construct of authority” that apparently governed medical practice and cure, and medical theory, physicians’ identity, and their socio-economic interests during the seventeenth century (251-2). Bertini’s difesa is preoccupied with “the rhetorical coinage of beliefs, not knowledge,” emphasizing how the “task is not so much the explication of medical episteme, but the reorientation of the audience towards the mass of medical topoi” (253). Struver emphasizes how Bertini’s difesa is central to understanding medicine as a cultural practice in the seventeenth century. Moreover, that the doctor/patient rhetoric of the period ought to be viewed intrinsically as “an autocratic regime” rather than merely as a political one (261).

The book is an excellent source—rich in its inclusion of references—and would be quite useful to those scholars who require a specialist treatment of medicine and rhetoric and philosophy of medicine during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in Europe. A bibliography and index are also included. Philosophers might also find this book useful especially if they want to investigate the philosophical developments as they pertain to medical discourses during the early modern period.


In *Abandoning America* Susan Hardman Moore begins with a salient point: “The [overlooked] stories of those who went over to New England but did not stay are at odds with the onward march of American history” (1). These people might be ignored in the American national narrative (as are, incidentally, those who fled abroad or to Canada during the Revolutionary years), but their numbers and viewpoints are nonetheless historically significant.

“It is ironic,” Moore observes, “that the settlers who provided New England’s leadership were also the most liable to pluck up stakes and go home” (18). Nearly half of the graduates of Harvard College headed to England before the Restoration of Charles II, and a third of the
ministers who migrated to the colonies returned to their homeland during the two English civil wars. Other ministers, including John Davenport, intended to return to England, as well, but were thwarted by the Restoration. Of course, many ordinary people re-migrated, too, for various economic, social, and spiritual reasons. Some were disenchanted with colonial experience, while others simply expected to find a better livelihood.

Recalling the loss of colonial population during that time, Increase Mather succinctly summed up the situation: “Since the year 1640, more persons have removed out of New England, than have gone thither.” Increase was, in fact, one of those Harvard graduates who hoped for an illustrious career in England during the 1650s, the decade when the reverse migration from the colonies surged. Once the Restoration loomed, however, Mather fled back to New England, where he produced a series of writings designed to negotiate his secular disappointment into a divinely authorized mission.

Although young Mather found it easy to leave, many others struggled with finding a just cause for leaving their New England churches and communities. Moore has examined this and related issues connected with the pre-Restoration remigration in her Pilgrims: New World Settlers and the Call to Home (2007). Moore’s summary of her findings in this valuable book provides a good hefty introduction to Abandoning America.

Moore’s new book is primarily comprised of detailed profiles of hundreds of individuals whose lives informed the conclusions Moore presented in the earlier book. What Moore hopes to provide in Abandoning America is a collection of life-stories that, in the aggregate, amount to “a new resource, based on a deep trawl of seventeenth-century sources in America and England” (16). She achieves that goal handily.