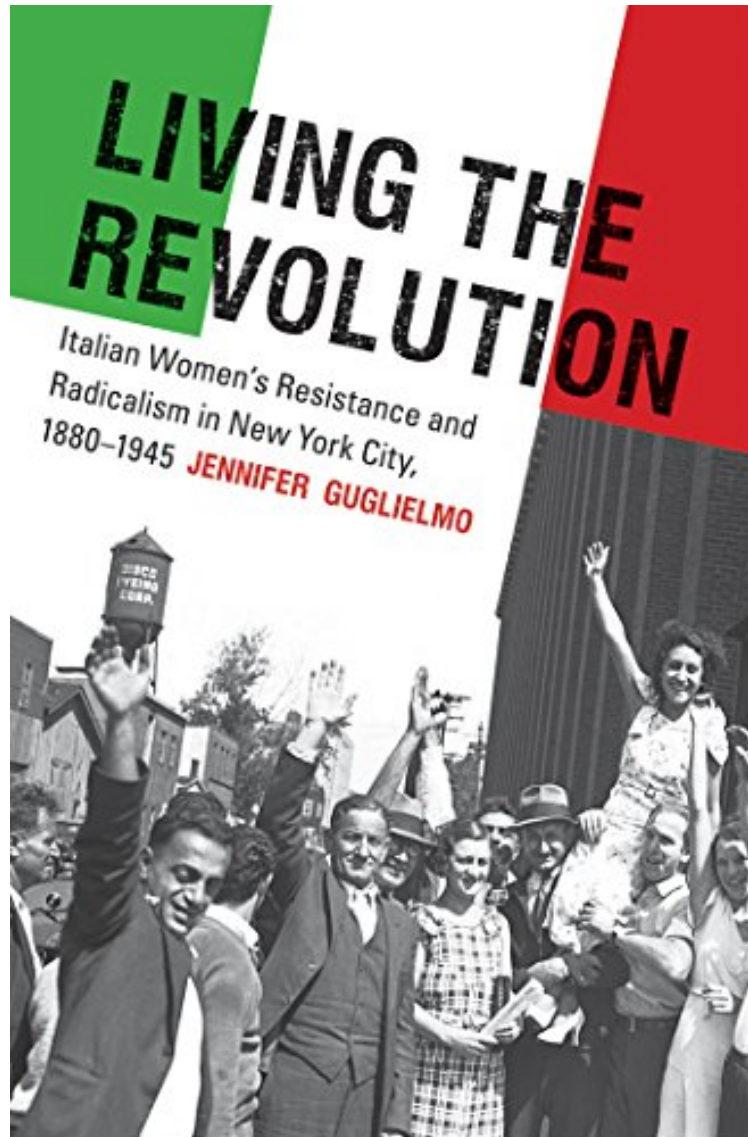


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## Living the Revolution: Italian Women's Resistance and Radicalism in New York City, 1880-1945 (Gender and American Culture)

Jennifer Guglielmo

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**Jennifer Guglielmo : Living the Revolution: Italian Women's Resistance and Radicalism in New York City, 1880-1945 (Gender and American Culture)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Living the Revolution: Italian Women's Resistance and Radicalism in New York City, 1880-

