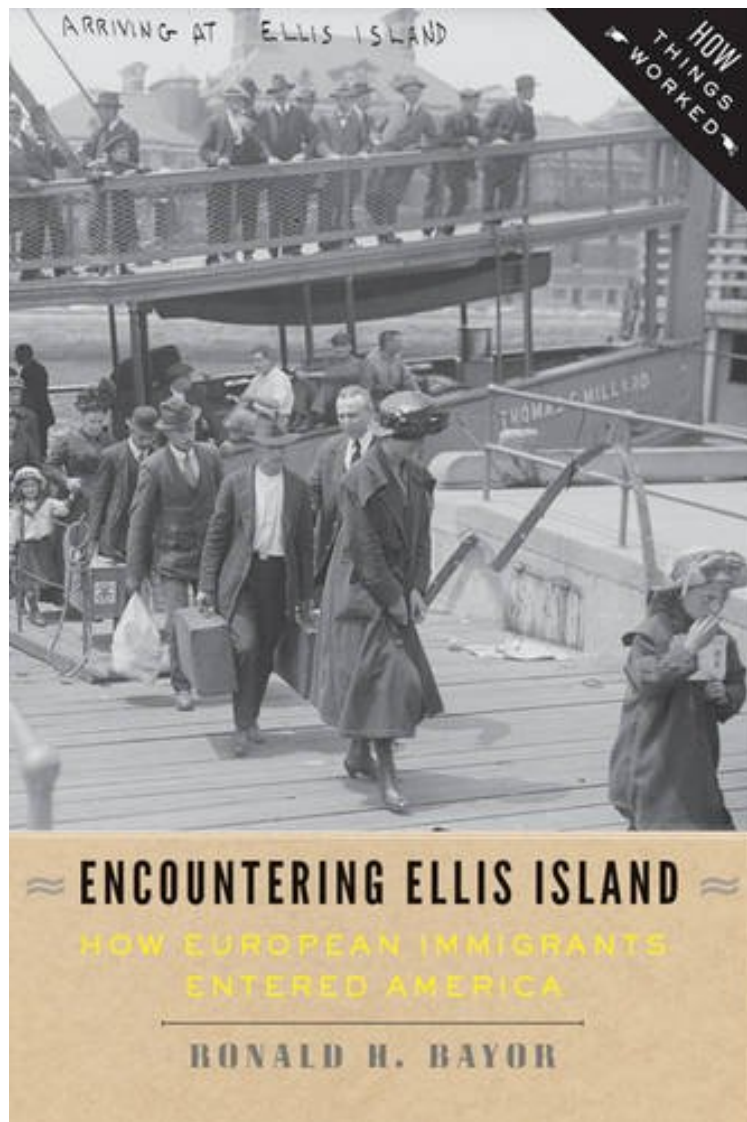


(Read free ebook) Encountering Ellis Island: How European Immigrants Entered America (How Things Worked)

Encountering Ellis Island: How European Immigrants Entered America (How Things Worked)

Ronald H. Bayor

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Ronald H. Bayor : Encountering Ellis Island: How European Immigrants Entered America (How Things Worked) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encountering Ellis Island: How European Immigrants Entered America (How Things Worked):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An easy read and smooth writing styleBy Sharon O'BrienVery

