

systematically excluded from "mainstream" economic opportunities for many decades, developed culturally isolated "pocket communities." Although Irish Americans spoke English and were geographically mobile, their sense of "old country" nationalism reinforced their ethnic identity in America. The way in which German American ethnicity was gradually erased contrasts strongly with the ways in which both Native American and Jewish Americans continued to strive for bicultural adaptations in which traditional culture is maintained alongside of "American" culture. The editors do a good job of bringing out such comparisons, but careful reading of this text should provide a great many more. This is a text that is highly recommended for ethnic studies scholars. The advantages of a comparative approach, and the sheer amount of bibliographic and historical detail provided, make this a book worth reading. One wishes only that more groups could have been included.

Harriet J. Ottenheimer  
Kansas State University

**Pastora San Juan Cafferty and William C. McReady. *Hispanics in the United States: A New Social Agenda*. (Rutgers, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 1992) 257 pp., \$32.95 cloth, \$19.95 paper.**

This book is an unrevised third printing of eleven inspiring essays written by twelve social scientists who have devoted years of research to their respective fields. The book opens with an enlightening introduction by the editors, Pastora San Juan Cafferty and William McReady.

The essays in this collection raise important questions concerning the social agenda for Hispanics in this country in the 1990s. As we all know, US history cannot be properly analyzed without taking into consideration the important role played by immigration. Immigrants have come to the United States from practically all regions of the planet, and a large number of these immigrants, both in the past and in the present, have been Hispanic.

Hispanic newcomers arriving in the US now come in a time of diminishing resources and a decreasingly prosperous economy. New immigrants find themselves in a changing social context, and new questions must be asked and new agendas and different social policies must be established to address these changes.

This is the very purpose of the eleven essays in this book, which raise numerous concerns. The authors not only study the myriad problems that Hispanic communities are now confronting, but they also address the problems that continue to affect those

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communities years after arriving in this country. The researchers have looked closely at the failed efforts and approaches taken to resolve the problems of Hispanic communities in this country.

The heterogeneity of Hispanic groups and their diversity and complexity represent an enormous challenge to research theory and social policy. This demands a better understanding of the history of Hispanics in the United States, and this collection provides that history and context quite successfully.

Teresa A. Sullivan's "A Demographic Portrait" sheds some light on the history of the Hispanic physical presence in the United States since the early European colonial experience in the sixteenth century. There are interesting references to the first encounters between the indigenous population of the southern and western regions of the United States and the Spaniards.

Pastora San Juan Cafferty's "The New Immigration" studies recent Hispanic immigration to the United States in the context of previous immigration waves into this country, and shows how the US has responded to newcomers. Other outstanding essays offer fresh perspectives on such issues as Mexican American identity; the issue of language and assimilation; and education, employment, health care, criminal justice and political participation in the Hispanic community.

The collection ends with a conclusion by Cafferty and McReady, emphasizing the great diversity among Hispanics in the United States, and that diversity has influenced the way in which people are perceived and treated by the larger society. They point out that there seems to be some concern in the larger society, which is interested in creating policies which respond to the needs of various immigrant groups, and why the concern for policy is so great with regard to Hispanics.

There is no question that this is the best collection of essays about all aspects of the diverse Hispanic communities in the United States. This is the first time that we have the opportunity to see the problems of the Hispanic community studied by specialists in a variety of areas of social research.

Luis L. Pinto  
Bronx Community College