in cinema, television, and web-based media, within the problematic practice—common in popular fictionalized accounts—of representing real-life criminals as eliciting compassion. Some of these accounts, Renga explains, work against the culture of legality by creating sympathy for the perpetrators of mafia violence, sometimes eliding fact and fiction and ultimately mythologizing the very mobsters they want to indict.

Angela Maiello is a philosopher specializing in aesthetics. Her contribution to the volume proposes “an aesthetics of viral anti-mafia” by examining the San Remo–winning Neapolitan song by Rocco Hunt, “Nu Juorn Buon” (“A Good Day,” 2014), which this critic persuasively placed in the tradition of the Neapolitan song and its close relation to organized crime—whether through its glorification or its condemnation. Thanks to its shrewd use of the possibilities offered by digital technologies, and especially the interactive nature of social networks, “Nu Juorn Buon” demonstrates how an education in techno-aesthetics can bring about effective anti-mafia practices through a transformation of online participation.

The clarity of the writing in the seven essays varies, as does the level of interest that each might elicit in different readers; given the diverse background of the contributors, this is inevitable. I learned something from each of them and, even within this diversity of critical perspectives, there is a certain unity. I very much enjoyed the fact that each essay refers to two or more of the other essays in the collection, a practice that gives the book’s readers a sense of true collaboration and a shared desire to understand the issues at hand from multiple disciplinary perspectives.

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Laura E. Ruberto and Joseph Sciorra, editors. *New Italian Migrations to the United States. Volume 1: Politics and History since 1945*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2017. Pp. 201. ISBN 9780252082450.

New Italian Migrations to the United States. Volume 1: Politics and History since 1945 is a book focused on the history of Italian immigration to the U.S. after World War II. It is a collection of essays published in a two-volume structure, which is the result of a multidisciplinary approach. In this first volume, the authors

seek to confront and elucidate the continuing history of Italian immigration to the U.S., focusing on political and social dynamics that have constituted the phenomenon from 1945 to the present. In addition, the essays revolve around concepts such as community development, politics, transnationalism, group identity, and consumerism. Overall, the book is based on the principle that to better understand Italian-American immigration, we have to see it as an ongoing migration phenomenon (4).

Rather than following standard studies of Italian-American history, which take as their starting point the late-1800s immigration to the U.S. and see the phenomenon as concluding by World War II, this book provides the readers with a periodization based on how the relationship between Italy and the U.S. changed as the two countries emerged from World War II. Therefore, these essays reveal how all the economic and political changes taking place in Italy and in the U.S. also alter how Italian immigrants view themselves and are perceived by others. When we analyze Italian immigration to the U.S., it is imperative that we consider the fact that, from 1945 to our days, Italy shifted from being an economy based mainly on agriculture to an industrialized one. In the world, Italy became firmly integrated with NATO, then Europe, and ultimately the “industrialized world.” Those post-war changes were reflected also in the Italian migration to the U.S. both before and after 1965. They figured in the changing composition of the newest Italian arrivals and their relationship to those who had preceded them as migrants and who had become Italian Americans. Specifically, the book emphasizes how political, economic, and social changes in Italy echoed as well in the Italian migration waves that went from proletarian to entrepreneurial and, finally, to elite. As a matter of fact, in the essay “Immigrants and Ethnic,” James S. Pasto distinguishes different waves of immigrants that go throughout the decades from working-class to transnational/entrepreneurial individuals, to the most recent Italian immigrant wave of the so-called elite, made of highly educated people and professionals. In the most recent immigration waves, the importance of education for integration is much more emphasized, along with the necessity to work hard and eventually become a professional in order to successfully fit into American society (cf. Mignone, *The Story of My People*, 2015). The distancing between previous generations of Italian immigrants is a constant theme concerning the elite migrants. Moreover, these most recent waves of immigrants are characterized by an “effective identity,” with an “Italian effect” in whatever they do—living, acting, and thinking with a blending of Italian characteristics and/or Italianness of their

identity (cf. Vitti and Tamburri, *The Mediterranean Dreamed and Lived by Insiders and Outsiders*, 2017, 213).

“Immigrants and Ethnicity” shows that, after the so-called “economic miracle,” we get to see a new dimension of immigrant life, where the gentrification of the North End neighbourhood in Boston has, paradoxically, depended on the decrease of its Italian-American residents. In reality, Italian immigrants physically replenished an Italian-American ethnicity in the “dawn” of profound spatial, demographic, and cultural changes. Newcomers, in this context, were mostly skilled and cultured and would prefer to have transnational ties rather than Italian-American ones. In many cases, Italian Americanization in the North End took place more as a “transnational” ethnicity, where immigrants remained more perceptually and behaviourally “Italian.”

Furthermore, there are other essays in this book that highlight the intertwining of diplomatic and immigration history in the U.S. For instance, Stefano Luconi’s “Italy, Italian Americans, and the Politics of the McCarran-Walter Act” focuses on how the Italian-American community helped Italian immigration to the U.S. by opposing the “unfair and racist bill” proposed in 1952. Conversely, Maddalena Marinarì’s “In the Name of God ... and in the interest of our country” concentrates more on the exploration of the intersections of immigration, religion, and politics within Cold War realities. This essay explores and investigates the collaboration of religious and lay institutions with Italian Americans in the movement to change U.S. immigration policy, to the advantage of Italy. The fight that Italian Americans led against the national origins quota system gave them the opportunity to solidify their position in American society and liberated them from the stigma against their ties with Italy.

To conclude, the essays presented in this first volume focus on post-World War II Italian immigration from a variety of political perspectives, historical realities, and social dynamics, allowing the readers to perceive new elements of immigrant life.

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