coexist with the need for a migrant labor force" (p. 165).

Though Saleh's narrative is dense with numerous references, giving the impression of reading a dissertation, her voice is strong when it occasionally screams through. One hopes that in her next work she will speak more clearly through her respondents and ethnography, and worry less about generating grand theories of transnationalim and modernity. There is no doubt, however, that this book contributes to the current debates on Islam in Europe.

A Framework for Immigration: Asians in the United States. By Uma A. Segal. New York: Columbia University Press, 2002. Pp. 468.

CHENG-FENG SHIH
Tamkang University

The author sets out to construct an analytical framework for understanding immigration in general, and then provides case studies pertaining to Asian immigrants to the United States. By way of linear progression, she makes efforts to delineate how the process of immigration can be aptly comprehended in terms of 1) background conditions in the home country and the immigrant's personal status and experience, 2) push and pull factors for immigration, 3) characteristics of emigration and immigration, 4) responses of the receiving country, 5) the immigrant's adjustments to the receiving country, and 6) policy implications from the perspective of human services. After succinctly, yet comprehensively, describing the historical development of Asian immigration waves into the United States, she investigates these in rich detail. Throughout the book, she displays a keen gender consciousness, ensuring that the female dimension of immigration is not overlooked. Apart from policy recommendations (chapters 6, 7, 9), the author's narrative of her personal experience of immigration is most fascinating (epilogue).

While not neglecting non-economic elements such as political turmoil and social repression at home, the author seems to equate immigrants' educational and vocational capabilities and economic, social, and political status with the opportunity for immigration (pp. 5–11). Nevertheless, as these background conditions may account for ease in shifting gears for prospective immigrants, the traditional dichotomy of push and pull factors appears more fruitful (chapters 2, 3). By tracing the history of China, Japan, India, the Philippines, and Korea back to the second half of the nineteenth century, she elucidates the patterns of immigration in these countries, and then fleshes out those in the post-1965 era, when American immigration policies became relatively less restrictive. She is keen to point out that professionals/students and refugees are replacing labor immigrants. It would be stimulating to further probe how the conditions of the sending country are coterminous with the capabilities of would-be immigrants. In other words, those immigrants had obtained English proficiency in addition to professional skills with the hope of securing freedom and economic affluence. A famous saying in Taiwan during the Cold War era would testify to this causal calculation: "Come to the National Taiwan University and go to the United States."

The strongest parts are the chapters on immigrants' adjustment after successful emigration and those on human services policies. By drawing a continuum of adjustment from acculturation, assimilation, integration, accommodation, separation, marginalization, and rejection, the author looks into how Asian Americans have achieved professional excellence, and modified their cultural norms (chapter 5). The chapter devoted to the second-generation "USAsians" is particularly valuable in light of biculturalism and interracial marriage (chapter 8).

It is unfortunate that Taiwanese Americans are not treated as detached from China, as the two countries have been politically separate for the past century, and thus share different national identities. Furthermore, the native Taiwanese elites had in the past chosen to study in the United

States in order to escape the authoritarian alien Nationalist regime (KMT) until the late 1980s, as the author rightly points out (p. 85).

Remaking the American Mainstream: Assimilation and Contemporary Immigration. By Richard Alba and Victor Nee. Cambridge and London: Harvard University Press, 2003. Pp. 359. $39.95.

America's Newcomers and the Dynamics of Diversity. By Frank D. Bean and Gillian Stevens. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2003. Pp. 312. $32.50.

Immigrants and the American Dream: Remaking the Middle Class. By William A. V. Clark. New York and London: The Guilford press, 2003. Pp. 254. $35.00

Thomas J. Archdeacon
University of Wisconsin – Madison

These three volumes share subject matter, concerns, and, largely, conclusions. Each examines the experiences of immigrant groups whose presence in the United States surged in the second half of the twentieth century, and especially since the 1960s. Each focuses on the extent to which the newcomers and their descendants have achieved incorporation into the American mainstream. Each makes the judgment that assimilation has been the normative experience, occurring far more often than social critics have alleged. None, however, claims that the process is exactly replicating that which European immigrants and their descendants experienced in the first half of the twentieth century. Finally, all see problems that may lead to less than satisfactory social outcomes in the future.

Despite their multiple similarities, the books differ from each other in content and tone. Of the three, the Alba and Nee volume is the most explicitly concerned with integrating theory with data. Moreover, the authors are strongly interested in placing contemporary developments in the long context of the immigration history of the United States. The Bean and Stevens book, although also including theoretical and historical dimensions, centers on an intense analysis of data. The authors discuss issues of measurement, carefully frame their statistical comparisons, and report results from a wide range of data sources. The Clark work is the most direct; it defines assimilation primarily in terms of the ability to achieve middle-class status and marshals much evidence documenting the progress of the newest Americans toward that goal. The author maintains necessary scholarly rigor in his investigations, but his message is clear to the reader.

Alba and Nee's discussion of assimilation theory adds fresh perspectives to familiar territory. They laud the contributions of Tomatsu Shibutani and Kian Kwan whose *Ethnic Stratification* (1965) called attention to the importance of technological and institutional changes in reducing the social distance separating population groups and in giving formerly disadvantaged people access to structural assimilation. Shibutani and Kwan thus reversed the argument in Milton Gordon's more influential volume, *Assimilation in American Life* (1964), that structural assimilation preceded the lessening of social distance. Alba and Nee thus gain theoretical backing for their explanation of the roles of the changing U.S. economy and of anti-discrimination laws in creating opportunities for recent immigrants with the right kinds of skills and for those who in other eras might have been shunted aside.

Alba and Nee discount arguments that hold that today's immigration is so distinctive that replicating the patterns of assimilation seen among yesterday's groups will be impossible. They do not think that multiculturalism will discourage assimilation, that affirmative action policies will lead to an institutionalization of racial/ethnic categories, or that transnationalism will become a phenomenon affecting many or lasting across generations. Moreover, Alba and Nee believe that the volume of