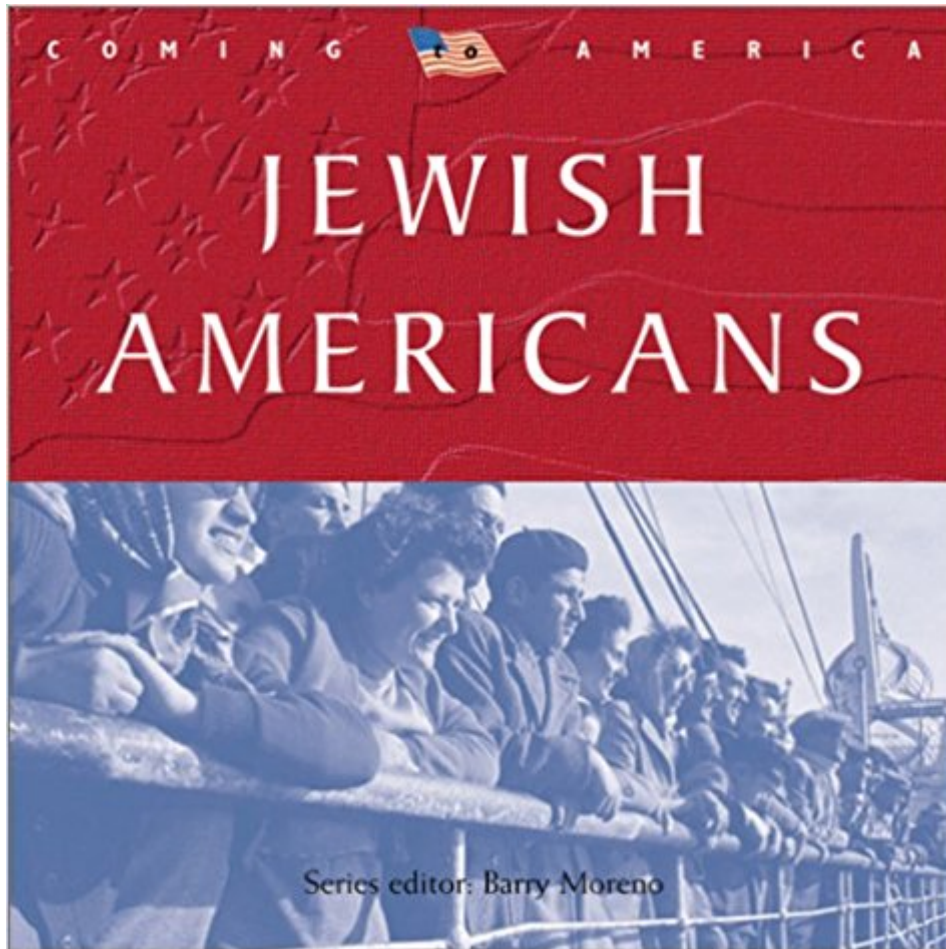




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Jewish Americans (Coming To America)



Synopsis

They escaped from oppression and poverty in Russia, Poland, Germany, and many other parts of Europe, and settled mainly in America's large cities. With Jewish immigration to America came their rich family and religious traditions, and their abiding respect for the arts and sciences, inspiring many among them to great achievement in these fields. Biographical sketches include Albert Einstein, the Guggenheim family, Isaac Stern, Saul Bellow, and others. This important new series documents and dramatizes the immigration experience of untold numbers of men, women, and children who arrived in America from the four corners of the world. As they assimilated into American society, they enriched the nation's character and experience. Many of America's immigrants passed through the Ellis Island Immigration Center in New York Harbor during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. What were the initial hopes and fears of these new arrivals? Where did they first settle, and what kinds of work did they find? Which elements from their various cultures have since blended into the national scene and helped reshape what has become modern America? The first titles in this dramatic series bring alive the experiences of four important ethnic groups, with contemporary photos and first-person accounts of their dramatic, life-changing experiences. Readers glimpse each group's social customs, family life, traditional food and drink, festivals, and much more. There are also brief but vivid capsule biographies of famous individuals who rose to prominence from each ethnic group. Approximately 150 illustrations in each book.

Book Information

Series: Coming to America

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Customer Reviews

Grade 4-7-In straightforward and basically neutral language, these titles describe the patterns of emigration from the peoples' native countries. Reading them together, one is struck by the many similarities of motivation in leaving one's homeland and the commonalities of experience of each group as immigrants in America. The texts discuss, largely chronologically, each wave of immigration and the lives the people have made for themselves in the United States. Color photographs and narrative inserts are interspersed throughout. While often quite interesting and informative, too often these inserts and pictures bear little relationship to the texts that surround them. The font for the inserts is tiny and appears cropped, making for challenging reading. In both books, boldface type indicates words that are defined in the glossary, although the texts are quite good at explaining them in context. The discussion in *Jewish Americans* concludes with a list of prominent Jewish-Americans, followed by a table showing immigration numbers from census figures from 1790 to 2000. In *Arab Americans*, a chronology of significant events takes the place of the population table. Up-to-date additions where needed. Linda Greengrass, Bank Street College Library, New York City Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Reviewed with Tom Deignan's *Irish Americans*. Gr. 7-10. Although there are several series that introduce the immigrant experience, books in the new *Coming to America* series are particularly well thought out, with informative graphics complementing the well-written texts. The focus in these books is equally divided between the conditions that made emigration desirable for the Jews and the Irish, what life was like for the newly arrived, and how the newcomers enriched their adopted countries. *Jewish Americans* notes that there were six Jews on Columbus' voyage, and then goes on to describe the waves of immigration from various countries. With first-person writings complementing the text and dramatic black-and-white photos chronicling immigrant life, readers get a real sense of what it was like to arrive as a "greenhorn" in America. The *Irish-American*s get a similar treatment, and in both cases the books delve deeper than many series, discussing such issues as German Jews' prejudice against Eastern Europeans who arrived later, or the effect rebellion in Ireland had on the Irish in America. The compact volumes have rather small typeface, but their attractive design balances things out. Ilene Cooper Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

This book is part of the series; *Major American Immigration*. For the Jewish experience, Lingen chronicles the waves of immigration, the conditions that made emigration desirable, and the new

lives in America wrought with poverty, successes and prejudice from the larger American community as well as from within the more established Jewish community. Lingen gives voice, albeit cursory, to many of the waves of Jews including Spanish, German, eastern European, and Middle Eastern. She also remains true to primary sources, as in her use of the term yehudishkeit as opposed to the more recognized yiddishkeit when referring to Jews of the Colonial era. Throughout, boldface type indicates words that are defined in the glossary. Most Jewish-based words are explained within the text itself. With first-person writings complementing the text and dramatic black-and-white photos chronicling immigrant life, readers get a real sense of what it was like to arrive as a "greenhorn" in America. There are minor inaccuracies that do not detract from the elaborate research, including a comment that Israeli citizenship is the only dual citizenship recognized by the US. Overall, this work has many important facts and moving story introductions which provide a well written overview of the Jewish immigrant experience. The book concludes with a short list of prominent Jewish-Americans, followed by a table showing immigration numbers from census figures from 1790 to 2000 with a 2008 estimate, along with an index, bibliography, and useful Internet resources. Drora Arussy

I highly recommend the 'Coming to America' series. Like all titles in the series 'Jewish Americans' takes a look at the lot in life of Jewish immigrants on both sides of the Atlantic, the trials they faced reaching in America, and the battles they had to fight with poverty and prejudice upon their arrival. This is an excellent introduction for a layperson and is full of poignant photographs and examples of famous American Jews, from politicians to artists to gangsters.

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