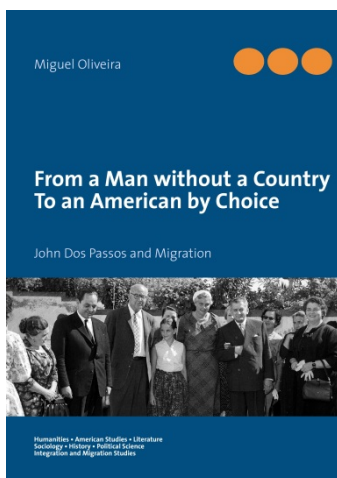


John Dos Passos on Migration

Miguel Oliveira launches a new book on John Dos Passos that analyzes amongst others the migration problems in the United States of America

“Miguel Oliveira combines an international viewpoint with meticulous research to deliver the most comprehensive portrait yet rendered of John Dos Passos as an individual. We witness the subject’s struggle to become an American—one of generations of immigrants painfully molded into one national body. Thanks to Oliveira, more will understand how his family’s immigration experience informed Dos Passos’s masterworks.” Lucy Hamlin Dos Passos Coggin, John Dos Passos’s daughter



Miguel Oliveira

Title: *From a Man without a Country to an American by Choice: John Dos Passos and Migration*

Idiom: English

Editor: BoD-Norderstedt (Germany)

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492 pp. | Hardcover

This book captures almost a decade of research by Miguel Oliveira on John Dos Passos’ life and work. The study is a comprehensive investigation that explains how John Dos Passos associates to the migration problem. Varied subjects are treated such as: North America’s settlement, slavery, the emancipation of slaves, segregation, international and transit migrations, internal migrations, military migrations throughout WWI, the Spanish Civil War and WWII, the situation of DP’s in the immediate postwar eras, the Parisian expatriate movement, non-migrations, and the migration problems throughout Latin America (essentially Brazil) and Europe.

Actually, John Dos Passos’ own life history was marked by migration. His grandfather had emigrated from Maderia and settled in Baltimore, USA in 1830. He wasn’t able to prosper. But his son John Randolph Dos Passos became a self-made man.

John Dos Passos was born in the United States but passed his infancy in Belgium and in the UK. Later he attended language and literature courses in Spain. During WWI, he served as an ambulance driver in France and Italy, settling some time later in Paris as an expatriate writer. He returned to the US, where he underwent several internal migrations.

In his work John Dos Passos portrayed the Austrian, French, German, Greek, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Mexican, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish immigrations in the USA. He was aware that clinches existed between the “new immigrants” and the so called “old immigrants” that were of “Anglo-Saxon” stock. He observed that racism and anti-Semitism existed and condemned these severely. In his early work, the author didn’t believe that the American dream could come true but the late Dos Passos made up his mind, and concluded that America was the only country where people could live in liberty and freedom and thus fulfill their dreams.

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The book is completed by a preface by Teresa Cid of the University of Lisbon, some 170 figures, among them inedited photographs taken of John Dos Passos, a theoretical and historical background on migration, biographical and migration related chronologies, appendices that contain firsthand documents and short descriptions on John Dos Passos' writing.

From A Man without a Country to An American by Choice: John Dos Passos and Migration was sponsored by the University of Lisbon, and the Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD).

Critical Review

"Miguel Oliveira has written an impressive work that should be referred to by anyone interested in the not inconsiderable matter of John Dos Passos' fascination with his Portuguese heritage. More, this is an up-to-date handbook that will be extremely useful for anyone studying the life and writing of this important American author." Townsend Ludington, Boshamer Professor Emeritus of American Studies and English, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Editor, *The Fourteenth Chronicle: Letters and Diaries of John Dos Passos*; and author of *John Dos Passos: A Twentieth-Century Odyssey*.

Keywords

- Migration and Non-Migration
- Identity and Culture
- Naturalization and Citizenship
- Equality and Inequality
- American dream/nightmare
- Self-made-man

About the Author

Miguel Oliveira (Ph.D.) lectured and gave conferences amongst others at the University of Madeira, ISAL (a private College), the Technical University of Lisbon, as well as at the University of Vienna. Oliveira is the author of several books among them the Portuguese biography of the Nobel laureate Günter Grass, monographs on John Dos Passos, and the Portuguese translation of the German classic *Being Youth without God*, authored by Ödön von Horváth. In 2007, Oliveira instituted the Portuguese John Dos Passos Literary Award that is assigned biennially by the Municipal Chamber of Ponta do Sol, Madeira. Presently Miguel Oliveira lives in the great Lisbon area, Portugal.

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