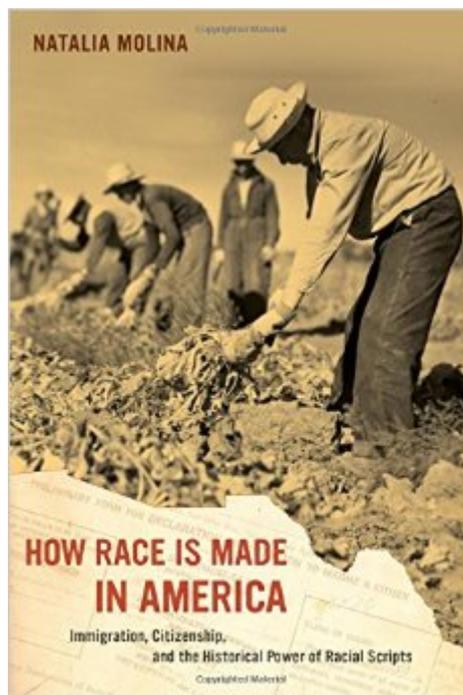


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# How Race Is Made In America: Immigration, Citizenship, And The Historical Power Of Racial Scripts (American Crossroads)



## Synopsis

How Race Is Made in America examines Mexican Americans' from 1924, when American law drastically reduced immigration into the United States, to 1965, when many quotas were abolished; to understand how broad themes of race and citizenship are constructed. These years shaped the emergence of what Natalia Molina describes as an immigration regime, which defined the racial categories that continue to influence perceptions in the United States about Mexican Americans, race, and ethnicity. Molina demonstrates that despite the multiplicity of influences that help shape our concept of race, common themes prevail. Examining legal, political, social, and cultural sources related to immigration, she advances the theory that our understanding of race is socially constructed in relational ways; that is, in correspondence to other groups. Molina introduces and explains her central theory, racial scripts, which highlights the ways in which the lives of racialized groups are linked across time and space and thereby affect one another. How Race Is Made in America also shows that these racial scripts are easily adopted and adapted to apply to different racial groups.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Let me say to begin with that I am second-generation Mexican-American. Also let me say that I did not agree with Molina's conclusions before I read her book, but her book is very convincing. The history of our immigration policies are quite interesting by itself. This is a very well written and

researched book on how race and racism has driven the immigration policies of the United States from its very beginning shortly after the Revolutionary War. Molina focuses her research on the immigration laws and attitudes toward Mexican immigrants and Mexican-Americans. Molina goes further by showing that the arguments for controlling immigration by the founders of the U.S. were extremely racist and that those same arguments are being made today. The question of who can become a citizen with all the privileges of citizenship has been an issue since the nation was founded. Molina's research shows that race was made a part of the laws until very recently and today's laws and proposed laws (even without the wording of race) are still put into practice according to one's race. Examples are given to prove this is true. As I stated before, I am second generation and as such it is scary to think that many Americans do not believe that birth citizenship should be the law even though it has been the law since the country was founded. Just as frightening is the idea that citizenship can be limited to certain racial groups. Not only do many Americans believe in denying citizenship to certain racial groups but the government has limited and taken away citizenship to racial groups in the recent past.

Wonderful book. Though I found segments of the text to be a bit redundant at times, I appreciated the manner in which the author deliberately brought and kept her framework of racial scripts in the fore. Readers should have gained a deeper appreciation for the relational nature of race and how conceptions of race are constructed and supported culturally and structurally. I would have liked a bit more information about the author's methodological approach in analyzing the data. This lack of detail calls the author's findings into question.

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