



Not Like Us: Immigrants and Minorities in America, 1890–1924 (American Ways Series)

By Roger Daniels University of Cincinnati

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In the thirty-five years after 1890, more than 20 million immigrants came to the United States—a greater number than in any comparable period, before or since. They were often greeted in hostile fashion, a reflection of American nativism that by the 1890s was already well developed. In this analytical narrative, Roger Daniels examines the condition of immigrants, Native Americans, and African Americans during a period of supposed progress for American minorities. He shows that they experienced as much repression as advance. *Not Like Us* opens by considering the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the hinge on which U.S. immigration policy turned and a symbol of the unfriendly climate toward minorities that would prevail for decades. Mr. Daniels continues the story through the 1890s, the so-called Progressive Era, the opportunities and conflicts arising out of World War I, and the “tribal twenties,” when nativism and xenophobia dominated American society. An epilogue points out gains and losses since the 1924 National Origins Act. Throughout Mr. Daniels's focus is on legislation, judicial decisions, mob violence, and the responses of minority groups. The record is scarcely one of unalloyed progress.

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- Sales Rank: #485656 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Ivan R. Dee
- Published on: 1998-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.43" h x .59" w x 5.34" l, .50 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 192 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The years covered by this book were the greatest era for immigration in the United States, and *Not Like Us* serves as a reminder that immigrant ships were often not a welcome sight on the horizon. Roger Daniels, a professor of history at the University of Cincinnati, begins the book with the story of the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, a law which curtailed Chinese immigration and served as a model for later U.S. immigration law. In successive chapters Daniels documents how various immigrant groups came to America, and how anti-immigrant feelings gradually intensified. Eventually the reactionary forces turned not only on recent arrivals, but on African Americans and Native Americans, and the early decades of the 20th century, far from being a halcyon time, were marked by ethnic strife and occasional full-fledged race riots in America. *Not Like Us* is a concise, straightforward, and unsentimental history of immigration to America, and it serves as a welcome antidote to some romantic misconceptions about the American past. --*Robert McNamara*

Review

A readable history of ethnic minorities and immigrants . . . powerful. (Maxine D. Jones *Journal of Southern History*)

Lucid and effective . . . Daniels maps out the contradictions and inequities which characterize legislation enacted against the socially defined 'other.' (*Immigrants and Minorities*)

About the Author

Roger Daniels is Charles Phelps Taft Professor of History at the University of Cincinnati and president of the Immigration History Society. His other books include *The Politics of Prejudice*; *American Racism*; *Concentration Camps, USA*; *Asian Americans*; and *Prisoners Without Trial*.

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