
Foreword

Over the last several decades social scientists have increasingly turned their attention to the question of how cultures change as a result of migration. This is not a new issue, to be sure. It goes back to the beginning of the American experience (as Berry has quoted in this book) and certainly was a focus of the Galton Problem on culture drift and impact on neighboring geographical areas. I am sure we would find, if we wanted to look, ancient scholars of every country and culture ruminating over the impact of immigration. They would be found to be raising alarms about the changes brought by the newcomers or celebrating the richness that might well result. So, it is not a new issue.

What is new, as reflected in this, and other books and articles, is the use of the methods of social science to both understand the phenomena of social change and to manage its consequences. Articles on culture and its change have begun to appear in increasing numbers. Journals like the *Journal of Cross-cultural Psychology*, the *International Journal of Intercultural Relations* and the *Journal of Migration Studies* have devoted more of their output to these topics. More and more books, in both the popular and academic *oeuvre* crowd the bookshelves in bookstores and on-line. In studying how to

manage the consequences, scholars have hoped to have significant impacts on social policy. The classic case of such impact was the use of social science as an explanatory principle by the United States Supreme Court in the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision outlawing school desegregation in 1954. Other examples from other countries could be cited since the United States is not alone in wondering how society can change without being destroyed.

In recent years, however, a new catch word, “globalization” has come into the lexicon of both the academic and non-academic writings, largely as a result of the intertwining of the world financial systems. As economies have competed for their share of the capital movements and as companies have sought less expensive manufacturing capabilities, countries have experienced population shifts unprecedented in human history. In many cases, these shifts have been between countries (e.g., the guest workers in Western Europe from the Middle East and Africa), in other cases within countries as rural populations have moved to urban locations to find employment or other benefits as in China.

Globalization has not, however, been seen as a necessary good. The recent financial collapse of the American economy and its impacts on the worldwide fiscal structure has directed many to wonder about the benefits of globalization and its putative consequence — migration. Nevertheless, despite efforts to retard or even eliminate migration, it is clear that it will continue and maybe at an accelerating pace as people seek refuge from the disintegrating economies in their home countries. Accordingly, it will behoove scholars of whatever stripe to redouble their efforts to understand how migrants can be integrated into new societies in ways to minimize conflict. This book is a reflection of that desire.

Most of the research, it can be cogently argued, has focused on migration to Western and developed countries (e.g., the United States, Canada, and the Netherlands). As well, the migrating populations have been from either the Western Hemisphere (e.g., Central and South America) or the Middle East or Northern Africa (e.g., Turkey and Morocco). There have to be spates of studies looking at acculturation of Asian populations to e.g., the United States largely as

a result of the entry of fairly large numbers at the end of the Vietnam War. But, studies focusing on the problems of Asian immigrants are certainly not common as yet. And it is even more uncommon to focus on shifts within and between Asian societies. It is to redress this imbalance, I suspect, that this book is directed.

As an edited book, it shares both the riches (of which there are many) and some of the problems of such volumes. As is common with edited books, there is no one overarching theme that permeates all of the chapters. Rather, there are at least three: experimental design (quantitative vs. qualitative), population studied (students vs. managers) and focus (research vs. practice). This, I think, reflects the field as anyone who has attended acculturation conferences can attest. It reflects the fact that the field of acculturation studies is so complex and involving so many different populations that no one research design and focus can resolve the many problems. And, yes, despite being almost half a century old, it is quite immature. It also reflects an interdisciplinary thrust involving psychologists, educators, management people, and others each bringing their special knowledge to bear on the issues of how people insert themselves in new societies (for whatever reason) with as little disruption to their self-image and their psychological sense of well-being as possible. For readers whose disciplinary focus and inclination comes from any of the fields mentioned above, this book will have many pleasures. For policy makers, there is much here that can serve to start a discussion leading to the best and most humane immigration policy.

A very wise social psychologist noted many years ago that resolving the problems of group conflict (which can come about by poorly thought-out migration policies), is "...literally a matter of life and death." I second that notion.

Dan Landis
Kea'au, Hawaii. USA.