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"With *Marginal Man*, Alexander John Watson provides the first in-depth intellectual biography of Harold Adams Innis (1894-1952), the great Canadian economic historian and communications visionary. Melding biography and analysis, he explores in detail the links between key events in Innis's life and scholarly influences, and the intellectual syntheses that Innis produced." "Watson illustrates and reconciles Innis's movement from rural Ontario to the centre of Canadian and international scholarship, followed by his relegation to the margin by scholars who did not understand his political project and the essential consistency of his scholarship and vision. Based on exhaustive research including interviews and reviews of archival sources, the book is a product of a methodology that reflects that of Innis himself, emphasizing oral tradition and 'dirt' research." "Innis's thought is remarkably relevant to today's world, and *Marginal Man* discusses his foresight with regards to technological changes - such as the arrival of the Internet - as well as historical changes including the end of the Cold War and the beginnings of today's unipolar world order."--Jacket.

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