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English as a Test of Being a Good American Citizen CHAPTER 5: The English Literacy Test in New York State: An Added Way of Making a "White" America; The English Literacy Test Election law of 1921 in New York State and Its Implications; A Step Towards Uniqueness: The 1923 Amendment; Two Kinds of Assimilation: Intended and Unintended Consequences; CHAPTER 6: Conclusion; Bibliography; Index

Sommario/riassunto

Oh argues that the introduction of literacy tests influenced both the possibility of immigrant admission to the United States and the exercise of suffrage. The Literacy Test Act of 1917 was the first national language restriction on immigration and was used as a means of excluding "undesirable" linguistic minorities. Focusing on New York State, Oh shows how literacy tests were used to preserve the political hegemony. She argues that linguistic assimilation carried different meanings for different people. For Europeans, it meant swifter assimilation into American society, while for non-whites i
