K. Brownsey and M. Howlett, eds., *The Provincial State in Canada: Politics in the Provinces and Territories* (Peterborough, 2001), chps 1 (and 15???)

**CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

**Introduction**

* Enduring myth of Sir John A was that he believed/desired that the provinces would wither away – has not happened.
* One of most neglected areas of study in Cdn hx and politics: the development of the provincial state. Though much has been written about province building, little effort made to understand similarities and differences in the political life of Canada’s provinces and territories. Moreover, it fails to ask the question – are Cdn provinces and territories “states”?

**Definition of “states”:**  sets of organizations that have the ability to make binding decisions for people and organizations located within a territory. Mix of social tensions, class struggles, and external influences defines the territory and frames policy decisions. States are able to implement policy decisions, and are shaped/defined by the constitutional arrangements that determine their authority (Rueschemeyer & Evans)

**Discussion/Argument**

* Qualities of provincial life developed from 2 hx patterns:
  + Continuous connection between construction of regional/national centres and the process of building economic, cultural, and political institutions = province building
  + Competition between different groups or elites within the provinces over access to and control of these local centres of power
* Third dimension stems from the fact that provincial and territorial political life has turned not only on local issues of govt intervention, but also on trans-provincial tensions as those between strong provinces and strong central governments (btw centralization/decentralization of Cdn fed-ism)
* Economic policies is one area that you see a lot of variation between provinces (specialization vs. free market practices) – and the provincial state is seen (in this book) as an integral part of the economic and social development in all of Canada’s provinces and territories

**Book as a whole:**

“In spite of the apparent convergence of many policies” – this may link back to Simeon & Elkins *Small Worlds* analysis – “the essays attempt to situate the actions of each provincial and territorial govt within its political and social context”

CHAPTER 15????