

Charles C. Moskos, Jr., *Greek Americans: Struggle and Success*. Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1980 (Prentice-Hall Ethnic Groups in American Life Series), pp. 162.

Charles C. Moskos' *Greek Americans: Struggle and Success* is a worthy addition to Prentice-Hall's Ethnic Groups in American Life Series. The variety and persistence of racial and ethnic groups in the United States can only be appreciated if due attention is given to each. In a compact book (162 pp.), written in clear and proper prose, Moskos has given Greek Americans their due. His study is both historical-descriptive and sociological-analytic, at once scholarly-impersonal and anecdotal-personal. His use of sources is ingenious and he cites all relevant literature including unpublished works that only someone deeply immersed in the Greek-American community could possibly know about.

Moskos recounts familiar material about American minorities but adds many qualifications and enough of the unfamiliar to keep his story fresh and alive. The familiar tale of turn-of-the-century immigration is here but there are many interesting stories about the first Greek to arrive or the first Greek to do this or that. The largely male wave of immigrants from 1900 to 1920 is contrasted with the more balanced sexual composition of the fresh influx of Greek immigrants in the 1960s and 70s. The success of the first wave in entering the middle and upper-middle classes is recounted along with the political conservatism of most of the earlier immigrants. The latest wave of immigrants is more politically conscious and more leftist and while many represent a brain drain from Greece, most are in working-class occupations.

Moskos weaves his story around the pronounced contrasts among foreign-born Greeks in the United States, second generation Greek-Americans, and the new arrivals. Greek home life, church and voluntary life, Greek achievements in literature and politics are all carefully recorded. Moskos is careful to deflate the exaggerations about the number of Greeks in the United States the figure appears closer to 1,250,000 than to the three or four million that is often claimed. And while noting Greek Americans' rather strict moral and family life, together with their law-and-order orientation, Moskos also cites a number of Greek Americans who distinguished themselves in crime.

The sociology of Greek Americans tends to ring true. Greek-American economic success and political conservatism derive from the same source: the small-scale, rural economy of Greece gave Greeks extensive experience with market relations — the basic thrust of Greek peasant life was toward self-reliance and away from collective effort. Moskos also argues, convincingly, that while Greek Americans have remained diverse and distinct they have also fully incorporated themselves into the mainstream of American economic and political life. Moskos also provides useful information about the Greek diaspora, an appendix of Greek Australians, and he does not neglect, as in earlier parts of his analysis, to provide contrasting perspectives.

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