

of imbalance to Schwarzfusch's book. In its early chapters, there are a few places where the reader may feel overwhelmed by minute detail (as in the description on how Jewish representatives were selected in the communities of eastern France to prepare *cahiers de doléances* in 1789). In the later chapters of the book, however, one is sometimes left hungry for more information. There is little in Schwarzfuchs' book concerning the demographic history of French Jewry, for example, nor is there much discussion of the lives of ordinary French Jews.

Of course, Schwarzfuchs' book is essentially a survey text and, as such, it is heavily dependent on the previous work of other historians. The literature of Franco-Jewish history in general has slighted the post-Napoleonic era and the social history of nineteenth-century French Jewry, and there is little that the author of a comprehensive survey can do to fill all the gaps that this has left. It is to be hoped that in the future, scholars interested in the modern Jewish experience will pay more attention to those dimensions of Franco-Jewish history that have previously been ignored, but in the meantime, *Du Juif à l'israélite* will remain one of the very best accounts available of French Jewry in the era of the Revolution and in the century that followed.

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Gershon Shafir — *Land, labor and the origins of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, 1882-1914*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989. Pp. 288.

Gershon Shafir has made a useful addition to the recent series of revisionary works on the history of Zionism and Israel. As with the works of such authors as Benny Morris and Joe Palumbo, he emphasizes material factors in Palestine as a basis for his analysis eschewing the Zionist ideals and intentions-type literature that dominated the explanations of events previously.

Shafir takes up in point of detail — six separate phases — the problem of how the Zionist settlers dealt with the Palestinians and the Yemeni Jews before World War One.

He characterizes the solution of the First Aliya as that of a bifurcated economy, following at this point the line of a political economy debate adopted some years ago by Nathan Weinstock and before that by Labor Zionists.

Limited opportunities to expand and limited finances from abroad turned the Yishuv in on itself during the Second Aliya, the decade before World War One, giving it its dual character-laborist and exclusivist. Its working class was historically ready to compromise with the Palestinians over land and nationality, but the radical rightwing nationalists created by the same environment were not. The Jewish working class was in essence pushed into nationalism as part of its economic struggle to survive; Shamir finds this to be a case of "failed conquest of labor". He develops this point by making a comparison of the Israeli and the Australian working classes, the latter succeeding in blocking the introduction of coolie labor to Australia and remaining immune politically to expansionist ideology. One can not help but wondering if this line of thought has some utility for explaining the popularity of the recent US invasions of Panama and

Grenada. A second feature of the decade before World War One was the Yishuv's turn to Palestinian agricultural labor as well as Yemeni Jewish labor to permit Zionist enterprises to survive on the world market. Shafir's research reveals that the Yemeni option was favored by the Planters' Society (Agudat Netaim) and that it did not lead, as had been hoped, to a displacement of Palestinian Arabs but rather to a deepened casteism or ethnicism among Jews, again something akin to what happened in the US. It is from this period that Ashkenazi prejudice against the Yemeni Jewish worker crystallized. Finally, from this period comes the Kibbutz which Shafir finds to have little to do with the supposed Russian tradition of some of the immigrants arising instead out of the conflict of Jewish agricultural workers with the World Zionist Organization, a conflict intensified by the economic competition with Arab farmers, who could function at a lower cost level. The Kibbutz was in fact a cost-lowering device.

Shafir's work suggests that the material about the Zionist enterprise to be found in the archives for this period sheds more light on the Jewish settlers from Europe than from Yemen, much less the Arabs. Future researchers will want to compose a work more centered in the Yemeni experience for these years. Palestinian historiography, too, still has many gaps. Shafir's work is like much of that of Colonial American history, work handicapped by being uprooted from a larger dynamic that is somehow partially still not known. It is commendable that he realizes this and maximizes comparisons to the other settler states. His thesis of the co-optation of the labor movement by nationalism would be interesting to promote in comparative history. It will need to be reconciled, however, with some important trends in labor history which are rejecting the worker as economic man in favor of a more multi-focal view of the worker, a view giving weight to politics, culture and gender.

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T.C. Willett — *A Heritage at Risk. The Canadian Militia as a Social Institution*, coll. IUS Special Editions on Armed Forces and Society, n° 1, Boulder and London, Westview Press, c1987, xviii, 269 p., app. biblio., index.

Écrire que les sociologues canadiens ont porté peu d'intérêt au fait militaire est un euphémisme. Il convient donc de souligner la parution du livre de T.C. Willett, *A Heritage at Risk. The Canadian Militia as a Social Institution*. Professeur émérite de sociologie à l'Université Queen's, l'auteur est un ancien militaire britannique qui a immigré au Canada en 1970. Resté très attaché au métier des armes, il a choisi d'étudier la milice justement à cause de cette affection et son livre est un fervent plaidoyer en sa faveur.

Son ouvrage s'appuie sur une enquête écrite et orale qui a exigé beaucoup de travail. Trois cent deux (302) officiers, dont 40 femmes, et 31 sergents-majors régimentaires, provenant de 29 unités de milice, 18 d'entre elles étant des régiments d'infanterie, ont rempli le questionnaire reproduit à l'annexe B. De plus, l'auteur a mené des centaines d'interviews, dans plus de cent quartiers généraux et unités, auprès d'officiers de milice (dont le commandant, le commandant adjoint, le capitaine-adjutant et le