



American Immigration: A Student Companion (Student Companions to American History)

By Roger Daniels

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"Once I thought to write a history of the immigrants in America. Then I discovered that the immigrants *were* American history," wrote historian Oscar Handlin. Immigrants and generations of their descendants have defined the American nation from its beginning and continue to provide America's characteristic diversity, representing practically every race, nationality, religion, and ethnic group around the world. Some immigrants came to the New World in search of economic gain. Others were brought in chains. Still others found refuge in America from religious or ethnic persecution.

This single-volume encyclopedia includes more than 300 entries, covering multiple aspects of immigration history and policy:

- * ethnic groups, including census and immigration statistics, major periods of immigration and areas of settlement, predominant religion, and historical background
- * key immigration legislation, such as the Chinese Exclusion Act, Immigration Act of 1990, and Refugee Act of 1980
- * terms and concepts, including green card, quota system, citizen, naturalization, picture brides, and nativism
- * categories of immigrants, including refugees, indentured servants, children, and exiles
- * immigration stations: Angel Island, Castle Garden, and Ellis Island
- * religious groups and churches, such as Amish, Huguenots, Muslims, and Eastern Rite churches
- * further reading lists and cross-references follow each entry

An introductory essay provides a cogent overview of the entire scope of the book. More than 150 photographs and illustrations complement the entries. Statistical boxes supplement the articles with key information. A list of immigration, ethnic, and refugee organizations; a guide to further research that includes books, museums, and websites; and a detailed chronology conclude this useful resource for research in American history, ethnic and multicultural studies, and genealogy.

Oxford's Student Companions to American History are state-of-the-art references for school and home, specifically designed and written for ages 12 through adult.

Each book is a concise but comprehensive A-to-Z guide to a major historical period or theme in U.S. history, with articles on key issues and prominent individuals. The authors--distinguished scholars well-known in their areas of expertise--ensure that the entries are accurate, up-to-date, and accessible. Special features include an introductory section on how to use the book, further reading lists, cross-references, chronology, and full index.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 6 Up-A comprehensive, up-to-date encyclopedia. After a fine overview, extensive space is devoted to ethnic groups: when they came, where they settled, what they did, organizations they formed, important individuals, and statistics through 1996. Other alphabetical entries discuss major immigration legislation; key terms and concepts, such as "green card" and "nativism"; the differing categories of immigrants, such as "indentured servants" and "refugees"; and various religious groups and churches. The entries are followed by numerous cross-references and short bibliographies. Carefully chosen black-and-white illustrations, including photographs, cartoons, engravings, and maps, add interest. The valuable appendixes include a chronology; an annotated listing of immigration, ethnic, and refugee organizations; and a guide suggesting further reading, museums, and Web sites. A minor quibble is the lack of separate entries for various Arab nationalities, like "Lebanese" or "Iraqis"; instead, all are treated under the umbrella term "Arabs." This invaluable resource should be in every basic immigration collection.

Diane S. Marton, Arlington County Library, VA

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From [Booklist](#)

These titles are the newest in Oxford's Student Companions to American History, written for the junior-high-school through adult audience. Arranged alphabetically, each book in the series focuses on a major historical period or theme, with authoritative articles on key issues, events, and individuals.

American Immigration surveys its subject from the sixteenth century to the present, with entries covering topics such as *Artists, immigrant; Ellis Island; Hinduism; Naturalization policy; Nicaraguans; Picture brides; and Slave trade*. Entries for most ethnic groups include data on numbers of U.S. citizens claiming ancestry in each group (according to 1990 Census figures), the numbers who arrived during the period from 1986 to 1996, the major periods of immigration, and the major areas of settlement. Examples of entries in *The Civil War and Reconstruction* include *Confederate policies; Desertion; Election of 1876; Impressment Act of 1863; Ku Klux Klan; McClellan, George B.; and Railroads*. Biographies begin with fact summaries that provide birth and death dates and places, political affiliation, and details about education and career. In both volumes, most entries range in length from one-half to three pages in length and are accompanied by excellent cross-references and further readings, as well as period illustrations, photographs, and maps with informative captions. Laws and legislation are well covered. Chronologies, bibliographies, and lists of museums and Web sites conclude each volume. Indexing is thorough.

For general information as well as background reading, these two titles will find readers and researchers within high-school and public libraries and are recommended for these audiences. The variety of topics that are covered surpasses many other single volumes on similar subjects. REVWR

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Review

"Excellent cross-references...informative captions....Recommended for high school and public libraries....The variety of topics that are covered surpasses many other single volumes on similar subjects."--Booklist

"A comprehensive, up-to-date encyclopedia. After a fine overview, extensive space is devoted to ethnic groups: when they came, where they settled, what they did, organizations they formed, important individuals, and statistics through 1996."--School Library Journal

"Students studying American history, genealogy, and ethnic and multicultural issues will find much good information here....Reading lists and cross-references make this volume even more valuable....A 'must' for high-school media centers. Highly recommended."--Book Report, starred review

"Highly readable....Ideal for young adults seeking brief overviews of particular ethnic groups....Recommended."--VOYA

"This valuable reference source features brief encyclopedia-style entries on a variety of topics related to immigration in the United States and Canada."--MultiCultural Review

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled American Immigration: A Student Companion (Student Companions to American History). Try to face the book American Immigration: A Student Companion (Student Companions to American History) as your good friend. It means that it can for being your friend when you sense alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , let us make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

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Megan Kelly:

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