Theory and Thinking about immigration and ethnicity


Overviews and Reference Material

Taylor, Philip. The Distant Magnet: European Emigration to the U.S.A. (New York: Harper and Row, 1971) Very handy on changes in transportation, immigrant guides, the entire mechanics of migration


Daniels, Roger. Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life (New York: Perennial, 2002). A very good introduction by group with good statistics and helpful summaries of each.

Bayor, Ronald. The Columbia Documentary History of Race and Ethnicity in America. (New York: Columbia University press, 2004). This is more than ethnicity
because it talks about blacks as well, but a good introduction to changing conditions of race and ethnicity and each essay is flowed by a score or more documents.

**Multi Group Studies**


Gabaccia, Donna. *We Are What We Eat: Ethnic Food and the Making of Americans* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998). Less interested in how food is important to identity than how ethnic food was or was not incorporated into American cuisine.


Smith, Judith E. *Family Connections: A History of Italian and Jewish Immigrant Lives in Providence, Rhode Island, 1900-1940*. (Albany: State University of New York, 1985). Nice book that documents brilliantly the tightness of immigrant families-how the children of immigrants lived with or close to their parents often into middle age.

Nativism or anti immigrant movements, legislation and citizenship


Anbinder, Tyler. Nativism and Slavery: The Northern Know Nothings and the Politics of the 1850s. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992) An interesting book that points out how the Know Nothing ant immigrant crusade was fueled by frustration over slavery.

Jacobson, Matthew Frye. Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998) The best book on a topic of recent great interest, changing racist thought in America and its influence on attitudes about immigrants. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, Italians, Jews and others in addition to blacks were considered racial inferiors.


Individual groups

The literature on separate groups is vast – the number of good books on Jewish Americans or Irish Americans for example could fill several pages. These are just books that I liked. They include some that have a broader purview than America – Bielienberg on the Irish, Gabaccia’s Diasporas on Italians, Luebke on Germans – because I think broader contexts and the potential for comparisons to immigrants in other countries are very helpful.

Asian Americans

Chan, Sucheng. Asian Americans: An Interpretive History (Boston: Twayne, 1991)


**German Americans**

**Irish Americans**

**Italian Americans**

**Jewish Americans**

**Mexican Americans**
Fox, Geoffrey. *Hispanic Nation: Culture, Politics and the Constructing of Identity.* (Secaucus, NJ: Birch Lane Press, 2000)

**Norwegian Americans**
Gjerde, Jon. *From Peasant to Farmers: The Migration from Balestrand, Norway to the Upper Middle West.* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985)
Polish Americans
