

History
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Migration in European History. By Klaus J. Bade. Translated by Alison J. Brown. Blackwell. 2003. xiii + 402pp. £50.00.

Klaus J. Bade, has, over recent years, established himself as one of the leading historians of Germany. Since the 1980s he has focused almost exclusively upon the issue of migration in Germany, so that, by the early 1990s, he had become a leading public intellectual concerned with this issue. The strength of his research is second to none, with a string of publications focusing upon all aspects of migration into, out of, and within Germany, both historically and more recently. His work has been seminal, helped by the centre he has established at the University of Osnabrück. Like most academics working on the history of migration, he has concluded that movement is central to human history.

Most of Bade's work has concentrated upon Germany, but the present volume, translated from its original language of publication, examines migration in European history from the eighteenth century to the present. Bade has taken a chronological approach, dividing his book into five sections. The first deals with 'Migration during the Shift from Agrarian to Industrial Societies'. He then moves on to tackle the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when migration across and out of Europe took off. His section covering the two world wars essentially looks at the movement caused by the crises of the first half of the twentieth century. Bade then deals with the mass immigration which took place into Europe during the cold war era, before concluding with a section examining the complex movements which occurred after 1989 and which turned Europe into a 'Continent of Immigration at the End of the Twentieth Century'.

It is difficult to do justice to Bade's book in such a short review, but his work has to be the starting point for anyone who wishes to understand the centrality of migration in the evolution of modern Europe. Although he has focused upon his strong point of Germany, which is inevitable because of its centrality in many of the major European migration movements of the past three centuries, the book is extremely thorough because no migration movement of any significance is missed out. The command of the English, French and German literature is almost total as Bade has not ignored any major authority who has worked on migration in recent European history. He has therefore produced an outstanding work of true scholarship.

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