M. Ruiz (ed.), *International Migrations in the Victorian Era* (Leiden: Brill, 2018). 568 p. ISBN 9789004366398.

Between 1815 and 1914, millions of people emigrated from and – in less significant number – immigrated to the British Empire. *International migrations in the Victorian Era,* edited by Marie Ruiz, is a collection of twenty articles that aims at highlighting the various schemes and features characterizing these migrations, that numbers alone fail to encapsulate.

The book follows a rather conventional structure, divided into three parts: outward migration, inward migration, and the migration of women and youth. A more theme-specific, dynamic organization would highlight the thematic connections among the articles and better illustrate the added value of the volume. Such an organization is adopted in this brief presentation, which therefore deviates from the order chosen by the editor.

Several of the chapters contribute to the study of how migration was perceived and represented, often in gendered terms. Geraldine Vaughan addresses the historicity and diversity of Irish migrations to contest the traditional narrative of Victorian-Era exceptionality and drama, while Milosz Cybowski studies how the Polish refugee question (following 1830) was negotiated in British public opinion in a complex and dynamic way embedded into the socio-political context of the period. Both articles' argumentation could have been enriched by a comparative approach, like that employed by Daniel Renshaw who explores, through an analysis of two contemporary social investigations, the perception of the late nineteenth-century immigrant communities of New York and London. Briony Wickes studies how, by constructing familiar images, representations of pastoral life in Victorian literature encouraged and legitimized emigration to colonized 'terras incognitas'. Jude Piesse argues that Victorian literary representations of emigration were not homogeneous by revealing how women's poetry and short fiction negotiated dominant gendered representations of emigration that stressed comfortable settlement and 'portable domesticity'. Claire Deligny addresses a very intriguing topic: the intersection of the perceptions of mobility, migration, ethnicity and mental health, and the institutional attitudes that have been thereby generated towards patients of the lunatic asylums of Lancashire (c.1865-1905). In the same vein, Ipshita Nath sheds light on the connection between migrant women's health in India and gendered perceptions of mobility, a connection she traces in medical texts. By presenting the health risks lurking behind female mobility and social activities, these texts reproduced European and imperial ideals of domesticity and motherhood. Kathrin Levitan interestingly brings infrastructure and institutions

into the discussion and argues that cheaper postage and improved postal infrastructure were perceived as contributing to the unification of the empire, alleviating the emotional cost of migration and encouraging emigration. Letters became symbolic and material bonds between people.

Emigration was often seen as a solution to economic hardship, and therefore assisted-migration schemes were proposed and implemented. Six articles address various aspects of this issue, albeit with overlaps. Anne-Catherine de Bouvier and Eric Richards' focus on the perception of emigration as a solution to Ireland's and the Highlands' economic struggle during the Great Famine years. In both cases a Malthusian line of thought encouraged emigration, but the attitudes towards such a recourse were mixed and context-dependent and, in the end, rather skeptical. Veronique Molinari studies the Earl Grey Scheme (1848-1850), responsible for the emigration of poor Irish girls to Australia. Again, the intention was to alleviate the miserable situation in Ireland through emigration, but also to balance the sex ratio in the colonies and meet labour demands for domestic service. Nonetheless, due to prejudice against the Catholic Irish and contested interests, the scheme was withdrawn in 1850. In their contributions, Elizabeth Dillenburg and Rebecca Bates investigate the negotiations of similar projects through the prism of empire: the colonial environment in South Africa challenged assumptions of the Girls' Friendly Society's leadership, as well as imperial class, social and gender hierarchies; though initially promoting agricultural home colonization of waste land, the Society of Suppression of Juvenile Vagrancy (1830-1833) received more support for encouraging emigration to the colonies for the Empire's benefit. In a compelling contribution, Sally Brooke Cameron explores the displacement of children from Britain to Canada. Her approach is distinct, for she not only focuses on the cultural, economic or political contexts that supported emigration, but also drives the discussion into how those 'little wanderers' functioned as a body through which Canada distinguished itself from the 'Old World'. 'Others' in the dominion, 'unwanted' in the homeland, and part of greater spiritual and empire-building plans, the young migrants were silenced.

As Cameron's article indicates, the discussion inevitably turns to issues of identity as well. Rhiannon Heledd Williams explores the role of the press – though using limited material – in the negotiation of 'Welshness' and new Welsh-American immigrant identity. The example of the Welsh colony in Chubut, Argentina (1865), is employed by Trevor Harris to indicate not only the complex motives for migration (in this case, both economic and cultural), but also, and most importantly, the dynamic relationship among identity, empire, colonial state, and nation-state building. Nicole Davis's article is one of the highlights of the volume. Through an elaborate, balanced transnational and micro-historical approach, Davis uses the case study of a Jewish migrant couple to explore the negotiations of its multi-dimensional identity within changing social and geographical urban environments of the Empire.

The volume ends as it started, that is, with editor's remarks mostly trying to encompass the thematic and methodological perspectives of the contributors and highlight the merits of the collection. The added value of the volume undoubtedly lies at the multiple, interactive dimensions of migration that are revealed. One quantitative approach is also provided by Ben Szreter who indicates how interesting findings statistics can bring to the discussion. It is unfortunate, however, that certain groups that are nowadays studied by migration scholars, such as soldiers or sailors, are absent from the volume without any justification. An exception remains Nicolas Garnier's article on women missionaries in China that illustrates how such migrant groups may generate social change, in this case by challenging gendered and social boundaries.

Despite the aforementioned drawbacks, the variety of approaches and the high quality of the papers makes *International Migrations in the Victorian Era* a very interesting reading, especially recommended to everyone interested in the gendered, social and political perceptions of migration.

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Ad van der Zee, *De Wendische Oorlog. Holland, Amsterdam en de Hanze in de vijftiende eeuw* [Middeleeuwse Studies en Bronnen, CLXIX] (Hilversum: Uitgeverij Verloren, 2018). 255 p. ISBN 9789087047139.

In *De Wendische Oorlog* staat een conflict centraal dat tussen 1438 en 1441 tussen Holland en Zeeland aan de ene kant, en de hertog van Holstein en Wendische (Noord-Duitse) steden aan de andere kant werd uitgevochten. Van der Zee vertrekt daarbij niet vanuit een probleemstelling waarmee hij aansluit op een historiografisch debat, maar neemt je mee in zijn speurtocht naar de geschiedenis van de Wendische Oorlog. Die begint wel met een heldere historiografie van dit conflict 'tot aan de introductie van de moderne historische methoden in de negentiende eeuw' (p. 29), maar bespreekt bijdragen van latere historici slechts incidenteel gedurende het verhaal. De grote verdienste van dit boek schuilt in een gedetailleerde uitwerking van de gebeurtenissen vanuit een Hollands perspectief, en de toegankelijk wijze waarop dit in drie delen beschreven is.

Deel 1, 'Het politieke landschap', schetst de achtergrond van de grote spelers in het conflict: het graafschap Holland, de Hanze, Amsterdam, de Wendische steden en het Deense koninkrijk. Het verduidelijkt de onderlinge politieke en economische relaties die van invloed waren op het ontstaan en verloop van de Wendische