

It is time that people be allowed to define themselves. All groups have diverse experiences which cross ethnic boundaries and which cannot be attributed to a particular ethnic group.

These drawbacks indicate that Hrabá needs to rethink through his position and begin reexamining the methods used to study human groups. Hrabá needs to look at history from the perspective of the people. He needs to examine cultural syncretisms and changes that have and still are taking place in ethnic groups.

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JESSE E. GLOSTER. *MINORITY ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT*. Washington, D.C.: University Press of America, 1978, 555 pp., \$16.75.

Minority Economic, Political and Social Development is a comprehensive document on the experience of discriminated minority groups in the United States, covering a wide range of minority issues which include poverty, aging, unemployment, housing, health, financial institutions, politics, and minority experiences in professional athletics, the military, and mass media. Few other books could surpass the scope of this ambitious work.

The book does an excellent job of revealing the pervasive and institutionalized nature of discrimination existing in the United States. Under this discriminatory system, minority members are shown to have suffered in various social spheres and to remain in victimized conditions, even with possession of rich natural resources (American Indians).

For each issue, data are presented in a variety of forms. Gloster utilizes numerous descriptive statistics. The richness of statistical data undoubtedly strengthens his arguments. At the same time, his book is filled with various anecdotes and biographical sketches of black mayors, congressmen, and other prominent minority leaders. He also discusses geographical distribution of minority groups and related problems (e.g., "In the South is found the heaviest incidence of poverty."). Utilization of this data makes the book highly readable for both the layman and the scholar.

The above data are, however, neatly organized and dissected in a scholarly fashion by the following three perspectives: economic, political, and historical. Throughout the 24 chapters in his book, Gloster is deeply concerned with the economic plight of minority groups. Even in the chapters on professional athletics, the military, and the mass media, his primary focus is on minority members' occupational entry, subsequent mobility and career, and

income. This economic stress reflects the author's conviction: "Having a job is the answer to welfare, economic crimes, self-esteem, and playing a significant part in the unfolding of human drama from day to day" (p. 155).

He also pays close attention to political factors: government policies, power politics, and some political processes. This political concern makes the analysis of discrimination highly realistic and turns attention to the ongoing process of discrimination.

The historical perspective in this book presents a unique frame of reference for understanding current minority issues. For example, Gloster shows that minority groups are better off today than in the past in the areas of education, occupation, and income. This improvement is, however, shown to produce some perplexing consequences. First, the improvement has benefited only certain types of minority members. The author notes that the primary beneficiaries of the Supreme Court decision on Brown and the School Board of Topeka are children of middle-class blacks who were born during or after World War II. Such uneven distribution of benefits tends to polarize minority members. Second, even these beneficiary members, who are now in skilled or white collar occupations, find that they cannot attain a normal career advancement. This experience heightens their awareness of a deep-seated and multistaged system of discrimination. Under this system, minority struggle against discrimination appears to be an endless battle in the midst of an unseen enemy who may eventually drain the nerves and energy of minority members.

Throughout the book, the author attempts to show that minority groups have been victimized under a vicious discriminatory system. The author argues, therefore, against commonly held prejudices against minority groups which are based on the logic of "blaming the victim" (e.g., most welfare recipients are lazy, black, and so on). Gloster has not, however, attempted systematically to analyze the conditions of the dominant group from which minority suffering originates. In this sense, his book is an analysis of the symptoms of discrimination rather than the causes of discrimination.

Little theoretical framework emerges from the book which can integrate different issues of discrimination. In the absence of such a unifying theory, it is hard to relate one minority issue logically to another issue. Thus, the whole book is merely a collection of separate minority problems. Under this condition, inclusion of some issues and exclusion of others appear arbitrary. Gloster even fails to provide a general summary of his findings. The book ends abruptly with his analysis of a chapter on the mass media.

Gloster never explains what he means by a minority group. Obviously, he uses the concept in reference to disadvantaged

racial-ethnic groups. But his book includes a chapter on the aged, which includes whites, too. This inclusion suggests that his concept of a minority group goes beyond the boundary of racial-ethnic groups. One would then wonder why he does not include a sexually disadvantaged group--women. Even in the analysis of racial-ethnic groups, he concentrates heavily on Black Americans and grossly overlooks Asian Americans.

In sum, this book is a work of minority suffering which contains much information on many issues. It is also a highly readable book while preserving scholarly rigor. But this book is poor in theory construction and inadequate in the analysis of the basic causes of minority suffering. Some minority groups are either underanalyzed or not analyzed at all.

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BARRY D. ADAM. *THE SURVIVAL OF DOMINATION*. New York: Elsevier, 1978, 179 pp., \$15.00.

The project area of *The Survival of Domination* is of great importance; the title is splendid; the Elsevier presentation is excellent. Yet it disappoints. The author sets out to examine the invisible mechanisms that keep social groups in their place when the overt legal discrimination against them may have been tinkered with sufficiently to remove its worst effects. Barry Adam is very specific about his intentions to focus on the everyday strategies oppressed communities evolve and use, individually and as members of that community, to survive. For "without a phenomenology of unfreedom, the contemporary historical stage remains unknown; social ordering cannot but recreate disenfranchised groups." The novelist, Paul Scott, wrote of "that liberal instinct which is so dear to historians that they lay it out through the unmapped forests of prejudice and self-interest as though this line, and not the forest, is our history." Barry Adam seeks to map the forest and chart the interdependence of the arbo-real roots--a difficult task, and an area too often overlooked by triumphant reformers.

Mr. Adam chooses blacks, Jews, and gays as his examples and points of cross-reference. Perhaps here lies the first disappointment. Although he does not locate them specifically in North America, it is there that they belong in his treatment, despite his use of older European cultural references. With such important intentions, it is a pity he is not more genuinely cross-cultural--the subjects seem almost too convenient--or more locally specific. He does suggest that the study could be extended to North American Indians or women. So it should. The effect of one