

**Klaus J. Bade and Jochen Oltmer (eds), *Aussiedler: Deutsche Einwanderer aus Osteuropa* (1999), 323 (Universitätsverlag Rasch, Osnabrück, DM 48.00/EUR 24.54). [Resettlers: German Immigrants from Eastern Europe]**

The years stretching from the end of the Second World War until 1950 witnessed one of the darkest chapters of ethnic cleansing and organized expulsion of modern history. Almost two million persons of all ages and backgrounds were starved, killed or died of neglect during the exodus of an estimated twelve million ethnics from former eastern German territories and areas of century-old settlement in eastern Europe. A similar fate of forced deportation happened to millions of German-Russians. Whereas the survivors of the first group of expellees were eventually integrated into West and East Germany or Austria, emigration of ethnic Germans from Russia and remaining diasporas in eastern Europe became a steady trickle in the following decades, accelerated by short phases of political liberalization or financial compensation. Altogether, another four million German resettlers (*Aussiedler*) emigrated to the West between 1950 and 1999, of whom 2.4 million arrived after 1988.

Although Germany is only reluctantly a land of in-migration, the incorporation of ethnic Germans has been comparatively smooth – some outside observers even called it a model. Increasing numbers of immigrants and stagnating employment in the 1990s, cultural distance, cuts in integration assistance and the delegation of integration tasks to local communities have, however, led to tensions between native-born Germans and resettlers in recent years and even to the tendency to segregate these immigrants.

In this volume, Bade and Oltmer analyse the integration of these resettlers into German society, particularly that of the cohorts who arrived after 1988. After the editor's review of the history of ethnic German refugees from eastern Europe since the First World War, trends and outcomes of

current resettler incorporation are described and discussed in twelve empirically rich and meticulously crafted chapters.

The volume is divided into three parts. Part I covers geographical mobility and integration experience (Hilkes), unemployment and social mobility (Greif *et al.*), regional migration and social assimilation (Mammey), and the experience of female resettlers caught between family orientation and labour market constraints (Westphal). Part II focuses on integration risks and opportunities for resettler youth (Dietz), juvenile delinquency among resettler youth (Walter/Grübl), interaction between native-born Germans and resettler youth (Eckert *et al.*), and the different patterns of leisure activity and their potential for reinforcing social isolation. Part III centres on the geographical distribution of resettlers (Thränhardt), (dis)advantages and trends of local incorporation (Wenzel), and changing municipal policies responding to the challenge of immigration (Oberpennig). The highly informative chapter about the integration of Russian Jews (Harris) is the only contribution that does not fit squarely into the volume, although it does highlight the need for comparative research on immigrant groups.

Although one misses a concluding evaluation of the integration of resettlers into German society, this volume will nevertheless be of great interest to scholars interested in comparative immigration research and the impact of (welfare) state intervention in promoting integration at both the federal and the local level. It might be a good idea to make this volume, or at least some of its chapters, available to an English readership through translation in the near future.

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