

Paulo Fontes. *Migration and the Making of Industrial São Paulo*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2016. Pp. 296. Paper. \$27.95.

In the *Migration and the Making of Industrial São Paulo*, Paulo Roberto Ribeiro Fontes, an Associate Professor at the History Institute of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, provides a detailed history of Latin American's migration, urbanization and industrialization of São Miguel Paulista, a district of São Paulo, Brazil, from 1945 to 1966. Fontes's labor history draws on public archives, newspaper articles, and oral interviews of ordinary people. These sources show the migrant workers' struggles through their personal experiences of the political, social, and economic life in the community. Fontes challenges the stereotypes created by the "City dwellers, who see themselves as "modern people, 'superior'," in contrast to the men and women of the countryside, who are regarded as "backward" and "inferior." (43) The book is organized into five chapters about life in São Paulo: the first chapter explains the northeastern migration, the second chapter conveys the factory work, the third chapter portrays the community and everyday life, the fourth chapter analyzes the political leadership in São Miguel, and the fifth chapter illustrates São Paulo's social movements.

Fontes examines the lives of the northeastern Brazilian migrant workers, focusing on their economic conditions and what prompted their migration to the southeast. São Miguel experienced a rapid growth, urbanization and industrialization during the twentieth century. Nitro Quimica, a large American owned chemical factory, became a huge employer for thousands of northeastern Brazilian migrant workers. Nitro Quimica produced sulfuric and hydrochloric acid, as well as other chemicals. The migration of men and women was based on the promises of a better life and future for their families by the recruiters of the leading industrial corporations like Nitro Quimica. The employment they receive in the Nitro factory was for unskilled jobs, including the production of sulfuric and hydrochloric acid for the military during the Cold War. The migrant workers helped to integrate Brazil's industrialization in the newly urban cities and created new working-class identities.

The Nitro Quimica Factory was pivotal in creating these identities with the different treatments of the migrant workers and the Paulistas. The Paulistas were hired for better paying supervising jobs.

In contrast, the migrant workers continued to work with harsh chemicals that endangered their lives. This community created working-class identities by labeling the migrant workers as working-class citizens while the Paulistas became the upper class in society. The southeastern Brazilians saw the migrants as causing the problems that burdened the city and blamed them for the lack of housing, crime, and illnesses. Migration, therefore, was seen as the biggest problem that occurred between the northeastern and southeastern Brazilians.

Fontes' strength is his examination of the working class and the social setting that threatened their living conditions. The working class demanded a union to fight for better treatment and wages, creating a social movement forcing local politics to find a solution in favor of the working class. Although Fontes has good analytical research of São Paulo politics, he did not provide enough statistical information on the working class. There was not enough distinguishable information on the number of employees at Nitro and whether they were migrant workers from northeastern Brazil or locals of southeastern Brazil. Also, the book lacks more detailed explanations of the harsh working conditions, the average cost of living in São Paulo, and wages disparities between the migrants compared to the Paulistas.

This book is great for historians who want a deeper understanding of Latin American working classes in the mid-twentieth century. It portrays the community struggle of the working class, by including their personal experiences of the political, social, and economic life in São Paulo.

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