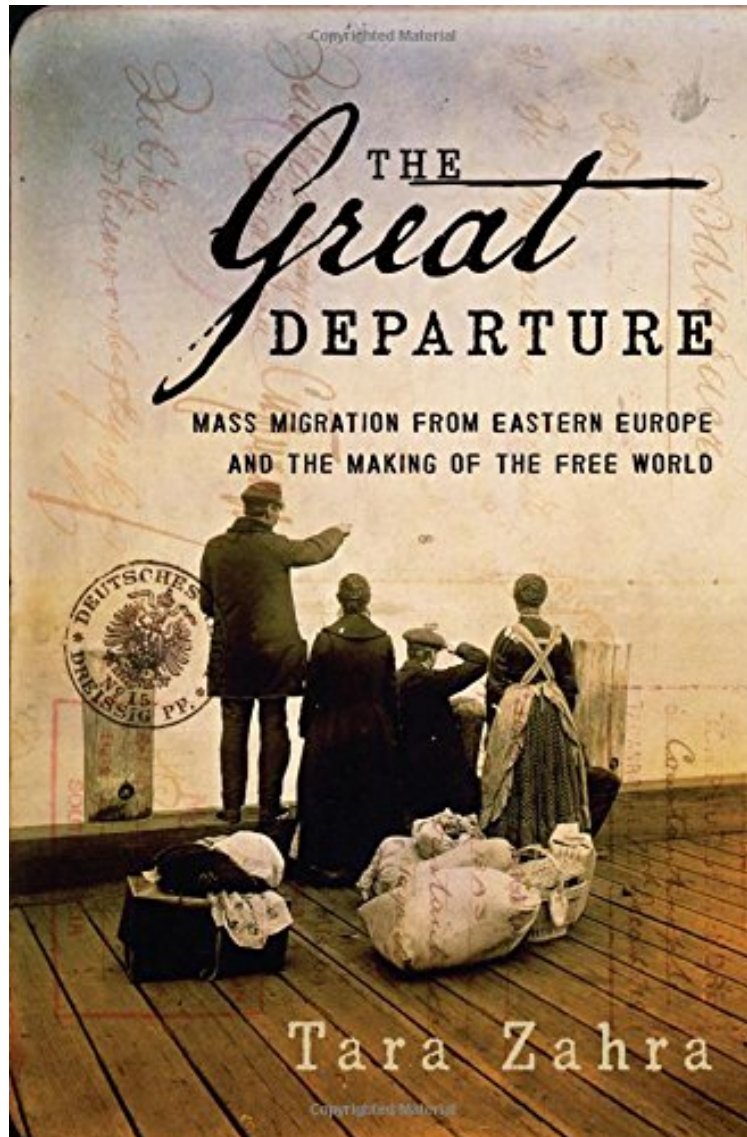


(Free pdf) The Great Departure: Mass Migration from Eastern Europe and the Making of the Free World

The Great Departure: Mass Migration from Eastern Europe and the Making of the Free World

Tara Zahra

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#406045 in Books Zahra Tara 2016-03-21 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.60 x 1.30 x 6.60l, .0 #File Name: 0393078019400 pages The Great Departure Mass Migration from Eastern Europe and the Making of the Free World | File size: 50.Mb

Tara Zahra : The Great Departure: Mass Migration from Eastern Europe and the Making of the Free World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Departure: Mass Migration from Eastern Europe and the Making of the Free World:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. a well-written work on emigration from eastern and central Europe

By K. Kennedy "The Great Departure" by Tara Zahra is a well-written examination of the emigration of people from eastern and central Europe in the last two hundred years or so. What I had assumed to be a fairly personal decision without government involvement was so much different than that--there was government legislation, intervention, and downright prejudice regarding who was allowed and encouraged to emigrate, and the the government in question attempted to keep at home. Ms. Zahra also looks at the receiving countries' attitudes and policies, and there was the same racism and prejudice. Ms. Zahra does a nice job of boiling this all down into an easy to read book that will change what you know about emigration and immigration practice and policy in the time and place in question.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Why the Negative Slant? By bookkitten It's very rare for me to give up on a book, but give up on this book I did. My great-grandparents came to the U.S. from an eastern European country and, fortunately, wrote stories and letters about their lives, which I read long after they were dead. Reading these private accounts, along with two trips to my ancestral homeland and lots of ancestry research, led me to buy and begin reading THE GREAT DEPARTURE. Unfortunately, the book seems a relentless horror story of human exploitation. There is much description of "misery" experienced by those who came to America, of their "trafficking" by unscrupulous agents, of the supposedly horrific conditions they encountered, of "terror," fear, and abject disappointment. At many points I felt as if I was reading the story of concentration camp victims -- not people who willingly traveled across an ocean to start new lives. The accounts of my great-grandparents (who were not related, but came separately to America in the early 20th century) are full of fascinating details about their voyages to the U.S., their adjustment to a strange new country, passing through New York and Chicago, and carving out new lives in the upper Midwest. Their stories describe the culture of Americans (or "the English," as my great-grandmother called them), as opposed to that of the Slavs back "home." They describe lots of hard work, many rewards, a steep learning-curve, some humorous incidents, as well as some difficulties. (My great-grandfather wrote of his warm relationship with the local "Indians," who loved his accordion music.) Their stories are really fantastic adventure tales. While I'm sure my great-grandparents did experience painful times, their lives were not about victimization. I am certain they viewed themselves as fortunate people. Why is THE GREAT DEPARTURE so relentlessly negative? Why the victimization slant? Is that really the WHOLE story of the "mass migration from Eastern Europe"?

