

Maddalena Marinari. *Unwanted: Italian and Jewish Mobilization against Restrictive Immigration Laws, 1882–1965*. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2019). 280 pp., ISBN: 9781469652924.

Marinari's monograph joins a small but significant body of work that brings Italian and Jewish immigrant experiences together. It's a valid exercise. After all, they are two of the largest groups of (white?) immigrants in the US with two distinctly different immigration experiences. In *Unwanted*, the demographic weight of both ethnic groups and the strong influence of both community's leaders make for a convincing comparison, but it is the fact that both groups shared similar strategies of appealing to American family values and family reunion policies that makes the comparison apt.

Marinari is Associate Professor of History at Gustavus Adolphus College. Her expertise is evident from her teaching and publications, including several articles and two co-edited collections on restriction and migration policy. The book's title is an apt one, a nod both to the ways in which restrictionists viewed incoming immigrants in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, but also a fitting description of reform advocates' reception to the many restrictionist policies that were passed during that time.

Unwanted traces the efforts of liberal immigration reform advocates and anti-restrictionists and reflects on their influence on US immigration policy from 1882 to 1965. It does so by uncovering how immigration restriction was shaped by activists on both sides of the debate, but also how reform advocates shifted and evolved their strategies in different eras and contexts to convincingly argue for less discriminatory immigration laws.

The book largely respects a chronological structure, following the passage of immigration legislation from the 1882 Act through to the Immigration and Nationality (Hart-Celler) Act of 1965. Chapter topics include the First World War and the end of open immigration; the literacy test and quota system; the Second World War; the McCarran Walter Act; the Kennedy Act, and the eventual abolition of the quota system. Marinari's central argument is that, although reform advocates did succeed in liberalizing some aspects of US immigration policy in this time period, "the pragmatic decisions they made also produced challenges and inequalities that persist to this day." (p. 13) She points out to how both Jews and Italians, while committed to many of the same causes with respect to immigration policy, failed to create successful interethnic alliances.

Marinari relies primarily on the archival records of the leading Jewish and Italian advocacy organizations who played active roles in anti-restrictionist rhetoric and organizing (including, among many others, the American Committee on Italian Mi-

gration and the American Jewish Committee) as well as the personal papers of many of the notable individuals behind this cause. These sources are buttressed by an extensive list of government serial publications, newspapers, and additional secondary sources.

Unwanted is especially effective at sketching a breakdown of policy changes, providing historical context for each legislation change, outlining differing viewpoints, key players, and discussing anti-restrictionist strategies and struggles to insert themselves in the conversation. This is a much-needed contribution to the field, and one that could be replicated for the Canadian context: a better understanding of the anti-restrictionist efforts of groups like the Canadian Jewish Congress against restrictive orders-in-council throughout twentieth-century Canada would be a welcome addition to existing scholarship. But Marinari is clear that this is not the book's ultimate goal, and she is right that it does much more than this. For one, it convincingly argues that rather than policies themselves serving as turning points, it was the experiences of war (the First World War and the Cold War, but most significantly the Second World War) that most viscerally affected ideologies of inclusion, exclusion, and immigration policy during this time. Here, scholars of Canadian Jewry will note parallels with reform advocates' efforts to challenge wartime refugee policies, and their effects in ensuing decades. Although the Canadian context is noted in passing in Marinari's work (including brief discussions on cross-border migrations and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society's efforts to resettle Jewish refugees during the Suez Crisis, including a small number to Canada) this is not the focus of the book. Moreover, Marinari's deliberate and fine-tuned approach to the evolution of policy excellently brings to light her argument that the antirestrictionists' pragmatic concessions (the introduction of a literacy test in 1917, the implementation of a quota system in 1924, and others), while effective, also created a status quo that challenged liberalization and that still persists in contemporary debates on immigration policy.

Lastly, Marinari does not shy away from the connection of her material to the present, and her conclusion especially wrestles with how the themes and developments traced by the book have produced the present landscape of immigration policy. Of particular interest are her reflections on how anti-restrictionists relied heavily on the family unit as the foundation of American civil society, and used this to leverage family reunification as a primary cause. She acknowledges how these decisions were challenged by nativist ideologies in the 1980s and 1990s, when non-white immigrants began to take advantage of these provisions. Although a study on this phenomenon is outside the scope of Marinari's work, it would be a worthwhile and necessary continuation of it.

While Marinari acknowledges the transnational nature of her subjects and makes references (for example, discussions about Jews' connections to Israel and Italian

diplomats' role in policy debates) on occasion, this could be fleshed out further. Similarly, in her last chapter, Marinari makes passing acknowledgement of the effects of major contemporary processes like the civil rights movement and the postwar resettlement of displaced persons on the passing of the Hart-Celler bill into law. Exploring these intersections more deeply could bring in a fresh perspective that would make connections to broader themes not only in American history, but in migration and world history more broadly.

Marinari's extensive discussion of immigration policy, the ins and outs of how bills were crafted, debated, and passed, assumes a working knowledge of US civic organization and the legislative process. As such, the book is best suited for scholars and graduate students who have a foundation in these concepts. It will be of importance to anyone with an interest in the Jewish and Italian immigrant experiences in the US, but also those who study immigration, activism, and foreign and domestic policy more broadly.

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