

ing the best possible decisions. The authors detail how to prevent many of the hardships that youths encounter. Davis and Jackson realize some hardships cannot be avoided, but it is still possible for youths to enjoy their lives by minimizing potential risks.

Davis and Jackson challenge youths to take control over their own lives, because if they do not, someone else will. According to the authors, youths engage in self-defeating behavior by not thinking critically about the possible consequences of short-term pleasures, and thereby waste time necessary to advance their lives. The authors urge youths not to reinforce the negative images in the media and within their communities.

Davis and Jackson tend to dramatize potential hardships and provide unsupported claims to strengthen their arguments. Nevertheless, they capture the complexity of the decisions facing African-American youths and provide a valuable point of reference for those without direction.

Aaron P. Ogletree  
Anthropology Review Database

#### 16-3-0301

Durand, Frederic. *East Timor: A Country at the Crossroads of Asia and the Pacific*. Seattle: Silkworm Books; dist. by Univ. of Washington Press, 2007. 202 pp. Illus. ISBN-13 978-974-9575-98-7, \$50.00 (pb).

Unlike a dry atlas, Durand captures the trials and triumphs of the East Timorese in a methodical and comprehensive manner. The birth of a nation is a momentous event often marked by excitement and anticipation. When a nation has experienced the tumultuous path of sacrifice and suffering, the way East Timor has, the excitement and anticipation begs for a moment of pause.

This book provides the reader with several occasions to contemplate and reflect on the events and the participants. What starts as a rather clinical documentation of geo-historic facts of East Timor soon turns into a parable of restoration and rebirth. This book will interest the patient and the curious; the future of the East Timorese is yet to be written. Detailed text and colorful illustrations make the book an interesting read. Durand succeeds in reporting with the objective passion of a scientist, yet educating with a spirit of compassion for the human aspect of the subject.

Raj Devasagayam  
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#### 16-3-0302

Miller, Toby. *Cultural Citizenship: Cosmopolitanism, Consumerism, and Television in a Neoliberal Age*. Philadelphia: Temple Univ. Press, 2007. 248 pp. ISBN-13 978-1-59213-561-5, \$23.95 (pb).

Miller's book discusses the ideas of American citizenship and culture through the lens of television. He explores what cultural citizenship is, the war on terrorism on television (aka the American media and how Miller believes they caved in to the Bush administration and their pro-war stance), television food shows, and the role of the weather on television.

The book is relatively short, with only 236 pages of text and

extensive references. Miller packs in as much information as he possibly can—perhaps too much information and too many ideas. The book and the reader could have been better served with a longer book or by having each chapter as its own separate entity. Miller, a professor of English, sociology, and women's studies at the University of California–Riverside, has a lot to say, but he loses his audience trying to do too much. While this book is often interesting and thought-provoking, it also falls flat with sections filled with unproductive negative comments and what seem like attacks against people and organizations that Miller does not personally like. While many sections will be controversial, this volume will find readers in the American, culture, and media studies departments.

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#### 16-3-0303

Montero-Sieburth, Martha and Meléndez, Edwin, eds. *Latinos in a Changing Society*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood/Praeger, 2007. 286 pp. ISBN-13 978-0-275-96233-3, \$39.95.

As the Latino population of the United States grows, more attention has started to be focused on their role in society. Significantly, current explorations do not simply examine how society affects Hispanics/Latinos but also how they affect society. Making an invaluable contribution to this conversation is *Latinos in a Changing Society*, edited by Montero-Sieburth from the University of Massachusetts–Boston and Meléndez of the New School. They have brought together the writings of 15 scholars whose works are broken into two parts: The Changing Demographics of Latinos, and The Changing Social, Educational, and Legal Issues Affecting Latinos.

Rather than summarize information about the Latino population of the United States in general, the authors focus specifically on issues that relate to Dominicans, Mexicans, Cubans, and Puerto Ricans. Through extensive analytical data often expressed in tables and charts, the authors examine the disparity of poverty, the difficulty of health care and services, labor practices, interaction with communities, and education. Each chapter also contains extensive notation and some include bibliographies. The initial chapter of the book, "The New Nativism and Latinos in a Changing Society" by the authors sets the tone of the book by encapsulating the primary issues and examining specifically the xenophobia found in California and Massachusetts. The successive chapters are profound, and at times complex, but significant in providing insight into what is needed in terms of policy analysis, research, and public awareness to advance Latinos in the future. This is a valuable book and should be part of any collection that deals with modern immigration.

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#### 16-3-0304

Shandy, Dianna J. *Nuer-American Passages: Globalizing Sudanese Migration*. Gainesville: Univ. Press of Florida, 2007. 224 pp. ISBN-13 978-0-8130-3047-0, \$59.95.

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