

Klaus J. Bade, *Homo Migrans. Wanderungen aus und nach Deutschland. Erfahrungen und Fragen*

Stuttgarter Vorträge zur Zeitgeschichte, Volume 2, Essen: Klartext Verlag, 1994, 128 pp., DM 19.80 p.b. (ISBN 3 88474 096 2)

Klaus J. Bade, *Ausländer, Aussiedler, Asyl: Eine Bestandsaufnahme*

München: Beck, 1994, 287 pp., DM 24.00 p.b. (ISBN 3 406 37462 X)

In spite of the fact that the German government maintains until today that Germany is not a country of immigration, even the briefest visit to any German city will show differently. Like in all other Western European states that engaged in guest worker policies in the 1960s and early 1970s, substantial immigrant communities have developed.

At the same time, Germany adopts *de facto* immigration policies for hundreds of thousands of ethnic Germans and smaller numbers of Jewish refugees coming from the (former) Soviet Union. In official parlance, however, the first category is defined as German citizens returning home (and thus not as immigrants) and the latter category as being a very small exception to the general rule, resulting from very specific moral obligations.

Immigration was an important factor in the reconstitution and economic revitalisation of post-World war II Germany. Germans from all over Central Europe were forced to leave their homesteads and sought a new existence within the borders of Eastern and Western Germany. They were joined by displaced persons who had no home country to return to or for other reasons choose to resettle in Germany.

Early this century, Russia's revolutionary turmoil and its aftermath made many people resettle in Germany. They were preceded by large numbers of Jews fleeing persecution in Eastern Europe and, subsequently, settling in Berlin and other German urban centres.

Last century brought numerous Poles to work in Germany's emerging heavy industries. Many 'typically' German surnames still serve to remind one of their immigration and settlement.

At the end of the seventeenth century the Prussian king invited Huguenots and Jews to settle in Berlin and support his ambitions to modernise his state and capital city. Huguenots at that time constituted somewhere near a quarter of the city's population.

This brief excursion through German history serves to show that Germany is not and never was an ethnic homogenous state. There are many valuable lessons to be drawn from this fact, both for those who make their voices publicly heard, and for the general public. This is something well understood by Klaus J. Bade from whose work this overview is largely derived. As a contemporary historian, he has published very extensively on migration to

Germany, very often in order to explicitly point out the parallels between past and present phenomena. He, furthermore, points out that the German migration experience is not limited to immigration but that many Germans have temporarily or permanently left their country to try their luck abroad.

Both books which are the subject of this review are from 1994 but *Ausländer, Aussiedler, Asyl* is an edited reprint of Bade's introduction to an edited volume from 1990. They cover more or less the same ground but are differently structured. *Homo Migrans* has a historical overview followed by a second part in which migration in present day Germany and prospects for future developments are discussed. This chapter deals with the xenophobic violence that has produced headlines all over the world during the past years. In Bade's opinion this is the result of a complex interaction of several factors, among which: the apparent political ignorance (Germany is not a country of immigration) which confuse public opinion, right extremist agitation in a context of the restructuring of unified Germany, socio-psychological factors in a time of individualisation, and the paradox of civil society which openly seeks to understand the barbarians who attack foreigners. All of these factors explain parts of the phenomenon but there is no comprehensive model which explains their relationship.

Bade concludes *Homo Migrans* with an evaluation of what could and needs to be done. He starts with the increasingly shared notion among policy makers in Germany and other Western states, that the causes of migration should not be addressed at the nation's borders but in the countries of origin by more equal distribution of the world's resources. More specifically for Germany he sees the following issues as particularly relevant: de-escalation of the public debate on asylum and immigration, increased efforts for the integration of established immigrants, transparent immigrant and immigration policies and concepts paired with the bureaucratic means to implement those, and the political preparedness to seek a public mandate for them.

Ausländer, Aussiedler, Asyl tells more or less the same story but at considerable more length and with more detail. Although they are well researched and documented, neither of the books primarily addresses an academic audience. Nevertheless, these well written books are an excellent introduction for scholars new to this particular field of migration studies.

Jeroen Doomernik

new community

Journal of the European Research Centre on Migration and Ethnic Relations

Volume 22

Number 2

April 1996