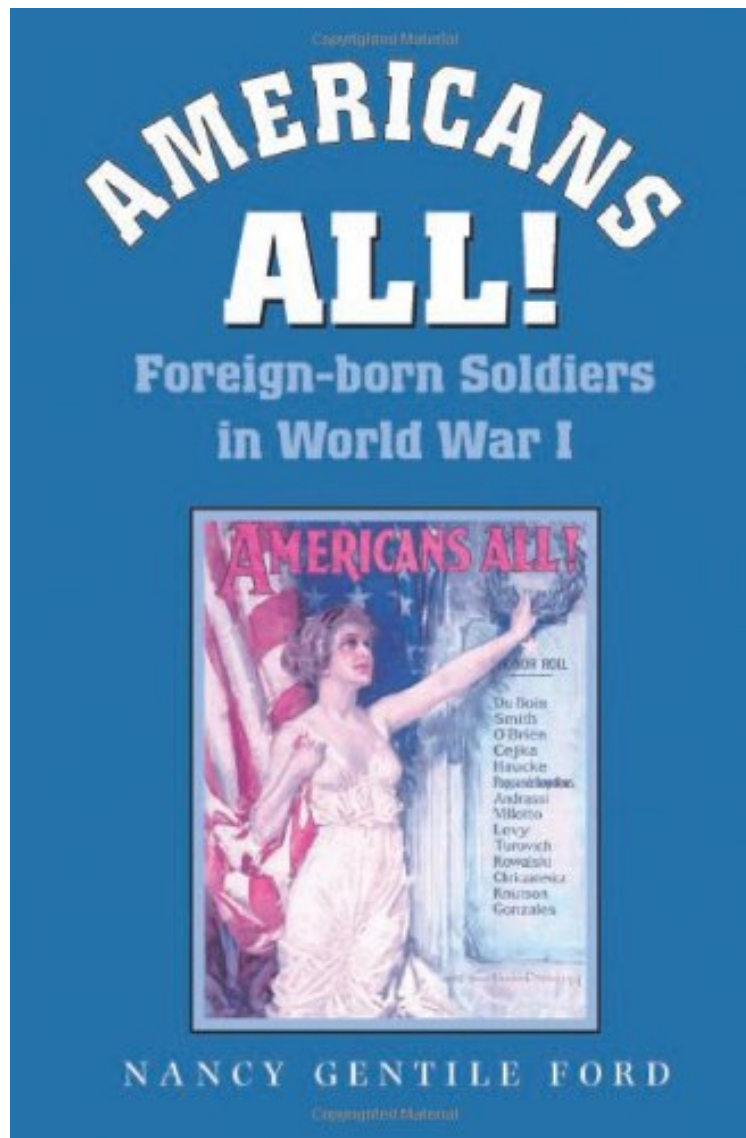


(Mobile ebook) Americans All!: Foreign-born Soldiers in World War I (Williams-Ford Texas AM University Military History Series)

Americans All!: Foreign-born Soldiers in World War I (Williams-Ford Texas AM University Military History Series)

Nancy Gentile Ford

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Nancy Gentile Ford : Americans All!: Foreign-born Soldiers in World War I (Williams-Ford Texas AM University Military History Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time,

and all praised Americans All!: Foreign-born Soldiers in World War I (Williams-Ford Texas AM University Military History Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very good book on immigrants in the US military
By Peter L. Belmonte
This is military and social history at its finest. Ford brings to light a little known aspect of the World War: US immigrants and their role. Progressive era reforms and ideas played a big role in handling the hundreds of thousands of foreign-born men caught up in the American draft. Many of these men didn't leave memoirs or perhaps even letters; this book at least gives them some voice.
Highly recommended.
Peter L. Belmonte
Days of Perfect Hell: The U.S. 26th Infantry Regiment in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, October-November 1918
Italian Americans in World War II (IL) (Voices of America)
5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Decontextualized History
By A Customer
Although the author presents some interesting (and surprising) statistics in this work, she totally divorces the experience of foreign-born soldiers (and the U.S. Armed Forces' experience with them) during World War I from the profoundly affecting events attending the process of immigration itself--the decision to move, the voyage, the process of settling in the United States, the ethnic enclaves, and the immigrant way of life in the United States. Nor does the author consider, more that superficially, the soldiers' perception of the post-war Red Scare and the 1924 Immigration Acts that essentially stopped immigration from Eastern and Southern Europe. All of these aspects of immigration were life-altering events that shaped the immigrant experience (and, subsequently, immigrants' experiences as soldiers and veterans), but there is little evidence and less consideration of those effects in this work. Decontextualizing the subject of the book results in a work that presents a snapshot of a moment in time--blurred and indistinct, with one figure barely distinguishable from another--but no more than that. The book reads like a poorly-written, meandering thesis. The author presents essentially no research questions and, therefore, no answers. It is a fairly interesting, easy read (despite the awkward prose and abundance of typographical errors), and deserves some commendation for its documentation of pertinent statistical information; however, if you are looking for a book that takes a long, comprehensive, contextualized view of the immigrant experience during World War I, choose Christopher Sterba's excellent book "Good Americans" instead.
7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.
Foreign-Born Doughboys
By J.D. Keene
In *Americans All*, Ford has successfully challenged longstanding assumptions about the immigrant experience during World War I and documented a key aspect of the army's modernization during the war. Nearly half a million foreign-born soldiers of forty-six different nationalities served in the wartime army. With one in five soldiers foreign-born, including many who did not speak English, the army faced a serious challenge training these men for battle. In marked contrast to the conformity demanded of foreign-born civilians on the homefront, Ford's meticulous research in official army records reveals that army officials demonstrated a remarkable sensitivity and respect for Old World cultures when formulating the training and recreational regimes of foreign-born troops. This is a well-written and important book whose blending of military and social history will interest readers interested in the military, the immigrant experience and the First World War.

During the First World War, nearly half a million immigrant draftees from forty-six different nations served in the U.S. Army. This surge of Old World soldiers challenged the American military's cultural, linguistic, and religious traditions and required military leaders to reconsider their training methods for the foreign-born troops. How did the U.S. War Department integrate this diverse group into a united fighting force? The war department drew on the experiences of progressive social welfare reformers, who worked with immigrants in urban settlement houses, and they listened to industrial efficiency experts, who connected combat performance to morale and personnel management. Perhaps most significantly, the military enlisted the help of ethnic community leaders, who assisted in training, socializing, and Americanizing immigrant troops and who pressured the military to recognize and meet the important cultural and religious needs of the ethnic soldiers. These community leaders negotiated the Americanization process by promoting patriotism and loyalty to the United States while retaining key ethnic cultural traditions. Offering an exciting look at an unexplored area of military history, *Americans All! Foreign-born Soldiers in World War I* constitutes a work of special interest to scholars in the fields of military history, sociology, and ethnic studies. Ford's research illuminates what it meant for the U.S. military to reexamine early twentieth-century nativism; instead of forcing soldiers into a melting pot, war department policies created an atmosphere that made both American and ethnic pride acceptable. During the war, a German officer commented on the ethnic diversity of the American army and noted, with some amazement, that these "semi-Americans" considered themselves to be "true-born sons of their adopted country." The officer was wrong on one count. The immigrant soldiers were not "semi-Americans"; they were "Americans all!"

"Both the formulation of military policy and the daily experience of foreign-born soldiers appear in a new light." --
John Higham, Johns Hopkins University