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White Backlash and the Politics of Multiculturalism. Roger Hewitt.

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of innovations including the introduction of supermarkets and chain stores, the popularity of Hollywood films and celebrities among European audiences, the spread of service associations such as Rotary, the adoption of big brand marketing and the general inculcation of consumerism among the mass of the population. The author also makes use of the notion of culture-clash to suggest that American cultural diffusion faced two powerful countervailing cultural forces, namely fascism and communism, but that it ultimately defeated them. However, she concludes the book by questioning the belief that American culture will continue to exert diffusionary hegemony in what has become an increasingly complex, multi-cultural world.

This is a scholarly and provocative book which makes a significant contribution to the understanding of the contemporary role of culture and its diffusion. Although the author is an historian whose analysis is based primarily on an historical account of cultural change in Europe over the last 50 years, there is much in this book that sheds light on the way American consumerism is an integral part of the multi-dimensional globalization process. The book suggests that an analysis of globalization must transcend the narrow focus on economic liberalism that characterizes much scholarship in the field to include a fuller account of how cultural preferences are integral to the process of economic integration and how these, in turn, are integral to the political forces that are now widely characterized as imperialistic. In addition to its scholarly contributions, this is a readable and enjoyable book which contains a wealth of interesting information that will appeal to both academic and popular audiences.

Roger Hewitt, *White Backlash and the Politics of Multiculturalism*.
New York: Cambridge University press, 2005. \$ 75.00
hardcover, \$ 29.99 papercover.

Many European societies have become increasingly diverse over the last half-century, and the ethnic and cultural

relationships between their citizens have become increasingly intricate. Although opposition to cultural diversity is hardly new, it has become the object of intense political and media debate, and has also involved academic analyses that offer different policy prescriptions for creating more inclusive and solidaristic societies. However, the adoption of policies that recognize minority group rights within a flexible multicultural society have been challenged not only by traditionalists in the academic world, but by many ordinary people who believe that multicultural politics has disadvantaged them, and undermined their privileges.

These complex issues are examined by Roger Hewitt in his account of multicultural politics in Britain and other Western industrial societies. Hewitt focuses on the London borough of Greenwich where he conducted research into the attitudes of young white people towards multiculturalism. The research was undertaken in the wake of three racially motivated murders in which the police were accused of failing to act decisively to bring the perpetrators to justice. The most widely reported of these was the murder of Stephen Lawrence, which failed to secure a conviction, and resulted in allegations of institutional racism against the police and more generally against British society. Hewitt's interviews show the extent to which many white people reject these allegations and the policies which were subsequently put into place to respond to racist violence. His sensitive account raises the question of how multicultural policies can address the fears and concerns, as well as the stereotypes and prejudices, of the white majority.

Although the book is based on qualitative research related to specific incidents of racist violence in London, Hewitt goes far beyond an idiographic account of particular events to offer a sophisticated theoretical analysis of a huge body of literature that addresses these questions. He shows that academic discourse on multiculturalism is sharply divided, and that the neoconservative position has, over the years, become ascendant to reinforce the white backlash. It has worked its way into the political domain to challenge integrationist strategies in education, housing and immigration policy. In addition, Hewitt's account encompasses a wide geographic sweep that reports on developments in other European countries, Australia and

particularly the United States. He shows that the neoconservative influence has been most effective in the United States and, with impressive detail, he examines the struggle over multiculturalism in various spheres of American life. His analysis also ranges over other approaches that offer an alternative to the neoconservative orthodoxy. His ability to summarize these theoretical perspectives is not only impressive but helpful to anyone who is not familiar with this literature. The book makes a significant contribution to understanding the complexities of cultural diversity in the industrial nations today and should be widely consulted.

Renny Golden, *War on the Family: Mothers in Prison and the Families They Leave Behind*. New York: Routledge, 2005. \$22.95 papercover.

Blending ethnography and social commentary, *War on the Family* powerfully chronicles the lives of incarcerated women and their families, and the many injustices that beset them. Mandatory minimum sentencing laws for drug convictions have directly led to dramatic growth in female incarceration rates, leading to the separation of women from their families. Their children are often placed in the care of relatives or the state. With policy changes that regulate kinship care and limit reunification timelines, it is incumbent upon child welfare workers and other social workers to gain a better understanding of this disproportionately affected population. The body of literature documenting the needs and strengths of incarcerated women and their children is small but growing, from studies on children's development to the social and economic needs of women post-incarceration. Golden's book makes a unique contribution by introducing the stories of individual mothers and families and drawing lessons from shared themes.

The issue of incarceration and maternal separation is explored from multiple angles. Golden provides background on the changes in social policies and criminal law that have become increasingly less supportive and more punitive towards minorities. The effects of these policies are evident in