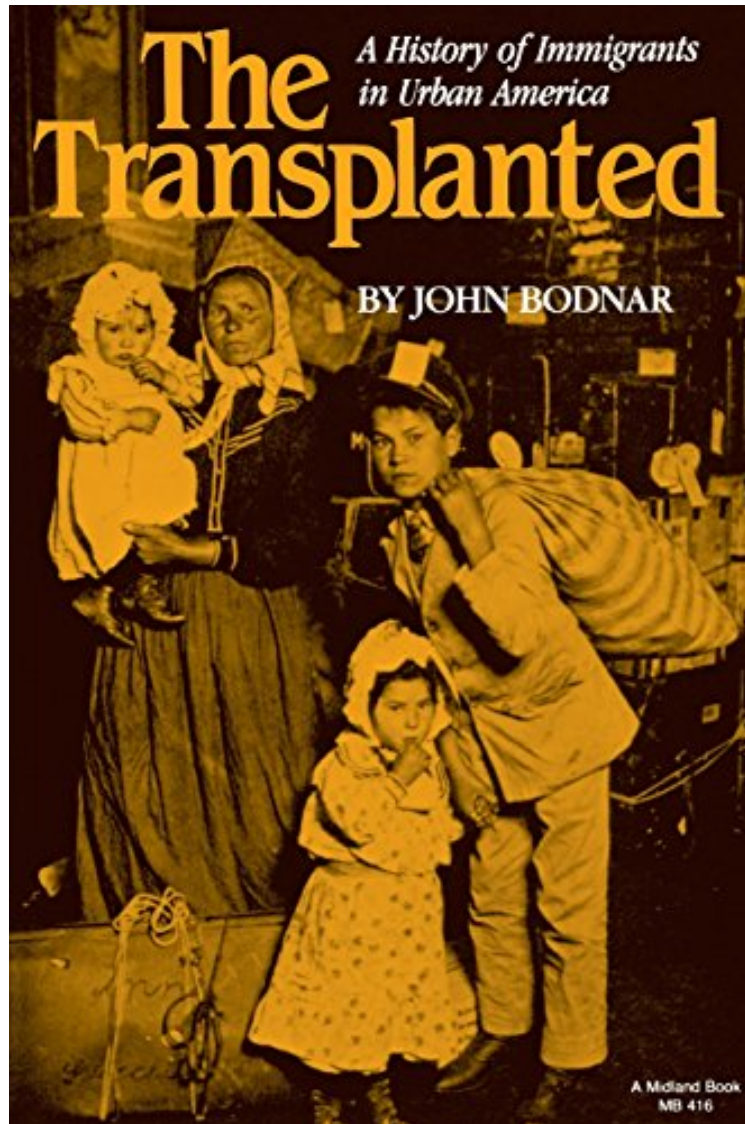


## The Transplanted: A History of Immigrants in Urban America (Interdisciplinary Studies in History)

John Bodnar

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**John Bodnar : The Transplanted: A History of Immigrants in Urban America (Interdisciplinary Studies in History)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Transplanted: A History of Immigrants in Urban America (Interdisciplinary Studies in History):

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great understand of the trials and tribulations of immigrants!51 of 52 people found the following review helpful.

Intersting Convincing Rebuttal to Handlin's "The Uprooted"By mwreviewJohn Bodnar's "The Transplanted" is a broad interpretive study of how immigrants in America endured the "swirl of interaction" between economic and societal forces by providing order and stability to their lives. Bodnar begins with an analysis of the situations immigrants faced in their homelands, beginning around the 1830s, and ties these old world experiences with experiences faced in America up to 1930. In large part, Bodnar's study is a reaction to Oscar Handlin's "The Uprooted." In this work, Handlin argued that immigrants were victimized by their transatlantic migration as the institutions they held most dear--property, religion, family, and tradition--were destroyed or rendered irrelevant. Bodnar, however, counters this argument by maintaining that immigrants were not forced to passively abandon their traditions by dominant American influences. Immigrants, in fact, were prepared for their migration from experiences at home and resisted societal, religious, and political pressures when such pressures threatened the economic and social stability in their lives. Bodnar's work is very impressive in that he takes historical evidence about the lives of immigrants in America and applies it to interpretations offered by other historians (in particular, Oscar Handlin). Bodnar is thus able to mount a convincing argument against common beliefs about American immigrants. Bodnar also explains to the reader that the subject of American immigration is highly complex. Various groups of people emigrated to America for various reasons and had different experiences after their arrival. The immigrant experience was not homogeneous save for two points: their interrelationship with capitalism and their need to provide for their own welfare and that of their family-household. Certain details about immigrant behavior are explained too simply, however. For example, Bodnar notes that the reason the lower classes in the homeland did not emigrate was because they could not afford to do so. Could there also be other reasons? Perhaps these lower classes were more attached to their homeland and were afraid of the unfamiliar. Perhaps they were unaware of the possible benefits of emigration and were also ignorant of how one could leave the homeland. European immigrants are the focus of this study. Japanese, Chinese, and Mexican groups are also discussed but not in as much detail. A more thorough examination of non-European groups, particularly the Chinese, would make "The Transplanted" a more complete study. What is more, the study focuses on the male experience and neglects the reactions of female immigrants. This omission seems odd considering the date of this study (1985). Finally, the work may be burdened by the numerous and lengthy examples Bodnar offers. For example, one-quarter of the chapter on church and society is devoted to two examples of the exploits of two religious leaders. Otherwise, Bodnar's "The Transplanted" offers a convincing argument that the American immigrant had more understanding and control of their situation than what may have been previously thought by many historians.

... an excellent broad overview... " Journal of Social History... powerfully argued... " Moses Rischin... imaginative and soundly based... " ChoiceHighly recommended... " Library Journal... an outstanding major contribution to the literature on immigration history." History... a very important new synthesis of American immigration history... " Journal of American Ethnic History... a state of the art discussion, impressively encyclopaedic... The Transplanted is a tour de force, and a fitting summation to Bodnar's own prolific, creative, and insightful writings on immigrants." Journal of Interdisciplinary HistoryA major survey of the immigrant experience between 1830 and 1930, this book has implications for all students and scholars of American social history.