

Richard D. Alba, ed. *Ethnicity and Race in the U.S.A. Toward the Twenty-First Century*. (London: Routledge, 1989) v, 186 pp., \$13.95 paper.

Ethnicity and Race in the U.S.A. is a timely collection of essays (earlier published as articles in *Ethnic and Racial Studies*). Much of the material will interest those involved in studying trends in multiculturalism in the United States. The author's background sections and conclusions are especially significant, backed by clear statistical data in many instances. The collection is well balanced. Alba directs our attention to the main events in ethnic developments since 1950, all of which contribute to a broad view of various "trajectories toward the new century" in matters of race and ethnicity. The spectrum of subjects is commendably wide.

The paper on African Americans by Reynold Farley reviews the events of the Civil Rights Revolution. Documented material indicates some progress in educational attainment and occupational prestige; however, investigation also shows that in the near future, there will be no improvement in employment, nor a modification of racial residential segregation. Among other conclusions, Mr. Farley states that there is no simple generalization that "will adequately describe racial trends." He predicts that there will be greater availability of data. When this is so, there may be some further progress demonstrated in the years ahead, he concludes.

Robert Javenpa deals with "The Political Economy and Political Ethnicity of American Indian Adaptations and Identity." The paper provides a review of such adaptations and relates them to "assimilative and separatist postures." It also looks at Indian populations in rural and urban residential situations. He reports on the slow progress of Pan-Indianism as a political movement. Many Native Americans, he finds, are making contacts with indigenous people throughout the world. Separateness will continue as an emphasis on group rights is made. This stress the Indians regard as an "integral part of their tradition."

Collaborators Candace Nelso and Marta Tienda examined the structure of Hispanic ethnicity and provide the reader with historical and contemporary perspectives. They concentrate upon presenting data about Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans. The authors view ethnicity as a "social construct." They demonstrate how urban ecology and wage labor availability tie in with relationships to "emergence, transformation, and reformulations of ethnicity." Based upon these researches, they predict greater Chicano assimilation, but the retention of Puerto Ricans in a minority labor market. They feel the entire matter of Hispanic ethnicity needs extended examinations.

In parallel manner, Victor Nee and Jimmy [sic] Sanders examine the "Road to Parity: Determinants of the Socio-Economic Achievement of Asian Americans." They show that after World War II, Japanese and Chinese Americans pulled ahead in economic achievement when compared with Filipinos. The explanation lies in the usefulness of middlemen minority roles and enclave economics and entrepreneurship. Filipinos lagged behind

in developing such enclaves, and presently are being passed by recent Korean immigrants.

The treatment of whites and a few of the relationships to other races are covered in the last four essays: "The Structure of Pluralism" by William L. Yancey *et al.*; "Jewishness in America" by Walter P. Zenner; "The Twilight of Ethnicity among Americans of European Ancestry" by Richard D. Alba; and "Unhyphenated Whites in the United States" by Stanley Lieberson.

Yancey and his colleagues underline many contradictions in works on ethnicity, for they find that there is evidence for a "melting pot, assimilation, cultural pluralism, and the emergence of new forms of ethnicity." They conclude that ethnicity is a "multi-dimensional phenomenon" and that it further depends on "the structural location of groups and individuals." They suggest that one must view ethnic groups as "products of the larger urban system."

The essay on Jewishness supplies us with what appears to be valid conclusions based on wide research. The focus here is on the impact of American individualism and uniformity. As a religion, the author states, there is no doubt that Judaism retains remarkable vitality. He finds that among marginal Jews, there is a great increase in intermarriage with persons of other religions and faiths. Further, it is maintained that mainstream churches are more open to identifying their Judaic heritage. Finally, among many who practice the religion (obviously not the Orthodox), it has become a "preference."

Alba finds that the case of Italian Americans is representative among those European Americans who are on the "verge of the twilight of their ethnicity." There are still differences between them and others with immigrant ancestors, but they are faint. American culture has in fact overwhelmed these groups. Many still have a psychological tie to their roots. The author terms this "symbolic ethnicity." He concludes that "salient ethnic outlines" may exist only in non-Europeans.

In the last essay, it is indicated that within the broad label of "unhyphenated whites," there are shiftings of labels and identifications. There are some who make a self identification where the individual chooses his (or her) ethnic label. Many are indifferent to the nationality of their ancestors and are, therefore, grouped with the "unhyphenated." Others in the country wish merely to be identified as "American." The author predicts that there may be a change in the nature of the identification system. Further, new ethnic groups may emerge from older categories.

This book when studied closely by scholars will review many new channels recommended for needed, extended research. The book is unusual in its comprehensiveness. In the trajectories of race and ethnicity toward the twenty-first century, dynamic and divergent unfoldings will appear.

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