informative and interesting. An easy read and smooth writing style. I enjoyed reading it. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A brief and fascinating look at the Ellis Island immigration acceptance (and rejection) process. Excellent writing. By lyndonbrecht I read this because I liked other books in this series. This is the best in the series, so far. It's a short book, but chock full of information. I've read maybe a dozen books on this topic and this is the best. The longest and most informative chapter is Chapter 2, on how the immigrants were processed. Other chapters are good: Chapter 1 examines how and why people immigrated, Chapter 3 on how immigrants dealt with delays and detainment, as well as rejection. Chapter 4 is also extremely informative, on how the Ellis Island staff viewed and conducted their work. The last chapter, 5, looks at how immigrants changed the system. On balance, the book shows Ellis Island to have been an efficient and fairly humane process. There were nonetheless a number of problems. The medical examinations could be intimidating. There was considerable corruption in contracted services (meals, etc.). There was occasional exploitation and fraud. There was some humanity too. The book includes some consideration of Angel Island (in SF), and describes it as having a harsher treatment of immigrants, with entrenched racism against Chinese immigrants. I found some of the information fascinating. By 1911 the place had translators available for 37 languages--that aspect of multiculturalism goes back a century, then. Despite mainstream racism, from 1899-1937 about 143,000 mostly Caribbean black folks were admitted. There's a widespread myth that immigration officials at Ellis changed people's names because they couldn't pronounce them--Bayor says this is false, that if there were changes they were made at the time of registering at the European boarding point. Most immigrants were processed and through in maybe five hours, with a portion detained for further questioning. A small portion were not allowed entry, for reasons (reasons varied over the years) such as "feeble mindedness," illiteracy (literacy could be in any language, not just English), likelihood of becoming a public charge (that is, going on welfare) or for being associated with anarchist or subversive activity. There is one error--I know because I cited this book in a blog post, and got called on it. Senator Pat McCarran is identified as (R/NV) when he was in fact a Democrat. This politician was involved with some immigration legislation that used Ellis Island as a detention facility into the 1950s. I don't know of any other errors. The photos are fascinating. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. good read By Customer really enjoyed this book...narrations of previous immigrants add a richness to the story..

America is famously known as a nation of immigrants. Millions of Europeans journeyed to the United States in the peak years of 1892-1924, and Ellis Island, New York, is where the great majority landed. Ellis Island opened in 1892 with the goal of placing immigration under the control of the federal government and systematizing the entry process. Encountering Ellis Island introduces readers to the ways in which the principal nineteenth- and early twentieth-century American portal for Europeans worked in practice, with some comparison to Angel Island, the main entry point for Asian immigrants. What happened along the journey? How did the processing of so many people work? What were the reactions of the newly arrived to the process (and threats) of inspection, delays, hospitalization, detention, and deportation? How did immigration officials attempt to protect the country from diseased or "unfit" newcomers, and how did these definitions take shape and change? What happened to people who failed screening? And how, at the journey's end, did immigrants respond to admission to their new homeland? Ronald H. Bayor, a senior scholar in immigrant and urban studies, gives voice to both immigrants and Island workers to offer perspectives on the human experience and institutional imperatives associated with the arrival experience. Drawing on firsthand accounts from, and interviews with, immigrants, doctors, inspectors, aid workers, and interpreters, Bayor paints a vivid and sometimes troubling portrait of the immigration process. In reality, Ellis Island had many liabilities as well as assets. Corruption was rife. Immigrants with medical issues occasionally faced a hostile staff. Some families, on the other hand, reunited in great joy and found relief at their journey's end. Encountering Ellis Island lays bare the profound and sometimes-victorious story of people chasing the American Dream: leaving everything behind, facing a new language and a new culture, and starting a new American life.

"Bayor (Neighbors in Conflict), former president of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, fills his quick-moving narrative with dozens of oral and written accounts of those who experienced the 'Island of Hope, Island of Tears' in their quest for the American dream." (Publishers Weekly) "This slim volume is well researched... Students will find this a useful addition to their bibliography." (Library Journal) "In elegant prose in 142 pages (a remarkable achievement), Bayor (emer., Georgia Institute of Technology) includes painful and positive experiences of immigrants and employees on Ellis and Angel Islands, stories representing 20 million new Americans between 1892 and 1924, and those rejected for entry... Highly recommended." (Choice) "Bound to pique students' curiosity and provoke questions about both immigration law and history, Encountering Ellis Island promises to be a useful introductory text that undergraduate students will find engaging and accessible." (Journal of American Ethnic History) "Encountering Ellis Island is a great book...[that] does a great job synthesizing historiography and combining it with primary sources, especially memoirs and oral histories." (The Historian) "Encountering Ellis Island is an accessible, succinct, and easy-to-read book. It speaks to several fields of study and can easily be adopted in courses focusing on U.S. immigration history and the immigrant experience and those dealing with progressivism, the Gilded Age, and the social and

cultural history of the United States in the twentieth century." (Italian American)About the AuthorRonald H. Bayor is a professor emeritus of history at the Georgia Institute of Technology and former president of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society. He is author of *Neighbors in Conflict: The Irish, Germans, Jews, and Italians of New York City, 1929-1941*, and coeditor of *The New York Irish*, both published by Johns Hopkins.