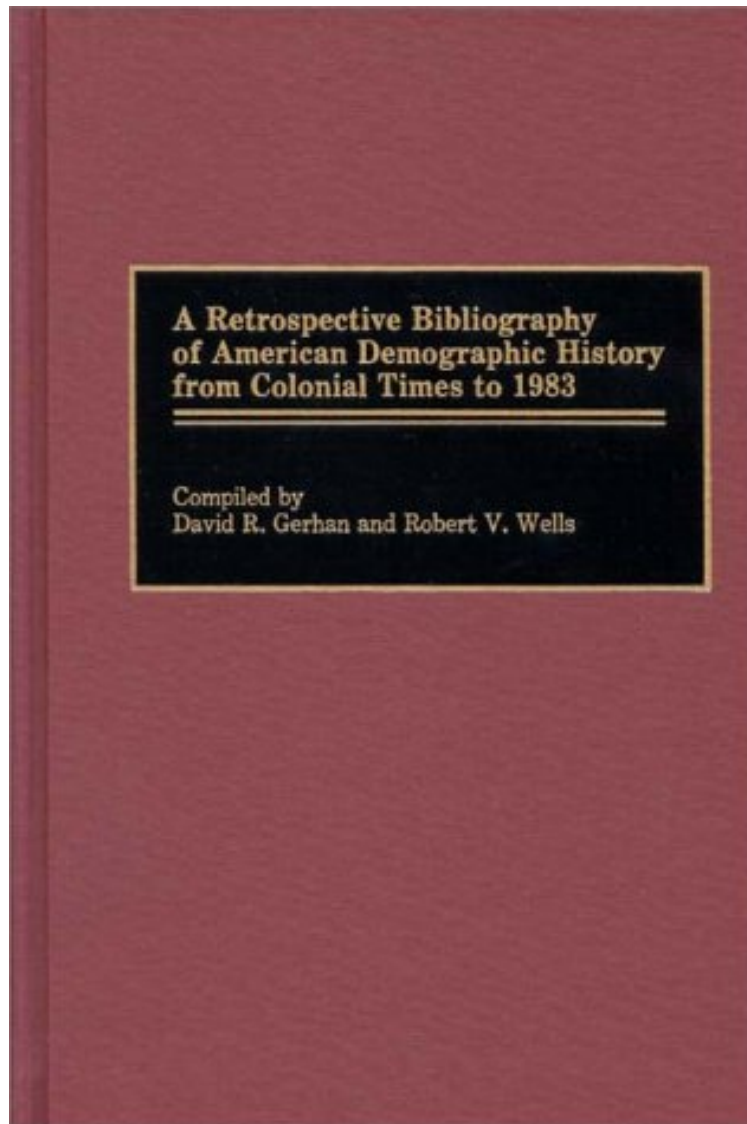


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A Retrospective Bibliography of American Demographic History from Colonial Times to 1983 (Bibliographies and Indexes in American History)

David R. Gerhan, Robert V. Wells

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whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *A Retrospective Bibliography of American Demographic History from Colonial Times to 1983* (Bibliographies and Indexes in American History):

Modern American demographic history emerged as a clearly defined discipline in the 1960s when historians began to realize the full value of demographic information to their studies of both population and more indirectly related subjects. In recent years a large body of literature has been produced, but there is a significant amount of material, which originated before demographic history became popular, that is still useful to scholars today. In addition, the range of related topics has broadened considerably, making the information more difficult to locate. This bibliography is the first comprehensive guide to the entire field of American demographic history. It contains over 3,800 citations of published materials on all aspects of the subject, including marriage and fertility, family and societal values, and the interactions of population with economics, politics, and society. Each section is introduced with a substantial bibliographic essay highlighting the chief works, the contours of the field, and the directions it appears to be taking. The first of two volumes, this scholarly work offers reader access through an elaborate table of contents that points up subject arrangement; an author index, a place name index, and an index of groups of people according to ethnic and national division, ages, religions, occupations, and gender. The extensive preface provides a discerning overview of the history of demographic research, and the literature covered spans the period from the colonial times to 1983. The companion volume will present the available sources from 1984 to the present. This exhaustive survey will be an important addition to academic and research libraries and a valuable resource for scholars, students, and genealogists.

"This bibliography, the first of two volumes planned for the topic, is well done. It meets a clear need in a subject that has emerged in the last 25 years as an important field of study in the social sciences. The compilers, a librarian and a demographic historian, are well qualified. Wells has authored several books and articles on demographic history, and his work *Revolutions in Americans' Lives* provided the initial impetus for this bibliography. The 3,840 citations are arranged within subject headings that correspond to this earlier work. Some familiarity with demographic history is advisable before this bibliography can be used with full benefit. But the work is intended for a user group that will ordinarily have more than a casual interest in the subject. The book is attractively produced and the citations are easy to follow. Introductory explanations of subtopics preceding the corresponding citations enhance the volume's value. Subject, author, and geographic indexes further increase its utility. Books and articles, many from state and local publications normally hard to access, are included. A second volume will cover the wealth of material published since 1983. Should be acquired by libraries with strong collections in the social sciences."-Choice. . . The references are easy to access through a detailed table of contents as well as author and place indexes and a broad subject index. Since the bibliography is unique in its coverage of American historical demography, it will be welcomed by academic libraries."-ARBA?. . . The references are easy to access through a detailed table of contents as well as author and place indexes and a broad subject index. Since the bibliography is unique in its coverage of American historical demography, it will be welcomed by academic libraries.?-ARBA?This bibliography, the first of two volumes planned for the topic, is well done. It meets a clear need in a subject that has emerged in the last 25 years as an important field of study in the social sciences. The compilers, a librarian and a demographic historian, are well qualified. Wells has authored several books and articles on demographic history, and his work *Revolutions in Americans' Lives* provided the initial impetus for this bibliography. The 3,840 citations are arranged within subject headings that correspond to this earlier work. Some familiarity with demographic history is advisable before this bibliography can be used with full benefit. But the work is intended for a user group that will ordinarily have more than a casual interest in the subject. The book is attractively produced and the citations are easy to follow. Introductory explanations of subtopics preceding the corresponding citations enhance the volume's value. Subject, author, and geographic indexes further increase its utility. Books and articles, many from state and local publications normally hard to access, are included. A second volume will cover the wealth of material published since 1983. Should be acquired by libraries with strong collections in the social sciences.?-ChoiceAbout the AuthorDAVID R. GERHAN is Associate Professor and Head of Information Services at Union College Library, Schenectady, New York. His earlier works include consulting reports to the New York State Library, and articles published in the *Journal of Academic Librarianship* and in *RQ:Reference Quarterly*. He is author of an ERIC document on multinational business, co-author of a newspaper bibliography, and he has written a masters thesis in American Studies.ROBERT V. WELLS is Washington Irving Professor of Modern Literary and Historical Studies at Union College, Schenectady, New York. He is the author of *The Population of the British Colonies in America Before 1776*, *Revolutions in Americans' Lives* (Greenwood Press), and *Uncle Sam's Family*. His most recent articles have appeared in the *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*.