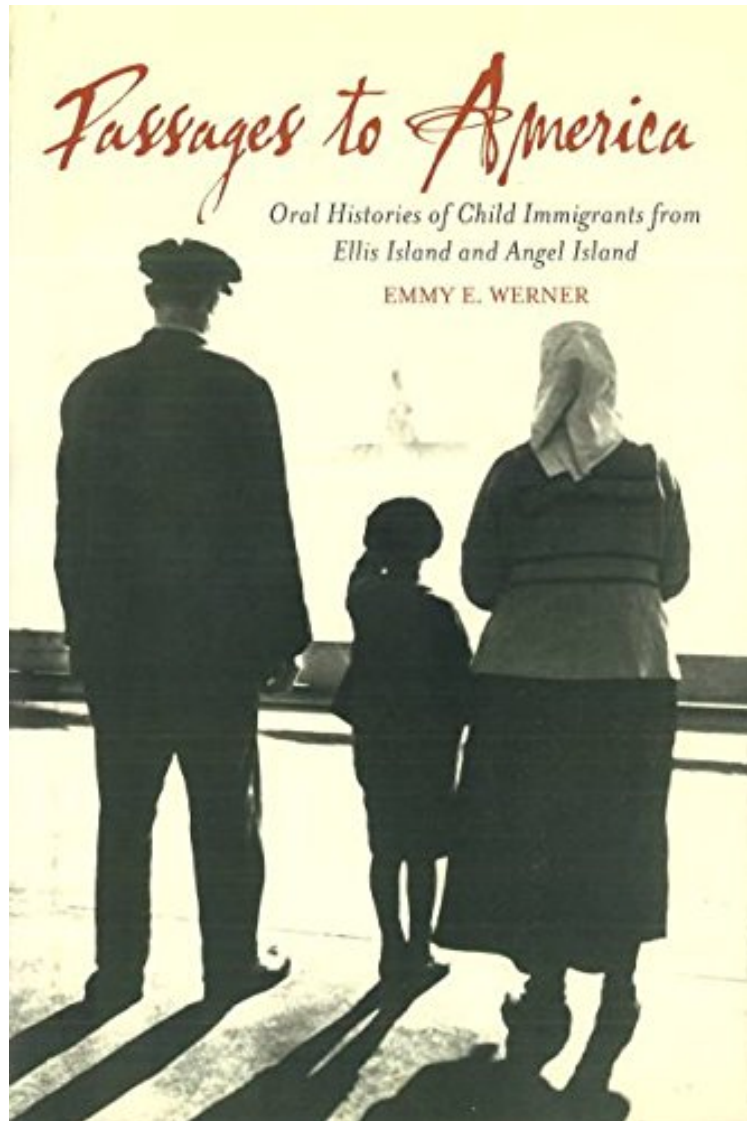


[FREE] Passages to America: Oral Histories of Child Immigrants from Ellis Island and Angel Island

Passages to America: Oral Histories of Child Immigrants from Ellis Island and Angel Island

Emmy E. Werner

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Emmy E. Werner : Passages to America: Oral Histories of Child Immigrants from Ellis Island and Angel Island before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Passages to America: Oral Histories of Child Immigrants from Ellis Island and Angel Island:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Book for first hand information of immigrants in 1880 to 1920 By cindy If you are interested in the perspective of a child immigrants from various parts of Europe from around

the late eighteenth hundreds to 1920 to America then this is the book to read. This is actually a replacement copy of a book that was lost. So happy that someone still had a copy around. This is a great read and it even helps if you are doing genealogy and need info on the reasons why people left their countries. Highly recommend this book. Middle school to High school reading level. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. DisappointedBy kathie While this book does have personal accounts of immigrant experiences, I found the stories flat and devoid of much emotion. By the way they described their experiences, it sounded like the stories were in the author's "americanized" words and not of the immigrant's broken English. Poor uneducated people don't speak as eloquently as the ones in this book do. Many of the personal accounts were very short and lacked depth of the person being interviewed. If you want a genuine feeling of the immigrant experience in their words, read Peter Morton Coan's book, Ellis Island Interviews.

More than twelve million immigrants, many of them children, passed through Ellis Islands gates between 1892 and 1954. Children also came through the Guardian of the Western Gate, the detention center on Angel Island in California that was designed to keep Chinese immigrants out of the United States. Based on the oral histories of fifty children who came to the United States before 1950, this book chronicles their American odyssey against the backdrop of World Wars I and II, the rise and fall of Hitler's Third Reich, and the hardships of the Great Depression. Ranging in age from four to sixteen years old, the children hailed from Northern, Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe; the Middle East; and China. Across ethnic lines, the child immigrants' life stories tell a remarkable tale of human resilience. The sources of family and community support that they relied on, their educational aims and accomplishments, their hard work, and their optimism about the future are just as crucial today for the new immigrants of the twenty-first century. These personal narratives offer unique perspectives on the psychological experience of being an immigrant child and its impact on later development and well-being. They chronicle the joys and sorrows, the aspirations and achievements, and the challenges that these small strangers faced while becoming grown citizens.

This book, a rich and remarkable cornucopia of first-hand accounts of immigration by children from the 1880s to the 1950s, allows us to grasp the human meaning of migration. We learn, in vivid, forceful language, what it is like to leave one's homeland and adjust to an alien environment. We not only discover the hardships that children from Britain, China, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Russia, Scandinavia, and Turkey faced—the culture shocks, the language barriers, and the grinding poverty—but how they were able to surmount adversity and privation. As new generations of child immigrants enter the United States, these accounts help us understand what today's children from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Latin America go through as they make the passage to America. Steven Mintz, professor of history, Columbia University, and author of *Huckleberry Raft: A History of American Childhood*