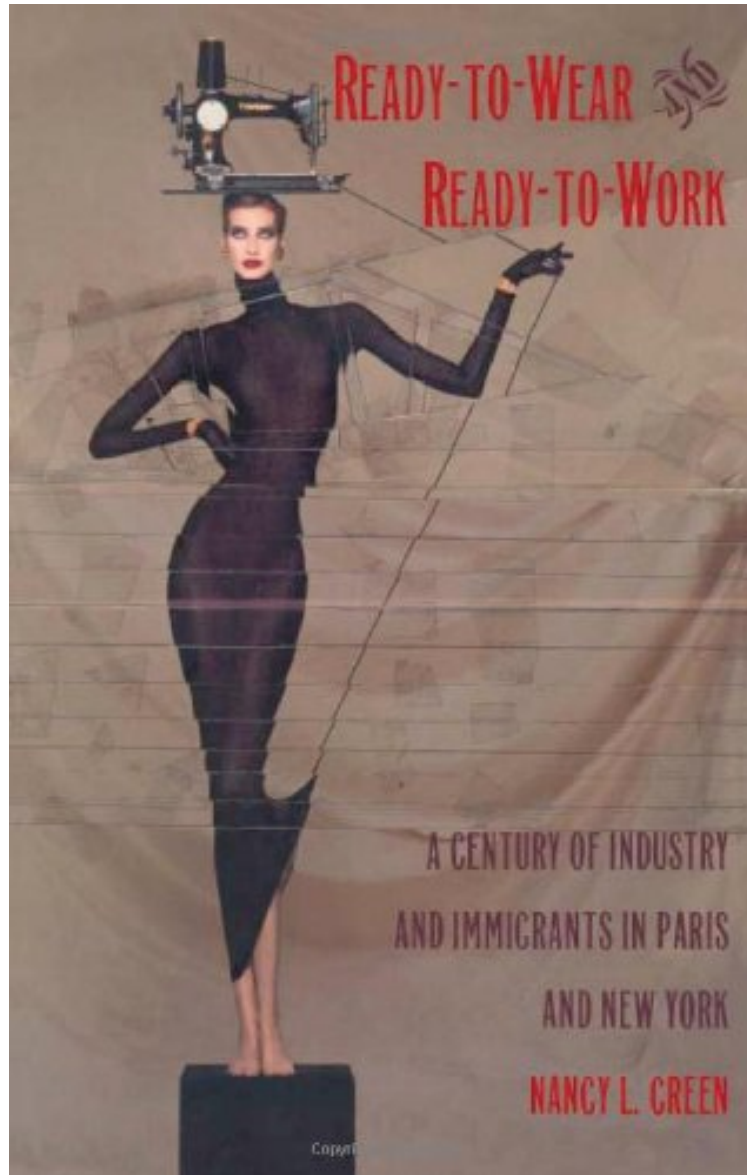


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## Ready-to-Wear and Ready-to-Work: A Century of Industry and Immigrants in Paris and New York (Comparative and International Working-Class History)

*Nancy L. Green*

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**Nancy L. Green : Ready-to-Wear and Ready-to-Work: A Century of Industry and Immigrants in Paris and New York (Comparative and International Working-Class History)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether

or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Ready-to-Wear and Ready-to-Work: A Century of Industry and Immigrants in Paris and New York (Comparative and International Working-Class History)*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By niena cronin  
bought for daughter she's in fashion  
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating topic, fascinating book  
By Michael J. Ryan  
I thoroughly enjoyed "Ready-to-Wear and Ready-to-Work", Nancy L. Green's erudite and expansive study of a century of the garment industry in Paris and New York. I've worn clothes for most of my life, but never knew much about where they come from. Now I do. Clothes don't come from stores-- they come from people, piece by piece. People with a story to tell. Green's vastly-researched work is not only a history of the people, usually immigrants, often Jews, who have populated the garment industry. It is also a social history, an economic history and a technological history. The book is not an easy read-- it is a complex analysis of complex topics-- but it is a worthwhile read. Green successfully weaves the topics into a fabric of consistently excellent quality from beginning to end. I found the book fascinating. I recommend it to anyone who wears clothes. Naked people probably won't be interested.

Nancy L. Green offers a critical and lively look at New York's Seventh Avenue and the Parisian Sentier in this first comparative study of the two historical centers of the women's garment industry. Torn between mass production and "art," this industry is one of the few manufacturing sectors left in the service-centered cities of today. *Ready-to-Wear and Ready-to-Work* tells the story of urban growth, the politics of labor, and the relationships among the many immigrant groups who have come to work the sewing machines over the last century. Green focuses on issues of fashion and fabrication as they involve both the production and consumption of clothing. Traditionally, much of the urban garment industry has been organized around small workshops and flexible homework, and Green emphasizes the effect this labor organization had on the men and mostly women who have sewn the garments. Whether considering the immigrant Jews, Italians, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Chinese in New York or the Chinese-Cambodians, Turks, Armenians, and Russian, Polish, and Tunisian Jews in Paris, she outlines similarities of social experience in the shops and the unions, while allowing the voices of the workers, in all their diversity to be heard. A provocative examination of gender and ethnicity, historical conflict and consensus, and notions of class and cultural difference, *Ready-to-Wear and Ready-to-Work* breaks new ground in the methodology of comparative history.

Nancy Green consistently challenges the narratives and categories by which labor historians, sociologists, economists, and journalists have addressed the history of urban garment production. Green's analysis is a tour de force. Donald Reid, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill