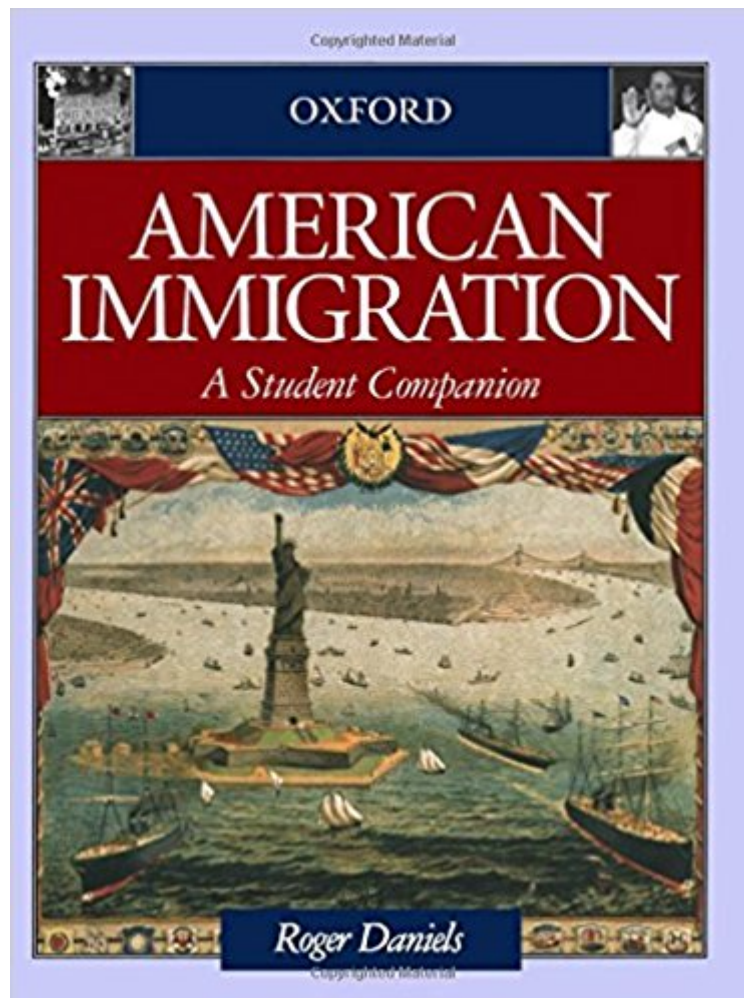


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# American Immigration: A Student Companion (Student Companions To American History)



## Synopsis

"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.

## Book Information

Series: Student Companions to American History

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press (May 10, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195113160

ISBN-13: 978-0195113167

Product Dimensions: 10.7 x 0.8 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

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

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 Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

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