

reflection, the definitions used here are not so specialised as to be irretrievable via simple use of an internet search. Given this, and the near ubiquity of smartphones among college students, this reviewer wonders if such features are a particularly practical and useful feature in reference works today.

The version of this work reviewed was the ABC-CLIO-hosted e-book. ABC-CLIO's e-book platform uses Tizra Digital Publishing Platform. This e-book publishing platform has been commented on frequently in these columns including by this reviewer in covering *Trash Talk: An Encyclopedia of Garbage and Recycling around the World* (Collin 2015) (RR 2016/165). In this particular work the presentation of the pages, while eminently readable, is presented in columns where only the left-hand column is used on each page. This does not obstruct the use of the materials, but is a disconcerting departure from the traditional book format that it would appear the publishers are attempting to recreate in this e-book. Searching within the e-book platform to find books and sections is a menu-driven pop up interface that is easy to use and, notably, the results screens include a keyword in context results display. In addition to this search functionality, the work being reviewed contains a detailed table of contents. Unfortunately, sometimes the page-to-page navigation arrows are obscured by images within the work's pages. Also, it must be noted that the e-book did not contain durable links to the articles online. The index is also oddly displayed within the ABC-CLIO e-book platform, containing two columns that are condensed to the left-hand side of the screen, leaving the right-hand side of the page/screen blank. The resulting display of index entries is confusing, which mars an otherwise reasonable index.

The work is available in print, or online via several vendor platforms including Ebrary, EBL and Ebscohost and under a variety of license and prices and the *Gale Virtual Reference Library* under tiered institutional pricing.

The author is an astoundingly prolific writer of textbooks covering a wide variety of topics, predominantly in the science and engineering fields that have some relevance to broader society. The author's academic background is in chemistry and education, including receiving an EdD in Science Education from Harvard University.

This work would be a reasonable addition to any library serving institutions with undergraduate programmes in a broad range of different disciplines including public policy, environmental studies, political science or engineering. Conversely, it must be noted that reference works in this subject area are many and frequently published and this work may

represent a duplicative resource for many libraries.

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Reference

Collin, R.W. (Ed.) (2015), *Trash Talk: An Encyclopedia of Garbage and Recycling around the World*, ABC-CLIO, Santa Barbara, CA.

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The Oxford Handbook of American Immigration and Ethnicity

Edited by Ronald H. Bayor

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It is the oldest cliché in the world that the American people are a patchwork of ethnicities. There may be some countries which have not sent migrants to the USA but I cannot think of any. Every cab I have ever taken in America was driven by a recent immigrant – I always ask! But despite its famous reputation as a “melting pot”, America's racial problems are unresolved: some of its ethnic groups are not “molten” at all. It is ironic that the most vexed relationship of all is between the white majority and African-Americans, one of the country's oldest minorities. Some black Americans may have an ancestry in the new world which goes back to the seventeenth century and is therefore older than that of most whites. But this lineage is obscure because their forbears were usually slaves. Today, so far from being accepted, African-Americans walk the streets with banners saying “Black Lives Matter” – 152 years after emancipation.

In another irony, little is said about the groups which make up America's core racial and cultural stock. First, the so-called “Anglos” and the “Scots-Irish” who have supplied so many presidents. Second, German-Americans the most numerous ethnic stock of all. The middle-west, the Great Plains and the Pacific north-west are hugely

German in make-up. Americans of German origin include a galaxy of famous names: Eisenhower, Trump (originally “Drumpf”), John Jacob Astor, Marlene Dietrich, Admiral Nimitz, Kissinger, Rockefeller, Chrysler, Steinway (pianos), Levi Strauss, Coors (the beer baron), Arthur Sulzberger (*New York Times*) and Doris Day (nee Kappelhoff). It is a paradox that the very centrality of these groups in American society makes them invisible. Of the early immigrant groups, it was the southern Irish who struggled to find acceptance. Being Catholic did not help them in a country which was so strenuously Protestant. But of all the groups, it is America’s Jews who have received the most attention. Writers rhapsodise about them and the romance of American Jewry has received extensive treatment from historians. Jews overlap with Germans and many other nationalities since they are an ethnic not a national group. By 1700, there were only 200 or 300 Jews in America and they were Sephardim from southern Europe. The Ashkenazi Jews arrived among the Germans in the 1840s and then in very large numbers from Poland and Russia after 1880. It must be admitted that Jews have made a superb contribution to American culture, out of all proportion to their numbers.

