meant that they shared legal disabilities with aliens when it came to voting, holding office, and even exercising rights over property” (p. 47). Chapter 3 probes the emerging conception of volitional citizenship in the fledgling United States after the American Revolution. Focusing on the pre–Civil War period, chapter 4 describes the adoption of universal white male suffrage combined with second-class citizenship for women, the poor, and free blacks, and noncitizenship for certain free blacks and Native Americans. Foreigners had limited legal rights as well. Chapter 5 analyzes the “rise of the federal immigration order” in the late 1800s with the enactment by Congress of a series of discriminatory acts known as the Chinese Exclusion Laws, which the Supreme Court immunized from ordinary constitutional review. Not surprisingly, “Chinese Americans were frequently subjected to the same treatment as Chinese immigrants” (p. 119). Chapter 6 summarizes the emergence in the early twentieth century of a system of immigration controls, including ceilings on immigration from southern and eastern Europe. Minorities already living in the United States suffered similar legal disabilities and controls. The interment of persons of Japanese ancestry, including U.S. citizens and immigrants, during World War II was “the most egregious instance of impressing non-belonging upon Asian-American citizens” (p. 179). Chapter 7 reviews the post–World War II “rights revolution,” a period when immigration and nationality laws became color-blind but, as implemented, had racially disparate impacts.

Making Foreigners offers important insights about the relationship between the nation’s treatment of domestic minorities and foreigners. As might be expected of any attempt to synthesize four centuries of complex legal and social history, one might quibble with what was—and was not—included in the analysis. The right to travel between states and the restrictions imposed by the Supreme Court on expatriation, for example, seem peripheral to the book’s immigration and civil rights focus. Alternatively, more could have been said about the modern immigration state, with record numbers of detentions and removals of immigrants over the last twenty years, the myopic contemporary focus on the removal of “criminal aliens,” and the murky line between citizens and noncitizens in the national security measures directed at Muslims, aliens and citizens alike.

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Staging Migrations toward an American West by Marta Effinger-Crichlow is a historical exploration of black women’s migrations westward. Effinger-Crichlow describes the theatrical and everyday lived experiences of black female migrants to “expose the complexities of their struggles for sociopolitical emancipation” (p. 2).

In the introduction Effinger-Crichlow defines the term migration by stressing the significance of the east-to-west movement of black women (as opposed to the standard historical narrative of the south-to-north migration) and how this migration helped establish the identity of the American West. For example, chapter 1 follows the travels of the journalist Ida B. Wells, who penned an editorial in 1892 about the lynching in Memphis of Thomas Moss. Witnesses claimed that in his final moments, Moss exclaimed, “Tell my people to go West—there is no justice for them here” (p. 19). Effinger-Crichlow quotes Moss’s last words in relation to Wells’s ironic west-to-east migration (since Wells had returned to the South from California by the time this lynching occurred). Using archival material, such as Wells’s diary, Effinger-Crichlow uses Wells’s travel patterns to support the argument that Wells “staged” her movements—thereby challenging the mythos of the American West (p. 40).

Chapter 2 focuses on the Black Patti Troubadours, a group that transgressed traveling boundaries normally applied to blacks in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Effinger-Crichlow argues that the westward
The migration of these traveling entertainers, both as a group and as individuals, helped expand possibilities for other black women engaged in westward travel.

Chapter 3 traces the migration of six women to the San Francisco Bay area from 1940 to 1945 to work for the shipbuilding industry. Effinger-Crichlow argues that these volitional, vocational wartime migrations “simultaneously and tactically staged respectability,” which the women could use to “combat racist and sexist constructions of black female identity” (p. 115).

Effinger-Crichlow’s fourth chapter contains the book’s most “theatrical” example of east-west migration, both figuratively and literally. This chapter chronicles the Medea Project: Theatre for Incarcerated Women, founded by the performance artist Rhodessa Jones in 1989, and deconstructs the definition of migration by examining women who are inmates and, therefore, “policed and controlled” (p. 180). Thus, the chapter focuses on the effects of stifled black female movement.

A reader’s definitions of staging and performance may determine her or his interest in Effinger-Crichlow’s argument. She utilizes these terms as part of her historical and theoretical framework, rather than in the context of theatrical practice. Consequently, readers looking for a book that discusses the West as found in Pearl Cleage’s Flyin’ West (1995) will not find it here. In addition, Effinger-Crichlow’s chapters read as separate articles organized under a larger thematic umbrella. However, readers looking for an intersectionality-influenced, history-based way of thinking about migration as a “performance” of everyday life—especially in the lives of black women—will find this a wonderful text to incorporate into their library.

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Rural America. Ed. by Antje Kley and Heike Paul. (Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2015. 510 pp. €70.00.)

This volume comprises five keynote addresses and sixteen selected workshop papers from the sixtieth annual conference of the German Association for American Studies, held in 2013 at the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg. A final section, an artistic appendix, reprints Stewart O’Nan’s short story “Calling,” and a portfolio of images from the 2008 Heartlands: Sketches of Rural America project by the Austrian photographer Andreas Horvath. In their introduction, the editors Antje Kley and Heike Paul set up “five ways of thinking about rural America”: as the historical predecessor of the later urban nation; as a persistent allegorical image of America at large; as a collection of “culturally specific milieus contrasting with urban or metropolitan spaces”; as an aggregation of larger geographic regions; and as the subject of critical regionalist reflection (pp. 9, 5).

Those categories are rich but even so cannot do justice to the array of suggestive work presented here. I learned from each of the essays not only because of what they said about their topics but also because of their varied methods and theoretical perspectives. In a brief review, it is not possible to give much detail. I especially recommend the pieces dealing with music (whether that of Johnny Cash or Kurt Weill); film (the western, the conservative agitprop piece Fire from the Heartland [2010] or The Horse Whisperer [1998]); and, more generally, those that take up a wide variety of textual works (from Charles Brockden Brown’s Arthur Mervyn [1799] to James Weldon Johnson’s The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man [1912], with stops along the way at John Rollin Ridge’s The Life and Adventures of Joaquin Murieta [1854], Henry David Thoreau’s Walden [1854], and a sort of coda concerned with Jane Smiley’s A Thousand Acres [1991]).

Even these glimpses fail to do justice to the collective richness.

Region is a means of exploring both older and newer American studies approaches, from the “pastoralism” of Leo Marx to the “ecocriticism” of Larry Buell. And race, gender, and other forms of difference figure complexly in considerations of rural life and public policy. (I would have liked to see, though, attention paid to ethnicity understood in older European terms—German immigrant groups in the Midwest, for instance.) To name two particu-