

# A Nation of Immigrants

***A Nation of Immigrants*** (ISBN 978-0-06-144754-9) is a 1958 book on American immigration by then U.S. Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts.

The name of the book is a reference to the fact that the United States is a country whose population is predominantly made up of immigrants and their recent descendants, who settled the country following the European colonization of the Americas and the establishment of the Thirteen Colonies.

## History

The book was written by Kennedy in 1958, while he was still a senator. It was written as part of the Anti-Defamation League's series entitled the One Nation Library.<sup>[1]</sup> In the 1950s, former ADL National Director Ben Epstein was concerned by rising xenophobia and anti-immigrant rhetoric, so he reached out to then-Senator Kennedy to write a manuscript on immigration reform.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

Subsequently, after gaining the presidency, Kennedy called on Congress to undertake a full reevaluation of immigration law; and he began to revise the book for further publication. In August 1963, excerpts of the 1958 pamphlet were published in *The New York Times Magazine*.<sup>[4]</sup> Kennedy's assassination took place before he could complete the revision, but the book was posthumously published in 1964 with an introduction by his brother, then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.<sup>[5]</sup>

The book was re-issued by the Anti-Defamation League in 2008.<sup>[6]</sup>

The 2018 edition was endorsed by former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and then-U.S. Senator Marco Rubio.<sup>[7]</sup>

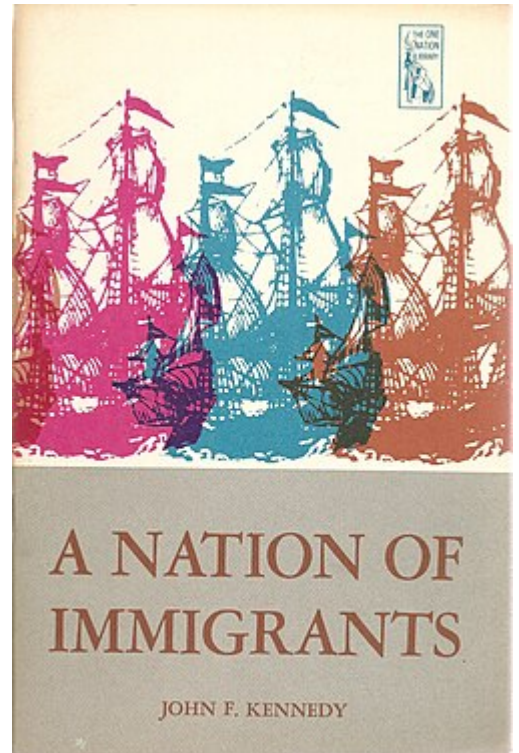
## Summary

The book contains a short history of immigration from Colonial America onwards, an analysis of the importance of immigration in US history, and proposals to liberalize immigration law.

## References

- ↑ "Book by President Kennedy To Be Published on Oct. 7" (https://www.nytimes.com/1964/09/03/book-by-president-kennedy-to-be-published-on-oct-7.html). *The New York Times*. 1964-09-03.
- ↑ "ADL and Harper Perennial Release 60th Anniversary Edition of John F. Kennedy's Classic Essay, "A Nation of Immigrants" " (https://www.adl.org/news/press-releases/adl-and-harper-perennial-release-60th-anniversary-edition-of-john-f-kennedys). *Anti-Defamation League*. Retrieved 2020-06-18.

### A Nation of Immigrants



First edition cover

<b>Author</b>	<u>John F. Kennedy</u>
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Subject</b>	<u>American immigration</u>
<b>Published</b>	1958
<b>Publication place</b>	United States
<b>ISBN</b>	<u>978-0-06-144754-9</u>

3. "How a Jewish Charity's Long Game Readied It for Today's Turbulence" (<https://www.philanthropy.com/article/How-a-Jewish-Charity-s-Long/244982>). *www.philanthropy.com*. November 2018. Retrieved 2020-06-18.
4. Kennedy, John F. (1963-08-04). "A Nation of Immigrants" (<https://www.nytimes.com/1963/08/04/archives/a-nation-of-immigrants-a-nation-of-immigrants.html?sq=a%2520nation%2520of%2520immigrants%2520kennedy&scp=3&st=cse>). *The New York Times*. Retrieved 2009-03-16.
5. Kennedy, John Fitzgerald (1964). Kennedy, Robert F. (ed.). *A Nation of Immigrants*. HarperCollins. ISBN 0-06-091367-3.
6. "John F. Kennedy's A Nation of Immigrants" (<https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/jfk-nation-of-immigrants-guide>). *Anti-Defamation League*. Retrieved 2020-06-18.
7. "A Nation of Immigrants - John F. Kennedy - Paperback" (<https://www.harpercollins.com/9780062859693/a-nation-of-immigrants/>). *HarperCollins Publishers: World-Leading Book Publisher*. Retrieved 2020-06-18.



The book includes a map.

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## External links

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- [OnTheIssues.org's book review and excerpts \(http://ontheissues.org/Nation\\_of\\_Immigrants.htm\)](http://ontheissues.org/Nation_of_Immigrants.htm)
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