

Malyn Newitt.

Emigration and the Sea. An Alternative History of Portugal and the Portuguese. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015. 256pp.

Malyn Newitt is a distinguished historian of Portuguese Africa, especially Mozambique, and needs little introduction to students of the Portuguese World. In his most recent work, Newitt has provided a broad survey of the Portuguese global diaspora in early modern and modern times. Until the appearance of this work, studies of the Portuguese diaspora were limited to very specific places and periods (e.g. "The Portuguese in Guiana in the Twentieth Century"). Newitt has united this very disparate collection of secondary works in a masterful and beautifully written survey.

Emigration has been a very large theme in Portuguese historical writing, especially for the nineteenth century. Historians of the early modern period constantly mention it as well but for most of the modern era its impact has generally been reduced to Portugal itself. That is, numbers of emigrants, places of origin, destinations, etc. Emigration has been one of the very few constants in Portuguese history since 1500 and this work by Newitt is able to tie together many loose strands to make a coherent picture. He clearly shows where the Portuguese emigrated and when. Answering the "why" is harder, but Newitt does that as well, both directly and indirectly.

The first chapter introduces the reader to Portuguese emigration and the Portuguese diaspora in general. In this chapter, Newitt outlines a number of characteristics of Portuguese emigration (pp. 9-12), which include a six-hundred-year time span, emigrant groups included many different types of people, Portuguese emigration included people from beyond Portugal itself, and finally Portuguese emigration involved one very specific group: the Sephardic Jewish community. The second chapter provides a brief overview of early modern Portuguese history with emphasis on emigration. Newitt notes the frequently cited estimates provided by Magalhães Godinho of annual and total emigrants leaving Portugal from 1400 to 1850. These posit that around 3,500 people left Portugal annually in

the sixteenth century, almost twice that number in the period up to 1640; 2,500 annually for the remainder of the seventeenth century, and many more (8,000 to 10,000 annually) in the eighteenth century. Chapter three focuses on the Atlantic Islands and Newitt discusses the factors that would eventually encourage emigration from them: "By the end of the eighteenth century, all three groups of islands (i.e. the Azores, Madeira and Cape Verde) were experiencing the imbalance between the needs of the growing peasant population and the concentration of land in the hands of a few landowners. All three island groups also suffered the effects of periodic natural disasters..." (p. 55). Newitt notes that emigration was island and even village specific, giving emigration from these islands unique characteristics. Chapter four centers on the Portuguese Jewish diaspora, one of the few subjects with an extensive literature, such as the Portuguese Jewish community in Amsterdam. Subsequent chapters concentrate on the Portuguese in Asia, noting that during early modern times Portuguese migrated to Asia in search of prosperity, while in more recent times Asians in Portuguese India (notably Goans and people from Diu) used imperial Portuguese connections to prosper in Mozambique and elsewhere. In chapter six, Newitt turns to the Portuguese in Brazil, where between the period from 1872 to 1972, some 1.6 million Portuguese relocated, largely to Rio de Janeiro (p. 124). In chapter seven, "The Twentieth Century," he notes that Brazil was the destination of choice for most Portuguese until the 1960s, when it was replaced by northern Europe, especially France. The next chapter on the Portuguese in Europe notes the growth of the Portuguese presence in Switzerland and Luxembourg as well as the UK. Particularly noteworthy in this chapter were his comments on the double presence of Portuguese communities in many locales. That is, a community of hard working but low salaried hotel and restaurant workers on the one hand and the professionals, professors, artists, and writers on the other, and the wide gulf between them. The last chapters concentrate on the Americas (Argentina, Venezuela, Canada), the U.S., and Africa. He concludes the work briefly with, "The Portuguese and the Sea."

Until the early years of the twentieth century, the bulk of this emigration was single males from the "rural areas of northern Portugal and the islands," which then shifted to include a higher percentage of women and families after 1960, leading to a decline in Portugal's overall population in the period from 1960 to 1970. This was countered by the influx of those returning from Africa in the period directly following the 1974 revolution, "adding as much as 10% to the population" (pp. 143-145).

People emigrate for a better life and generally it is people who have little who have the most to gain from adopting a new life in a new place. These statements are generally true and often cited in regard to Portuguese emigrants. Emigration is a two pronged process of push and pull. In this case, the push is lack of land, jobs or opportunity in Portugal, while the pull is frequently from family, former members of the village or other close connections who have prospered abroad.

To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing in the literature that approaches the global sweep and comprehensive nature of this work. It is a book that anyone interested in the Portuguese and their history will want to read.

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