

incorporating blood as metaphor in different ways.

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## Migration and diaspora

BELLWOOD, PETER (ed.). *The global prehistory of human migration*. 432 pp., maps, figs, bibliogr. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014. £29.99 (paper)

The movement and timing of human migration is a subject that holds a deep fascination for science and the public alike. The questions of when our ancestors arrived, whom they replaced, and who 'owns' a space are intrinsically tied up with issues of identity and belonging. The ramifications of such issues can range from small-scale questions of ethnic identity, such as 'What does it mean to be English?', right through to debates over ownership of mineral rights or who decides what happens to prehistoric human remains.

*The global prehistory of human migration* is a repackaged and republished version of the first volume of the larger encyclopaedia *The global history of migration* (2013). While it is potentially useful to have this first part available as a stand-alone book, it is worth noting that two years is a long time in archaeology and especially in human evolution. Rapid changes resulting from new fossil discoveries or advances in genetics are the norm for human evolution and it is a shame that no revisions appear to have been made in between the publication of the two volumes. While it is no fault of the authors Mark Stoneking and Katerina Harvati, chapter 4, 'Early Old World migrations of *Homo sapiens*: human biology' is already looking dated and missing key new developments and discoveries based on the incredible amount of ancient DNA research made in the last two years.

The breadth of the timeframe the book covers is simultaneously a strength and a weakness. Ostensibly, the volume is in two halves: the first dealing with the Pleistocene (c.2.6 million to 11.7 thousand years ago), and the second with the Holocene (c.11.7 thousand years ago to the present day). No attempt is made at parity between the two sections, presumably an editorial decision by Bellwood or Wiley-Blackwell. The Pleistocene is dispensed with in a touch over sixty pages while the Holocene has around three hundred and fifty pages devoted to it. It is the second 'half' of the book that struggles to find a sense of narrative or flow. The individual chapters,

while almost all engaging and erudite, form a disjointed whole. The reader is left with the sense of a book suffering from a severe case of wanderlust. The title of the book also poses something of a semantic problem when considering population movements during the early part of the Pleistocene. The term 'migration' infers a planned intention to move and settle somewhere else. When dealing with early hominins (and indeed early groups of *Homo sapiens*), the ecological term 'dispersal' is much more appropriate. Although Bellwood does touch on this during his introduction, his justification for the use of the term is a weak attempt to head off this objection.

While it is inevitable that edited volumes often struggle to find a consistent voice or style, there are times when these problems are hard to ignore. There are fifty-three chapters written by a large number of authors ranging in length from a few pages to much longer contributions. Many of the contributions are excellent and offer pithy and authoritative pen sketches of their subjects. But there are a number which are less satisfactory. An example that highlights the problem is the chapter by Colin Groves (chapter 3: 'Hominin migrations before *Homo sapiens*: out of Africa how many times?'). A strong argument could be made that this chapter represents a very niche interpretation of many fossils that, while familiar to the extreme 'splitter', are based on such small samples that it seems perverse to discuss genetics (which often favours fewer species) in the same chapter. While technical discussion of interpretation, of course, has its place, it is perhaps not best suited to this type of volume.

*The global prehistory of human migration* is without question a work of impressive scope that simultaneously covers a deep timeframe and a broad geographical distribution of human population movement. It is not without problems, and many chapters will be out of date long before they are read, but this is the fate of all books on archaeology. As such it perhaps highlights the role that volumes such as this serve in the digital age. The cost of series such as these to libraries and students makes one think of the open access movement currently sweeping the world of journals. As a first port of call for students looking for dates, locations, and references, it is of great value in essay-writing but little beyond that.

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BRENNAN, DENISE. *Life interrupted: trafficking into forced labor in the United States*. xii, 289 pp.,

illus., bibliogr. Durham, N.C.: Duke Univ. Press, 2014. £16.99 (paper)

*Life interrupted* would be a welcome contribution under any circumstances. It is a well-organized, clearly written, and intensely researched account of an urgent social issue. Denise Brennan's fascinating book explores the sharp link between the lived experiences of immigrants and the immigration policies that ensure most will live and work under extremely exploitative conditions. Her focus on the small subset of immigrants who have been trafficked into forced labour – those experiencing the most exploitative end of the immigrant experience – makes the book all the more powerful.

Yet what makes *Life interrupted* exceptionally compelling is both its timeliness and its refreshing sanity. The recent fixation on human trafficking by both the mainstream media and politicians, as well as the tendency to reduce the entire issue to sexual slavery and prostitution, is not only annoying in its sensationalism and often complete disregard for the facts, but also politically dangerous in that it serves to obscure the exploitative conditions under which millions of immigrants arrive, live, and work in the United States. Brennan never loses sight of this, and repeatedly situates the extreme of human trafficking within a broader series of policies and practices that make immigrants vulnerable to a wide range of abuses. We can only hope that this book will circulate widely among those who shape the debates and policies on these important issues.

Part of what keeps the book so grounded is that Brennan focuses less on the actual experience of illegal trafficking or forced labour (though powerful testimonies abound), and more on what happens to the formerly trafficked once they experience 'freedom'. Immigrants who obtain the designation of 'trafficked' by the US government are provided with a legal immigration status and some modest support to transition into life in the United States. Although they are now legal, and have something of a leg up on their undocumented counterparts, what they face looks less like 'liberation' than the intense exploitation experienced by immigrants in general. This situation is compounded by the fact that they often do not have the support networks that other immigrants depend on (which is partly why they fell victim to trafficking and forced labour in the first place).

The first chapter looks at the immigration and sexual politics swirling around the policies that shape the lives of low-wage migrants and sex

workers. The problem, as Brennan clearly demonstrates, is that the intense focus on the sex sector has worked to obscure and make it difficult to address the intense exploitation found in other labour sectors. The chapter does a particularly good job of showing how immigration and labour policies have ensured that immigrant workers are routinely ripped off by employers, have reduced capacity to make demands or speak up, and work under extremely difficult and often illegal conditions.

Chapter 2 explores forced labour. How do immigrants find themselves in a situation defined by forced labour, what are its conditions, and how do they get out of it? There is no single formula, but a multiplicity of paths into and out of forced labour. For (poor) immigrants, the decision to migrate in the first place is one that requires courage, ambition, resources, and a willingness to assess and accept risk. It also means that at some point during the process they will inevitably find themselves in a position where almost anything can happen. One possible outcome is forced labour.

The rest of the book, chapters 3 through 5, looks at life after forced labour. How do people who experienced significant abuse begin to piece their lives together with relatively few financial or human resources? Although there is no single path, many immigrants are ready to get on with life, to find jobs, develop relationships, obtain an education, and pursue the dreams that led them to leave home in the first place. This ambition and hope is often confronted by the reality of simply surviving – of finding safe shelter, acquiring food, and navigating social services. In other words, although the formally trafficked do get on with their lives, they are quickly faced with severe economic insecurity, few real opportunities, and all the challenges of being poor immigrants in the United States.

*Life interrupted* will be of interest to anyone who wants to understand how the dark side of globalization plays out in the United States. By focusing on the daily experience of forced labour and its aftermath, it avoids the sensationalism of sex trafficking while taking us into the much larger story of how millions of immigrants deal with the abuse and exploitation that define their daily lives. It is a very readable, powerful, and important book that deserves widespread attention.

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EGOROVA, YULIA & SHAHID PERWEZ. *The Jews of Andhra Pradesh: contesting caste and religion in*