

gave support to the myth that the New Left was in “generational revolt” against its parents’ politics. Klatch knowledgeably cites the sources that refute this myth and discusses the emerging continuities in politics between the boomers of all stripes and their children—just entering the age of reason as she did her interviews. The libertarian’s prominence in her tale is the result of the small, nonrandom group of activists on both (or all three) sides of the political divide. Similarly, some prominent SDSers have become influential in municipal politics and the trade union movement—but they did not fall into her sample. Klatch does not venture a discussion of broader intellectual or cultural influence.

Along with work by Fendrich, McAdam, and Flacks and Whelan, and Zeitlin’s work on Cuban revolutionaries, this work is further evidence of the strong and long-term effects of youthful engagement in social movement activity. Gracefully written, *A Generation Divided* rescues, from the obscurity of fashions in intellectual life, the story of the young conservatives who helped make the modern Republican Party. What this work does not do is place either movement in a larger story of social change over the last two generations. Attempted early on by Flacks, that would be a very different project. When it is finally accomplished, Klatch’s work will be a contribution to knitting the puzzle pieces into the fabric of knowledge.

Language Policy and Identity Politics in the United States, by **Ronald Schmidt, Sr.** Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2000. 282 pp. \$65.50 cloth. ISBN: 1-56637-754-5. \$21.95 paper. ISBN: 1-56639-755-3.

KRISTA B. MCQUEENEY
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
kbm@email.unc.edu

Language Policy and Identity Politics in the United States is an accessibly written resource for students of public policy and ethnic relations. Language diversity is here to stay, and this volume goes a long way in helping us understand the complex foundations of our two dominant policy approaches—assimilationism and pluralism. Schmidt’s main objectives are description and analysis, and he reviews in detail the most significant language

issues of the past thirty years—bilingual education, language minorities’ access to rights and services, and the English-only movement—and deconstructs the arguments of the opposing camps. The book’s most pioneering contribution comes in the last chapter, where Schmidt outlines an alternative language policy—pluralistic integration—that strives for both ethnolinguistic justice and the common good of the nation. The analytical tenacity Schmidt shows throughout the volume is finally surpassed by his determination to beat the odds of legislative politics.

In Part I, Schmidt places U.S. language policies in comparative and historical perspective, then employs public opinion and Census data to argue that three factors—language diversity, contact, and competition—fuel contemporary debates. He adds that competing views on group identity and widespread anxiety about national unity have set the stage for a distinctly political contest, thus distinguishing current debates from those of the past and explaining why language issues—historically considered “private” matters within liberalism—have become politicized of late.

In Part II, Schmidt grounds language policy conflict in identity politics, and uncovers the contrasting narratives of U.S. history underpinning pluralist and assimilationist conceptions of justice and the common good. The pluralist historical memory, rooted in the legacies of imperialism and injustice, regards linguistic pluralism as essential to the continuing struggle for equality. Devised as a resistance strategy by peoples of color fighting to protect their cultural traditions, linguistic pluralism represents the best of U.S. history and should serve as a model for present-day politics. Assimilationists, on the other hand, identify the critical dynamic of U.S. history as the successful integration of immigrants from all reaches of the globe into one American culture with a common language. Refuting the pluralist narrative of annexation and conquest, assimilationists generally stress that immigration is voluntary and criticize liberal immigration reforms that have invited a flood of non-English speakers to our shores. Furthermore, they argue that the politics of ethnic consciousness has incited conflict, while also placing immigrants at a disadvantage by discouraging them to assimilate. In the remainder of Part II, Schmidt links advocates’ views

on social equality, the public/private distinction, and national unity to their divergent interpretations of the past.

Given the two camps' conflicting assumptions about national identity, the divide separating them is unlikely to be bridged by instrumental analysis. Therefore, Schmidt takes Part III in a critical direction, evaluating both arguments and considering—then rejecting—linguistic confederation as an alternative for urban America. The final chapter draws out the best aspects of assimilationism and pluralism and combines them in an “enhanced pluralist” approach, consisting of strengthened “English Plus” measures, an intensive immigrant settlement program, and concerted strategies to reduce economic inequality among racial/ethnic groups. These measures, Schmidt proposes, constitute our best hope for achieving ethnolinguistic justice and maintaining social harmony in the contemporary United States.

While this volume makes important contributions to scholarship on this increasingly volatile and understudied policy issue, there are some weaknesses. In Chapter 3, Schmidt uses public opinion data to compare the attitudes of Anglos and people of various Hispanic origins on bilingual education and multilingual government services, suggesting that many Anglos embrace assimilationist views on language questions, while Latinos tend to support the use of multiple languages. He maintains that what separates Americans on language questions is whether the United States should consist of “one coherent European-origin culture” or whether “the voices of those who have been excluded from elite status and high-level power positions by virtue of their ascribed characteristics” should be heard (p. 90). If this is the critical issue, however, why have public opinion polls—at least in the high immigration state of California—found that the majority of African-Americans also favor English-only policies? Analysis of a broader range of ethnic and racial relations would have offered a more complex understanding of language policy dynamics.

Finally, Schmidt's explanation for the explosion of language policy debates lacks specificity. For example, why have restrictive language policies been adopted in some states and municipalities that meet the criteria he identifies, but not in others? Addressing practical issues of policy enactment may have

increased the book's appeal to political activists and concerned citizens. Nevertheless, *Language Policy and Identity Politics in the United States* raises important questions about language policies and introduces specific plans to tackle them. At the same time, it gives us an inspiring vision for the future of our nation, an issue that should be of concern to us all.

A World-Systems Reader: New Perspectives on Gender, Urbanism, Cultures, Indigenous Peoples, and Ecology, edited by **Thomas D. Hall**. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2000. 352 pp. \$75.00 cloth. ISBN: 0-8476-9183-7. \$24.95 paper. ISBN: 0-8476-9184-5.

ROBERT K. SCHAEFFER
Kansas State University
RobertS@ksu.edu

When Immanuel Wallerstein and Terence Hopkins developed the world-system perspective, they raised a large theoretical tent to accommodate scholars with different disciplinary training and diverse empirical interests. Like them, Thomas Hall has raised a pavilion and gathered under it a diverse group of scholars who address issues related to world-systems (plural). Some contributors complement Wallerstein and Hopkins' world-system (singular) approach, while others depart from it. Let me discuss first the authors who contribute to world-system research, then describe those who diverge from it.

Wilma Dunaway makes the most substantive and engaging contribution to this collection. In her excellent article on the incorporation of Cherokee Indian communities in Appalachia during the colonial period, Dunaway analyzes how the deerskin trade and war reorganized the Cherokee economy, transformed gender relations to the great detriment of women, crippled subsistence agriculture, and undermined Cherokee political power. Alvin So and Stephen Chiu also analyze a region, providing a brisk look at the century-long ascent of East Asia in the world economy. Unfortunately, their congratulatory treatment of the ascent does not adequately assess its problematic character, largely because they wrote the article before the plunge in East Asian economic fortunes during the late 1990s.