

agriculture as a means of improving their household food security or providing themselves with extra income. The major constraint they face is difficulty of access—particularly legal and secure access—to land. Other constraints include the costs of seed, tools, and fertilizers; lack of access to water; theft or destruction of crops; and lack of access to relevant information.

However, the papers almost unanimously agree that UPA is a part of current urban reality that is not going to go away. Furthermore, the consensus of the book is that UPA, if properly managed, can be a positive force not only as a survival strategy for the poor but ultimately as a means to increase the sustainability of urban areas overall. This is in part because UPA holds real promise for being able to transform significant portions, if not all, of the urban waste stream into valuable agricultural resources. For this potential to be realized, though, it is crucial that changes in policy be instituted to make the urban ‘climate’ more favorable to the existence of UPA.

While these points generally apply to all cases, the specifics of how UPA manifests itself in one urban area as opposed to others vary sharply, influenced by such things as differences in geography, climate, and cultural values. Thus, another clear implication of this book is that policies concerning UPA must also be tailored for each specific urban area. For example, the studies concerning Jos indicate that there is plenty of land still available for potential UPA use. In Lesotho, however, land suitable for agriculture is increasingly scarce in the urban area of Maseru. Thus, any policy for Maseru might lay particular stress on the use of techniques such as Permaculture design, whose tenets when applied in urban settings can result in the development of extremely compact, yet highly diverse and productive ‘permanent agriculture’ systems.

The papers in this book do not reveal any startling new truths about the current nature of urban and peri-urban agriculture in Africa. However, individually, many of them provide useful new data on UPA as practiced in specific urban areas in Africa. Collectively, they have much to suggest about steps that need to be taken in order to better support those who currently practice UPA out of necessity, and to promote the development of UPA into an essential component of a truly sustainable ‘urban fabric’.

*Katherine Waser*

The University of Arizona

IMMIGRATION AND INTEGRATION IN POST-INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES: THEORETICAL ANALYSIS AND POLICY-RELATED RESEARCH edited by Naomi Carmon. New York: Macmillan Press, in Association with Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations, University of Warwick, 1996.

This collection is an outcome of a workshop triggered by public and academic debates regarding the large wave of immigrants from the former U.S.S.R. to Israel in the

early 1990s. It includes four parts. The first part includes three chapters that introduce basic concepts of immigration and integration in developed countries, in a comparative perspective. The first chapter defines the characteristics of the post-industrial era and discusses their impact on immigration into the more developed countries. The next two chapters focus on integration: tangible and intangible walls that separate people and their implications, the role of immigration and citizenship policies, the level of commitment of the immigrants to their new society, the influence of conditions of the host economy on immigrant absorption, and the impact of the size and diversity of the stream of immigrants.

The second part includes two chapters based on the United States experience. The first one questions the American faith in the myth of nearly automatic immigrant success. It examines dilemmas of the immigrants' children, raised up in the United States, especially dark-skinned ones. The second chapter discusses lessons from immigration and integration in Southern California. The third part includes four chapters that deal with the unique case of immigration from the former Soviet Union to Israel. These chapters discuss the extent to which the Israeli labor market succeeded in using the high quality of human capital of this immigration wave, the particular case of immigrant physicians, employment and housing aspects of the absorption of immigrants in the city of Tel Aviv—the core of Israel's major metropolitan area, and the spatial dispersion of immigrants in Israel. The final part provides more insights on experiences with immigration in the United States, Australia, Great Britain and France.

The book is well organized, the sequence of chapters has clear logic and the outcome is coherent and sums up to much more than a collection of mildly related papers on immigration. The chapters are clearly written and well-focused. Thus, the book provides broad insights and perspectives on the absorption of mass-immigration from the former Soviet Union into Israeli society, an immigration wave unique in its size relatively to the total population of the host country, as well as in high levels of education and concentration in professional occupations. The book, however, focuses only on the very early stages of absorption of this unique wave. This wave triggered a Keynesian expansionary shock in the Israeli economy that influenced the absorption patterns of the immigrants themselves. More than a decade has passed since this immigration wave commenced. Thus, it is time for studies that would assess the experience of this immigration wave from a longer time perspective. The accompanying wave of non-Jewish guest workers and illegal immigrants that began arriving at the first half of the 1990s has also come to an age and can be examined from a more significant time perspective as well. The international comparative perspective has also changed considerably in recent years. Substantial economic growth in most immigrant-absorbing Western countries has replaced less favorable conditions that characterized much of the 1970s and 1980s. Nevertheless, immigration has remained a major issue of public concern, and whereas many immigrant-absorbing countries face clear long-term need for immigrant labor, due to population aging, sentiments against immigration have also intensified. This book

sums up major viewpoints towards immigration and integration in the mid- 1990s, and an updated evaluation of this extremely dynamic phenomenon is well-warranted.

*Eran Razin*

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

GENDER, PLANNING AND HUMAN RIGHTS edited by Tovi Fenster. London: Routledge, 1999.

This edited book is a fascinating integration of the three concepts comprising the title. The connection between gender and planning has, in recent years, received a growing amount of scholarly research and professional attention, although there is still much to be done. The unique aspect of this book is the link to the topic of human rights, which should be obvious, but has not been seriously dealt with until now. The stated goal of the book is to provide another channel for promoting and implementing human rights in planning and development with a focus on human rights of women, and to incorporate space into the human rights discourse. So this is a book that boldly states its values, and intends to influence both the planning and the human rights discourses.

Each of the chapters focuses on a particular geographic place (ranging in scale between a city, region, country or continent), and on a particular issue relevant to that place. Each chapter begins with a clear description of its relevant socio-cultural, economic, and political context. As a result, we are taken on a trip around the world, and given the opportunity to learn something important and interesting about the lives of women in these places. We travel from the United Kingdom to Israel, to Canada, Singapore, the United States, Peru, the European Union, Australia and the Czech Republic. We learn that, although the geographic and political settings of these countries and the socio-economic and cultural circumstances of women in them are very different, most of the issues raised regarding the lives of women are the same all over. Should we be amazed by this or merely saddened, or should we be galvanized into action, each of us in our own field and our own city or country?

Through the book, we are confronted with the fact that not all women are the same, that countries are not the same, and that there is variability within countries. The book, as a whole, raises all sorts of 'hidden' problems that most of us have probably not been aware of. It does what every good book should do—it makes us think about the problems themselves, and about their new aspects. We are faced with the importance of understanding the context, and, particularly, its cultural aspects. Were we to ignore these, we could not understand the lives of these women, or the reasons for the problems they face.

Among the important issues that are raised are: do human rights transcend cultural norms? Can we accept cultural relativism when it infringes upon the human rights of women? Is the goal of preserving a culture a legitimate excuse for infringing upon the rights of women? Can/should planners introduce change into a given