

*Auswanderer-Wanderarbeiter-Gastarbeiter. Bevölkerung, Arbeitsmarkt und Wanderung in Deutschland seit der Mitte des 19. Jahrhunderts.* Herausgegeben von Klaus J. Bade. 2 volumes. Ostfildern: Scripta Mercaturae Verlag, 1984. xiv, 428 + 394 pp. (paper).

The multi-faceted problem posed by *Gastarbeiter* in today's Federal Republic of Germany has prompted a spate of new research on the troubled relationship of Germans with strangers in their midst. In the quest for antecedents to contemporary issues raised by the "guest workers," scholars are coming to recognize the importance of foreign laborers for Germany's economy and society in earlier periods. For even though Germany was not a country known for its hospitality to aliens, and certainly did not envision itself as a haven for immigrants, it has played host to a variety of foreigners during the past century. Successive waves of laborers entered the country, primarily from Eastern Europe, sometimes as migrants seeking permanent work, at other times as imported seasonal laborers, and during both world wars as forced conscripts needed to man German industry and agriculture. Thus, on closer examination, there are important antecedents and parallels to the present-day crisis of "guest workers" in West Germany.

This realization serves as the point of departure for the work under review, a two-volume compendium of long essays and brief discussions that emerged from an international conference entitled, "*Vom Auswanderungsland zum Einwanderungsland?*" held in Tutzing, West Germany, in 1982. Professor Klaus J. Bade, the organizer of that conference and editor of these volumes, aimed to achieve three goals: 1. To build a bridge between historical and contemporary problems in discussions of transnational migration; 2. To strengthen international and inter-disciplinary discussions of the subject among specialists; 3. To deepen discussions between scholars concerned with the history of migration and bureaucrats who administer agencies that must deal with foreigners.

The resulting work provides a first-rate introduction to the most recent research by German scholars on a variety of themes: a. The changing demography of modern Germany and its impact on labor markets; b. The massive emigration of Germans during the nineteenth century and their settlement in the United States; c. Continental migration into Germany from the late nineteenth century to the present day; d. The conscription of forced recruits during the two wars, e. The experience and status of "guest workers" in the Federal Republic; f. The problem of transnational migration viewed from an international perspective. Though most of the essays in these volumes summarize work that has been published in greater detail elsewhere, they are nonetheless quite useful because they provide readers with a fine overview of issues and extensive bibliographical references to aid scholars interested in pursuing matters in greater depth. Readers of this journal will find several essays in volume II, section 4, of particular value since they deal with East European workers imported to Germany between 1890 and 1945. (The essays most pertinent to this subject are Klaus Bade's rich analysis of Germany's elaborate program to import seasonal workers from the East during the period from 1890 until World War I; Christoph Klessmann's discussion of Poles in the Ruhr; Lothar Elsner's overview of programs during World War I to bring forced laborers into Germany first from Belgium and later from Russian Poland; and Anton Grossmann's case study of foreign and forced laborers in Bavaria during World War II. )

Although it is inevitable and understandable that a work consisting of contributions by some two dozen scholars and especially one based on conference proceedings would have gaps, several omissions are worth noting so that they may be explored in future research on this subject. To begin with, the sections on imported workers deal almost exclusively with Slavs and pay little attention to a variety of other peoples who labored in Germany—including Dutch, Danish, and Italian workers. Second, the work pays only scant attention to the two million East European Jews who transmigrated through Germany between 1870 and 1924, some of whom settled in the country. In fact, by the early years of the Weimar Republic, close to one-quarter of all Jews in Germany were of foreign nationality, surely a not insignificant datum in the development of German attitudes toward aliens and Jews. Last, our understanding of the German experience with migrants would benefit immeasurably were there to be more of a comparative, international perspective brought to bear in explorations of the topic. While there are brief essays on French and Swedish experiences with aliens, far more work needs to be done on the policies and practices of all European countries when faced with immigrants. Such a comparative perspective would highlight unique features of Germany's treatment of foreigners and would place the question of "guest workers" into its proper context as a trans-European problem.