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Front Matter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Preface -- Introduction: Laws and Societies in the Anglo-Canadian North-West Frontier and Prairie Provinces, 1670-1940 -- First Nations and First Peoples -- Law and Necessity in Western Rupert's Land and Beyond, 1670-1870 -- "There Seemed to Be No Recognized Law": Canadian Law and the Prairie First Nations -- The Exclusionary Effect of Colonial Law: Indigenous Peoples and English Law in Western Canada, 1670-1870 -- Discipline and Discretion in the Mid-Eighteenth-Century Hudson's Bay Company Private Justice System -- Adaptations to Modernity -- Policing Two Imperial Frontiers: The Royal Irish Constabulary and the North-West Mounted Police -- The Common Law and Justices of the Supreme Court of the North-West Territories: The First Generation, 1887-1907 -- The Implications of a Provincial Police Force in Alberta and Saskatchewan -- The Development of Prairie Canada's Water Law, 1870-1940 -- Monopolies and State Regulation: The Calgary Power Company, Utilities, and the Alberta Public Utilities Board, 1910-30 -- The Law and Public Nudity: Prairie and West Coast Reactions to the Sons of Freedom, 1929-32 -- Acknowledgments -- Contributors -- General Index -- Index of Cases -- Index of Ordinances, Proclamations, and Statutes -- Law and Society

Sommario/riassunto

Laws and Societies in the Canadian Prairie West, 1670-1940 examines the legal history of the north-west frontier, from the earliest years of European-Native contact in the seventeenth century to the mid-1900s. Challenging myths about a peaceful west and prairie exceptionalism, the book explores the substance of prairie legal history and the degree to which the region's mentality is rooted in the historical experience of distinctive prairie peoples. The chapters, written by a cross-section of established and emerging scholars working in the allied fields of law, legal history, sociology, and criminology, focus on what is distinctive in prairie legal culture. By approaching the issue from a variety of perspectives those of colonial administrators, fur company employees, Native peoples, women, men, entrepreneurs, judges, magistrates, and the police, among others the authors find evidence of a conscious effort to apply broad, non-regional experiences to seemingly familiar, local issues. The ways in which prairie peoples perceived themselves and their relationships to a wider world were directly framed by notions of law and legal remedy shaped by the course and themes of prairie history. Legal history is not just about black letter law. It is also deeply concerned with the ways in which people affect and are affected by the law in their daily lives. By examining how central and important the law has been to individuals, communities, and societies in the Canadian Prairies, this book makes an original contribution.