

that they have successfully extracted and amplified human nucleic DNA and mitochondrial DNA from the human brain of Florida's Windover, the arctic human burials and South American mummies, respectively. Herrmann and Hummel demonstrate that DNA sex determination is practical on human bones; this is important for physical anthropology and archaeology, because for some juvenile skeletons, it is extremely difficult to use morphological traits for sex determination.

Overall, this is a very good book for both general interest readers and researchers. General readers can learn what has been done to date in this interesting field and what can be accomplished in the future. Researchers can use this book as an "ancient DNA recipe book" along with other lab manuals in their ancient DNA study. The only drawback is that some of the contents of the book cannot be regarded as the latest achievements because ancient DNA study is a rapidly growing field.

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Nathan Caplan, John K. Whitmore, and Marcella H. Choy.  
1992 *The Boat People and Achievement in America: A Study of Family Life, Hard Work, and Cultural Values.*  
The University of Michigan Press.  
[viii + 248 pp., illustrations, appendix, bibliography, index]

*The Boat People and Achievement in America* examines adaptation to life in the United States by refugees fleeing Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos in the late 1970s. Despite common factors of severe poverty and violence in their countries of origin, the authors write that these people have achieved financial and academic success in America. The authors set these accomplishments in the context of a national economic recession and a school system identified as educationally bankrupt.

The text is divided into five chapters which examine and attempt to explain the accomplishments of these refugees. Chapters One and Two introduce the reader to the 'Boat People', comparing and contrasting Laotian, Vietnamese and Chinese refugees in terms of Employment, Household Composition and Cultural Values. In Chapter Three, Caplan *et al.* illustrate the economic and educational success of these refugees through quantitative data analysis.

In their interpretation of these findings, the authors combine statistical techniques with an examination of qualitative life-history data, arriving at several important conclusions in the Fourth Chapter. First, although these refugees originate from economic and social backgrounds very different from many other North Americans, Caplan *et al.* illustrate that the 'Boat People' generally possess certain values including an emphasis on education and hard work, and a willingness to sacrifice immediate fulfilment for future gain. These characteristics correspond with middle-class American values which are "considered to be chiefly responsible for the prosperity and high level of life quality

in the United States" (Caplan *et al.* 1992:131). Second, the authors suggest that the common perception of a dismal American educational system, against which the refugees' successes seem so remarkable, results from an overreliance on schools to solve their students' social problems, and a distancing of school from home life. In contrast, Caplan *et al.* write that the 'Boat People' often encourage a strong sense of interdependence amongst household and family members, and a love for learning, thus bridging the home-school gap.

In conclusion, the authors call for a more culturally responsive educational system which would allow teachers to "harness the press for achievement that exists in all cultures, however differentially defined or expressed" (Caplan *et al.* 1992:174). This would in effect lead to a constructive family-school partnership, working towards the mutual goal of academic, and hence economic betterment of young people of all cultures.

While I found this book to be well-written, complete with helpful graphs and maps, further study is required on the interaction between refugee families and schools, and between parents and children. Although the authors have conducted a valuable large-scale study, the text does not provide much attention to qualitative data, especially to the life stories which are mentioned throughout the book. Further small-scale qualitative research on various segments of this population is necessary in order to begin to get a sense of the intimate interactions between parents and children which are so central to the authors' theory.

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**Marie Anik Gagne**

1994 *A Nation Within a Nation: Dependency and the Cree*  
Montreal: Black Rose Books.  
[149 pp., maps, bibliography, index]

Useful, short and clearly written texts on political and social issues facing Aboriginal nations in Canada are rare, but find a ready market (consider the success of York's *The Dispossessed*, 1989). Small and alternative presses have produced books that make complicated political struggles clear and available to a wide audience, and the best of these describe specific struggles in the appropriate historical, social and legal contexts: books such as Knockwood's *Out of the Depths* (1992), Wadden's *Nitassinan* (1991) and Furniss' *Victims of Benevolence* (1992). It is unfortunate then that a volume like *Nation within a Nation* comes from a small press, Black Rose, with such potential to mislead an otherwise interested and well known sensitive readership.

Gagne's argument throughout is to demonstrate the ultimate dependency of the Crees of Quebec on the government and economy of Canada, a dependency that she argues has led to the underdevelopment of the region. Unfortunately, a promised analysis of specific