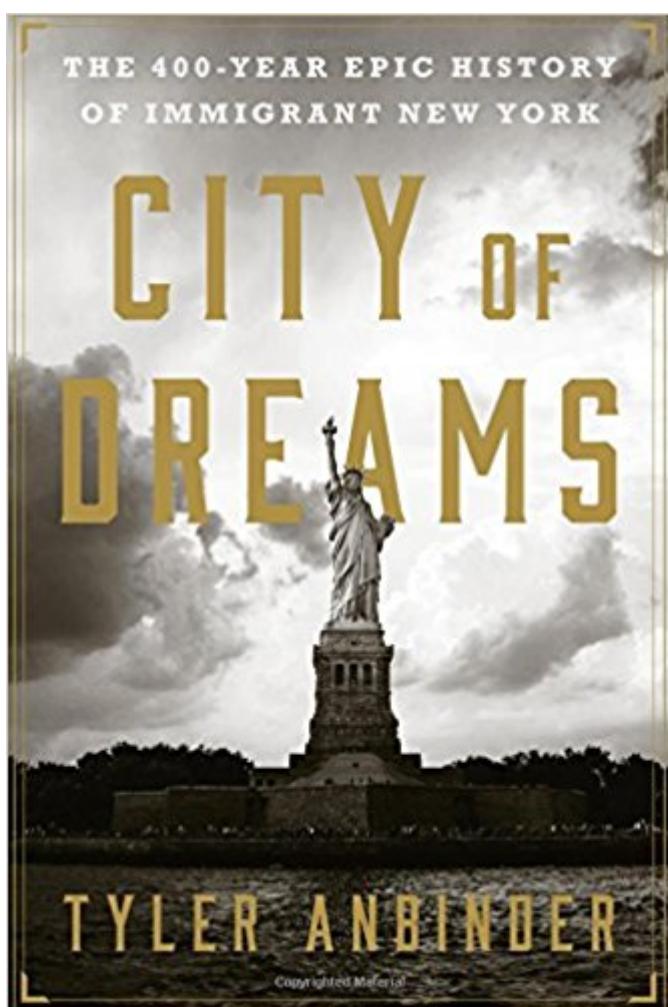


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# **City Of Dreams: The 400-Year Epic History Of Immigrant New York**



## Synopsis

A defining American story of millions of immigrants, hundreds of languages, and one great city New York has been America's city of immigrants for nearly four centuries. Growing from Peter Minuit's tiny settlement of 1626 to one with more than three million immigrants today, the city has always been a magnet for transplants from all over the globe. It is only fitting that the United States, a "nation of immigrants," is home to the only world city built primarily by immigration. More immigrants have entered the United States through New York than through all other entry points combined, making New York's immigrant saga a quintessentially American story. City of Dreams is the long-overdue, inspiring, and defining account of New York's both famous and forgotten immigrants: the young man from the Caribbean who relocated to New York and became a Founding Father; an Italian immigrant who toiled for years at railroad track maintenance before achieving his dream of becoming a nationally renowned poet; Russian-born Emma Goldman, who condoned the murder of American industrialists as a means of aiding downtrodden workers; Dominican immigrant Oscar de la Renta, who dressed first ladies from Jackie Kennedy to Michelle Obama. Over ten years in the making, Tyler Anbinder's story is one of innovators and artists, revolutionaries and rioters, staggering deprivation and soaring triumphs. Today's immigrants are really no different from those who have come to America in centuries past—and their story has never before been told with such breadth of scope, lavish research, and resounding spirit.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 768 pages

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (October 18, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 054410465X

ISBN-13: 978-0544104655

Product Dimensions: 6 x 2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 71 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #43,673 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in Books > History > Americas > United States > Immigrants #70 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Emigration & Immigration #454 in Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources

## Customer Reviews

A Peek into City of Dreams

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[View larger](#) Immigrants admiring the Statue of Liberty as their steamship arrives in New York Harbor. Just eight months after its unveiling, newcomers viewed the colossal statue as a symbol of the very reasons why they had immigrated, even if native-born Americans did not yet associate the monument with immigration. This garment worker, photographed by Lewis Hine around 1908, appears to be carrying finished clothing from her workplace back to a contractor. Italian day laborers on Sixth Avenue, photographed in 1910 by Lewis Hine. The produce market on Mulberry Street, looking north toward Canal, photographed in about 1900.

