

Schulman, Bruce E., & Julian E. Zelizer. 2017. *Media Nation: The Political History of News in Modern America*. University of Pennsylvania Press: Philadelphia.

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Vincenzo Bavaro, Gianna Fusco, Serena Fusco, and Donatella Izzo, eds., *Harbors, Flows, and Migrations. The USA in/and the World*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2017. 592 pages. ISBN: 978-1-4438-7318-5.

Harbors, Flows, and Migrations is a response to the unprecedented mass migrations of the present century. These are often by sea and prompted by a variety of causes, including wars, climate change and economic crises. The harbor has thus become a central feature of life today, both culturally and politically, and has prompted concern about internal security and the consequences of financial capitalism.

The harbor is an entrance and an exit at both the collective and individual level. It is, however, much more than this because through it important exchanges take place not only of wealth but also of “thought, knowledge and art” (1). The thirty two essays that comprise *Harbors, Flows, and Migrations* are clearly linked. While they are written by scholars from four continents and eleven different countries, all working within a wide variety of academic fields, there are strong historical and conceptual connections between the different chapters.

The volume is divided into ten parts: “Arrivals and departures: Local and Global”; “The Nineteenth Century: Re-readings and Re-writings from Off-shore”; “Across the Atlantic and Back”; “Transatlantic Views: The Euro-American Circulation of Ideas”; “Topographies of Slavery and Colonialism”; “Tropes of Migration and Harboring”; “Trans-Pacific Encounters”; “Inflections of the Italian American Experience”; “Italian Americans between Fact and Fiction”; and “Representing Muslim American after 9/11.”

The authors argue that the harbor is a particularly powerful trope in the American imagination as it is central to the early discovery of the continent, the slave trade, the tales of adventure of the early immigrants, and the story of the transatlantic and transpacific immigration that is so important in understanding American society today. The thirty two essays investigate the people, cultures and ideas that came to as well as from the USA.

There is something for everyone in this comprehensive volume. For those with a special interest in the early part of the twentieth century and the remembrance of World War One, for example, Anna De Biasio's chapter, "Dangerous Trips: War Tourism in Willa Cather's *One of Ours* (1922) and Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* (1929)," is particularly interesting. Letters, poetry and novels, photography, films, museums and later, television, are, as De Biasio reminds us, important "theatres of memory" (164). Hemingway and Cather complement one another: Hemingway takes his protagonist, Frederick Henry, off track and out of the war; he is strangely idiosyncratic. *A Farewell to Arms* does not attempt to explain the war; it is the story of an individual who places himself outside the action. Claude Wheeler, Cather's protagonist, on the other hand, is part of the nation's collective story: a national story of patriotism, courage, self-sacrifice and martial masculinity. De Biasio concludes that of Cather and Hemingway, it is the latter who wins the "battle of memory" of World War One because his use of concrete names for villages, numbers of roads and names of rivers enables us to retrace Frederick Henry's steps. This constitutes a "winning rhetorical move" (177), allowing us to be war tourists more than one hundred years after the war ended.

The final chapter, Robert Moscaliuc's "The Proximal-Ancillary Coverage Continuum and the Discourse of the American 'War on Terror'" brings *Harbors, Flows, and Migrations* firmly up to date. While demonstrating the need to consider structured narratives as a means of achieving a cultural understanding of military conflict, it also reminds us of the inevitable inaccessibility of a war both for writers of war and their readers. This, in turn, demonstrates the writer's need for certain sets of discourses to be in place before writing commences. In terms of the reader Moscaliuc affirms that war writing does have a special power to reveal the trauma that participants in war experience. This does not mean, on the other hand, that by reading about war we can understand the "horridness of war, its absurdity, the loss in human lives" (584). We can nonetheless become aware of "the combatant's impossibility to settle on meaningful linearity or closure" (584). Traumatic memory is not, Moscaliuc claims, narrative but disconnected flashbacks or fragments. Nevertheless, by understanding its special powers and limitations, we can gain access to important aspects of war as it is experienced. This is equally important with regard to past and present battles, and clearly highly relevant to the present situation in America and its ongoing war on terror.

The thirty two chapters of *Harbors, Flows, and Migrations* speak to “a wide range of diverse interests in its readers, bearing witness to the lively international and transnational debate with the field of American Studies today” (10). This is not a “dangerous trip” in the sense explored in chapter nine, but it is a challenging one that will resonate with any reader who wishes to understand the present in the light of the past, and who is particularly attuned to the changing face of America today. The “harbors, flows and migrations” described in the volume are part of modern daily experience; they are on the news, they are in America and they are in the world. All works that contribute to our comprehension of this important feature of modern life have a special role to play in enhancing our understanding of the present. *Harbors, Flows, and Migrations* can be read in its entirety or as separate chapters. It is a volume to which one can return over and over again and still find new insights into the past and, perhaps most importantly of all, America’s somewhat troubled present.

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Maureen K. Lux, *Separate Beds: A History of Indian Hospitals in Canada, 1920s–1980s*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2016. 288 pages. ISBN: 1-4426-4557-8.

Separate Beds: A History of Indian Hospitals in Canada, 1920s–1980s provides a poignant look at colonialism, discrimination, and negligence in Canada through the lens of segregated healthcare. Maureen K. Lux’s study traces the rise and fall of the “Indian hospital” system, which sought to contain the perceived “threat that Aboriginal contagion posed to society” –both physical and moral – by coercively isolating Indigenous bodies (9). By the 1960s, the Canadian government owned 22 understaffed and under-equipped Indian hospitals, where thousands of First Nations and Inuit women, men, and children received (most often) inadequate treatment and were frequently subjected to nonconsensual experimentation and outdated surgeries. By effectively linking the history of Indian Health Services to the broader project of Canadian colonialism, including the reserve structure, residential schools, and resource extraction, Lux demonstrates how “ultimately Indian hospitals isolated and treated the consequences of colonization and operated to maintain if not widen health disparities” (17). Too little