

whose pages teem with insights too numerous even to mention here. This is a book to be read and pondered not only by devotees of military and educational history, but by all interested observers of contemporary affairs.

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*Ethnic History in Pennsylvania: A Selected Bibliography.* By JOHN E. BODNAR. (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1974. Pp. 47. Introduction. \$1.00.)

For those interested in ethnic studies and specifically the ethnic experience in Pennsylvania, a valuable tool has recently been published in John E. Bodnar's *Ethnic History in Pennsylvania: A Selected Bibliography*. This collection of sources, both published and unpublished, although selective and spotty, yet provides a basis for the more extensive work that must be done in depicting the state's complex and rich ethnic mosaic. In that sense, it is a working companion for the historian, pointing up what is known and what still needs to be uncovered.

The scholarly literature assembled by the head of the Ethnic Studies Program of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission deals with the experiences and adjustments of the various minority groups who settled in William Penn's Quaker haven from colonial times to the present. Nevertheless, the emphasis is upon the nineteenth-century immigrants — Germans, Irish, English, black slaves, the early Jews — and this is an admitted weakness in the sampling from both a chronological and a sociological point of view. Bodnar himself laments the fact that little is known of the blacks in the twentieth-century Pennsylvania city, of immigrant laborers in the factories of Pittsburgh, of Jewish peddlers, of Slavic miners, or of immigrant boys and girls in silk and cigar factories. These were the people, often nameless and forgotten, who put their shoulders to the wheel to build a heterogeneous society characterized by the ongoing social processes of adjustment and fragmentation, assimilation and factionalism, ending in melting pot or seething caldron, as the case may be.

In the rush to make right the wrongs of centuries of neglect and

patronizing omission and as an offshoot of the burgeoning racial and ethnic consciousness of the 1950s and 1960s, historians and social scientists have begun to reconstruct a broad panorama of ethnic experiences and histories. Some of this has been interpretive, analytical, as well as historical, and one thinks immediately of the excellent efforts of Milton M. Gordon, Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., Rudolph J. Vecoli, Gordon W. Allport, Oscar Handlin, Joan W. Moore, and Herbert J. Gans, to cite only a very few. Others, better nameless, have been swept along by the trend but have forgotten Clio's advice that to stray far from the evidence is to stray into oblivion. This is where Bodnar's work makes its greatest impact, for it provides the essential building blocks necessary for a clearer appreciation of a complex and difficult historical problem. We would all be better off if there were more studies of this kind at our disposal — specific, well defined, and somewhat more comprehensive — to aid us in our search for that most elusive entity — understanding.

In short, this is an intelligently selected collection of secondary material which will be useful for students and scholars of Pennsylvania social history, but whose usefulness will be impaired for reasons of limitations of depth and scope of sampling.

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*Nuclear Navy, 1946-1962.* By RICHARD G. HEWLETT and FRANCIS DUNCAN. (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1974. Pp. xv, 477. Foreword, preface, illustrations, appendixes, notes, sources, index. \$12.50.)

Nuclear propulsion revolutionized undersea warfare in the years after World War II. To a lesser extent the application of atomic energy to surface vessels gave them a logistical freedom and radius of action unprecedented since the sailing era. Richard G. Hewlett and Francis Duncan, two Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) historians, have written a superb administrative and technological history of the navy's nuclear power project. The book spans those remarkable years from 1939, when the Naval Research Laboratory first took an interest in fission experiments, to 1962, when the navy possessed a fleet of thirty atomic-powered warships.