Ã¢ “In publishing as in politics, timing is everything. Tyler AnbinderÃ¢ ’s sweeping *City of Dreams: The 400-Year Epic History of Immigrant New York* scores big on both counts.Ã¢ A richly textured guide to the history of our immigrant nationÃ¢ ’s pinnacle immigrant city has managed to enter the stage during an election season that has resurrected this historically fraught topic in all its fierceness.Ã¢ ’s New York Times Book Review Ã¢ “The story of how those waves of millions cascaded upon American shores is told brilliantly, even unforgettablyÃ¢ ’while this is a New York story, it really is an American story, one that belongs to all of us.Ã¢ ’s Boston Globe “Mr. Anbinder has provided a valuable service by crafting a single volume that focuses solely on New York as a gateway, a haven and a crucible that forged the fates of millions of immigrants who in turn shaped the destiny of our nation.”Ã¢ ’s Wall Street Journal Ã¢ “City of Dreams is a rich, rewarding history of New YorkÃ¢ ’s master narrative: the expansive story of the cityÃ¢ ’s immigrant past and present. ItÃ¢ ’s a necessary book for any reader Ã¢ ’ New Yorker or not Ã¢ ’ curious to know the astonishing sweep of transforming migrations that have made the city the polyglot extravaganza that it is.Ã¢ ’s PHILIP ROTH Ã¢ “A masterful achievement, *City of Dreams* is the definitive account of the American origin story, as told through our premier metropolis. Bold, exhaustive, always surprising, AnbinderÃ¢ ’s book is a wonderful reminder of how we came to be who we are.Ã¢ ’s TIMOTHY EGAN, author of *The Immortal Irishman* Ã¢ “At last! A history of New YorkÃ¢ ’s immigrant experience from Peter Minuit right up to the present day, meticulously researched and wonderfully well-written. *City of Dreams* will captivate readers and historians alike.Ã¢ ’s KEVIN BAKER, author of *The Big Crowd* Ã¢ “Enlightening, impressive, and thorough, *City of Dreams* is a monumental endeavor: a great resource that fills in many historical blanks, and a riveting saga with something for everyone. And in these times of so much divisiveness and xenophobia, a necessary book, too. Tyler Anbinder reminds us that the

dreams that brought my Dominican family to Nueva York are the very bedrock and foundation of this country.â••JULIA ALVAREZ, author of *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* "Like the City of New York itself, Tyler Anbinderâ•s *City of Dreams* is a marvel • a work of astonishing breadth and depth that weaves many threads into a compelling whole. Anbinderâ•s vibrant narrative stretches from the Dutch of New Amsterdam to the Fujianese of Sunset Park, from the Draft Riots to the Crown Heights riot, depicting waves of immigrants who have overcome persistent nativism to transform the city, the nation, and themselves.â••T.J. STILES, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning biographies *Custer*â•s *Trials* and *The First Tycoon* "A tale of tragedy and triumph that comes with political teeth...Anbinder is a master at taking a history with which many readers will be familiarâ• •tenement houses, temperance societies, slumsâ• •and making it new, strange, and heartbreakingly vivid. The stories of individuals, including those of the entrepreneurial Steinway brothers and the tragic poet Pasquale Dâ•c Angelo, are undeniably compelling, but itâ•s Anbinderâ•s stunning image of New York as a true city of immigrants that captures the imagination."â• Publishers Weekly,â• starred review "This thoroughgoing work offers a host of immigrant sagas that were integral to the creation of the New York City cauldron...[Anbinder] impressively conveys the sense of a city truly forged by the people who were determined to live and work there... An endlessly fascinating kaleidoscope of American history. A fantastic historical resource."â• Kirkus Reviews,â• starred review "Full of fascinating, rock-solid history and provides compelling texture behind the larger trends... balanced and excellent."â• Booklist,â• starred review

