

Excerpts from reviews on the volume Galitzi, Christine Avghi. *A Study of Assimilation Among the Roumanians in the United States*. Pp. 282 New York: Columbia University Press, 1929.

"From the technological point of view there are many advantages in selecting one of the smaller immigrant groups for scientific study. The problem is more comprehensible, the materials are more compact, and the governing forces are likely to stand out more clearly than in the case of a large group like the Italians or the Germans. Miss Galitzi's excellent study of the Roumanians illustrates this principle admirably" (pp. 218-219).

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"Perhaps the dominant impression gained by the reader is the amazing prosperity revealed. Radios, Buick cars, and eight-room houses seem to be routine matters among the Roumanians, and instances of extreme poverty and economic degradation seem almost nonexistent. One cannot help wondering whether the Roumanians are an exceptionally able people, or whether there is some direct relationship between small numbers and economic success in an immigrant group. From the point of view of migration theory, perhaps the most significant contribution made by Miss Galitzi is her argument that a closely knit, self-contained ethnic organization is an essential condition for successful assimilation in this country. Contrary to customary opinion, she holds that foreign-American clubs, churches, lodges, and other institutions, instead of being barriers to assimilation, are indispensable intermediate agencies in the assimilative process, serving as barriers against the complete social disorganization and disorientation of the foreigner which unfits him for competent participation in the group life of any community. Just as vigorous, unified nations are an indispensable condition for a wholesome international life, so well-integrated and socially adjusted personalities are essential for the proper functioning of a nation. This work will take its place among the detailed inductive studies out of which a science of migration will eventually emerge (p.219)"

Henry Pratt Fairchild

In *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Val. 149, Part 1: The Second Industrial Revolution and Its Significance (May, 1930), pp. 218-219

"This careful study is a contribution to our slight knowledge about the Roumanians in the United States. The author was born in Roumania and is familiar with both the language and the various cultural back-grounds of Roumanian immigrants. She also shows herself proficient in writing the English language.

..... Roumanian Jews were excluded from the study because of the author's unfamiliarity with Jewish traditions; consequently, the chief groups studied are three: the Roumanians from the Old Kingdom; the Transylvanians from pre-war Austria-Hungary, who make up the large majority; and the Roumanian Macedonians. Her general point of view is that of the cultural approach, the adjustment of the transported Roumanian peasant culture to that of industrial America constituting the chief problem.

Assimilation is conceived of in its broadest sense to include the three stages of economic adjustment, cultural identification, and ethnic amalgamation. To complete this process requires at least three generations. As a whole, the Roumanians have been in this country only long enough to get well into the second stage of cultural assimilation. While the author holds to a theory of Americanization wherein "each ethnic group contributes its genius to the development of American culture, by adding its cultural heritage to the Anglo-Saxon foundation upon which the latter is built" (p. 169) the facts she presents and her own discussion of them seem to show that the give and take is very unequal. In reality, assimilation seems to mean a more or less rapid substitution of the new culture for the old rather than a mutual modification" (p.155).

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"Chapter x discusses the first and second generations, and includes a summary of twenty cases taken from a survey of a hundred Roumanian families in Chicago. They give us a picture of the variety of adjustments made within one small group, as well as

indicate the variety of factors involved. One wishes, however, that somewhat more material of an autobiographical nature had been included. This volume, with its judicious interpretations and conclusions, seems to show that the Roumanians are not the hopeless candidates for Americanization that Nordic propagandists have implied in their derogatory statements about "Southeastern Europeans" (pp.155-156).

Everett V. Stonequist , in *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 36, No. 1 (Jul., 1930), pp. 155-156

Text selections – Dumitru Sandu