

Preface

Collaboration can be a painful process, especially between authors of different disciplines. This book is an outgrowth of discussions between a Political Scientist and Economists at the School of Urban and Public Affairs, University of Louisville. The Economics perspective is found in Chapter 3 and was largely written by Frank Götzke. The Political Science oriented review, Chapters 2 and 6, as well as all the case studies were largely provided by Steven Koven. Most of the book, but especially Chapters 4, 5, and 7 evolved as a consequence of conversations between the two authors. We believe the product of two disciplinary approaches has produced a collective outcome that is greater than the sum of individual parts would have been.

In this book we have attempted to combine the analytical, empirical, historical, political, and economics approaches. Chapter 3 presents an analytical model, based on economics, Chapters 4 and 5 summarize empirical census data related to immigrants, and Chapter 6 reviews the legislative and political history of immigration. Theoretical perspectives on migration are presented (Chapters 1 and 2) as well as a comparative perspective (Chapter 7). The book combines the analytical and empirical descriptions of immigration with in-depth case studies. Accounts of prominent immigrants move the discussion from the model building and data analysis level to the personal level. Hopefully, this will not be viewed by the readers as disjointed but will provide the nuanced detail necessary to understand the plight and feelings of individuals who sought a new life in a new world. The authors do not claim to have unique insights, however, one is a recent immigrant from Germany, and the other is a first-generation American who was born in the quintessential immigrant city of New York.

The authors would like to especially thank our graduate research assistant Michael Misek for his assistance in writing the book. He provided numerous insights and his dedication in terms of timely analysis of data was vital to the successful outcome of the project. We appreciate the assistance of Jon Gurstelle of Springer in giving us the time to complete the book and recognizing its potential for adding to the controversial immigration debate. Finally, we are indebted to the scholars that came before us, the University of Louisville for providing institutional support, and our families who have supported us throughout our careers.

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