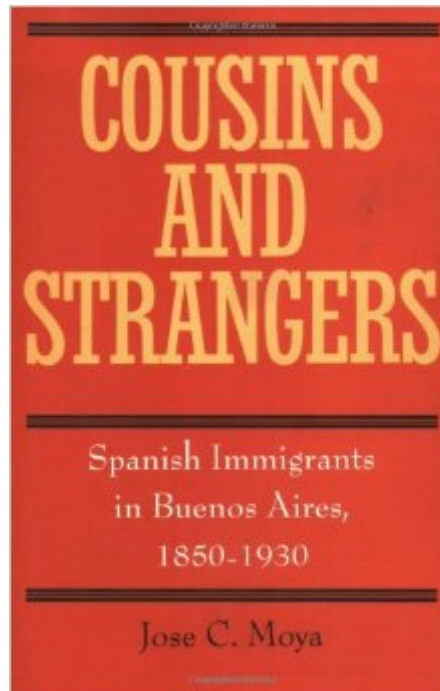


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Cousins And Strangers: Spanish Immigrants In Buenos Aires, 1850-1930



Synopsis

More than four million Spaniards came to the Western Hemisphere between the mid-nineteenth century and the Great Depression. Unlike that of most other Europeans, their major destination was Argentina, not the United States. Studies of these immigrants—mostly laborers and peasants—have been scarce in comparison with studies of other groups of smaller size and lesser influence. Presenting original research within a broad comparative framework, Jose C. Moya fills a considerable gap in our knowledge of immigration to Argentina, one of the world's primary "settler" societies. Moya moves deftly between micro- and macro-analysis to illuminate the immigration phenomenon. A wealth of primary sources culled from dozens of immigrant associations, national and village archives, and interviews with surviving participants in Argentina and Spain inform his discussion of the origins of Spanish immigration, residence patterns, community formation, labor, and cultural cognitive aspects of the immigration process. In addition, he provides valuable material on other immigrant groups in Argentina and gives a balanced critique of major issues in migration studies.

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Customer Reviews

Much as I was afraid of delving into this huge sociological study of Spanish immigration to Buenos Aires (1850-1930), it did not take an hour for me to realize that I had hit on a precious pearl. Granted this is not a popular history, nor is it an essay on historical issues, it is strictly hard sociology, with data, charts and the works. But my, what a talent this man has had putting all this

information into a legible and even amusing text. Meant for the academia, it broke the mold and got to the general readers' shelves. Justifiably so. Being a Spaniard myself, from this devil and witch ridden land of Galicia, with plenty of ties to our diaspora, Argentine and otherwise, I have an irresistible curiosity to understand the hows and whys of those people, generations ago, who decided to leave, who chose for the unknown rather than the comfort of one's own mediocre living, or those lacking what it took and settled with resignation. I wanted to know not only the hardships and physical adventures they chose to go through, and the kind of lives they were willing to forsake, family ties, homes, national cultures; what I wanted to find out, really, is what went on in the back of their minds, in the innermost spot of their souls that made them (them as opposed to the rest who stayed behind) leave. Migrating seems to me as the closest thing to the transmigration of one's soul. I mean this, if one has no say about the family and culture into which he is born, the whole set of circumstances, maybe migrating to a distant and foreign land has to do with it. Maybe it's our way of making a statement. I understand it so.

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