

Contents

CHAPTER 1

Introduction	I
1.1 'If One Were to Write a Labour and Business History of Postwar Italian Toronto'	I
1.2 Research hypotheses	8
1.3 Sources, methodology and structure	II

CHAPTER 2

Post World War II Toronto: a favourable yet contradictory setting for Italian newcomers	25
2.1 Toronto 'the Good'	25
2.2 Social changes, demographic trends, economic prosperity and governance strategies in post-WWII Toronto	28
2.3 Building the 'vertical mosaic' of the multicultural Canada	34
2.4 The ethnic mosaic of post-WWII multicultural Toronto	42
2.5 Appendix	54

CHAPTER 3

The Italian Community	75
3.1 The origins of the community before WWII: from a community of male sojourners to a permanent settlement	75
3.2 The 'Italian invasion' of post-WWII Toronto: the 'ordering in bulk' system and migration chains	81
3.3 From peasants to urban wage earners in ethnic niches	88
3.4 Appendix	96

CHAPTER 4

Italians in Toronto: a successful history?	113
4.1 Becoming Italians in Toronto: networking, class and gender	113
4.2 'Italians help Italians': the Canadian welfare state, the communitarian welfare system, and political militancy	127
4.3 From downtown to the suburbs	140

CHAPTER 5

The Italian niche: the 'jungle' of the construction industry	163
5.1 'You know, Italians build houses'. Opportunities and barriers at the beginning of the Italian niche	163
5.2 Exploited workers and Italian contractors in the 'jungle' of an ethnic-capitalist labour market	172
5.3 'A shovel, a truck, two or three <i>paesani</i> '. Artisans, workers or entrepreneurs? Italian contractors and employers	178
5.4 A global interpretation of the origins of an economic ethnic niche	189
5.5 Appendix	193

CHAPTER 6

<i>Sciopero!</i> The processes of unionization and the 1960–1961 strikes	203
6.1 Challenging the exploitation: attempts at unionization in the 1950s	203
6.2 Italian workers organize themselves: the Brandon Union Group	211
6.3 'Canadian wages, Canadian hours!' The turning point of the 1960 strike	218
6.4 The 1961 strike and the Goldenberg Commission	225

CHAPTER 7

The 'Italian way'. Unionization and class conflicts in the 1960s and the 1970s	245
7.1 The end of the Brandon Union Group and the 'normalization' of Italian unionism (1962–1963)	245

7.2 The Industrial Standards Act campaign (1963): a new union strategy	248
7.3 The 'concrete forming campaign' and the 'union wars' (1965-1973)	254
7.4 Portraits of industrial relations in an ethnic niche	264

CHAPTER 8

Structure vs identity? An overview of the literature and theoretical frameworks	281
8.1 Urban market economies and immigrants in North America: the key issues	281
8.2 Culture vs economics? The origins of economic ethnic niches	283
8.3 Migrant workers and unionization	290
8.4 Ethnicity, class and 'niching'. An interpretative hypothesis	295
Conclusions	313
Archives and Libraries	321
Bibliography	323
Index	355