WILL THEY STILL BE DANCING?

Integration and Ethnic Transformation among Yugoslav Immigrants in Scandinavia
Will They Still Be Dancing? is a detailed study of two groups of Yugoslav immigrants in Scandinavia: the Wallachians (from northeastern Serbia) and the Macedonians. Coming from the same localities in Yugoslavia, Macedonian and Wallachian labour migrants settled on both sides of the channel dividing Sweden and Denmark. From this settlement pattern there arose four distinct subcultures: “Swedish” Wallachians, “Danish” Wallachians, “Swedish” Macedonians and “Danish” Macedonians. Using sociological surveys, extended case studies, personal biographies and anthropological fieldwork, the book describes different patterns of integration into Scandinavian society found among each group. Separate chapters focus on work, public life, and the family, gender and generation conflicts. The authors demonstrate how local “ethnic publics” and immigrants’ own selforganization shape the character of their integration into Swedish and Danish societies. It is through these ethnic forums that immigrants seek to redress their essential social needs and to bridge the gap between the private and public spheres in Scandinavian society. Autonomous ethnic organization becomes an effective substitute for the immigrants’ relative lack of political influence and their low rank in the Scandinavian occupational hierarchy. The authors argue that a well-developed ethnic organization—“internal integration”—is a prerequisite for immigrants’ “external integration” into Swedish and Danish society. Symbols belonging to a traditional ethnic heritage help generate the ethnic cohesion needed to adapt to a modern Scandinavian welfare state. In the conclusion of the book, the authors address the question of whether the second and third generation migrants “will still be dancing” their folk dances. Here they discuss the necessary relationship between ethnicity, tradition and integration as it appears for today’s Yugoslav youth in Scandinavia and in contemporary industrial society.

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