

There is little to criticize in this work, which is well organized and well edited. Porter has done an excellent job translating often-complex Polish-language texts into English. One missing element is politics, but, given Porter's methodology and concerns, this is not really a shortcoming per se. That being said, the political and social landscape in which the *endecja* operated has much to do with its limitations as a Polish movement of the radical right. Thus, even though the *endeks* enjoyed enormous success in mobilizing the Polish peasantry in the Russian partition, they also faced substantial competition from a radical peasant movement that espoused another doctrine altogether. It is misguided to assume, or imply, that National Democracy was the sole proprietor of modern Polish nationalism. Modern Polish political culture became quite diverse, and the influence exerted by (antisemitic) Polish Catholicism acted as a check on more extreme manifestations of anti-Jewish sentiments within the ranks of National Democracy, even in the 1930s.

Before the Second Polish Republic collapsed in 1939, two possible avenues lay before Polish society—a drift to the right, in which case it probably would have become possible to speak of Polish fascism, or a shift to the center-left, in which case the *endecja*'s ideas would have been repudiated. The first outcome was by no means inevitable. For better and for worse, National Democracy played an integral role in the political build-up to the creation of a modern Polish state in November 1918 (indeed, Dmowski was the dominant Polish negotiator at the Versailles peace negotiations, which delineated Poland's western borders).

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A Population History of North America. Edited by Michael R. Haines and Richard H. Steckel (New York, Cambridge University Press, 2000) 736 pp. \$75.00

This work follows the standard "Cambridge history" format: few (thirteen) but long (only one under forty pages) chapters. Of these, three concern Mexico, three Canada, one the Caribbean; the rest treat the present United States. There are full—perhaps too full—accoutrements: more than 140 figures, 9 maps, and a (very) technical appendix.

A sustained effort to encapsulate the population history of North America is long overdue, and the disparateness of the present work helps to show why. Each of the authors is appropriately interested mostly in population change, whether it be increase, decrease, patterns of fertility or mortality, or constitution. However, the available evidence varies so much that each author must find a way to treat his or her subject in ways that sometimes exceed the limits imposed by the evidence. In this regard, the most interesting chapter is Hubert Charbonneau et al.'s treatment of the St. Lawrence valley under French rule (99–142). The data are more replete and more homogenous for this area than for any other

in North America before the mid-nineteenth century, largely because of Roman Catholic record keeping for baptism, marriage, and death. The chapter makes clear the implications of the enormous amount of material that has been lost, or never existed, for other areas under study.

This is not to say that other chapters do not make plausible cases—those by Robert McCaa on colonial Mexico and Lorena Walsh on colonial U.S. African-Americans come first to mind—but they lack the detail necessary for interpretive fine-tuning or certitude. None of the chapters attempts to concoct extraordinarily high aboriginal population numbers, although appropriate and ample attention is paid to depopulation and its causes—as well as to the ensuing demographic regeneration. The essays dealing with times and places in which the data are more detailed are paradoxically more difficult to confront. The data are arrayed in a surfeit of formats and technical operations, no doubt the result of heroic compression.

This brings up the matter of intended audience. Historians will find the earlier chapters more provocative, if less certainly informational, whereas only those well-trained in demographic methods will be at ease in many of these later chapters. In a sense, the compression is both too much and too little.

Numerous interesting, and often surprising, points crop up along the way—for instance, that, at least in the first year, emigration to Virginia was nearly as unsafe as service in West Africa. It is also intriguing how disparately various authors date nadir, particularly for American Indians, emphasizing that definitions matter even in data-dependent fields like historical demography. We are also reminded, more than once, of the variant effects of differing demographic regimes, most notably in population growth—or lack of it—among African-Africans and others.

In technical matters, the index is substantial and nuanced, but the maps are small for their purpose. The bibliographies at the end of each chapter are useful, but often too brief, though it is sometimes interesting to note differences of opinion when an item occurs in more than one chapter. As is so often the case in collaborative works, the essays and their bibliographies have been allowed to vegetate, awaiting either laggard contributors or publishing exigencies, and it shows in more than the fact that there are no citations to material published since 1996.

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From British Peasants to Colonial Farmers. By Allan Kulikoff (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 2000) 484 pp. \$59.95 cloth \$22.50 paper

Kulikoff hopes that his new book will take its place in the libraries of early Americanists alongside the several master narratives published in