

Explorations in Sights and Sounds

and its relations to power and economics. Additionally, the lack of any visual aids (graphics, photographs, inserts), the type-face selected by the publisher, and the lack of breaks in the text make for tedious reading. Nevertheless, this book offers detailed, interesting discussions of the theories and research of early Black scholars as well as provocative analyses of African American cultural and social dilemmas and potential solutions to development problems. This book is well worth reading for these contributions as well as for its inspiration for analyses of other non-White groups' experiences with the dynamics of assimilation in American cultural history.

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Suzanne M. Sinke and Rudolph J. Vecoli, eds. *A Century of European Migrations, 1830-1930*. (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1991) 395 pp.

This collection of sixteen essays stems from the proceedings of a 1986 symposium commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota. Based on work by American and European scholars, this volume owes its strength to transnational and comparative perspectives and to theoretical approaches strongly inspired by Frank Thistlethwaite's influential 1960 essay "Migration from Europe Overseas in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century." Reprinted in the present volume, Thistlethwaite's paper advocated studying European migration—and return migration—as a means of social mobility in the context of industrialization and capitalism, within Europe and overseas. And it suggested that researchers scrutinize the particular economic, political, and cultural environments of the sending regions which created the propensity—or lack thereof—to migrate.

The book is organized into five sections which reflect—and test—Thistlethwaite's concerns. Part one deals with the macro-perspective on Atlantic migration. Menard underlines the continuity between the processes of immigration, opportunities, ethnic contact, assimilation, and the construction of a national identity during the colonial era and those of the later industrial era. Hoerder stresses the Atlantic labor market and the role of pressures and opportunities in the sending and receiving areas in producing seasonal, permanent or temporary, regional, intra-European or trans-oceanic migration. Decisions to migrate were informed, goal-directed and network-

supported, so that moves to specific jobs and ethnic enclaves could often be effected with little cultural trauma.

The papers in Part two present microanalytic analyses of migration traditions in Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, and Hungary. These studies reveal the importance of information and help networks linking those who had already immigrated and those still in the old country. Part three focuses on Quebec and Northern Italy, two regions which experienced immigration and emigration at the same time; in Quebec, unskilled Italian workers were attracted to the rapidly industrializing city of Montreal, while rural French Canadians preferred higher-paid and more diversified opportunities in the United States. In Northwestern Italy, migration was a widespread and accepted tradition which sustained social ties and access to resources outside the community of origin. Both papers underline the mediating role of families and communities. Part four deals with return migration (a neglected aspect of migration Thistlethwaite called attention to) suggesting why it should not be considered a sign of failure. Part five deals with ideologies shaping (in the transfer of socialist ideas and institutions among German immigrants), justifying (Irish emigration being blamed on British oppression), and controlling (welfare capitalism in mining communities in Minnesota and Michigan to win the loyalty and compliance of workers) migrations.

The view of migrants which emerges from the present volume is one not so much of uprooted, oppressed, or traumatized migrants, as one of people who made rational choices informed decisions, shaped by the specific economic, technological, political, ideological and demographic environment of the sending and receiving societies. Vecoli and Sinke have produced a stimulating and useful book—illustrated by numerous charts, maps and some photographs—which demonstrates that migration is a response to a complex interplay of economic, cultural, and ethnic community factors. It will interest historians and sociologists both of past and of present-day migrations.

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