

CHARLES C. MOSKOS, Jr., Greek Americans: Struggle and Success.

Ethnic Groups in American Life Series. Englewood Cliffs, N. J.; Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1980. Pp. xii+162. Cloth \$9.95. Paperback \$6.95.

Ethnic studies have now become as legitimate an area of study in sociology as immigrant history and are particularly important for an understanding of the complexities of contemporary American society. Charles Moskos, himself a second-generation Greek American professor in the Department of Sociology at Northwestern University, has provided us with a valuable synthesis of those studies that have been done of the Greek American up to this point in a compact but fact-filled and insightful volume that is absolutely consistent with the series editor's objective that «This series of books will attempt to provide the American public with a descriptive and analytic overview of its heritage in the third quarter of the twentieth century from the viewpoint of relevant social science. Each book on a particular ethnic group is written by an expert in the field of intergroup relations and in many cases the author derives ethnically himself from that group» (Milton M. Gordon).

Professor Moskos devotes his seven chapters to «The Greek Comes to America»; «Greek America Forms»; «The Greek—American Community»; «Greek—American Themes»; «Making It In America»; «Growing up Greek—American; A Family and Personal Memoir»; and «The Sociology of Greek Americans». There is an appendix with a section on Greek Australians, an excellent selected bibliography, and index. In dealing with his subject the author has divided the Greek American experience into five more or less distinct stages. Though he is careful to note that the basic social patterns overlap across several of the periods there were and are counteracting tendencies against prevailing trends. These stages consist of (1) a time of false starts in the period before 1890; (2) the era of mass migration from 1890 to 1920; (3) the formation of Greek American institutions from 1920 to 1940; (4) an era of consolidation from 1940 to 1965 within Greek America; (5) the contemporary period since 1965 of increasing Greek—American diversity. Dr. Moskos sees that the current interpretations try to understand the Greek Americans in terms of cohesiveness and similarities. From this vantage point many Greek immigrants can be viewed as having entered the middle class and achieved high economic and educational standing in the second and third generations with due recognition being given to the role of the Greek Orthodox Church in molding the patterns of Greek ethnic identity. «Paradoxically, enough, American-born Greeks have become more like each other in their common middle-class standing, social values, and communal participation than are the Greeks of Greece where class, regional, and political lines are more sharply drawn. The 'melting pot' metaphor has been a better describer of the homogenization of American-born Greeks with regard to each other than it is of their absorption into the general American population» (p. 143).

Still one has to be conscious of differences and conflicts among Greek Americans. A sizeable proportion of immigrants never advanced from the working class. Moskos believes that those in the very highest positions and those blue-collar workers who are locked in do not actively participate in Greek—American social life, and that there exists an anticlerical element. There is currently also the juxtaposition of a middle class grouping of older immigrants and their American-born offspring and a large number of new immigrants who are still at the bottom of the American social structure. Dr. Moskos sees differentiation and

