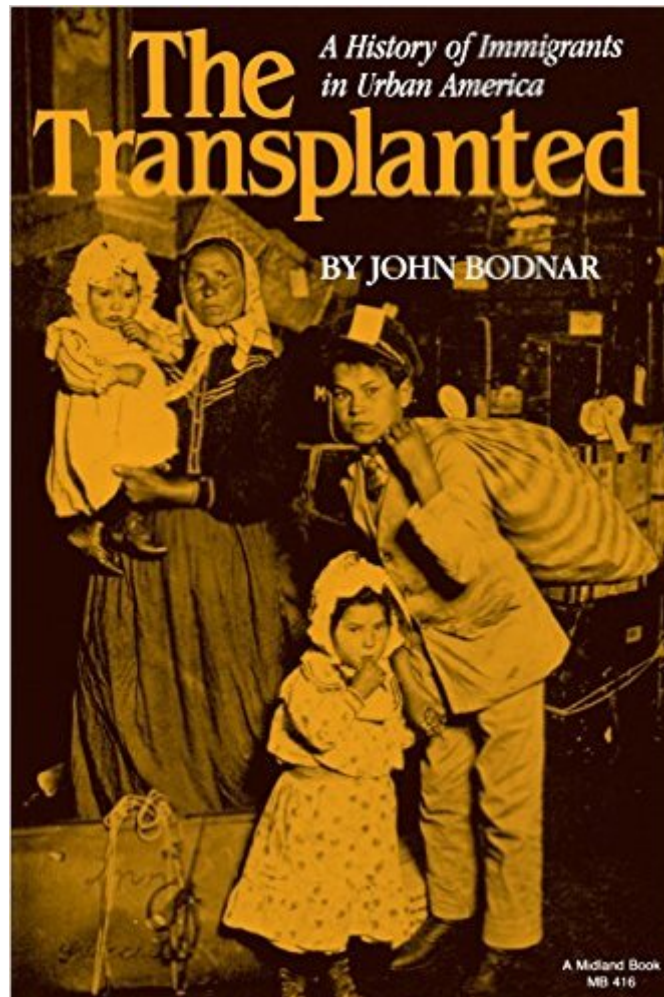


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The Transplanted: A History Of Immigrants In Urban America (Interdisciplinary Studies In History)



Synopsis

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Customer Reviews

John Bodnar's "The Transplanted" is a broad interpretive study of how immigrants in America endured the "swirl of interaction" between economic and societal forces by providing order and stability to their lives. Bodnar begins with an analysis of the situations immigrants faced in their homelands, beginning around the 1830s, and ties these old world experiences with experiences faced in America up to 1930. In large part, Bodnar's study is a reaction to Oscar Handlin's "The Uprooted." In this work, Handlin argued that immigrants were victimized by their transatlantic migration as the institutions they held most dear--property, religion, family, and tradition--were

destroyed or rendered irrelevant. Bodnar, however, counters this argument by maintaining that immigrants were not forced to passively abandon their traditions by dominant American influences. Immigrants, in fact, were prepared for their migration from experiences at home and resisted societal, religious, and political pressures when such pressures threatened the economic and social stability in their lives. Bodnar's work is very impressive in that he takes historical evidence about the lives of immigrants in America and applies it to interpretations offered by other historians (in particular, Oscar Handlin). Bodnar is thus able to mount a convincing argument against common beliefs about American immigrants. Bodnar also explains to the reader that the subject of American immigration is highly complex. Various groups of people emigrated to America for various reasons and had different experiences after their arrival.

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