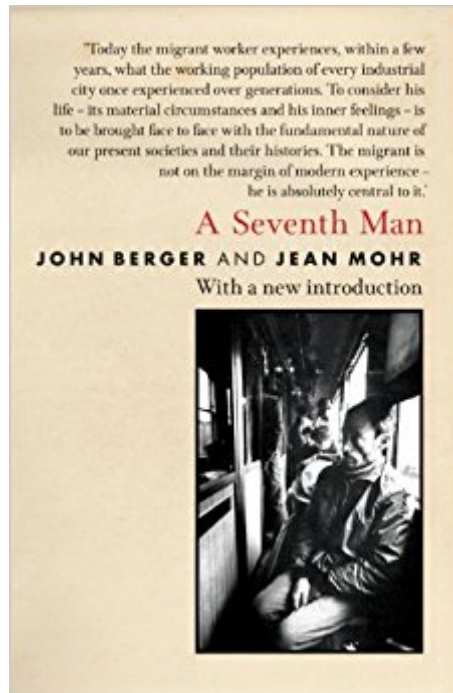




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# A Seventh Man



## 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

Paperback: 248 pages

Publisher: Verso; New Edition edition (October 18, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1844676498

ISBN-13: 978-1844676491

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #113,688 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #73 in [Books > Arts &](#)

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## Customer Reviews

“I admire and love John Berger’s books. He writes about what is important, not just interesting – in contemporary English letters, he seems to be peerless; not since Lawrence has there been a writer who offers such attentiveness to the sensual world with responsiveness to the imperatives of conscience. He is a wonderful artist and thinker.” – Susan Sontag

Storyteller, novelist, essayist, screenwriter, dramatist and critic, John Berger is one of the most internationally influential writers of the last fifty years. His many books include *Ways of Seeing*, the fiction trilogy *Into Their Labours*, *Here Is Where We Meet*, the Booker Prize-winning novel *G*, *Hold Everything Dear*, the Man Booker longlisted *From A to X*, and *A Seventh Man*. Jean Mohr’s longstanding collaboration with John Berger has produced five books, including *A*

Seventh Man and A Fortunate Man. Among his other works are After the Last Sky (with Edward Said) and Side by Side or Face to Face. He lives in Geneva, Switzerland.

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?

This is by far the best book ever written about the experiences of migrant workers. It was written in 1975 about migrant workers in Europe, but it applies to migrants everywhere and is more relevant now than when it was written. Berger is best known for his books on "how to see" and art, but IMHO this is his best work. His passing today is very sad. RIP - Rest in peace and power.

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.

everything's fine.

Educational

Book was in excellent condition

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