But all this is ancient history. If your interest is in the past 30 years, the new immigrants are a very different lot. You will be looking at source countries and regions like Mexico, the Caribbean and central America; also east and south Asia: Filipinos, Vietnamese, Koreans and Indians. In terms of language, way of life and often religion, these new groups pose a stiff challenge to America. Does it have the cultural plasticity to adapt and survive? Is a common civic identity enough?

Ronald Bayor’s *Oxford Handbook of American Immigration and Ethnicity* is part of a very large series from Oxford on a bewildering range of subjects. Typically, *Oxford Handbooks* include around 30 chapters each by a different author. Some of the chapters are general reviews of a topic, others deal with one highly specialised corner of it. None of them is very long and each one includes full reference notes and an up-to-date reading list. All this is true of the Bayor book. Most of his contributors are history professors topped up by social scientists.

The first half dozen chapters are descriptive accounts of the various waves of immigration to the USA. They cover government policy towards it and of the early experience of the immigrants. We then embark on some more specialised pieces: Gary Gerstle, for instance, writes about new immigrants’ adoption of US nationality and their inclusion into (and often exclusion from) the mainstream of American society. There are further chapters on Female Immigrants, Undocumented Immigrants and the Attempts at Assimilation. Other contributions deal with Race

and the Role of Whiteness (David Roediger), Intermarriage (Allison Varzally) and the Medical Regulation of Immigration (Wendy Kline).

In the popular mind, America is indelibly linked with the idea of opportunity. So far as immigrants were concerned, this worked both ways. The individual migrants sought opportunities for their own betterment – a natural human instinct. But the new immigrant was a walking opportunity for other people, in both the political and the economic sense. Economic exploitation was rife. Rolling cigars at home, sewing garments in a sweatshop and picking grapes in California were not the Elysium that the immigrants had come to seek. The chronic shortage of labour in America meant that wages would be higher than in Mexico or eastern Europe but this often left the migrants hungry and life in the big city tenement blocks meant that the “huddled masses” would be just as huddled as before. As James Barrett argues in *The World of the Immigrant Worker*, they might try to enhance their pay and prospects by joining a labour union but many did not. It was the more established immigrants who joined, seeing union membership as a sign of acculturation to their new home. The unions themselves, traditionally nativist and suspicious of newcomers, took their time but eventually came to embrace immigrants. Today, the American workforce has been revolutionised and the unions along with it.

New immigrant groups also presented political opportunities for the big city power structures. Immigrants would one day become citizens and citizens could vote. However humble their situation, these new Americans were too large in number to ignore. Erie and Kogan have a chapter on Machine Politics and Minority Incorporation. The authors take the long view starting with Boss Tweed in the 1870s, through La Guardia and Richard Daley in Chicago and going up to Afro-Caribbeans in modern New York. However, the authors have little to say about immigrants as politicians and see them mainly as constituencies. The various immigrant groups would have their egos stroked by party bosses and were then offered various kinds of “pork” as a sweetener for the next election.

There is no chapter on immigrants in business but violent and unscrupulous newcomers might show another sort of entrepreneurship: crime. Will Cooley’s chapter on Organised Crime and the Immigrant covers the familiar stories of Italians and Jews in the bootlegging, gambling and prostitution business and the racial bar which kept non-Italians out of the mafia. But organised crime did not end there: there are hundreds of street gangs who do serious criminality and react with lethal violence

when they are challenged. These groups, blacks, Orientals, Russians and Latinos, all want a share in the great bonanza of the drug trade.

The rest of the book examines some of the more curious angles on immigration: Peter Kivisto explores the dual existence of many immigrants, inhabiting a cultural “space” midway between the old country and their adopted homes? On another question: did this “transnational” life give them mixed allegiances and did that exert some influence on US foreign policy – a question considered by David Brundage? How did these newcomers manage the hard transition from their original Yiddish, Italian, Russian or Swedish to become full-fledged speakers of English – a process which took rather longer than we might think (Joshua Fishman)?

I would not wish to be critical of this book simply for the sake of it. The language is clear and the notes and bibliographies offer a goldmine to serious readers who wish to

pursue their studies. The coverage is reasonably comprehensive although one notable omission is the Native Americans – not immigrants, it is true, but a subject on which there is much to write about, whether it be on racism, assimilation, citizenship, poverty or ill-health. They are noticed in the index but there is no dedicated chapter on them.

The book is a large octavo, well-made and quite handsome although I see that Oxford is allowing their standards to slip: the hard boards are not cloth, the pages are “perfect bound” instead of being sewn and the paper is cheap. However, taking the book as a text, we have a very solid contribution to the study of US immigration and ethnicity. I can see no reference to a paperback version but the work is available as an e-book and online in *Oxford Handbooks Online*.

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