the revival of the Great Black Dragon King Temple, and offers nuanced analysis of the

temple as a nucleus of various social relations and interactions.

Perhaps the most ironic reality is that Shaanbei people have turned the greatest

Communist heroes to gods/spirits of popular religion. For instance, during the height of

the Cultural Revolution when religion and superstitions were severely repressed, Shaanbei

people called the spirit/god of Norman Bethune to cure people’s illnesses. Bethune

was a Canadian volunteer doctor for the Communist army in the late 1930s and died

died of a blood infection on the battlefield in the northwest. “In one village in Zizhou County,

the mass of worshipers became so large that the local militia (minbing) had to throw a

hand grenade next to the crowd to disperse it” (p. 47). The author also observed temple

structures erected recently for the three most prominent CCP leaders: Chairman Mao Ze-

dong, Premier Zhou Enlai, and General Zhu De. And “in Yan’an City a female medium’s

possessing deity is General Zhu De and that she was very powerful and popular” (p. 257).

This book has a few evident weaknesses.

For one, the author depicts an “agrarian society” that seems to be in a more or less “pristine” form with no urbanization in sight, although national and transnational non-
governmental organizations have become present in this area. For another, while elaborative in describing the popular religious context within which the Great Black Dragon King Temple has been revitalized, the author completely neglects other religions, especially Christianity that is present and growing in Shaanbei. Nonetheless, meticulous in detail and extensive in reference, this superbly written monograph exemplifies the best of ethnographic research. It is likely to become a standard reference for the study of popular religion and Chinese society.

The analysis of globalization has become so

central to research on immigration that it can easily obscure the importance of regionalism.

This book’s focus on Northeast Asia is an important reminder that migration dynamics are heavily influenced by geographic proximity. Land and sea borders often establish the structural parameters of international migration, and for historical reasons, remain important for national identity. Whether it is the Rio Grande River becoming a border for

Mexico and the United States in 1848, or the Amur River demarcating China and Russia since 1858, globalization has not yet erased the symbolic significance of place.

Geography’s influence, however, is mediated by demography, economy, and especially politics, and the case of Northeast Asia represents an intriguing anomaly. Mexico and the United States have long been connected by international migration. But immigrants from China, Korea, Russia, and Japan have usually settled outside the region. For example, the Chinese diaspora during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries spread as far afield as the Caribbean, yet did not take root in Japan. Historical enmity and isolationism compounded by Cold War hostility were the main reasons, according to the fourteen authors in Crossing National Borders. They persuasively argue, however, that regional dynamics in Northeast Asia have started to reverse this pattern and the anthology explores various aspects of what I would term “next-door immigration.”

The increase in next-door immigration in Northeast Asia is occurring for several rea-
sons. The aging of Japan’s population means that its labor force increasingly relies on workers from China and other neighbors. Labor shortages in South Korea have also led to an influx of legal and illegal immigrants. Rapid economic development in China is stimulating the move of entrepreneurs to the Russian Far East and Mongolia, where they work as importers of Chinese goods or exporters of natural resources. The final act of the Cold War is now unfolding on the Korean peninsula, and North Korean refugees are already a significant issue for China and have the potential to become a regional crisis. Finally, prostitution offers criminal networks a huge financial incentive to move women from poor to more developed countries, often facilitated by the official “entertainer” visas available in Japan and Korea.

Crossing National Borders also illuminates another way in which regionalism challenges the assumptions of globalization: some areas of a country are more affected by neighbors than others. In China, the comparatively poor northeastern province of Heilongjiang views the even less-developed Russian Far East as an economic opportunity. In Japan the eastern prefecture of Niigata has been a strong advocate of greater ties with China, while the northern prefecture of Hokkaido has the most to gain from the economic development of the Russian islands in the Sea of Okhotsk. These developments have political significance because provincial and even municipal governments often lobby the central government to revise foreign policy in ways favorable to cross-border economic development.

The immigration and political issues raised in Crossing National Borders are intriguing, even prescient. The editors of the anthology are to be commended for putting together a team of experts from seven different countries. Yet the appeal of the book is largely limited to area specialists, particularly those who work in government agencies and nongovernmental organizations. The editors’ introduction and conclusion focus almost exclusively on policy. While their recommendations for more bilateral cooperation and interagency coordination are reasonable, there is little or no discussion of theory, methods, and the social science literature. The bulk of the sources cited by chapter authors are articles in newspapers and current-affairs jour-

Handbook of Population, edited by Dudley L. Poston, Jr. and Michael Micklin. New York, NY: Springer, 2005. 918 pp. $250.00 cloth. ISBN: 0306477688.

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For decades demographers have hesitated to confront the difficult task of making a comprehensive handbook. The Handbook of Population has achieved this ambitious task. This collection of 30 essays is a rich intellectual harvest of historical development and evolution of demographic research during the past half century.

Parts I and II of this book provide extensive overviews of research on population structure and processes. In particular, I found Uhlenberg’s chapter on the demography of aging and Waite’s chapter on marriage and family to be well versed and properly balanced in dealing with theoretical issues, methods and measures, empirical findings, and suggestions for prospective research directions. In contrast, Sakamoto and Power’s chapter on the demography of social stratification is centered on analytical models, and fails to provide a pertinent review of research.

The Handbook of Population covers more than the title suggests. Parts III and IV, except for the chapter on mathematical demography, make the book more useful to social scientists as well as demographers. The move to include these essays from a variety of applied fields and perspectives in demography reflects the multidisciplinary nature of demography and recent developments in the nexus of population studies and social sciences. The editors and authors tackle these impor-