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not always the same. This book is a step in the important direction of understanding the evolution of American society in the context of law, but we must first have a clearer comprehension of the meaning of cultural pluralism, particularly as it relates to legal issues.

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While census data have long been used by scholars as a source of information and statistics to describe and analyze the characteristics of the United States population, the census has also provided its share of frustrations. For every successful study utilizing historical or current census data to answer a scholarly question, there are no doubt countless others which had to be abandoned because the census did not ask the same questions in each enumeration, the meaning of the categories or the questions changed, or because the data at a local or even national level were deemed to be too unreliable. Margo Anderson’s fascinating, well-written and engaging book provides an historical account of the development of the United States census that explains why some of these frustrating decisions and changes were made and describes the debates and decisions which shaped each of the census schedules which were used. It should be required reading for any researcher who uses census data in any form.

Anderson describes her study as a demographic and institutional history of the census that focuses on the “politics of population”—the peculiar mix of political considerations and social science developments which yields the decennial census. She explores the issue of the political nature of the production and use of national statistics with an account of the development of the census and the census bureau from the first census in 1790 through the preparation for the 1980 census. The analysis surveys the major crises and decisions faced by the census bureau and its precursors, including the sectional crises leading up to the Civil War, the use of the census during the war and afterwards to shape reconstruction, the utilization of census data to both chronicle and react to the changing nature of urban industrial development at the beginning of the twentieth century, the resulting apportionment crisis in the 1920s, the use of the census during the World Wars and the Depression as well as the recent crises of revenue-sharing, apportionment, and the role of the census undercount in the 1960s and 70s.

Anderson shows how two decisions made by the founding fathers about the
role and nature of the census have reverberated throughout American history. First, the census was designed to allow population counts to decide the apportionment of representatives to Congress, thus tying political power in the United States to relative population strength. Second, the compromise worked out by the founding fathers that a slave would be counted as 3/5 of a person for apportionment purposes caused the census to differentiate the population by race—counting free, slave and Indian populations separately. As the census developed, it reported the numbers and characteristics of these subpopulations, and later of immigrants vs. native born, separately. The coupling of political power with differential census population figures thus insured that population growth or decline as well as differences between ethnic and racial groups and among regions of the country would be politically and socially explosive issues.

In addition to its fascinating survey of the role of population in major events in American history, the book has a wealth of information for specialists in the field of ethnicity. Anderson describes the role of the census in chronicling the population dynamics at the turn of the century which contributed to the development of the immigration restriction movement. She skillfully outlines the role of the census in providing information about growing immigration and declining native American birth rates and also comments on the institutional role the census played in determining the national origins of the population used in setting the quotas for the National Origins Immigration Act. Anderson also briefly notes another time in which the census was used for racist purposes in the twentieth century. She describes how the chief of the statistical research division was flown to California in 1942 to oversee the statistical tabulations of the Japanese-American population in order to locate that group for internment. While the census did not release the names of the Japanese population, which they were prohibited by law from doing, they did assist in small area tabulations of the Japanese that aided authorities in locating and interning them.

Finally, Anderson describes the growing role of census data in all areas of United States federal policy and the demands that creates for the census bureau. Census data are utilized for population counts which are used in formulas for federal aid to local and state governments and to determine compliance with the Voting Rights Acts of 1965 and affirmative action quotas. Ironically, as the census becomes more sophisticated and better enumerates the population, the complaints about census data and the degree of accuracy required of that data becomes even greater. The undercount of minorities identified in the 1960s and 70s thus became not just a technical issue of enumeration but a highly charged political issue. The history Anderson tells shows how these current issues—such as the question of whether to count illegal aliens for apportionment purposes, or the question of adjusting the census for the undercount of urban minorities—are actually recurring themes which have accompanied the development of the census from the beginning. This book is an indispensable aid for understanding the genesis and definitions of the data we routinely use in our
work, for appreciating the use of statistics and data in American political history in general, and for grappling with the current role and controversy associated with census taking in America today.

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The return to Zion, the Land of Israel, has been an indissoluble part of the Jewish religion, culture and tradition since the destruction of the first Temple and the exile of the Jews to Babylon in 588 B.C.E. Despite this longing, over the last century the magnet for Jews fleeing persecution and oppression has been the United States. The establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 failed to reverse this trend. Indeed, many more Israelis have emigrated to the United States than have American Jews to Israel. Nevertheless, there was and is a persistent immigration of American Jews to Israel. *American Aliya* seeks to examine and explain why American Jews leave the affluence and comfort of the United States for the uncertainties of life in Israel.

Despite its title, only two of the book’s thirteen chapters deal specifically with the question of who immigrates and why. The first part of the volume concentrates on the historical and cultural background for the ideology of *aliya* (the Hebrew term for immigration to the Holy Land). Part two details early twentieth-century American Zionism and American immigration to Israel in the periods before the Six Day War in 1967 and from 1967 to 1987. Synthesizing the results of a variety of sociological studies and surveys of American Jews in Israel, the volume’s author, Chaim Waxman, presents a socio-religious profile of the immigrants and shows that they moved to Israel primarily because of religious, ethnic and/or nationalistic considerations. Before 1967 the most often cited reasons were pioneering and “Zionism”; after 1967 the motivations have been religious and what is broadly termed “Jewishness”—which is defined as religio-ethnic identity, culture and peoplehood. Post-1967 immigrants went to Israel to enhance the Jewish religious and cultural components of their lives.

In part three, Waxman discusses the centrality of Israel and religious Orthodoxy in American life and analyzes the reasons why Orthodox Jews represent a disproportionately large number of the American immigrants. The book’s last section examines the American immigrants in Israel, their acculturation, their rate of return to the United States, and the impact of their immigration on their parents. For me, the most interesting and original portion of this section is