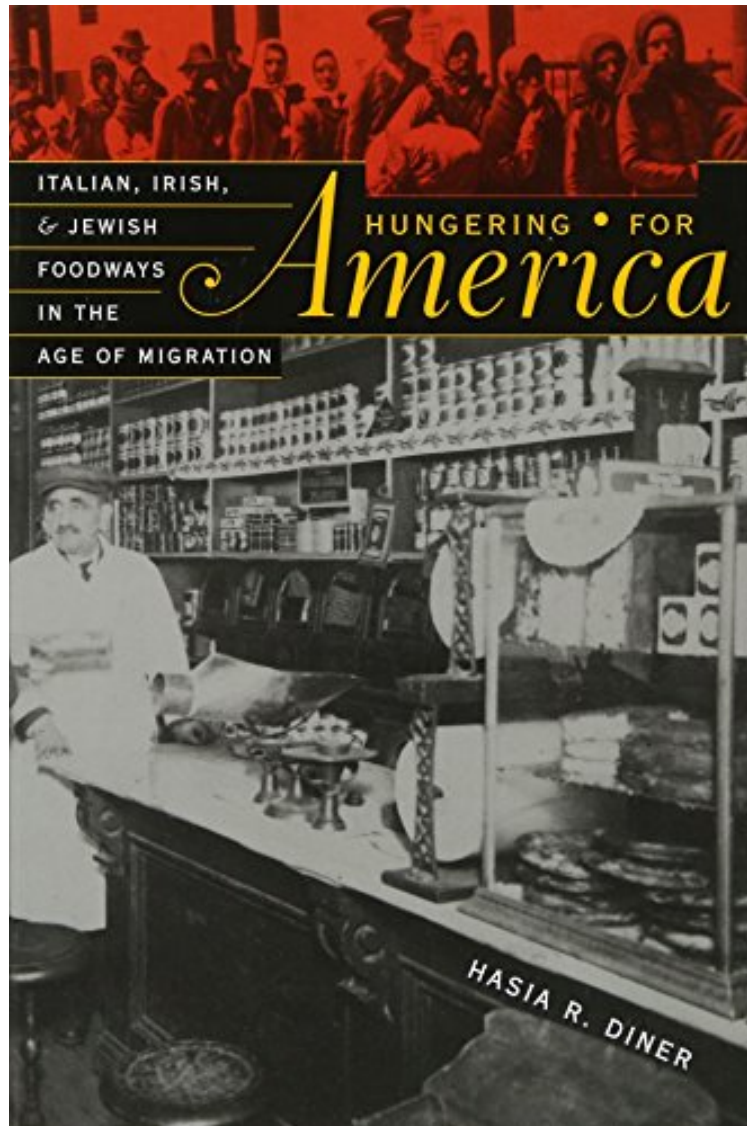


# **Hungering for America: Italian, Irish, and Jewish Foodways in the Age of Migration**

*Hasia R. Diner*

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**Hasia R. Diner : Hungering for America: Italian, Irish, and Jewish Foodways in the Age of Migration** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Hungering for America: Italian, Irish, and Jewish Foodways in the Age of Migration*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By E. Kolinchak Well packaged and protected. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Terribly Boring By Matthew LaForge I read this book for a book club and

could barely make it through. The whole book could be condensed down to a couple of paragraphs. The entire thing is a collection of two sentence anecdotes about what this or that person once mentioned about food. It is completely lacking in both rigor and storytelling. I would absolutely NOT recommend to anyone. Also, there are no pictures or illustrations in the Kindle edition, just a note to "refer to the print edition of this title" to see the image. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. not for the light reader By roberta lange While the topic is interesting, it's a very hard read. The way it's written and the writing style make this the kind of book you read a page or two, and try to come back to...but, I'm only two chapters in hope somebody else reads it so I can get the information in it.

Millions of immigrants were drawn to American shores, not by the mythic streets paved with gold, but rather by its tables heaped with food. How they experienced the realities of America's abundant food--its meat and white bread, its butter and cheese, fruits and vegetables, coffee and beer--reflected their earlier deprivations and shaped their ethnic practices in the new land. *Hungering for America* tells the stories of three distinctive groups and their unique culinary dramas. Italian immigrants transformed the food of their upper classes and of sacred days into a generic "Italian" food that inspired community pride and cohesion. Irish immigrants, in contrast, loath to mimic the foodways of the Protestant British elite, diminished food as a marker of ethnicity. And, East European Jews, who venerated food as the vital center around which family and religious practice gathered, found that dietary restrictions jarred with America's boundless choices. These tales, of immigrants in their old worlds and in the new, demonstrate the role of hunger in driving migration and the significance of food in cementing ethnic identity and community. Hasia Diner confirms the well-worn adage, "Tell me what you eat and I will tell you what you are."

From Publishers Weekly In this fascinating survey of the eating habits and influences of Jewish, Italian and Irish immigrants, Diner, a professor of American Jewish history at New York University, charts with wit and graceful prose the similarities and differences between these three distinct groups as they encountered mainstream American culture. Italian immigrants, fleeing poverty and a rigid, class-based economic system, found in America the ability to take "possession of elite food associated with the well-off" and to forge a new collective ethnic identity; in doing so they introduced Italian cuisine to America and created lucrative culinary business opportunities. The Irish, fleeing famine, did not possess a complex "national food culture" because they came from a place "where hunger... defined identity." But many Irish women became cooks and servants (and incidentally, were always called "Biddy"), and thereby entered domestic American life and became familiar with its bourgeois foods and customs. Eastern European Jews "lived in a world where food was sacred for all," as well as tightly controlled by religious law. Like Italians, Jews made their food a public statement of identity, and the availability of nonkosher foods in the U.S. exacerbated conflicts between traditional and assimilationist factions. Diner deftly juggles a huge amount of detail and analysis drawing upon memoirs, cookbooks, newspaper accounts, films and studies of consumer culture and provides both political and social insights in a highly accessible social history. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. In this fascinating survey of the eating habits and influences of Jewish, Italian, and Irish immigrants, Diner...charts with wit and graceful prose the similarities and differences between these three distinct groups as they encountered mainstream American culture...Diner deftly juggles a huge amount of detail and analysis--drawing upon memoirs, cookbooks, newspaper accounts, films and studies of consumer culture--and provides both political and social insights in a highly accessible social history. (Publishers Weekly 2001-11-05) In *Hungering for America*...Hasia R. Diner provides a richly detailed, highly original study of the changing food habits of three groups of immigrants--Italians, Irish, and Jews--who migrated to the United States between 1880 and 1920. (Italian Tribune 2002-02-21) For those with an appetite for an excellent book on cultural history, I recommend *Hungering for America*. (Jack Fischel Indiana Jewish Post Opinion 2001-11-28) Diner's research--into historical accounts, novels, plays, economic studies, personal narratives and vintage demographic surveys--has produced a book jam-packed with fascinating bits of Italian, Irish and Jewish food lore...Diner's bighearted attitude toward immigrants and their struggles...along with the rich anecdotal material, may inspire a pang of regret when you're finished. (Robert Sietsema New York Times Book 2002-05-05) About the Author Hasia R. Diner is Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Professor of American Jewish History at New York University.