

L. Edward Purcell. *Immigration*. Phoenix, AZ, 1995. Pp. xiv, 199. Cloth, \$29.95. ISBN 0-89774-873-5.

After reading this volume it is difficult to disagree with the author's contention that "immigration has been the lifeblood of the American experience," and that "evidence of the importance of immigration is everywhere in modern American society." Four major revisions of U.S. immigration policy since 1986 and political battles over immigration in California in the 1990s attest to the accuracy of these observations. There can be little doubt that immigration is such an integral part of the American experience that it should have a significant place in our classrooms. This book deserves serious consideration in meeting that need. It is intended by the author for use by both high school and college students as well as the general public. Indeed, the book does meet the needs of a wide audience. The author succeeds in just over one hundred pages of text in providing both basic historical information and excellent analysis of the critical phases involved in the immigration of more than 60 million people to America's shores. Along the way he shows that the "social process of immigration has changed little over the nearly four centuries of American life." What has changed has been the politics of immigration.

*Immigration* has primarily a chronological organization, but with sections of emphasis on specific national or ethnic groups. The strengths of the book are many, but of particular note is the treatment of the impact of the "new immigration" between 1880 and 1920 which "affected the course of American history in fundamental and dramatic ways." As a result, after World War I, "immigration was no longer simply a phenomenon of American life but a problem to be solved." And so it has remained ever since. The author includes a section with specific information on Mexican immigration of the recent past, which is helpful in understanding political and cultural issues related to this topic. Purcell does an exceptional job of providing a thorough discussion and analysis of immigration in a small package. In addition to the one hundred plus pages of narrative, the book contains a chronology of significant events in immigration history (100+ items, by year only), a glossary of 58 important terms, and an extensive (40 pp.) section on further reading. This final section is divided into seventeen topic areas and one of these, "Immigrant Groups," is further divided into subsections on specific ethnic or national groups. The book also contains over a dozen illustrations. *Immigration* provides an excellent source book for teachers and students. It is worth having in each secondary teacher's library and should be considered for student use at both the secondary and beginning college level.

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Ellen Schrecker. *The Age of McCarthyism: A Brief History with Documents*. Boston & New York: Bedford Books of St. Martin's Press, 1994. Pp. xiv, 274. Cloth, \$35.00; ISBN 0-312-10277-1. Paper, \$6.50; ISBN 0-312-08349-1.

Many citizens today still define McCarthyism as part of a brief and aberrational phase of the nation's history when an immoral senator shamelessly manipulated early Cold War hysteria to suit his political ambitions. Those same observers proudly contend that, with few exceptions, past generations of Americans have avoided the kind of paranoia and extremism that allowed McCarthyism to flourish. In contrast to this view, Ellen Schrecker convincingly demonstrates that



this intolerance has had deep roots in American society. The Red Scare of 1919 and attempted purges of socialist-inspired labor unions and political organizations during the inter-war years provided the continuity for anti-leftist sentiment throughout the first half of the twentieth century. She further argues that this was part of an older American backlash to protect society from the modern, secular world, and that is why intolerance attracted such broad-based public support.

Despite the author's strong affirmation that McCarthyism was an unconstitutional "witch hunt" and that it blatantly violated people's civil liberties, she also shows how the American Communist party's secrecy and orthodoxy to Moscow's directives fed public fear and hatred. Furthermore, the overwhelming majority of people targeted by McCarthyism were not randomly selected "innocents," but rather Communists or former Communists. Even more ironic is the fact that many people who supported this extremism did so with the most honorable and well-intentioned motives.

Schrecker, associate professor of history at Yeshiva University, presents an expertly written 94-page synthesis of the causes and consequences of McCarthyism. This excellent essay contains the familiar stories of J. Edgar Hoover, the House Un-American Activities Committee, Alger Hiss, the Rosenberg case, Truman loyalty checks, the China issue, the McCarran Act, attacks on unions, purges on college campuses, blacklists, the Hollywood Ten, economic sanctions, and much more. It can be appreciated by any level of audience, from the college freshman to the experienced researcher, and its extensive bibliographic essay offers incisive evaluations of more specific studies.

This volume conforms to the style and intent of other topical volumes in the Bedford Series in History and Culture. Its overview essay is followed by several dozen key documents that are mostly printed in their entirety. Some are famous pieces, such as Senator Joseph McCarthy's speech to the Republican women's club at Wheeling, West Virginia, and President Harry Truman's Executive Order 9835 to establish a loyalty-security program within the executive department of the federal government. Others, such as the Rosenbergs' letters to their young sons, are poignant, and still others, such as Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas's condemnation of "the Black Silence of Fear," offer a clarion call to rational Americans to wake up to the new wave of extremism. Each section of documents opens with a brief introduction to establish the context and importance of the selected items. Otherwise, the documents are left to stand alone and to provoke thought and comment from readers.

The paperback edition of this book is priced reasonably for classroom use, and it is among college students that this work will find its most appreciative audience. Teachers of American history survey courses, as well as upper level classes on twentieth-century America, social history, and political science, should consider the book for adoption. Even teachers of advanced high school courses will find it appropriate for student use. Among all of these audiences, the excellent essay and well-chosen documents should elicit fiery discussion and powerful emotions from various vantage points. Even for the less ambitious instructor, the introductory essay will serve as a valuable source for authoritative lecture material. The academy can only hope for additional sources of this high quality in future publications of the Bedford Series.

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