**Cairns, Alan. 1974. “Alternative styles in the study of Canadian politics”, *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, vol. 7, no 1.**

Assessment of three textbooks (Dawson 1970; Mallory, 1971; Van Loon and Whittington):

* focus on the central government (at the exclusion of provincial and municipal governments; regions…)
* focus almost exclusively on English-language scholarship
* lack of concern with what government does (i.e. policies)
* very institutionalist (esp. as independent variables); focus on formal institutions
* are relatively ignored: class systems, interest groups, ethnic diversity
* rather pessimistic tone about Canadian government
* generally historical (emphasis on the peacefully evolving links with GB, the British nature of parliamentary, anti-americanism)
* largely idiographical; not very comparative

Recommendations:

Canada must be studied as a partially dependent political system whose range of manoeuvre has been limited, initially as a colony and now by her position in the orbit of a superpower.