protestant and Catholic school boards, the provincial government, and individual municipalities. In the face of the constitution’s exclusionary language, all parties gave their compromise a legal form which was frankly unconstitutional, but unavoidable if Jewish children were to have access to public schools. Bargaining in the shadow of the law, they made their own constitution long before the formal constitutional amendment of 1997 finally put an end to the issue.

In *Honorary Protestants*, David Fraser presents the first legal history of the Jewish school question in Montreal. Based on extensive archival research, it highlights the complex evolution of concepts of rights, citizenship, and identity, negotiated outside the strict legal boundaries of the constitution.

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Editorial Review

Review

‘With the appearance of Fraser’s *Honorary Protestants*, I can refer to a full legal history of the topic that is exhaustive in its attention to detail. The book is extensively researched and forcefully argued.’

(Roderick MacLeod *Canadian Jewish Studies* vol 24:2016)

Review

“The story of the ‘Jewish School Question’ has never before been told in such compelling detail, nor within the context of a learned discussion of ‘rights,’ ‘citizenship,’ and ‘identity.’ *Honorary Protestants* constitutes an exceedingly important contribution to the history of Canadian education, the social politics of the Montreal Jewish community, and the relationships between the Jewish, Protestant, and Roman Catholic constituencies in the province of Quebec.”

(Gerald Tulchinsky, Professor Emeritus, Department of History, Queen's University)

“*Honorary Protestants*’ presents an important corrective to the twentieth-century focus of much of the history of civil liberties in Quebec and Canada. As David Fraser demonstrates, fundamental rights and liberties were being debated already in the nineteenth century, long before conscription crises, the Red Scares, and Duplessis’s *guerre sans merci* of the 1930s and 1940s.”

(Eric H. Reiter, Department of History, Concordia University)

About the Author

David Fraser is a professor in the School of Law at the University of Nottingham.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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Book is definitely written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can know everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading expertise was fluently. A guide *Honorary Protestants: The Jewish School Question in Montreal, 1867-1997 (Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History)* will make you to be smarter. You can feel much more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think in which open or reading any book make you bored. It isn't make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you in search of best book or acceptable book with you?

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