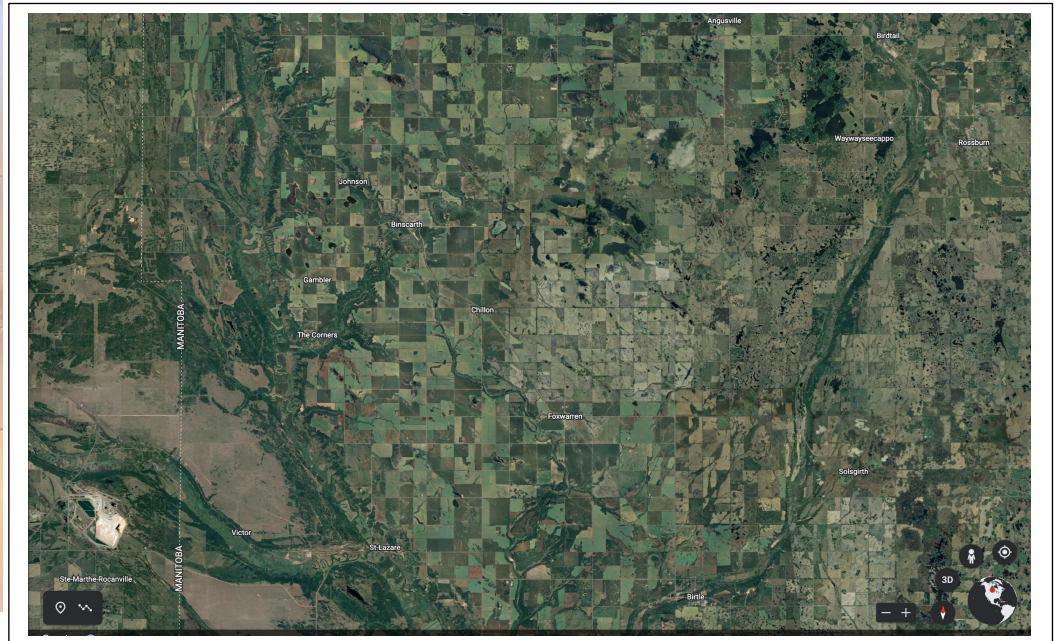


(No map provided in the book!)



A really good book. Very timely too, for a couple of reasons, the less-obvious one being Canada's recent (right) rush to support Ukraine. The persecution of Ukrainian settlers epitomized in their internment during the First World War (<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-the-paradox-at-the-heart-of-canadas-waves-of-ukrainian-immigration/>) is made bluntly clear here. "Wayway" and Rossburn are in very familiar territory for me; see the Nutrien Rocanville potash mine in the bottom left corner; the farm I grew up on is just out of the picture to the South; we spent as much time in Manitoba as Saskatchewan. Andrew Sniderman did most of the groundwork on this; Douglas Sanderson ("An Indian kid who grew up in cowboy towns") with a position teaching Indigenous Law at UT, introduces himself as Andrew's "polite" professor upbraiding him for having written that an Indigenous community had "'roamed" an area of British Columbia: "*Roaming is what animals do.*" Driving North from Fort McMurray to Fort Chipewyan, after leaving the Oilsands, and then to Fort Smith, made clear to me that anyone who presumes to "govern" vast stretches of this planet is deluding themselves. We can force our will with bulldozers or bombs on parts of it, but there are countless places where humans have never set foot and any pretense of "governance" or "sovereignty" (as Harold Johnson pointed out to his First Nations peers) is posturing. As a local, I read "Valley of the Birdtail" and listen for off-notes; I don't hear any; Andrew and Douglas have portrayed these places and times accurately and fairly. I hope their recommendations prove equally convincing.