

THE CROATIAN IMMIGRANTS IN AMERICA. By *George J. Prpić*. New York: Philosophical Library, 1971. xiii, 519 pp. \$11.95.

The literature on immigration has been enriched by Dr. Prpić's study of Croatians in the United States. The book reflects the author's long interest and perseverance in updating, documenting, and modifying earlier studies on the subject.

The experience of South and East European migrants was similar. After a sporadic migration of individuals and small groups in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the immigrants came in greatest numbers between 1880 and 1924. The Croatians—generally peasants from economically underdeveloped regions of Croatia, Slavonia, and Dalmatia—responded to the push of inadequate opportunities at home and the pull of expectations in America. They went to new jobs generated in America between the Appalachians and the Mississippi River, and in more scattered clusters in the West. They changed their life-styles. Peasants at home, they became city dwellers in the United States. They created their neighborhood communities in Chicago and Detroit, Cleveland and Pittsburgh, St. Louis and San Francisco, built their churches and community halls, established parishes and benevolent societies, sent their children to schools, and became "new Americans." The majority overcame the hardships of the new land and sought emotional satisfaction by associating with their compatriots who shared the same language, religion, and culture. The young advanced in education and skills and achieved positions of responsibility in the arts, sciences, and public service.

The immigration policies of 1924 curtailed the flow. Provisions of the early post-World War II period opened the gates to a new wave, this time of political emigrants, mostly educated and skilled, to join their compatriots—occasionally welcomed, often forced to form separate groups with different goals and aspirations.

Prpić provides a wealth of detailed information about individuals and groups, their experiences and activities. As an observer-participant, he offers a passionate plea for the maintenance of cultural diversity in America.

Some assertions similar to the statements of other advocates of ethnic preservation could be questioned. The estimate of Croatians in the United States based on the number of arrivals does not account for those who returned. More complex is the problem of identity. A Croatian name or place of birth does not make the person "Croatian." The discrepancy between the author's claim of one million Croatians and the 1970 U.S. census figure of 239,455 Serbo-Croatian-speaking (mother tongue) people, including non-Croatians, is difficult to reconcile. The aspiration for recognition based on numbers runs against the reality of eroded ethnic consciousness.

The study—well documented, clearly written, and with an extensive bibliography—is a worthy addition to the literature on ethnic groups in the United States, and one hopes it will lead to further investigations.

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OCHERTSI PO ISTORIJA NA BŪLGARSKATA MUZIKA. By *Venelin Krūstev*. Sofia: Nauka i izkustvo, 1970. 725 pp. 5.15 lv.

This is the author's first major work since 1952, when he published his chronological account of Bulgarian music from the earliest times to the first part of this century.