

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910456991003321
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Titolo	Crossing borders [[electronic resource]] : migration and citizenship in the twentieth-century United States // Dorothee Schneider
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, MA, : Harvard University Press, 2011
ISBN	0-674-06130-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (331 p.)
Disciplina	304.8/7300904
Soggetti	Immigrants - United States - History Citizenship - United States Electronic books. United States Emigration and immigration History United States Emigration and immigration Government policy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- CHAPTER 1. Leaving Home -- CHAPTER 2. Landing in America -- CHAPTER 3. Forced Departures -- Epilogue -- Appendix 1: Figures -- Appendix 2: Deportation Categories, 1917 -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Aspiring immigrants to the United States make many separate border crossings in their quest to become Americans-in their home towns, ports of departure, U.S. border stations, and in American neighborhoods, courthouses, and schools. In a book of remarkable breadth, Dorothee Schneider covers both the immigrants' experience of their passage from an old society to a new one and American policymakers' debates over admission to the United States and citizenship. Bringing together the separate histories of Irish, English, German, Italian, Jewish, Chinese, Japanese, and Mexican immigrants, the book opens up a fresh view of immigrant aspirations and government responses. Ingenuity and courage emerge repeatedly from these stories, as immigrants adapted their particular resources, especially social networks, to make migration and citizenship successful on their own terms. While officials argued over immigrants' fitness for admission and citizenship, immigrant communities forced

the government to alter the meaning of race, class, and gender as criteria for admission. Women in particular made a long transition from dependence on men to shapers of their own destinies. Schneider aims to relate the immigrant experience as a totality across many borders. By including immigrant voices as well as U.S. policies and laws, she provides a truly transnational history that offers valuable perspectives on current debates over immigration.
