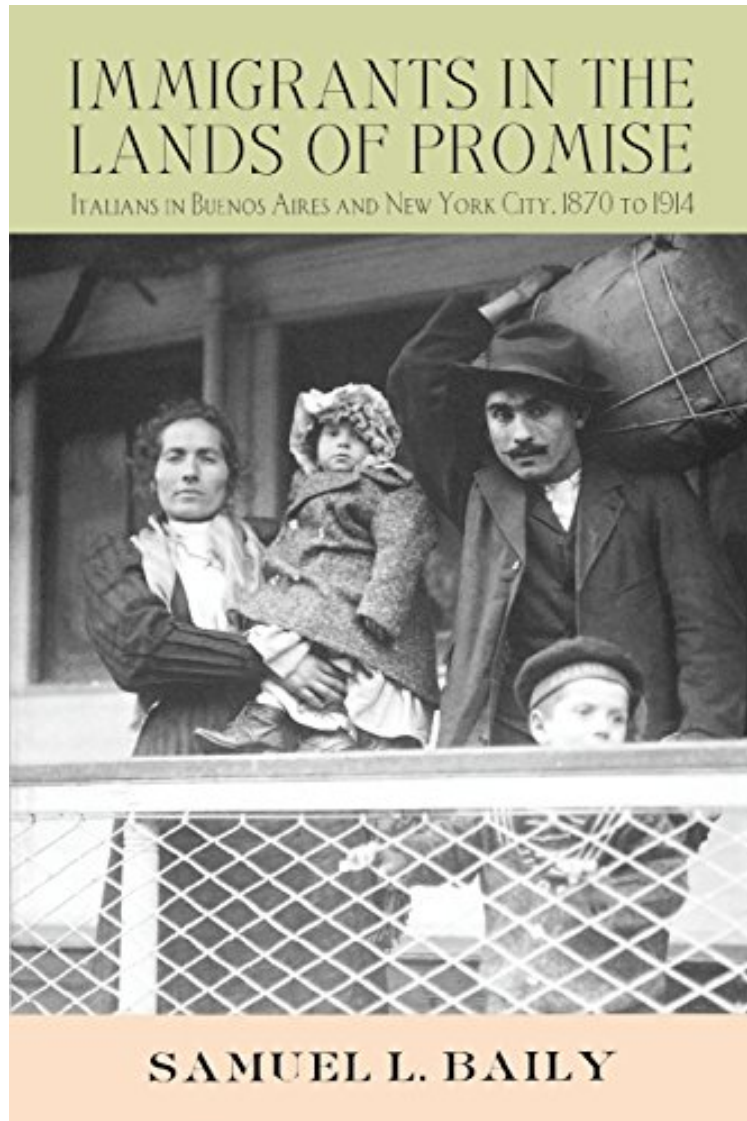


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Samuel L. Baily

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. very interestingBy nycgirli enjoyed learning about the experiences of italian immigrants to argentina. not much is written in english on the subject. it was interesting to see how the experience compared to that of nyc immigrants.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Serious and clearBy Reynaldo SacconeWhen, I purchased this book I was seeking an answer to this question: why did my ancestors, middle-class and literated, came to Argentina from Liguria in the 1860's?When I read the book, I was surprised: I found a detailed study on Italian emigration to NY and BA and I can now have an hipotesis on this question. The comparative method used by the author makes it clear. The examples and the way of writing are attractive and easy to read even to "outsiders" of the social sciences like me. I'm pleased with this.

Most studies of immigration to the New World have focused on the United States. Samuel L. Baily's eagerly awaited book broadens that perspective through a comparative analysis of Italian immigrants to Buenos Aires and New York City before World War I. It is one of the few works to trace Italians from their villages of origin to different destinations abroad. Baily examines the adjustment of Italians in the two cities, comparing such factors as employment opportunities, skill levels, pace of migration, degree of prejudice, and development of the Italian community. Of the two destinations, Buenos Aires offered Italians more extensive opportunities, and those who elected to move there tended to have the appropriate education or training to succeed. These immigrants, who adjusted more rapidly than their North American counterparts, adopted a long-term strategy of investing savings in their New World home. In New York, in contrast, the immigrants found fewer skilled and white-collar jobs, more competition from previous immigrant groups, greater discrimination, and a less supportive Italian enclave. As a result, rather than put down roots, many sought to earn money as rapidly as possible and send their earnings back to family in Italy. Baily views the migration process as a global phenomenon. Building on his richly documented case studies, the author briefly examines Italian communities in San Francisco, Toronto, and Sao Paulo. He establishes a continuum of immigrant adjustment in urban settings, creating a landmark study in both immigration and comparative history.

"This book is careful, thorough, impressively researched, and persuasively argued an important contribution."Choice"Baily, through research stretching back over twenty years, is the pre-eminent scholar of Italian emigration to the western hemisphere. His detailed analysis of the process of relocation for Italians provides insights into the human struggle entailed in the search for a better life in the promised lands of the Americas. . . In providing a comparative analysis of the migration flows of Italians to both Americas . . . the book increases our understanding of their cultural underpinnings. . . In this era when many are seeking an appreciation of their roots, books such as Baily's are useful and necessary."Donald S. Castro, *The International History* . December, 1999."Many speak of the virtue of comparative history, but few are brave enough to undertake the challenge. Samuel Baily accepted the challenge and has made an important contribution to this emerging genre. . . This volume should stimulate lively discussions among students of migration, urban studies, and comparative history."Rudolph J. Vecoli, University of MinnesotaTwin Cities. *The Journal of American History*, December 2000"Baily has finely crafted this study, and his argument makes sense. . . This book can make a useful text in a migration history course."John Zucchi, McGill University, *American Historical* , June, 2000."The author examines the way in which groups of immigrants coming from various parts of Italy adapted to the realities of their new situation. . . Baily's approach. . . makes his work a rarity in the field of the immigration history. . . His book is an excellent example of how it is possible to succeed in this not easy intent."Elisabetta Vezzosi, University of Trieste. *Journal of Social History*, Spring 2001"A welcome contribution to immigration studies, *Immigrants in the Land of Promise* will doubtless be recognized as a pioneering work with which future comparative research in the field will have to contend."Frank Sturino, *International Migration*. January 2000."Baily makes a convincing argument for multinational comparisons."Michael La Sorte, *Journal of American Ethnic History*, Winter 2001"*Immigrants in the Lands of Promise* is exceptional in various regards. The book is written in a clear, economical style. Statistics and narrative are combined in a balanced, articulated, and useful manner. . . Baily's stubborn loyalty to quantitative methods produces important insights into issues that needed to be addressed and quantified."Ricardo D. Salvatore, *Universidad Torcuato Di Tella*. *Latin American Research* , Vol.37, Nol 1, 2002About the AuthorSamuel L. Baily is Professor Emeritus of History at Rutgers University. Among his other books are *Labor, Politics and Nationalism in Argentina, The United States and the Development of South America*, and *One Family, Two Worlds* (with Franco Ramella).