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Masterful Examination of the Patterns of Emigration from Eastern Europe in the Modern Age

By B.C. Booth Zahra describes the experiences of Central European emigrants, and the policies of nations that affected those who migrated during the fin de siècle, throughout both World Wars, the Cold War, and beyond. Zahra's intent is to reveal patterns in emigration and immigration policies among Eastern and Western states. Her book contrasts with other historians, who predominantly focus on the quantities of Europeans migrating to the United States. Instead, Zahra places the focus of The Great Departure on the motivations for Europeans to emigrate, the effects that their leaving had on their homeland, and how European governments attempted to prevent emigration from happening.

(6) Zahra reveals a plethora of patterns in emigration policies among European and North American states that emerge in the late nineteenth century and continue to this day. The patterns include ideas on mobility and freedom, state control of emigration as a means to achieve political goals, the influence of mercantilist ideas, using ethnic groups as scapegoats, and the adjustment of policies in order to encourage the immigration of preferred migrants. One of the more interesting patterns is the conflicting view between Eastern and Western powers on what freedom is. To Western states, freedom was inextricably tied to mobility, and was increasingly considered a human right, whereas Eastern states sought to protect the freedom of citizens by keeping them at home (55, 246). Initially, emigration was seen as a major problem for government. Mercantilist philosophies that valued the population as a source of economic and political power, left governments fearful (9). Attempts, such as the trial of Jewish travel agents in 1889, were made to stop the mass exodus of people (23-24). As it became clear that states could not halt emigration entirely, they began to take a more opportunistic approach by utilizing emigration as a means to serve their goals. Zahra points out that emigration came to be seen as a potential solution to various social and political problems, which resulted with several European states developing strategies aimed at encouraging or forcing undesirable or surplus citizens to leave (10). Some states achieved this through the establishment of penal colonies, while others gave in to rising nationalist trends by attempting to homogenize their population. Ironically, this effort at homogeneity had the side-effect of endowing marginalized communities with increased mobility, and therefore, at least in some sense, increased freedoms (10, 17). In summary, Zahra's The Great Departure is a masterful examination of the patterns of emigration in the modern age.

With a combination of deft historical analysis, sparkling prose, and careful attention to individual stories, both poignant and instructive, The Great Departure is brimming with important and suggestive lessons from the past for thinking about the worldwide dynamics of emigrants and refugees in our own day.

Norman M. Naimark, Stanford University

Between 1846 and 1940, more than 50 million Europeans moved to the Americas, irrevocably changing both their new homes and the ones they left behind. In this groundbreaking study, Tara Zahra explores the deeper story of this astonishing movement of people one of the largest in human history. The great exodus out of Eastern Europe hollowed out villages with dizzying speed. As villages emptied and the fear of depopulation ran rampant, anxiety over

American fever prevailed, leading to the scapegoating of Jewish emigration agents. Yet others saw vast opportunity: to seed colonies of migrants like the Polish community in Argentina, to gain economic advantage from an inflow of foreign currency, or to reshape their communities in a new land. In the United States, their migration fostered the notion of the land of the free. Globally, the policies that gave shape to this migration provided the precedent for future events such as the Holocaust, the closing of the Iron Curtain, and the tragedies of ethnic cleansing. A sweeping history of the most consequential social phenomenon of the twentieth century, *The Great Departure* gives poignant attention to the individuals whose lives were transformed by these decades of mass departure, and a keen historical perspective on their continuing legacy. 10 illustrations

Erudite and exciting, Zahra's book recounts how enormous numbers of eastern Europeans migrated to the Americas between the mid-1800s and the second world war. In a work with obvious resonance for our times, Zahra . . . combines analytical depth with an impressive breadth of personal human stories. - Tony Barber, *Financial Times* A perceptive history of migration and eastern Europe. - *Economist* Provocative. [Zahra] has uncovered a narrative that is complex, multifaceted. - Julia M. Klein, *Chicago Tribune* Zahra handles this immensely complicated and multidimensional history with remarkable clarity and feeling. - Robert Levgold, *Foreign Affairs* A significant work of social history bound to please serious readers and scholars. - Kirkus (starred) [An] absorbing and comprehensive history. - *Library Journal* In this riveting book, Tara Zahra takes the story of immigration that Americans know so well and weaves it into a larger story of emigration that we have long neglected. Full of hope and promise, of desperation and tragedy, it is perhaps the most important story of the twentieth century. With all the drama of a novel and all the nuance of history writing at its best, *The Great Departure* is a must-read. - Alison Johnson, *Harvard University* In this spare, deeply researched, and unfailingly analytical book, Tara Zahra frees the great migration of Eastern Europeans to the West from romantic myth and dissects all its human and moral complexities. - Robert D. Kaplan, of *In Europe's Shadow: A Journey Through Two Cold Wars in Romania and Beyond* About the Author Tara Zahra is a professor of modern European history at the University of Chicago and a recent winner of the MacArthur Fellowship. She is the author of two award-winning books, *Kidnapped Souls* and *The Lost Children*. Zahra lives in Chicago, Illinois.