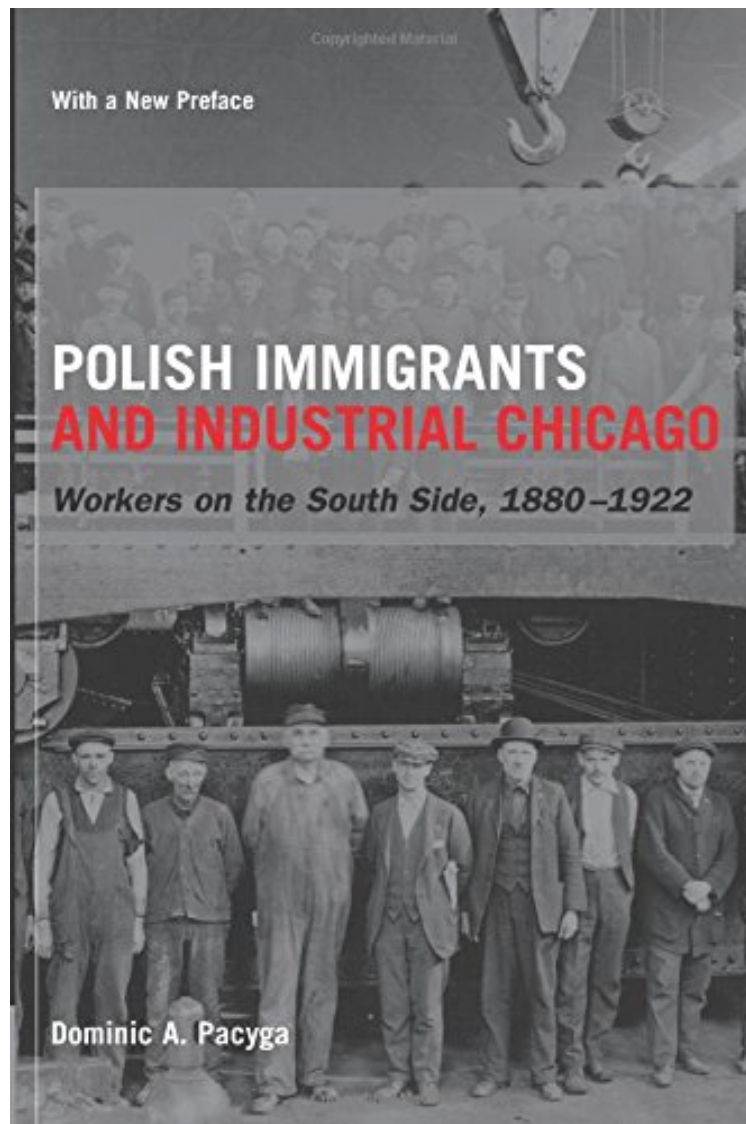


## Polish Immigrants and Industrial Chicago: Workers on the South Side, 1880-1922

*Dominic A. Pacyga*

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**Dominic A. Pacyga : Polish Immigrants and Industrial Chicago: Workers on the South Side, 1880-1922** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Polish Immigrants and Industrial Chicago: Workers on the South Side, 1880-1922:

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Snapshot of Polish-American History. By A

CustomerIf you've traced your Polish ancestors back to turn-of-the-century Chicago, You will find a lot of valuable insights on their experience by reading this book. The life of any new immigrant was never very easy in this country and Pacyga leads you through all of the hardships that these determined people faced. Unfortunately, Pacyga's focus shifts away from the immigrant towards the end of the book and he includes an in-depth history of Chicago's labor unions. Although the unions certainly affected the Polish immigrant's life, I thought that too much of the divergent chapters were off-subject. But, don't let that discourage you from reading it. There is real American history being told here.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy S SzabadosLove it, great insight on Polish immigration and South side of Chicago

How did working-class immigrants from Poland create new communities in Chicago during the industrial age? This book explores the lives of immigrants in two iconic South Side Polish neighborhoodsthe Back of the Yards and South Chicagoand the stockyards and steel mills in which they made their living. Pacyga shows how Poles forged communities on the South Side in an attempt to preserve the customs of their homeland; how through the development of churches, the building of schools, the founding of street gangs, and the opening of saloons they tried to recreate the feel of an Eastern European village. Through such institutions, Poles also were able to preserve their folk beliefs and family customs. But in time, the economic hardships of industrialization forced Poles to reach out to their non-Polish neighbors. And this led, in large part, to the organization of labor unions in Chicago's steel and meatpacking industries.

"A well-organized, thoughtful work which amply demonstrates the author's command of the literature on labor, social, and class history. . . . Pacyga illustrates better than any previous author the relationship of Polish behavior in America to the traditional values and practices of Polish peasant society in Europe."