

suggestion that Italian migrants sought the independence of small business to escape the hostility and racism experienced in the work place. Ultimately, the authors' positive view of Italian migrants is due to the fact that they are seen to belong to the working class; once they enter the world of small business then one does not know what to do with them. We are revealingly told that small business occupies a "contradictory class location in class analysis"; hence the difficulties and the tensions in giving a fully satisfactory account. Needless to say, the successes in the world of big business are underplayed and we are told that the Italian community has not benefited "from the success of the rich view".

One could multiply the examples in which ideological intervention aims at correcting the presentation of evidence that could lend itself to a different interpretation. In a few cases rapid and controversial value-judgments are introduced without a proper discussion. These involve the role of Co.As.It., Filef, *Il Globo* and *Nuovo Paese* as well as the Salemi case and political personalities. It is not possible to engage in a proper discussion of these issues in this context.

The discussion on multiculturalism is fairly extensive. Again the authors clearly prefer the rights/welfare model of multiculturalism viewed in terms of cultural and linguistic pluralism. The latter is considered as conservative, the former radical. Again we have an ultimately simplistic ideological position which leads inevitably, and not so paradoxically, to an assimilationist perspective. If migrants are considered in terms of class and gender, then culture becomes peripheral. What is important is class and gender consciousness. And of course a view of society in view of class and gender conflict cannot be interested in cultural maintenance and cannot ultimately explain culture in the wider sense but at best some sub-cultural codes.

The book is, on the whole, very useful. It does provide a serious account of the Italian presence in Australia and a serious discussion of many broader issues affecting the total society. It is by no means sure that a clear connection, causal or otherwise, is established between the Italo-Australian contribution and the broader picture. The latter functions at times as a context and at

times as an intrusion. At another level, the book's ideological and teleological movement seems at odds with the emphasis on disparateness and discontinuity which characterise our post-modernist era.

Australia's Italians: CULTURE AND COMMUNITY IN A CHANGING SOCIETY definitely deserves to be read but not uncritically.

BOOK LAUNCH

VICTORIA MARKET, by Nino Randazzo, is a play in three acts, published in both English and Italian. The English translation is by the late Colin McCormick. Launched at Co.As.It. at the Annual General Meeting on 9 December, 1992, its publication was supported by a grant from the Australia Council.

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