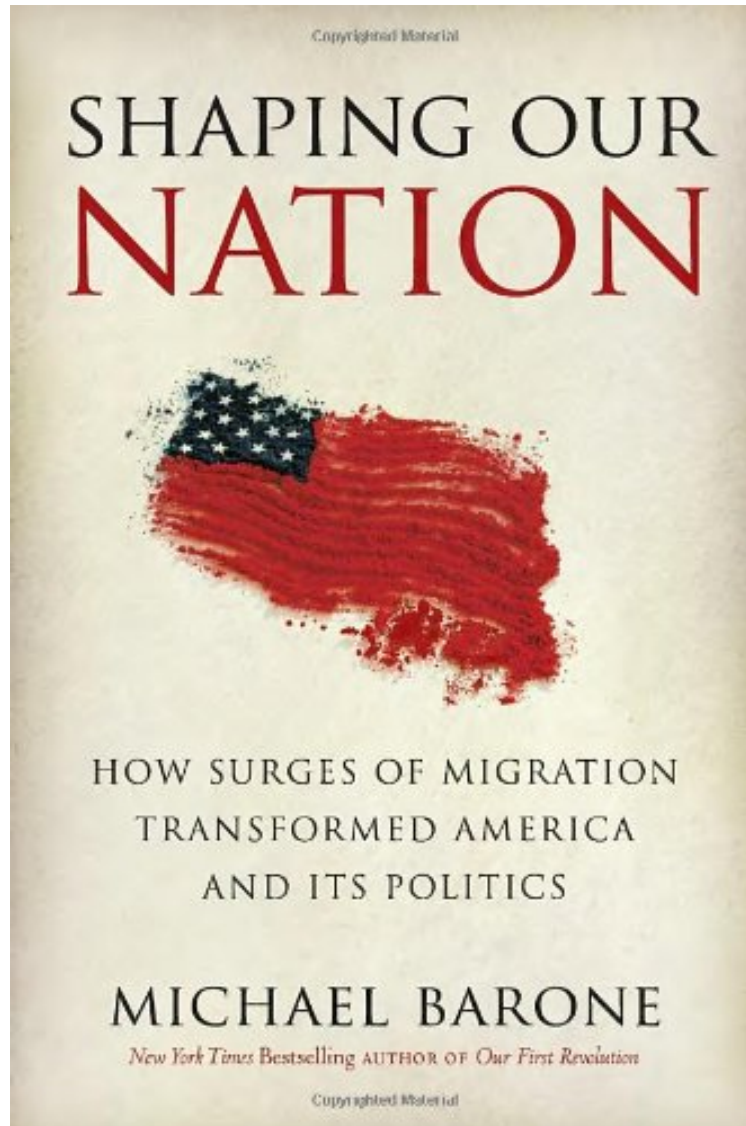


(Download ebook) Shaping Our Nation: How Surges of Migration Transformed America and Its Politics

Shaping Our Nation: How Surges of Migration Transformed America and Its Politics

Michael Barone

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Michael Barone : Shaping Our Nation: How Surges of Migration Transformed America and Its Politics before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shaping Our Nation: How Surges of Migration Transformed America and Its Politics:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. the book is well organized and an easy read. By George Miller This book traces internal (citizens) and external (immigrants) migration in the US, from the Scots-Irish migration that

started before the American Revolution, and ending with current "sorting" migration of liberal professionals to liberal areas such as the San Francisco Bay area and Washington DC and of conservative professionals to Dallas, Charlotte, and Atlanta. Many of the chapters compare and contrast two migrations that occurred at the same time: the Yankee expansion across the Northern US and the Southern Grandee (slave holding populations) into Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana (with exception of New Orleans), Arkansas, and Texas before the Civil War, and the migration of Irish and German settlers in the late 1840s through the 1880s. Most of these migrations were not predicted and ended abruptly for reasons that were not understood until some time after their end. The book describes the impacts of immigrant cultures on immigrant migrations - i.e., the Irish tending to stay in large cities while the Germans headed for rural areas. The book also tracks impacts of technology on migration: i.e., air conditioning making the South a much more attractive place to live. While most of the information in this book is not new, the book is well organized and an easy read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. More legal than illegal By David D. Harvison Well done overview of the major migrations both to and within the United States from 1740 to today. For deeper view of the Scots-Irish immigration look to "like" list. The northern European immigrations are covered but the impact and major players could be more deeply covered as this is not usually a focus of immigration history. This seems like a reporters overview versus an academics deeper look at both what happened and what longer term impact resulted. Maybe this is because Barone is an excellent reporter. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tough read, but worth the effort By Kevin D. Hagerty I bogged down a bit on this one, but the information contained within this book was worth the effort to have. The case is made successfully for comprehending the dynamics of the various migratory diaspora, particularly as they explain the current atmosphere within this country. Many of the currently active factions are based not in recent, but in distant countries of origin and cultural, religious and economic influences. Fascinating, but requiring dedication.

