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*The Global Emergence of Gay and Lesbian Politics:
National Imprints of a Worldwide Movement.* Barry D.
Adam, Jan Willem Duyvendak and Andre Krouwel
(Eds.). Reviewed by Carol T. Tully, Tulane
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Book Reviews

Barry D. Adam, Jan Willem Duyvendak and Andre Krouwel (Eds.), *The Global Emergence of Gay and Lesbian Politics: National Imprints of a Worldwide Movement*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 1999. \$59.95 hardcover, \$22.95 papercover.

Adam, Duyvendak, and Krouwel wanted to provide an overview of both existing lesbian and gay social-political movements and to place these movements into an historical context. They acknowledge that little work has been done in this field, and, in an effort to explore the phenomenon of gay and lesbian politics from a worldwide perspective, the editors provided what they call "portraits" of fourteen countries. To ensure a global perspective, countries from each of the five continents are included. The attempt to present a global perspective related to lesbian and gay political and social movements is an ambitious one and the editors have done a laudable job of exploring content that has been largely overlooked by other scholars.

The 318 page, indexed text includes introductory and summary chapters authored by the editors and 12 chapters that include content from the United States, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Britain, the Netherlands, France, Spain, Romania, Hungary, the Czech Republic, South Africa, Japan, and Australia. A total of 17 different authors contributed to this effort, and while there is some unevenness in chapter length and scholarship, the book is fascinating if one has an interest in gay and lesbian political, historical, or social movements. There are several recurring themes woven throughout chapters that focus on specific countries. Specifically related to the country being analyzed, themes include: legal issues, an historical overview of the lesbian and gay movements, AIDS and its impact, political realities, and differences between lesbian and gay men's views and approaches.

Most of the authors try and link their essays to existing theoretical or conceptual frameworks thereby demonstrating how lesbian and gay sociopolitical activities fit into existing constructs. And the overarching theme has to be viewed as one of empowerment. Across the globe political activism in gay and lesbian

communities has evolved from small groups meeting in household kitchens to national demonstrations and parades. Once denied legal rights, lesbians and gay men on every continent are demanding personal freedom. Continuing hate crimes, lingering discrimination, and ongoing homophobia shadow these positive outcomes. But the themes of resiliency and determination are clearly evident.

The book has many strengths. Each chapter has been well researched and includes notes and references. It is generally well written and easily read. The reader must be prepared to move through it slowly only because there is a vast amount of content included. The final summative chapter does a fine job of synthesizing, comparing, and contrasting earlier materials which helps the reader integrate content. There are some weaknesses too. There is a tendency for some authors to rely heavily on secondary references when exploring history and some of the chapters were written four years before the book ever reached the press. Therefore, one must trust that the data from the original sources has been accurately portrayed and then correctly interpreted by the current authors (sometimes a quantum leap). Further, one must be aware that some of the materials are dated and perhaps do not reflect current ideology (or even country structure). Some chapters are hard to read simply because of the extensive use of acronyms. For those who are monolingual, when the acronym's letters do not fit the actual title, it may become confusing.

In a world of diversity, this book should find a home first in the libraries of queer scholars and then in the offices of sociologists, political scientists, and historians. Its worldwide perspective should make *The Emergence of Gay and Lesbian Politics* of interest beyond the United States as its major themes have importance for wherever lesbians and gay men are struggling for legal and human rights, and its historical analysis provides tips for emerging gay and lesbian sociopolitical organizations and movements.

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