



# **Working Toward Whiteness: How America's Immigrants Became White: The Strange Journey from Ellis Island to the Suburbs**

*David R. Roediger*

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At the vanguard of the study of race and labor in American history, David R. Roediger is the author of the now-classic *The Wages of Whiteness*, a study of racism in the development of a white working class in nineteenth-century America. In *Working Toward Whiteness*, he continues that history into the twentieth century. He recounts how American ethnic groups considered white today—including Jewish-, Italian-, and Polish-Americans—once occupied a confused racial status in their new country. They eventually became part of white America thanks to the nascent labor movement, New Deal reforms, and a rise in home-buying. From ethnic slurs to racially restrictive covenants—the racist real estate agreements that ensured all-white neighborhoods—Roediger explores the murky realities of race in twentieth-century America. A masterful history by an award-winning writer, *Working Toward Whiteness* charts the strange transformation of these new immigrants into the "white ethnics" of America today.

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