

which features vivid cameos by well-heeled emigrants such as the snobbish Martha Adams. And who could deny that the text is beautifully illustrated, elegantly written and aesthetically pleasing to handle? But these strengths cannot compensate for the explanatory deficiencies evident in the book's interpretation. *The Immigrants* reminds us how little we really know about the personal identities of nineteenth-century migrants and the kinds of associative networks to which they belonged. To understand their plural experiences historians will need to devote more attention to surviving documentation and better recognize the value of a sustained dialogue between theory and evidence.

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1 See Erik Olssen, *Building the New World: Work, Politics and Society in Caversham 1880s-1920s*, Auckland, 1995, p.235.

2 M.N. Galt, 'Who Came to New Zealand? New Light on the Origins of British Settlers, 1840-1889', *New Zealand Population Review*, 21, 1 & 2 (1995), pp.50-71.

3 Tony Simpson, 'The Ivy Covered Cutting Edge: History in the Universities', *NZHA Newsletter*, no.3 (June 1994), pp.10-15. The key question, in my view, is not about the identity or institutional affiliation of the historian, but whether her particular historical explanation is sufficiently persuasive.

The Cambridge Survey of World Migration. Edited by Robin Cohen. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1995. 570 pp. Australian price: \$200.00. ISBN 0-521-44405-5.

THE LAST TWO DECADES have witnessed a remarkable proliferation in writing on migration. As a result, even historians conversant with a wide range of scholarship confront a vast literature on the history and sociology of migration, most of it too far outside the ambit of their own work to be familiar with, and too extensive to be comfortably surveyed. For those seeking to expand their awareness of recent trends and developments across the broad field of migration studies, the *Cambridge Survey of World Migration* is a welcome arrival. The collection, which contains 95 contributions from historians, sociologists, geographers and political scientists, is a remarkable achievement, notable for both its global and temporal scopes. Its editor, Robin Cohen, justifiably claims that the book 'provides the most representative and wide-ranging coverage of migration ever attempted in a single volume'.

Cohen clearly faced a mammoth task in managing an enterprise of this scale. The dangers of fragmentation, incoherence, and contributions of widely varying quality were great. Yet, for the most part, this volume avoids all of these pitfalls. One key to the success of the *Survey* is the book's structure. The diverse contributions are organized into 15 sections, each intelligently introduced by the editor. Topics covered include European colonization and settlement, Asian indentured and colonial migration, repatriates and colonial auxiliaries, and asylum seekers in contemporary Europe. Other sections explore past and present migration trends in Africa, Latin and Central America, the Middle East, and Asia and Oceania. The other key to its success is the quality of the contributions. The *Survey* has attracted pieces from scholars of very high standing, and the standard is remarkably consistent for a work of this magnitude. The section on nineteenth-century European migration to North America, for example, includes contributions from Jon

Gjerde, Ewa Morawska and Rudolph Vecoli, writers at the forefront of current American immigration history. Their work, like that of most contributors, appears as up-to-date and comprehensive as is possible in such a compendium.

Overall, the book is remarkable testimony to the global impact of migration and its tremendous power to wring shifts on nations and communities. At the end of the twentieth century, as the pace of human movement reaches extraordinary levels, it is forcing dramatic changes across all continents. In Europe, nations such as Italy and Greece are turning from sources of labour emigration into immigrant destinations. As a result, they are being forced to confront particular problems of identity and social cohesion once seen as the preserve of the immigrant societies of the New World. With the collapse of the former Soviet Union and economic changes in Eastern Europe, problems of illegal immigration and border control, long obsessions elsewhere, gain a new poignancy. Such issues — and this volume is brim-full of equally stimulating developments in Asia, Africa and the Americas — provide a myriad of fresh perspectives, new comparisons, and provocative suggestions for those interested in migration history. Valuable too is the concluding section of the book, which provides a useful coverage of several emerging trends and new directions in the study of international migration.

In a work of this size demands for more seem almost churlish, and the editorial decisions that shaped the book have for the most part proved wise and effective. Yet there are, inevitably, omissions. Internal migration is deliberately excluded and priority is given to international and intercontinental migrations. A useful addition, apparently not considered, would have been entries synthesizing recent literature on key concepts such as ethnicity and assimilation. For New Zealand readers, the book contains some additional disappointments. The 5000-word limit applied to contributions may have been technically essential, but it sometimes proved disadvantageous — this was particularly so in the case of Hugh Tinker's gallant attempt to survey the vast migration experience of the British colonies of settlement. In that contribution, aspects of the coverage relating to New Zealand and Australia seemed rather bare-boned. More critically, the title of the section, 'Migration in Asia and Oceania', disguises the heavy weighting given to migration in south and southeast Asia. Although this part contains excellent contributions on post-World War II immigration to Australia by Jock Collins and Gill Bottomley, explorations of New Zealand's experience of migration, and patterns of migration in the Pacific, are conspicuously absent. In the case of the latter, Cohen acknowledges the omission; in the former, he apparently conceptualizes New Zealand as part of an Australasian experience at the expense of its own distinctive immigration history. Perhaps, given the signs of growing interest in immigration in recent New Zealand historical writing, and the stimulation to future research this book should provide, these omissions will be remedied in any future volume of this kind.

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