It is often said that America has become culturally diverse only in the past quarter century. But from the countrys beginning, cultural variety and conflict have been a centrifugal force in American politics and a crucial reason for our rise to power. The peopling of the United States is one of the most important stories of the last five hundred years, and in *Shaping our Nation*, bestselling author and demographics expert Michael Barone illuminates a new angle on Americas rise, using a vast array of political and social data to show America is the product of a series large, unexpected mass movements both internal and external which typically lasted only one or two generations but in that time reshaped the nation, and created lasting tensions that were difficult to resolve. Barone highlights the surprising trends and connections between the America of today and its migrant past, such as how the areas of major Scots-Irish settlement in the years leading up to the Revolutionary War are the same areas where John McCain performed better in the 2008 election than George W. Bush did in 2004, and how in the years following the Civil War, migration across the Mason-Dixon line all but ceased until the annealing effect that the shared struggle of World War II produced. Barone also takes us all the way up to present day, showing what the surge of Hispanic migration between 1970 and 2010 means for the elections and political decisions to be made in the coming decades. Barone shows how, from the Scots-Irish influxes of the 18th century, to the Ellis Island migrations of the early 20th and the Hispanic and Asian ones of the last four decades, people have moved to America in part in order to make a better living but more importantly, to create new communities in which they could thrive and live as they wanted. And the founders formula of limited government, civic equality, and tolerance of religious and cultural diversity has provided a ready and useful template for not only coping with these new cultural influences, but for prospering as a nation with cultural variety. Sweeping, thought-provoking, and ultimately hopeful, *Shaping Our Nation* is an unprecedented addition to our understanding of Americas cultural past, with deep implications for the immigration, economic, and social policies of the future.

"Lively, entertaining, and informative." -Alvin Felzenberg, *The Weekly Standard* Reading Michael Barone on politics and demography is like sampling a tasting menu prepared by a fine chef. His latest offering, *Shaping Our Nation*, does not disappoint. The book is a delightful read, full of color and stories of people and just enough data to inform and satisfy... It is a treat for the reader, and will trick you into knowing more about modern politics than you might otherwise have wanted to discover. -Washington Times An honest, objective exploration of how immigrants changed the identity of the United States. -Washington Independent of Books There is bipartisan Washington agreement about exactly one thing: No one else knows as much about anything as Michael Barone knows about American politics. This is confirmed by his sparkling study of the migrations that have made, and continue to make, our nation what it is. George F. Will, columnist, *The Washington Post* Michael Barone, who created the indispensable *Almanac of American Politics* and has been updating it since 1972, knows the United States and its political contours from our largest cities to our smallest hamlets in all 3,033 of the nations counties. In *The Great Surge*, he applies that panoramic knowledge to the peopling of the nation, describing not just where our forebears originated, but how the many waves of migration within America have shaped our culture, politics, and destiny. *The Great Surge* added a new dimension to my understanding of American history. Charles Murray, bestselling author of *Coming Apart* and *The Bell Curve*

"Nobody knows the political map of the United States better than Michael Barone. In this fascinating, fast-paced history he explains who we Americans are, where we came from, when, and why." Walter A. McDougall, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, University of Pennsylvania

Michael Barone dazzles in this eminently lucid and fair minded account of how a series of great migrations from colonial times to the present day shaped American cultural and political history. Linking today's Asian and Hispanic waves of immigrants to the Irish, Germans and others who came before, Barone reminds us that American identity has always been a work in progress. At a time when many doubt America's resilience and coherence, Barone offers solid ground for hope that America's future will be as rich, as complex and ultimately as fulfilling as anything we've seen in the past. Walter Russell Mead, professor, Bard College, editor-at-large, *The American Interest*

As Michael Barone's *The Great Surge* demonstrates, America's history is largely one of migrations, a process that continues today. If you want to understand what divides Americans in terms of regions and ethnicity, Barone's book is essential. It also helps to remind us what has united us as a people through all these demographic storms, and can do so in the future. Joel Kotkin, author of *The Next Hundred Million*

Michael Barone paints an illuminating demographic portrait that shows how historical migration surges and pauses, mostly unanticipated, profoundly shaped enduring regional interests in this country. Anyonewanting to understand today's divisive politics and how we got here needs to read this book. William H Frey, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution and Research Professor, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan

About the Author MICHAEL BARONE is a foremost expert on American politics and history, a senior political analyst for the *Washington Examiner*, and author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Our First Revolution* and *Hard America, Soft America*. A resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, he is also a Fox News Channel contributor and coauthor of *The Almanac of American Politics*. His column is published Wednesdays and Sundays. He blogs regularly for the *Examiner's Beltway Confidential* site.