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Migration Past, Migration Future: Germany and the United States. I. Edited by Klaus J. Bade and Myron Weiner (Providence, Berghahn Books, 1997) 158 pp. $29.95

This brief collection of four essays is better described as multidisciplinary than interdisciplinary, characterized (except for a brief introduction) less by comparison than juxtaposition. Parallel essays by Bade and Reed Ueda trace the migration histories of Germany and the United States during the past two centuries. Teams of demographers headed up by Rainer Münz and Frank D. Bean focus more closely on foreigners, immigrants, and ethnics in the two countries since World War II; their projections of population makeup extend to 2030 or 2040. Since the volume is a synthesis of a larger body of work, it offers little of methodological interest; even the basis of demographic projections are not explained in detail.

Both German essays pointedly contradict the "emphatic denial that the Federal Republic has in fact become a new type of immigration country" (28); they expose the absurdity of a rigid *jus sanguinis* basing citizenship on ethnic heritage. Bade documents the large volume not only of emigration but also of in-migration already before World War I. Both essays show that ethnic "German" immigrants from eastern Europe sometimes experienced the same culture shock, and even language problems, as those legally defined as foreigners (who now include 1.2 million German-born among a total of 7 million). The need for more realistic immigration and citizenship policies is underlined by a range of population projections: Even with a high-immigration scenario, Germany will experience population decline by 2030; even low-immigration assumptions predict that "foreigners" will constitute one-eighth of Germany's inhabitants, and almost one-third of the ten largest urban agglomerations.

In twenty pages, Ueda sketches the contours of U.S. immigration law and policy, the development of "assimilative pluralism" in general, and its exemplification by German-Americans (48–54). By presenting what is indisputably a long-term success story, but leaving out most of the bumps along the way, he risks setting an unrealistic standard for current immigrants. For all the discussion of pluralism, the nineteenth-century precedent of meeting ethnics halfway—by offering German instruction in public schools—also goes unnoticed.

Bean's essay presents the most methodological sophistication and the most new findings for specialists in the field. He updates Lieberson and Waters' 1980 census calculations of exogamy with figures from 1990 data, showing an acceleration for practically every ethnic group.[1] Taking this information into account, he downplays alarmist projections that non-Hispanic whites will form a minority of the U.S. population by 2050. Bean has fewer apprehensions about ethnic tolerance than about the country's economic capacity to absorb immigrants, but the 1993 cutoff for most of his data makes his concern about slow job and GNP growth outdated, at least of this writing.

A couple of minor inaccuracies highlight larger points: Until 1952, Asians were excluded from naturalization, not U.S. "citizenship" (xiii). Subsequent generations were automatically admitted to political participation in a way that "German-born foreigners" in Germany still are not today. Recent immigration is "equal to the highest in any period of U.S. history" only in absolute, not relative terms (xiv). The heaviest impact ever, from 1845 to 1854, totally escapes notice in accounts weighted toward the twentieth century. Both corrections undergird the volume's important message of combatting hysteria on both sides of the Atlantic.

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