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# My Future Is in America: Autobiographies of Eastern European Jewish Immigrants

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## MY FUTURE IS IN AMERICA



Autobiographies of Eastern European Jewish Immigrants

Edited and Translated by Jocelyn Cohen and Daniel Soyer

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#633389 in Books NYU Press 2008-04-05 2008-04-05 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x .86 x 6.131, 1.01 #File Name: 0814716954329 pages | File size: 43.Mb

**From Brand: NYU Press : My Future Is in America: Autobiographies of Eastern European Jewish Immigrants** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Future Is in America: Autobiographies of Eastern European Jewish Immigrants:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Descriptive and diverse By Z. T. Heise I was assigned this book for a Jewish History class at my university, and so far I'm really enjoying it. We read one of the autobiographies each week,

and I feel that Cohen has done an excellent job of bringing together stories from different backgrounds and different experiences, and even has a married couple each tell their stories in their own autobiographies. I'll be honest; I was expecting it to be boring - but am very pleasantly surprised to find that it's not! 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Immediate, poignant and fills gaps in my knowledge very nicely. By Dr. C. G. Oakley The older brother of Minnie Goldstein, who wrote the first of the autobiographies that appear in the book, is my great-grandfather and what seems to have been passed down through the generations is a somewhat sanitised version of the truth ... I really had no idea about their dreadful poverty, or the fact that a contributing factor to Hershl Malinberg's emigration from Warsaw to the U.S. was being cheated in business by his own mother-in-law. Of course, the story has particular resonance for her own kith and kin, but it contains so much vivid detail, and is told so well, that I would recommend it to anyone. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent primary source. By Basingstoke "My Future Is In America" contains excellent primary source material for the student of Jewish immigration to this country and immigration history in general. The individual essays are captivating and very readable, providing a wealth of information about the immigrant experience, not only after arrival in America, but also about life in Europe pre-immigration. This book should be considered as reading in American Studies curricula.

In 1942, YIVO held a contest for the best autobiography by a Jewish immigrant on the theme Why I Left the Old Country and What I Have Accomplished in America. Chosen from over two hundred entries, and translated from Yiddish, the nine life stories in *My Future Is in America* provide a compelling portrait of American Jewish life in the immigrant generation at the turn of the twentieth century. The writers arrived in America in every decade from the 1890s to the 1920s. They include manual workers, shopkeepers, housewives, communal activists, and professionals who came from all parts of Eastern Europe and ushered in a new era in American Jewish history. In their own words, the immigrant writers convey the complexities of the transition between the Old and New Worlds. An Introduction places the writings in historical and literary context, and annotations explain historical and cultural allusions made by the writers. This unique volume introduces readers to the complex world of Yiddish-speaking immigrants while at the same time elucidating important themes and topics of interest to those in immigration studies, ethnic studies, labor history, and literary studies. Published in conjunction with the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

Cohen and Soyer have done a masterful job of collecting and translating these gripping immigrant narratives. A must read for anyone interested in immigration, American history, or the Jewish experience in America. -Beth S. Wenger, Katz Family Chair in American Jewish History, University of Pennsylvania