

Essays On Immigration Dover Thrift Editions American History



Essays on Immigration (Dover Thrift Editions: American History) by Bob Blaisdell

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Immigration is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has shaped the United States throughout its history. From the arrival of the first European settlers to the present day, immigrants have played a vital role in the country's economic, social, and political development. The essays in this volume explore the diverse experiences of immigrants in the United States, from their arrival and settlement to their struggles for equality and inclusion.

The Early Years of Immigration

The first major wave of immigration to the United States occurred in the 19th century, as millions of people from Europe fled poverty and persecution in their home countries. These immigrants settled in cities and towns across the country, where they worked in factories, mines, and other industries. They also brought with them their own cultures and traditions, which helped to shape the American identity.

The early years of immigration were also a time of great social and economic upheaval. Nativists, who feared the growing influence of immigrants, passed laws that restricted immigration and made it difficult for immigrants to become citizens. Despite these challenges, immigrants continued to come to the United States, seeking a better life for themselves and their families.

The Progressive Era and the New Immigration

The Progressive Era, which lasted from the late 19th century to the early 20th century, saw a new wave of immigration to the United States. This time, immigrants came from Southern and Eastern Europe, as well as from Asia. These immigrants faced even greater discrimination than their predecessors, as they were often seen as inferior to white Americans.

The Progressive Era was also a time of great social and economic change. The rise of industrialization and urbanization led to the creation of new jobs and opportunities for immigrants. However, it also led to the growth of slums and other social problems.

The Rise of the Immigration Restriction Movement

By the early 20th century, the United States had become a major destination for immigrants from all over the world. However, the country's immigration policies were increasingly restrictive. In 1921, Congress

passed the Emergency Quota Act, which limited the number of immigrants who could enter the United States from each country. This act was followed by the Immigration Act of 1924, which further restricted immigration and established a national origins quota system.

The immigration restriction movement was driven by a number of factors, including fear of foreigners, racism, and economic competition. Nativists argued that immigrants were taking jobs away from native-born Americans and that they were a threat to American culture and values.

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 was a landmark piece of legislation that reformed the United States' immigration policies. This act abolished the national origins quota system and established a new system based on family reunification and skills. The act also made it easier for immigrants to become citizens.

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 has had a profound impact on American society. It has led to a more diverse and vibrant population, and it has helped to strengthen the country's economy. However, the act has also been criticized for its impact on illegal immigration and for its failure to address the needs of undocumented immigrants.

Immigration is a complex and ever-changing phenomenon. The essays in this volume provide a glimpse into the diverse experiences of immigrants in the United States, from their arrival and settlement to their struggles for equality and inclusion. These essays remind us that immigration is a vital part of the American story, and that it is a force that has shaped the country's history, culture, and identity.

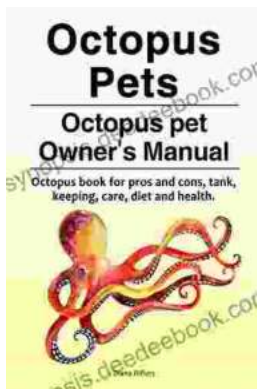
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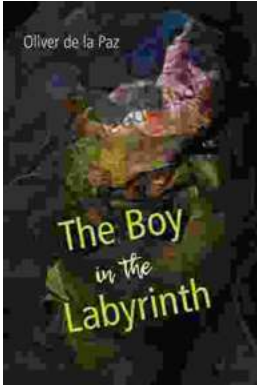
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