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Fall 2004

**Review of *Immigration, colonisation et propagande: du reve
americain au reve colonial* By Serge Courville**

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Wood, J. David, "Review of *Immigration, colonisation et propagande: du reve americain au reve colonial* By Serge Courville" (2004). *Great Plains Research: A Journal of Natural and Social Sciences*. 722.
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Immigration, colonisation et propagande: du rêve américain au rêve colonial. By Serge Courville. Sainte-Foy, Québec: MultiMondes, 2002. xix + 699 pp. Figures, bibliography, index. \$39.95 paper.

This book is a true magnum opus—large in its 640 pages of text, and a major work of exploration well beyond the author's previous scholarly bailiwick. The period covered includes the seventeenth century to the 1930s but concentrates on the nineteenth century. Dividing its focus on two main subjects, the study first traces the stories of the European "migration fever" over the three centuries and offers a thorough commentary on how the discourse on migration developed in various European countries ("Théories et Propagande"). From an early date the British took a lead in publishing accounts of explorations, scientific reports, and eventually emigrant guides. This interest intersected with British imperial expansion. There is an argument that overcoming the difficulties of the Irish "plantations" provided a settlement model that could be applied in a new land. The status of emigration modulated over time, from being one of the tools of subjugation of indigenes to being, by the nineteenth century, a good in itself.

The second main subject, accounting for over four hundred pages, is colonization in a broad sense. "Systematic Colonization" elaborates various arguments for organized settlement, including Wakefield's "rationalization" (especially the sale of land to a monied class along with encouragement of a landless laboring class) and the opinions of pamphleteers and groups with different motivations. It continues with depictions of proposals and results of settlement in many parts of "les nouveaux mondes." Somewhat of a contrast to systematic colonization is "Peopling the West," a sixty-page chapter covering settlement of the grasslands, Oregon, Texas, southern states, and California, and identifying Alaska as "the last frontier."

Social turmoil combined with population pressure in the nineteenth century led to calls, especially on senior levels of government in Europe, for more thoroughly managed colonization. The initiatives of Rhodes, the Scottish Sharp-Shooters' Association, and others in southern Africa are described, as well as projects designed to increase Australia's British stock rapidly. The major demonstration of directed colonization is drawn from Canada, where the state, railroad and land companies, and churches were involved. A system of colonization very close to what Isaiah Bowman in the 1920s visualized as "scientific settlement" evolved in Québec where colonization was placed under a government department in the late nineteenth century, and the Catholic Church became intimately involved with planning and implementation. The system was designed to entice French Canadians back home from New England and the West.

In a magisterial sweep this book draws evidence from a wide selection of colonies and home countries. It introduces a range of French language sources (although the majority of items in the bibliography are in English), and in so doing presents some lesser-known case studies and commentators. Many of the figures are reproductions of printed historical material, but Figure 2 graphs the emigration to the United States from Québec and from Canada during 1840-1920, and Figure 7 shows the various propaganda media and the period during which each was in active use. **J. David Wood**, *Graduate Program in Geography, York University*.