

cultural consciousness; a poem, "For Mother and Dad," the last line of which, "Farewell—we're good and gone," becomes her book title. Grossman's assessment of the Great Migration is centrally focused on cultural consciousness. Each author's approach is unique and different, but each builds on the growing scholarship of the subject and an understanding of the migrants and their impact on twentieth-century industrial development. Both authors, however, end on a note of pessimism: almost every African American who moved North in search of fulfilling America's promise of democracy found further disappointment. Marks summarizes it best when she says, "Reality never matched the dream of the Great Migration" (p. 3).

LINDA REED is associate professor of history, University of Houston, Houston, Texas. Her most recent work is *Simple Decency and Common Sense: The Southern Conference Movement, 1938–1963* (1991).

The Great Migration in Historical Perspective: New Dimensions of Race, Class, and Gender. Edited by Joe William Trotter, Jr. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991. Pp. xiv, 160. Notes, tables, index. Clothbound, \$29.00; paperbound, \$10.95.)

Highlighting recent scholarship on the Great Migration, this slender volume (based primarily on book-length works) attempts to go beyond documenting the usual sources, causes, and consequences of African-American population movement. The collection of essays not only emphasizes the ways in which African Americans have shaped their own migration experiences but also illuminates differences in the sources and in the impact of black migration on different cities.

Peter Gottlieb, for instance, in his essay, "Rethinking the Great Migration," explores black migration to Pittsburgh by extending his analysis backward into the pre-World War I era and forward into the Great Depression, World War II, and beyond. Gottlieb argues that although these periods of migration preceding and following the 1916–1930 era profoundly influenced the development of African-American communities, their dynamics grew from trends that were different from those of the Great Migration. Shirley Anne Moore observes an important variant on the black migration theme in her essay on black migration to Richmond, California. She discovers that the process by which black Richmondtites entered into the urban industrial work force was more prolonged than elsewhere, beginning slowly before the 1930s and accelerating during World War II as African Americans moved into the shipyards in growing numbers.

In his essay on black migration to Norfolk, Virginia, Earl Lewis emphasizes the dynamic role of African-American kin, friend, and communal networks in the migration process. He presents a well-documented and convincing analysis of "visiting" as

“one strategy adopted by African-Americans to counter the potentially deleterious effects of extra-local residence” (p. 31). Both Lewis and Joe William Trotter observe how African-American migration patterns have largely been misinterpreted. Lewis notes that “South to North has been confused with rural to urban migration” (p. 22). Likewise, Trotter finds that black migration to southern Appalachia “was neither rural to urban nor rural to rural, but rather rural to rural-industrial” (p. 46).

The impact of southern black culture and community life is brilliantly highlighted in James R. Grossman’s essay on race, class, and unionism in Chicago from 1916–1922. Migrants predisposed toward unionization constituted a small minority. Grossman reveals that most black southerners—those who knew anything about unions—had learned to be suspicious of organized labor. “Unlikely to become a part of the black community, unions had even less chance of being perceived as external institutions that—like schools—were self-evidently beneficial and amenable to incorporation into Afro-American tradition” (p. 95). Thus, while unionization offered one possible means of improving their condition, most migrants only “flirted” with unions.

Although all of the authors demonstrate a keen awareness of the importance of looking at gender, Darlene Clark Hine’s essay on black migration to the urban Midwest focuses wholly on this topic. “As enlightening and pathbreaking” as the recent black migration studies are, Hine argues that “there remains an egregious void concerning the experience of black women migrants” (p. 128). Hine challenges historians to focus on the sexual and the personal impetus for black women’s migration, paying more attention to the noneconomic motives.

The Great Migration in Historical Perspective offers an impressive balance of theory and historical content as it explores the meaning of the thesis that “the Great Migration of the early twentieth century represents for African-Americans both immigration and freedom” (p. ix), which is put forth by Nell Irvin Painter in the book’s provocatively executed foreword. While the collection’s quality and range in scope suggest the advancement of black migration studies within the larger field of black urban history, the volume’s length of 160 pages (notes, table, and index included) gives further credence to the authors’ call for additional monographs in this area.

PRISCILLA A. DOWDEN is a lecturer in history at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She is currently working on a dissertation that looks at African-American public education and health care in St. Louis, Missouri, from 1914 to 1945.