women is ... the potential for change, for women and minorities and labor and elderly people ... because we're a majority of every ... group and have a responsibility in every one of those groups” (239). “We are not going to have to fight men to secure our equality. What we really have to do is fight together with men in order to create a society in which we can share equally in the great resources of the nation” (237). In the attempt to turn back the night the conference is a brighter light.

University of Kansas

M.E. Fowler


This book contains extensive information on Appalachians as an urban ethnic group, their migrations to urban areas, and attainments, particularly in the cities of Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Atlanta. These cities have been the primary receiving areas for the 3.3 million Appalachian migrants since 1950, and this book shows the socioeconomic and cultural conditions that Appalachians face in these midwestern and mid-Atlantic metropolitan areas.

Research shows the importance of kinship networks in the migration process and post migration adjustment, as well as the prime motive for leaving Appalachia. Most of those who migrate do so in the belief that economic opportunities in the urban areas outside the region are better than those where they lived. In part, because of their deficient educational backgrounds, Appalachians fare worse than other urban residents in terms of occupational achievement. A Cincinnati study reports that Appalachians have the highest high school drop-out rate in Cincinnati city neighborhoods and the future adverse effect of lower educational attainment may contribute to continued low achievement. Some evidence suggests that Appalachians have migrated to urban ghettos where they experience low achievement and high unemployment and grow wary of institutionalized attempts to assist them. Other research, however, reveals many Appalachians never experience life in urban ghettos; instead they initially distribute themselves throughout the cities, taking positions comparable to those they left. The tentative nature of these findings suggest that more research needs to be done on these people.

All of the authors reject the typical stereotypes of Appalachian migrants and show concern for the social welfare of those who are not making it in these metropolitan areas. The research presented is extensive but, as many of the authors state, many findings are limited since the samples were not always representative of the populations studied. Better sampling procedures and
more extensive followup studies could greatly enhance the knowledge compiled in this book. In short, one knows where the migrants came from; where they went; but research has only begun to learn how well the Appalachians have fared. Further research is needed and the authors provide many suggestions for future research on urban Appalachians.

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Wendy L. Ryan