

ANNA TRIANDAFYLLIDOU, *Immigrants and National Identity in Europe*. London: Routledge 2001, 176 pp. (hbk)

This is the third volume of a new Routledge series aimed at presenting cutting-edge developments and debates within the field of sociology. National identities and nationalism have certainly been at the core of some of the most crucial academic debates over the past 10 years. The same can be said of international migration, which is now one of the hottest political, and policy issue both in the European Union and in North America. Consequently, academic attention for migration has dramatically increased over the past decade.

Nevertheless, scholars interested in migration and those studying nationalism rarely discuss together. Most of the time, they belong to different academic circles, read different journals and attend different conferences. The author belongs to the few that are trying to look at the links and connexions between the study of nationalism and the study of migration<sup>1</sup>.

Triandafyllidou also crosses with elegance the borders between academic disciplines. She uses anthropological, historical, comparative political sociological and social psychological literature to develop a dynamic, and relational perspective for the study of national identity and for exploring the role of others, such as immigrants, in the formation and evolution of national identity.

The result is very interesting even though it is not as new as the author claims. The book is divided into 2 parts. The first part deals with the theoretical aspects of the relationship between national identity and immigrants. The second part presents a

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<sup>1</sup> See for example Marco Martiniello, *The National Question and the Political Construction of Immigrant Ethnic Communities in Belgium*, in A. Hargeaves and J. Leaman, *Racism, Ethnicity and Politics in Contemporary Europe*, London: Edward Elgar, 1995, 131-145.

comparative empirical analysis of 3 North European immigration countries (Britain, France and Germany) and 3 southern European countries (Italy, Greece and Spain).

More precisely, a critical review of earlier theories of national identity and nationalism is offered in the beginning. The authors then constructs a typology of significant others in order to study the relationship between the nation and the significant other in general, and immigrants in particular. The author then studies immigration flows towards the 3 Southern countries mentioned as well as policy responses to this new phenomenon for countries which used to be until not so long ago countries of emigration. The empirical data consists mainly in press material and interviews with stakeholders in the field of migration. The last chapter then compares Northern European countries and Southern European Countries on the issue of the role played by immigrants in the evolution and reconstruction of national identity.

This book is certainly very well documented, carefully written and well organized and theoretically solid. The empirical material presented and analysed is interesting but it is a bit dated (between 1991 and 1995). It is fair to say that this certainly is a good read for students of nationalism and immigration in Europe. As to scholars in those areas, they will probably not learn very much from this serious but sometimes-austere piece of work.

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