

traditional gur-sugar and the position of village heads was less dominant. Particularly in Bengal there was a fragmentation of land, complicating the task to get enough land close to the factory. It was not before the twentieth century that the control over production factors increased in India. The government stepped in with irrigation works and high duties on imported Java-sugar. In Java as well as in Bombay Deccan and Madras the plantation model resulted not in involution, but in less upward mobility and increasingly skewed distribution of land.

By comparing trajectories of Java and three regions in India, the author correctly stresses the role of place and space as an initial context and a process instead of a passive background. It is good to see maps in a social-history study. It is a pity therefore that names in the shaded regions of India cannot be read and several regions mentioned in the text are not shown. The maps of Java incorrectly locate Malang on top of the Semeru volcano, Yogyakarta on the coast, and western Tegal as not producing sugar. References to ecology are often vague, or serve as simple explanation for e.g. the lack of higher yields after irrigation works (p. 136). The argument that the factories needed to control the fields and labour is convincing. However, this argument is overstated by saying that making the most powerful local farmers their allies was the *only* way to achieve this (p. 213). Irrigation was not only a technological blessing. The advanced irrigation systems in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century gave government and manufacturers complete control over the distribution of water. In Java the population was under pressure to provide land at low prices because otherwise water could be withheld during (part of) the dry season. In spite of these remarks, this book should be read by anybody interested in the history of these colonies or the development of global commodities.

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David W. Gutzke, *Women drinking out in Britain since the early twentieth century* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2014) 304 p. ISBN 978-0-7190-5264-4.

Although some useful articles have been written about women drinking in public places, this book by historian David Gutzke is a welcome addition to the rather limited historiography. His monograph forms a cultural history dealing with British women's thoughts and behaviour regarding alcoholic beverages, and the societal forces that influenced them. The story is familiar, yet remarkable. The cultural factors that played a role in the evolution of women's drinking habits are well known: the patriarchal values governing public life during most of the twentieth century, social Progressivism, the two World Wars that changed gender relations, first- and second-wave feminism, and the historical class segmentation of British society. Re-

markable, however, are the inner workings of the pub world, a realm dominated by men that proved strikingly resilient to those very same societal changes. Consequently, the history of women drinking out in Britain is to a large degree a tale of women being made to feel unwelcome in typically masculine spaces.

The book is comprised of eleven chapters, which cover a variety of topics, ranging from women asserting themselves into pub life during the World Wars, to brewers' sexist advertisements, to binge-drinking through the ages. Gutzke uses a wide range of sources, and devotes significant attention to setting the record straight with regard to the *number* of women drinking out in Britain during the twentieth century. But the real focus is on *why* these numbers remained relatively low for such a long time. Gutzke offers a diverse set of reasons, and convincingly demonstrates the (subtle and not-so-subtle) opposition women faced for most of the twentieth century when they went out drinking. A complex market, consisting of several types of venues (beer houses, public houses, so-called 'pubcos', wine bars, lounges, style bars) and drinks is eloquently described, while paying attention to the distinct class and gender differences expressed.

With regard to its structure, *Women drinking out...* suffers from the fact that no clear choice has been made on whether to pursue the subject matter chronologically or thematically. Chapter one through eight form a somewhat chronological history, but what follows are chapters on (respectively) current youth culture, the political reaction to alcohol abuse from about 1914 to 2014, and the similarities in the demonization of women and that of youth culture when it comes to their perceived dangerous use of alcohol. Hence this last section reads as three distinct essays, an approach that prevents the book from feeling as a whole. More significantly, it causes notable overlap throughout the book, to the point where paragraphs occasionally look familiar and at times exact quotations are re-used.

More generally, the book lacks a justification for the approach used, resulting in a methodology that is deficient in transparency. To be clear, a wide variety of sources are mentioned in the introduction, and there is in fact a separate, extensive bibliography of primary sources. Yet how they were used and whether they can be considered representative remains obscure. This is most apparent in chapter four, where Gutzke draws conclusions from advertisements while failing to report the popularity of the magazines used, how many ads were examined, and how many of these confirmed his findings as well as negated them.

Similarly, the book contains some broad assertions, especially with regard to interpreting (historical) generations, for which no source material is cited. Gutzke's interpretation of Generation X women as suffering from "insecurity and uncertainty - fostered by AIDS, pessimistic long-term career prospects and financial responsibility for parents [...]" (p. 173) is a generalisation that lacks further explanation or context. This excerpt does not stand on its own. For example, in trying to

show the uniqueness of the current youth culture, this generation is accused of not having a "discerning palate" (p. 206) and of being strongly influenced by what others are drinking. Gutzke also writes: "women's bodies, clothing and appearance attracted notice, not their personalities, thoughts or feelings" (p. 212). One might wonder whether any of these negative traits are specific to current youth culture, especially since the subsequent chapters are oddly enough devoted to putting the differences and similarities between generations into perspective.

Despite these remarks, *Women drinking out...* provides a good synthesis of a wide variety of sources, and Gutzke shows sensitivity for the inner workings of cultural processes. To scholars of either gender or food and drink history, the book should prove a very useful addition to the existing literature.

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Wim van Meurs (et al), *Europa in alle staten. Zestig jaar geschiedenis van de Europese integratie* (Nijmegen: Vantilt, 2013) 351 p. ISBN 978-94-6004-126-6.

De Europese Unie won de voorbije jaren sterk aan belang. Ze bepaalt de marges waarbinnen de nationale politiek nog over manoeuvreerruimte beschikt en ze beïnvloedt diepgaand het leven van de Europese burgers. Niet alleen inzake grote dossiers, zoals de organisatie van de economie, de munt- en begrotingspolitiek of de werking van de interne markt worden de cruciale knopen vandaag in Brussel doorgehakt, maar ook als het gaat over heel concrete dagelijkse zaken zijn het de Europese instellingen die uiteindelijk beslissingen nemen. Hoe een kinder-surprise-ei er moet uitzien is vastgelegd in Europese regelgeving, en hoe vaak de ruitenwissers van een tractor over en weer moeten gaan is Europees gereguleerd, net als de wijze waarop de ogen aan een teddybeer bevestigd moeten zijn.

De impact van Europa is reusachtig, maar tegelijk blijft Europa onbegrepen. In nieuwsberichten komt de Europese Unie wel geregeld aan bod, zeker sinds de eurocrisis. Maar dat nieuws wordt vaak beschouwd als moeilijk en saai. Europa is mysterieus en kan blijkbaar alleen begrepen worden door zonderlinge specialisten. Dat zou niet zo moeten zijn. Europese politiek is niet moeilijker te begrijpen dan ontwikkelingen in de nationale politiek. Europa is boeiender, intrigerender en vaak geestiger dan wordt aangenomen. Waar komen het onbegrip en de vooroordelen dan vandaan?

Voor een belangrijk deel heeft het te maken met een gebrek aan basiskennis. Het gevolg is dat nieuwsberichten door lezers en kijkers niet in hun context kunnen worden gezet en losse flarden blijven zonder duidelijke samenhang. Fei-