The (Post) Staples Economy and the (Post) Staples State in Historical Perspective

Adam Wellstead

Abstract

This article examines the evolution of the contemporary staples state. There are two forms of competitive states that are relevant to a discussion of the Canadian (post) staples state: the Schumpeterian and Ricardian competitive states. The importance of the Schumpeterian competitive state is the focus of Jessop’s (2002a) The Future of the Capitalist State and is often applied to Canada. The Ricardian competitive state’s characteristics, however, lead to the argument that it in fact better describes the contemporary staples state that continues to flourish throughout many parts of Canada. The article first outlines the economic importance of contemporary staples production at both the national and provincial level. It then chronologically defines the staples state in relationship to popular characterizations of it, from its pre-20th century form to the present.

Keywords

Staples Theory

Full Text:

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In a series of posts this week I seek to explain how the current very obvious and seemingly irreversible decline of America’s Middle Class came to be. I will also provide some commentary on the Wisconsin Cheddar Revolution. I will also seek to provide some commentary on America’s attitudes towards labor unions and public employees.