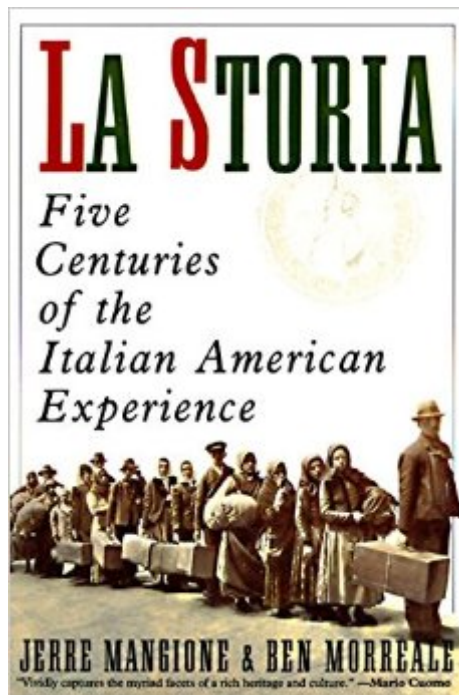


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La Storia: Five Centuries Of The Italian American Experience



Synopsis

From the early Italian adventurers who played an important role in the European expansion across the Atlantic to the political and business leaders of the 1990s, this book tells a dramatic story. The heart of the story is the mass migration that took place between 1880 and 1924, when a whole culture left its ancient roots to settle in the cities and towns of America.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What a great book! It chanced to catch my eye in recently and I've found it hard to put down. This book eloquently ties together the *entire* experience of the Sicilian immigrant before, during and after their arrival. Although it is light on the parallel history of Sicily (Sammartino's Sicily is an EZ read) the focus on the American aspect makes it that much more unique. Yet, there is excellent treatment of what the hollow term "Italian" meant to a peasant from Sicily - not much. Once they came to the US, they were effectively lumped together with everyone from what had only recently been joined (and by force at that) into a nation. The authors also provide context to the socio-economic misery effectively inflicted upon the southern regions to the direct and exclusive benefit of northern regions. Also demystified is the pervasive myth of the Mafia, originally perpetuated by northern Italians as reasons why their welcome in the South quickly wore out - the Sicilians were regularly maligned as genetically inferior, lazy, unintelligent and all part of the Mafia. With the constant perpetuation of the "secret-society" angle - it's has all the characteristics of a great meme. The roots are detailed including how and who profited from this wicked myth including: opportunistic northern Italian, sensationalist media, ignorant Americans and isolated criminals

interested in making themselves bigger than life. It's a bitter irony that so many southern Italians immigrants and their descendants became successful in America while their own homeland refused to give them any opportunity. Armed with the facts, Italians and Italian-Americans have a chance to separate the fact from fiction.

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