

FRANCESCO CORDASCO (Editor). *ITALIAN AMERICANS: A GUIDE TO INFORMATION SOURCES*. Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1978, 222 pp., \$18.00.

The great proliferation of knowledge that has caused a problem of control and retrieval of that knowledge has caught up with the expanding field of research in ethnic-immigration history. Francesco Cordasco's newly edited work, *Italian Americans: A Guide to Information Sources*, therefore is a major contribution in the field. The student of ethnic-immigration history and the related social sciences will find it a useful tool because it is the most comprehensive up-to-date bibliographical register on the Italian Americans. The book is Volume 2 in Gale's Ethnic Studies Information Guide Series dealing with ethnic groups in the United States.

This volume represents a continuation of Professor Cordasco's earlier bibliographies which appeared in 1972 and 1974. Well-equipped to organize the vast literature on the Italian Americans, the editor has included materials in both English and Italian. *Italian Americans* contains over 2,000 entries.

Systematic arrangement provides easy access to the entries. There are seven chapters: I. General Reference Works; II. Social Sciences; III. History and Regional Studies; IV. Applied Sciences; V. Humanities; VI. Newspapers and Periodicals; VII. Fraternal, Professional, and Religious Organizations. Within each of the first six chapters, the listings are arranged alphabetically with subheads. Equally valuable are the three indices, one each for author, title, and subject listings.

The major criticism is leveled at what is not included, rather than what is included. An appendix, entitled Audiovisual Materials, contains only three entries on a single page (p. 179) and is perhaps the weakest section of the book. Since the novel and other literary forms are included in the chapter on the humanities, one can justify relevant motion pictures in the appendix. Certainly serious themes centering on Italians and Italian Americans have been examined in numerous motion pictures. Further, are there no oral histories and slide documentaries available? The section on the media could be expanded.

Italian-American Studies is a legitimate academic discipline. A considerable number of dissertations have been written, and the number is growing. Although listings of dissertations can be had elsewhere, a separate chapter with these entries would add a further dimension to the volume.

In organizing such a guide, the compiler faces the problem of the time element that is beyond his control. For example, the two popular Italian-American magazines that were recently inaugurated with great fanfare, *I AM* (1976) and *Identity* (1977), are now

defunct, but they are included in the guide. On the other hand, two noteworthy periodicals published in Chicago are missing: *Fra Noi* and *La Parola del Popolo*, the latter being Chicago's oldest newspaper now celebrating its seventieth anniversary!

Nevertheless, Professor Cordasco has provided a major reference work on the important sources on the Italian Americans. The literature has been systematized to make referrals more manageable. This, in itself, is a valuable contribution to the literature relating to the Italian Americans.

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JOHN L. HODGE, DONALD K. STRUCKMANN, and LYNN DORLAND TROST. *CULTURAL BASES OF RACISM AND GROUP OPPRESSION: AN EXAMINATION OF TRADITIONAL "WESTERN" CONCEPTS, VALUES, AND INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES WHICH SUPPORT RACISM, SEXISM AND ELITISM*. Berkeley: Two Riders Press, 1975, \$4.25 paper, \$12.50 cloth.

Dualism, a concept that simply tends to view the world in terms of "either-or" categories rather than "both . . . and," has been examined and analyzed as the primary contributor to and cause of Western domination. The dangers of dualistic thinking are, according to Hodge et al., habit forming and unconscious. The Western practitioners of such thinking trace their ideology to the ancient Greek philosophers whose ideas support and reinforce existing oppressive patterns.

That the dualistic way of thinking is found most always in Western cultures and the "both . . . and" category is most prevalent among non-Western cultures is discussed as something more than a mere coincident. Using astute and respected resources that compile an impressive bibliography, the authors have documented the effects of dualism on Western social organization. They explain how this category of thinking has promoted group oppression through colonialism, racism, and sexism. The dualistic thinker is portrayed to be at odds with nature, causing a continuous struggle of the will for domination over the universe. The non-Western concept of the universe tends not to seek control, but to establish a balance that is compatible.

A provocative discussion of human nature explodes an accepted tenet founded in the religious notion of original sin, the notion being that "man is basically evil." According to Hodge et al., this idea is unverifiable in principle and self-contradicting in practice. They contend that "if human nature is evil, then any pronouncements by humans concerning human nature will be subject