

BOOK REVIEWS

GEORGE HENDERSON (ED.), *UNDERSTANDING AND COUNSELING ETHNIC MINORITIES*. Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1979. 333 pp. \$24.00

In this collection of articles drawn from several disciplines - history, sociology, psychology, education and social work - George Henderson has contributed a welcomed addition to the growing field of literature that focuses on the various issues of working with individuals from diverse cultural or ethnic backgrounds.

Unlike other works that deal exclusively with American Blacks or Chicanos, Henderson has included sections on the history and present life-styles of American Indians, Puerto Ricans, Japanese and Chinese Americans.

While the work, as Henderson notes in the preface, is written for counselors, school psychologists, teachers and other professionals, students seeking a good introductory text in this field will find the book invaluable and a handy resource guide for those who wish to delve more deeply into a particular area of interest. A major part of Henderson's premise is to understand how the various historical, sociological and psychological forces have all contributed in developing a unique "ethnic minority personality." A "personality", as Henderson describes, that ". . . refers to the relatively constant behavior patterns adopted by minority group members through the process of living as second-class citizens." According to Henderson, the development of this "ethnic minority personality" is the unfortunate outcome when the basic needs of a majority group are not met or inhibited by the forces of a majority group. To many ethnic minorities, who are also victims of poverty, unemployment and institutionalized racism, even the basic survival needs of food and shelter are not met and the mention of "higher needs" - that of self-esteem or affection - are often seen as unattainable goals.

The problem is further complicated when the minority-group client seeks professional help. Unfortunately, many professionals - including counselors and psychologists - have not had the adequate training or the experience to deal successfully with the complex problems that a minority-group client may bring to the counseling relationship. In most instances, the counselor is caucasian and middle-class and while proficient in counseling skills may sadly lack the sensitivity or awareness in counseling members of a minority group. Moreover, being a minority counselor is no guarantee of a successful counseling relationship since, for the most part, the counselor has received similar training much like his non-minority counterparts.

In short, *Understanding and Counseling Ethnic Minorities* will be of interest to anyone who works or plans to work with members of a minority group. For professionals who want a systematic approach to understanding the various problems of counseling ethnic minorities, this book will prove invaluable. My only criticism of Henderson's work is that it was not published earlier.

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 Opportunity Council*

RAYMOND L. HALL (ED.). *ETHNIC AUTONOMY -- COMPARATIVE DYNAMICS: THE AMERICAS, EUROPE AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD*. Pergamon Press: New York, 1979. \$32.50 hardcover; \$9.95 softcover.

Hall has done us a service in putting together this wide-ranging collection of essays on ethnic separatist movements. The volume is particularly timely because of the twentieth century paradoxes of the drive for global unity and nationalism, and nationalism and a blossoming of ethnic separatist movements. (The book is not unique. See, e.g. Chester L. Hunt and Lewis Walker, *Ethnic Dynamics: Patterns of Intergroup Relations in Various Societies*, Learning Publications, Inc., 1979.)

The impetus for this comparative study of ethnic movements came from the editor's long interest in social change resulting from large-scale ethnic movements, (see, e.g. Hall's *Black Separatism and Social Reality: Rhetoric and Reason*, Pergamon Press, 1977) and from his realization that a satisfactory analytical model of ethnic autonomy could not be derived from the United States experience alone but required a comparative international perspective.

Hall accordingly defined his subject, ethnic social movements for self-determination, under the general heading of "ethnic autonomy" which included nationalism, secessionism, irredentism, schism, and separation, and proceeded to invite specialists to write on selected case studies illustrative of the theme. At a symposium held to discuss the contributions, the authors agreed that the collection could not claim coherence or comprehensiveness, but "the ultimate purpose of this volume should be to provide extensive information about the important and complex topic of ethnicity and ethnic movements, as well as to facilitate more rigorous thought, analysis, and research regarding them."(xii)

The book is organized into five parts. Part I, entitled "Conceptual Overviews of Ethnicity and Ethnic Dynamics," is intended to serve as a conceptual base for the case studies which follow and is a general discussion of some dimensions of ethnic identity with a focus on language and its role in ethnic autonomy. Part II contains case studies of racial and ethnic autonomy in North America (Native American, Black, Chicano and Quebec), Part III, case studies of autonomy and ethnicity in Europe (Northern Ireland,