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Book Reviews

AUSWANDERER, WANDERARBEITER, GASTARBEITER, BEVOLKERUNG ARBEITSMARKT UND WANDERUNG IN DEUTSCHLAND SEIT DER MITTE DES 19. JAHRHUNDERTS, 2 vols. Editor Klaus J. Bade. Scripta Mercaturae Verlag, Ostfildern, 1984. Pp. xiv + 882. No price given.

These two volumes contain the papers of twenty-four authors discussed at an international and interdisciplinary symposium on the question of whether and how Germany changed from a country of emigration to a country of immigration. In most of the six sections, political scientists, sociologists, historians are concerned with finding an answer to the politically and socially salient problem posed by the ca. 4 million foreign workers who had been 'invited to work' (Gastarbeiter) in West Germany during the boom period of the 1960s, and a large number of whom stayed on while the economic situation turned into a recession creating the by now notorious 'Gastarbeiter-problem'. The plan for this conference was prompted by the timely desire to overcome both the inertia of political decisionmakers and to counter the groundswell of 'xenophobia', or, in a term culled from the historical experience of the United States, 'nativism'. The first of these two aims is approached by a rephrasing of the 'Gastarbeiter' problem which, as the authors agree was turned, by the force of time, from one of 'migrant labour' to one of de facto 'immigration'. Consequently they are pleading for a de jure recognition of this situation. The second of the two aims is advanced by placing the current problems facing Germany in a historical and comparative perspective, such as German immigration to the United States, or the integration of Polish workers in the Ruhr area at the turn of the twentieth century. The major issue around which the debates revolve is the possible meaning and historical processes of social and political 'integration'.

The particular value of these collected papers lies in the wide-ranging analysis of demographic developments, of labour market conditions, of the actual social and economic situation of labour-migrants. These analyses combine historical depths with comparative perspectives, though, as so often happens in Europe-centred studies, analogous problems in an immigrant society like Australia do not score a mention.

The politically relevant recommendation emerging from these considerations is most clearly advocated by the editor, Klaus J. Bade, who has made his name in this field through earlier publications and who also contributed major chapters to this discussion. He suggests the adoption of a policy of social and economic integration free of any unrealistic expectations about and pressure for prompt and inconsiderate 'assimilation'. Thus, these volumes propose a rational and humane way of dealing with the legal, social, political and cultural problems of people whose permanent membership in society Germany, so far, has refused to admit.

GEELONG

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