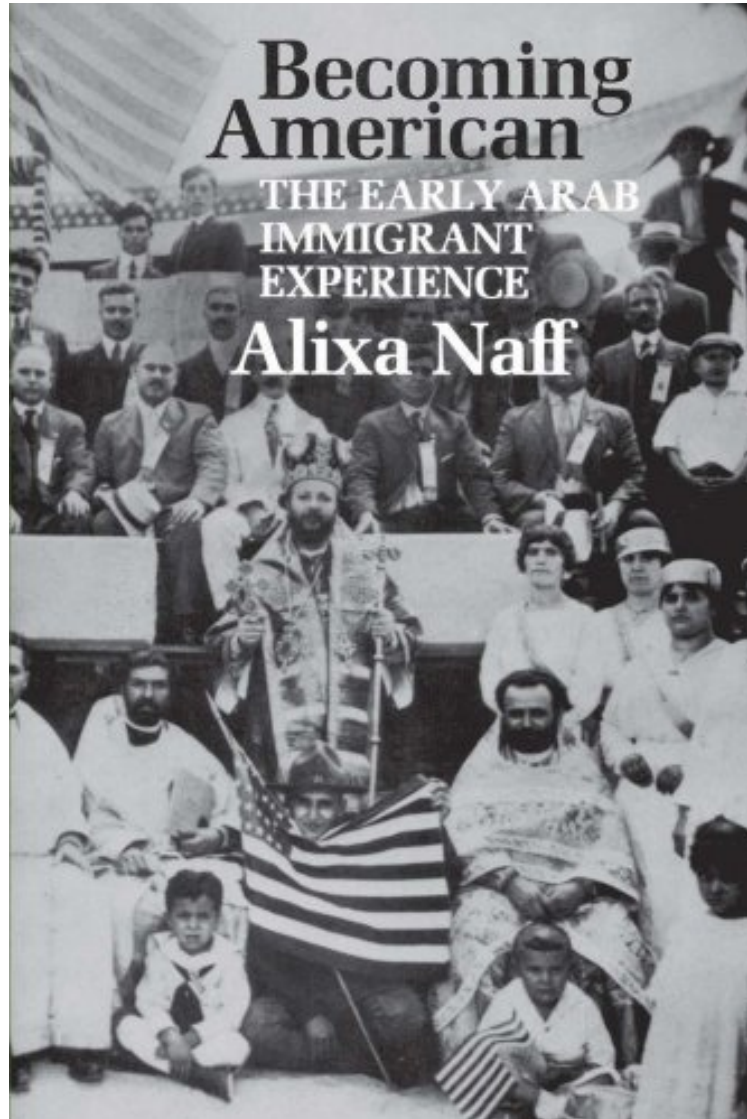


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Becoming American: The Early Arab Immigrant Experience (M.E.R.I. Special Studies)

Alix Naff

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By Ruth Menhel Wonderful information. Can understand my husband's family better now. Book in excellent

condition.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy DLTS - HCCExcellent8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. The Definitive Book on Syrian/Lebanese EmigrationBy Rafik KmeidThis book is chock full of details that would have been forever lost had not the author begun her work nearly 40 years ago, of recording oral histories and preserving documents, artifacts and photographs. Excellent presentation style. A must for both public and personal libraries that want to have available, not only the stories, but an insight into the ethos of a people who came from a small country with modest aspirations and ended up having a large impact on America.

A unique study in American immigration and assimilation history that also provides a special view of one of the smaller ethnic groups in American society. Naff focuses on the pre-World War I pioneering generation of Arabic-speaking immigrants, the generation that set the patterns for settlement and assimilation. Unlike many immigrants who were drawn to the United States by dreams of industrial jobs or to escape religious or economic persecution, most of these artisans and owners of small, disconnected plots of land came to America to engage in the enterprise of peddling. Most planned to stay two or three years and return to their homelands.

"I found *Becoming American* spellbinding and could not put it down until I finished it."Farah Gilanshah, MESA Bulletin