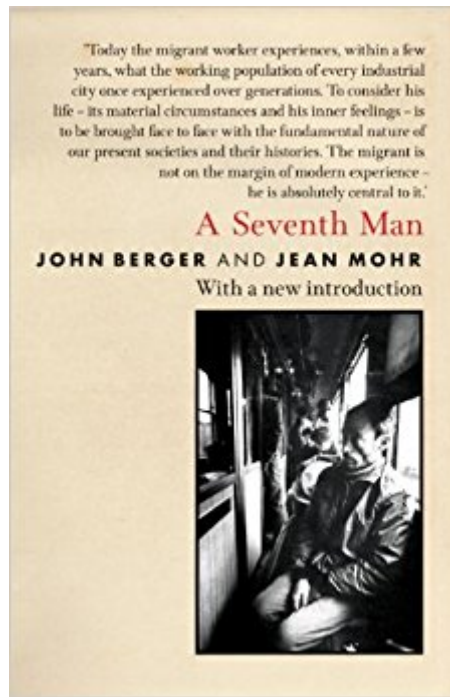


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# A Seventh Man



## Synopsis

Why does the Western world look to migrant laborers to perform the most menial tasks? What compels people to leave their homes and accept this humiliating situation? In *A Seventh Man*, John Berger and Jean Mohr come to grips with what it is to be a migrant worker—the material circumstances and the inner experience—and, in doing so, reveal how the migrant is not so much on the margins of modern life, but absolutely central to it. First published in 1975, this finely wrought exploration remains as urgent as ever, presenting a mode of living that pervades the countries of the West and yet is excluded from much of its culture.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a comparatively unknown work in Berger's opus, but it is a classic. Berger also worked with photographer Jean Mohr on the more well-known *A Fortunate Man* and *Another Way of Telling*. Here he says from the outset that "images and words should be read in their own terms" - that they make their own different statements and narratives. Still they enrich each other to tell of the situations of migrant workers in Europe in the mid-1970s. The analysis and even the photos do not feel dated even though this was before the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia. Berger writes to get inside the calculations that the migrant worker has to make in order to take the journey, and to live and work in a foreign land. He describes a very specific situation that is strictly male. There are many works now on gendered aspects of migration, which this book lacks, but it still has important things to say four decades after its first publication. It should make you think

every time you look at the architecture of a modern European city or ride the subway to your next destination or buy nearly any industrially-made product - what is the invisible face of the person who actually built these things with their own hands?

Book was in excellent condition

John Berger is a master. I first read this book years ago but recently revisited it. While some of the facts are a bit dated, his analysis of the immigrant experience is as fresh as when he wrote it.

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