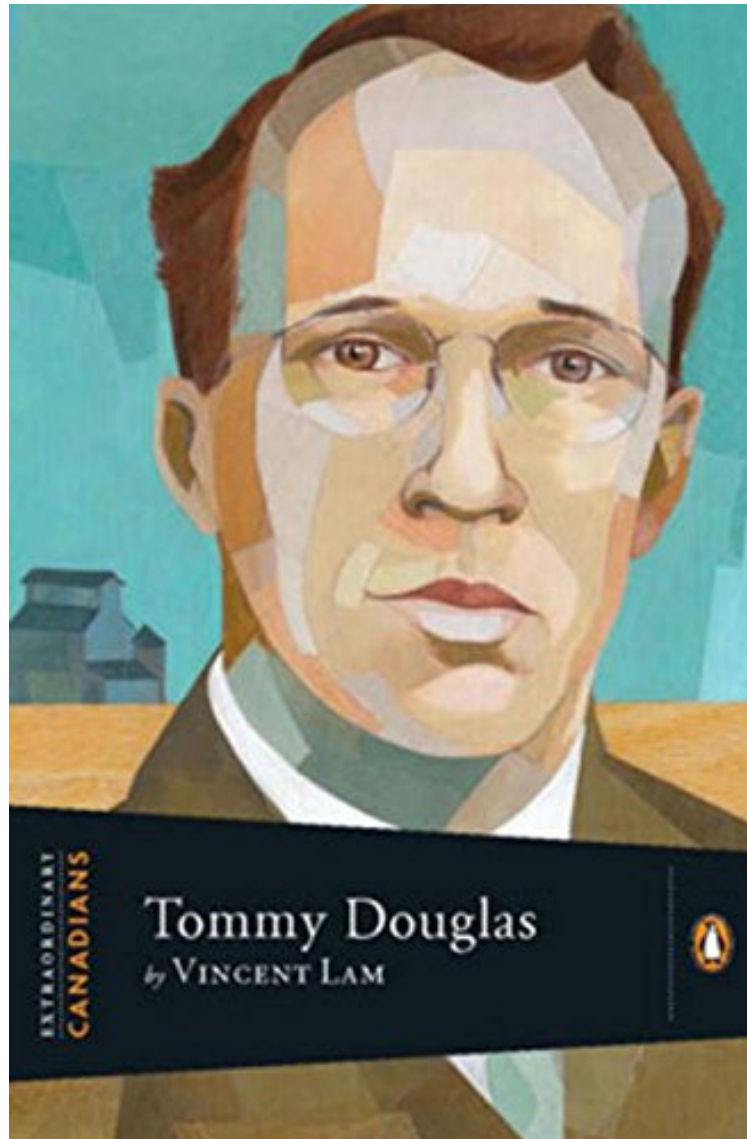


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Extraordinary Canadians: Tommy Douglas

Vincent Lam

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Vincent Lam : Extraordinary Canadians: Tommy Douglas before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Extraordinary Canadians: Tommy Douglas:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Tommy Douglas Health Care PioneerBy Roger W. WinshipExcellent presentation describing a great Canadian leader whose influence is felt until today. Tells of his early struggles with his own health and development of his concept of a government health plan.0 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Socialist money grabBy jkbandera\$18.99 for 148 page book? Isn't socialism great? I

suppose the price of the book is in direct relation to the "free" healthcare Canadians enjoy while they're waiting a minimum of 90 days for a doctor's appointment. I wanted to see where the United States was headed and got curious as to how North America's first socialist was educated and how his beliefs were formed. He believed in eugenics and that people should be screened for mental health and morality issues before being allowed to marry. Anyone not meeting the government standards were to be sterilized. I suppose anyone opposing his New Democratic Party would have been considered mentally and morally deficient. This probably would have gotten traction if Hitler's Nazis didn't give Douglas' eugenics a bad name. So, these are the reasons I'm giving this a one star.

Once voted the greatest Canadian of all time, Tommy Douglas was a prairie politician who believed in democratic socialism, the crucial role of civil rights, and the great potential of cooperation for the common good. He is best known as the Father of Medicare. Born in 1904, Douglas was a championship boxer and a Baptist minister who later exchanged his pulpit for a political platform. A powerful orator and tireless activist, he sat first as a federal MP and then served for 17 years as premier of Saskatchewan, where he introduced the universal health-insurance system that would eventually be adopted across Canada. As leader of the national NDP, he was a staunch advocate of programs such as the Canada Pension Plan and was often the conscience of Parliament on matters of civil liberties. In the process, he made democratic socialism a part of mainstream Canadian political life. Giller Prizewinning author Vincent Lam, an emergency physician who works on the front lines of the health-care system, brings a novelist's eye to the life of one of Canada's greats.

"These books are opportunities to deepen the relationship between Canadians of the past and Canadians of the present. May this dialogue continue, so that today's biographers themselves will be the subject of the next wave of writers. - The Globe and Mail [the series is] entertaining, literary and informative." - The National Post
The books would be a lovely addition to any library they're accessible and ready to be read by all. - The Sunday Herald
About the Author: John Ralston Saul is Canada's leading public intellectual. Declared a prophet by Time magazine, Saul has received many awards and prizes, including Chile's Pablo Neruda Medal. He is president of PEN International, an organization dedicated to freedom of expression. He has published fourteen works, which have been translated into twenty-five languages in thirty-six countries, the most recent of which is *The Comeback*, an examination of the remarkable return to power of Aboriginal people in Canada. Saul lives in Toronto.