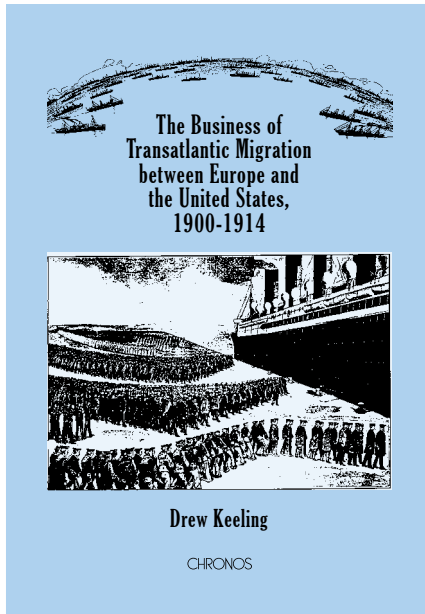


Drew Keeling

The Business of Transatlantic Migration between Europe and the United States, 1900–1914

MASS MIGRATION AS A TRANSNATIONAL BUSINESS IN LONG DISTANCE TRAVEL

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This is the first systematic examination of the business of mass migration travel across the North Atlantic during the period of unprecedented globalization prior to World War I. It explicates the reinforcing interests and actions of the oceanic shipping lines, their migrant customers, and contemporary government authorities, in coping with the substantial risks of mass physical relocation, particularly those due to cyclical economic recessions, and in keeping migration safe, smooth and largely self-regulated. In a comprehensive analysis backed up by extensive and consistent statistics, it details the motives and mechanisms by which these eleven million Europe-born migrants made nineteen million ocean crossings on eighteen thousand voyages of several hundred large steamships, generating hundreds of millions of dollars in revenues for these steamship lines during the pivotal peak years of early

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Drew Keeling

(BA in Economics from Stanford, MBA from Wharton, PhD in History from University of California, Berkeley), is the author of numerous articles concerning migration and transportation across the North Atlantic. *The Business of Transatlantic Migration between Europe and the United States, 1900-1914* is his first book.

In an earlier version, it was awarded the 2005 Gerschenkron dissertation prize of the Economic History Association.

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ABOUT THE BOOK

The relocation of Europeans across the Atlantic between 1900 and 1914 was a human drama, a major international demographic shift, and a large-scale historical experiment in ethnic transformation. This migration was also a complex and enduring modern service business in which long distance transportation enterprises, a transnational labor market, sovereign control over border-crossing, and large-scale population transfers flourished and co-evolved. In the long history of globalization, the early twentieth century North Atlantic offers an exceptional example of relatively unfettered and cooperatively managed long-distance mass migration. The business of this migration was highly seasonal and cyclical, reliant upon sophisticated new travel technologies, vulnerable to nationalistic intervention, and yet inherently transnational. It was a risky activity for those involved with it, but successful risk management strategies helped make the overall migration smoother and longer-lasting.

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Here we find an old and much-traversed topic of economic history, but examined with a totally new approach...the literal process of migration, and the business that made it possible. This broad definition...allows Keeling to set straight the record on all sorts of things that historians of migration as conventionally understood have asserted without proof thus far.

Anne McCants, MIT

Keeling's impressive study on how and why millions of Europeans crossed to the United States between 1900 and 1914 works because he writes about migrants and transport in equal doses.

Michael Miller, University of Miami

The research here is broad-based, multinational and extremely impressive. The level of the analysis and the insights provided throughout suggest strongly that it will have an important impact among a wide variety of scholars. The book takes a mass of evidence and makes it comprehensible. This is no small achievement.

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