A defining American story of millions of immigrants, hundreds of languages, and one great city New York has been America's city of immigrants for nearly four centuries. Growing from Peter Minuit's tiny settlement of 1626 to one with more than three million immigrants today, the city has always been a magnet for transplants from all over the globe. It is only fitting that the United States, a nation of immigrants, is home to the only world city built primarily by immigration. More immigrants have entered the United States through New York than through all other entry points combined, making New York's immigrant saga a quintessentially American story. *City of Dreams* is the long-overdue, inspiring, and defining account of New York's both famous and forgotten immigrants: the young man from the Caribbean who relocated to New York and became a Founding Father; an Italian immigrant who toiled for years at railroad track maintenance before achieving his dream of becoming a nationally renowned poet; Russian-born Emma Goldman, who condoned the murder of

American industrialists as a means of aiding downtrodden workers; Dominican immigrant Oscar de la Renta, who dressed first ladies from Jackie Kennedy to Michelle Obama. Over ten years in the making, Tyler Anbinder's story is one of innovators and artists, revolutionaries and rioters, staggering deprivation and soaring triumphs. Today's immigrants are really no different from those who have come to America in centuries past and their story has never before been told with such breadth of scope, lavish research, and resounding spirit. "

The book captured the amazing story of virtually all of the immigrant groups that have come to New York over the centuries. It illustrates their struggles, conflicts but also their achievements and ultimately makes one optimistic that the City will continue to evolve successfully in future years.

In this history of Immigrant New York City, the author narrates the many peoples who have made NYC home. Starting with the Dutch then the English, Scots, Germans, Irish, Italians, Jewish peoples of Eastern Europe, to the Chinese, Caribbean and Latin American arrivals coming today, Arbinder weaves an engrossing story of immigration. He however never really shows how immigrants assimilated into the fabric of NYC of the time. How did the Dutch and English become Americans? How did the Italians and Jews become Americans? This is not a history that lets you know that. It is actually a history of first generation immigration to NYC. And that's fine. Though I wish it was also a history of assimilation and provided the statistics relevant to that discussion. The last chapter attempts to thread the debate between nativism and globalism that seems to have engulfed both major political parties in the US and that is affecting the rest of the world too. The chapter shows the author sides with the globalism argument. It will be interesting to see how the debate progresses when automation continues to mean fewer entry level jobs are available. Will immigrants still come to NYC then? Yes, but probably not in the same numbers that they did previously. Lastly, this is a good book, but it is way more thoroughly researched for the period before the 1920s than for the period after.

This book should be required reading for those interested in the subject. A first-class historian who is part of the immigrant experience himself.

Written well and full of information which I, a constant reader (I have been retired for 29 years), provided me with a fascinating story of the waves of immigrants who arrived in New City. The author used a great combination of straight history and individual stories that is quite effective in

maintaining one's interest. My wife also loves the book, having almost completed it.

An excellent book on immigration as well as how immigrants in NYC actually lived. It is very well written. I like how Tyler Anbinder interweaves his own family's experience with other families who came to NYC. He uses excellent examples.

Be prepared for a roller coaster ride. This is a sweeping history of New York from early colonial period, and its relationship to surrounding states and the emerging nation. The story of the birth of New York is the story of our national struggle to integrate many groups of immigrants as they became 'Americans' and we became a nation of laws and individual freedoms. Tyler Anbinder takes us on a journey that gives us a window into the lives of key figures who either contributed to the progress of individual rights and freedoms, or sometimes undermined that progress. It is important to meet both. This book requires a commitment. The level of rich detail -- based on astonishing historical research -- is necessary to give us an understanding of the depth of our struggle as a people,

**OUTSTANDING.** I own > 450 books on NYC and this is what I have been looking for for years! Brilliantly researched and very well written. The 1st chapter was thrilling and filled in much of what I had been missing over the years!

This is a great read! It's the story of all of America, but featuring New York City's settlement from immigrants from all over the world. As you move through the story, you have a sense of the order of the immigration to the continent, and the stories of why families left everything they had elsewhere, to come and participate in the development of this country. You have to admire these settlers- they were a very bright and determined bunch. This book defines just what the Home of the Brave means... we have some very gutsy ancestors!

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