

The Oxford Handbook of American Immigration and Ethnicity

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The Oxford Handbook of American Immigration and Ethnicity, edited by Ronald H. Bayor. New York: Oxford University Press. 2016. vii, 546 pp. Notes, index. \$150 hardcover.

Reviewer John D. Buenker is professor emeritus of history at the University of Wisconsin–Parkside. He is coeditor of *Immigration and Ethnicity: A Guide to Information Sources* (1977) and *Multiculturalism in the United States* (1992).

In 1977 Rudy Vecoli, director of the Immigration History Research Center, cautioned that historians had thus far produced only “a snapshot of an avalanche” that “will inevitably be dated the moment it appears” (in *Immigration and Ethnicity: A Guide to Information Sources*, ed. John D. Buenker and Nicholas C. Burckel [1997], x). Four decades later, Ronald H. Bayor, founding president of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, has provided a brilliantly illuminated panorama of that “avalanche” in *The Oxford Handbook of American Immigration and Ethnicity*. Its 546 pages contain 27 thematic articles of 10 to 20 pages each written by widely acknowledged experts. Each article is thoroughly annotated, and each section ends with a detailed bibliography. In the main, the articles are exhaustively researched, gently written, and highly informative.

In his comprehensive introduction, Bayor proclaims that the subject is a “multifaceted one, far more complex than early immigration historians envisioned. It is a story of world migration patterns that includes regions containing nontraditional sending countries.” A clearer view, he argues, is that of “Atlantic and Pacific migrations taking people across the world along numerous transportation routes” (2). Historians have clearly embraced “a more systematic methodology and a formal discipline that considers American immigration and ethnic history within its full racial and ethnic unfolding” (2). They have sought to analyze the substantial impact of the newest Americans as well as to understand pre-1965 history and scholarship. As more and more “nonwhites” have arrived, “historians and sociologists have taken a closer look at previous migrations in regard to who was considered *white* by law and custom, who was allowed to attain citizenship, and what has been the role of identity politics” (5).

It is obviously impossible to do justice to even one of these 27 articles within the space allotted for this review. So, with apologies to Ron Bayor, I have assigned each individual article to one of five broadly thematic categories: 1) The Universe, 2) Legislation and Restriction, 3) Occupational and Settlement Patterns, 4) Models of Assimilation and Acculturation, and 5) Film, Correspondence, and Museums. Each category serves as a unifying paradigm, allowing readers to focus on topics of greatest individual interest.

Included in the first category are "European Migrations" by Dirk Hoerder; "Asian Immigration" by Madeline Y. Hsu; "Latino Immigration" by Maria Cristina Garcia; and "African American Migration from the Colonial Era to the Present" by Joe W. Trotter. Closely related is "Emancipation and Exploitation in Immigrant Women's Lives" by Donna Gabaccia. Each article is thoroughly comprehensive chronologically and in breadth of coverage. They document the evolution from a time when Europeans were almost the sole focus to their current status as "a contributing role" (51). The Asian category embraces 40 different groups—from the Middle East to the Pacific Ocean—who have been considered, simultaneously, as model immigrants and perpetually dangerous threats. The Latino field, which covers 16 percent of our population, is "broad, vigorous, dynamic and open to intellectual engagement" (83). The number of African immigrants has grown to 640,000, the majority of whom are flocking to the Sunbelt States. The exploitation of women immigrants has been a "fundamental tension" from the eighteenth century to the present, but a growing number of scholars have begun to stress examples of "empowerment and agency" (107).

Essays treating legislation and restriction include "Immigration Legislation, 1875 to the Present" by David M. Reimers; "Protecting America's Borders and the Undocumented Immigrant Dilemma" by David G. Gutierrez; "Inclusion, Exclusion and the Making of American Nationality" by Gary Gerstle; "Ethnicity, Race, and Religion Beyond Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish Whites" by Stephen Warner; and "Immigration, Medical Regulation, and Eugenics" by Wendy Kline. Has legislation created a "unified system," or "modified racism" (14)? Religion as an "allowable difference" (431) has become far broader, while fears of contagion and degeneration remain popular.

Essays on occupational and settlement patterns are "The World of the Immigrant Worker" by James R. Barrett; "Neighborhoods, Immigrants, and Ethnic Americans" by Amanda L Seligman; and "Immigration and Ethnic Diversity in the South, 1980–2010" by Mary E. Odem, who generally believe that today's immigrants will not necessarily follow pre-1965 patterns.

The category of models of assimilation and acculturation contains "Assimilation in the Past and Present" by Richard Alba; "Whiteness and Race" by David R. Roediger; "Race and U.S. Panethnic Formation" by Yen Le Espiritu; "Intermarriage and the Creation of a New America" by Allison Varally; "Historians and Sociologists Debate Transnationalism" by Peter Kivisto; "Race and Citizenship" by Gregory T. Carter; "Allegiance, Dual Citizenship, and the Ethnic Influence on U.S. Foreign Policy" by David Brundage; and "Language Retention/Language

Shift, 'English Only,' and Multilingualism in the United States" by Joshua A. Fishman. All demonstrate that whiteness, privilege, and citizenship have been bound to one another, while non-whiteness has meant subordinate status. They all agree that gaining "an occupational and economic foothold" (340) is an absolute prerequisite for any possibility of social mobility. Panethnic or transnational identities have never fully overcome ethno-racial ones. Viewing migration in terms of both emigration and immigration continues to "open up new avenues of scholarship" (399).

The film, correspondence, and museums category features "Immigration, Race, and Ethnicity in American Film" by Stephen Alan Carr; "Written Forms of Communication from Immigrant Letters to Instant Messaging" by Suzanne M. Sinke; and "Melting Pots, Salad Bowls, Ethnic Museums, and American Identity" by Stephen Conn. Whereas most film depictions of ethnic groups, with notable exceptions, still remain "messy and full of contradictions" (453), written forms of communication and ethnic museums can bestow "a sense of place and voice and dignity" (484).

In a final, critically important article, "New Approaches in Teaching Immigration and Ethnic History," John J. Bukowczyk advises that "the advent of new technologies, innovative methods of instruction, and greater availability of source materials online has changed teaching in the field, but the quality of teaching ultimately depends on what questions the researcher and teacher ask and the intellectual framework within which these questions are located" (489). Scholarship and teaching "are—or should be—co-constitutive and mutually reinforcing practices" (489).

Latino Heartland: Of Borders and Belonging in the Midwest, by Sujey Vega. New York: New York University Press, 2015. xxvi, 261 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$30.00 paperback.

Reviewer Felipe Hinojosa is associate professor of history at Texas A&M University. He is the author of *Latino Mennonites: Civil Rights, Faith, and Evangelical Culture* (2014).

In *Latino Heartland*, Sujey Vega introduces us to the stories, struggles, and resiliency of the Latino immigrant community in Lafayette, Indiana (located about 100 miles southeast of Chicago). With analytical precision and a storyteller's heart, Vega explores the politics of race, community formation, and the politics of belonging against the backdrop of a growing anti-immigrant sentiment in this midwestern town. Anti-immigrant sentiment has a long history in this country, but in the