1945 (Gender and American Culture):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A highwayscribery Book ReportBy Stephen SicilianoOh, the ever-changing face of America!Who among us can even envision a northern New Jersey clutching tight to New York via the tendrils of the garment and other departed industries, pocked with recently arrived anarchists from places like Avellino?Jennifer Guglielmo's "Living the Revolution," assembles the research and words necessary to conjure that distant and disappeared time.Some of this reviewer's antecedent's hailed from Avellino and the revelation in Guglielmo's book goes a long way toward explaining his own anarcho-syndicalist tendencies.And explanation is necessary, because the Italian-American milieu in which he grew up was far from revolutionary. Uncles and aunts in Brooklyn and Queens loathed John Lindsay in favor of a hack named Mario Procaccino. When a black family moved into the neighborhood, a call of alarm went out.To be Italian-American in mid-century New York was to be conservative, closed-minded and to want for a liberal, higher education (generally speaking)."Living the Revolution," goes a long way toward explaining how that happened: Italian-Americans desperately clinging to their classification as "white" by federal authorities; their frantic efforts to establish "American-ness" while the U.S. made war on Mussolini's Italy; the devastating impact of the Palmer Raids on the anarchist culture that took root in the tri-state area among Italian immigrant women.Later on, according to this book, Italian and Italian-American women became active in the union movement, although their efforts to gain power were often thwarted and their contributions to the Ladies Garment Workers and other syndicates undervalued.Guglielmo's book recuperates the ladies' names and actions, making great strides in combating the widely-held notion that they were somehow not militant. This appears to be the primary task she set out for herself in penning this text."Living the Revolution," sets the record straight. It's a work of historical scholarship and, from time-to-time, bogs down in minutiae, however necessary. Sometimes, the task at hand causes the author to wander far from the focus of her discussion and into the 19th-century uprisings in southern Italy or the writings of Antonio Gramsci.In the end, it all ties together and Guglielmo's passion for the subject ultimately drives the narrative and should win over those who come to her story with a healthy curiosity."Living" is a feminist tract. It pulls from the rich filigree of events, that make up the first half of the 20th century, the prevailing policies, traditions and mores of patriarchy and white supremacy.It dramatizes how these things weighed upon the activist women and illuminated the creativity they employed in combating them."Living the Revolution," not only rescues the names and profiles of some worthwhile people otherwise condemned to anonymity, it helps explain how we got where we are as a nation today, the good and the bad alike.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Eye-opening, and not at all the usual dry, slow-to-read historical account.By mint EThis is a revelatory story of the real involvement and strength of Italian and other immigrant women in the making of America and the American labor movement. It is extremely well-written, easy to enjoy and follow but highly researched--an usual combination. I had forgotten just how brave and liberated women of 20's, 30's and 40's could be for their time, and their stories profoundly move me. After the hysteria of the Cold War era and the disappointments of our modern political era, we have forgotten what it was like to be deeply devoted to your ideals and have ideals with a truly pragmatic goal for family and humanity. Thank you, Jennifer.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wow, best women's history I've ever read.By Melanie WintersWow. This book is full of cameo highlights on real Italian /Italian American women who resisted power (husbands, employers, fascists, etc). Page-turning and very well written. I am an historian- would assign it in class and give it away for Christmas presents.

Italians were the largest group of immigrants to the United States at the turn of the twentieth century, and hundreds of thousands led and participated in some of the period's most volatile labor strikes. Jennifer Guglielmo brings to life the Italian working-class women of New York and New Jersey who helped shape the vibrant radical political culture that expanded into the emerging industrial union movement. Tracing two generations of women who worked in the needle and textile trades, she explores the ways immigrant women and their American-born daughters drew on Italian traditions of protest to form new urban female networks of everyday resistance and political activism. She also shows how their commitment to revolutionary and transnational social movements diminished as they became white working-class Americans.

Jennifer Guglielmo offers a commanding corrective to earlier images of immigrant women as weak pawns in a larger scheme of American immigrant history with this exacting study.--Fra NoiLiving the Revolution is a brilliantly argued, exhaustively researched, and beautifully written analysis. . . . The only quarrel I have with this book is that the title does not do justice to the scope and breadth of this groundbreaking narrative that sets a new standard for gender, immigration, and labor scholarship. Living the Revolution should be required reading for anyone interested in those fields.--The Journal of American HistoryBrilliantly researched. . . . [A] powerful narrative. . . . Beautifully edited, sourced, and indexed. An extraordinary book. . . . Essential. Recommended for all levels/libraries.--ChoiceAn important work about the intertwining of class, ethnicity, and gender as well as race. . . . Rich in biographical details of Italian women culled from a treasure trove of oral history, memoirs, and fascinating material from archives on both

sides of the Atlantic, the book brings to life moments of collective action in defiance of powerful agencies and the subsequent marginalization of class militancy.--American Historical A critically important addition to the field. The author is expansively original in her understanding of the subject and the accomplished integrative analysis of primary and secondary research is of the first order. . . . This work is sure to become one of the fundamental historiographical classics of our era. Guglielmo and the University of North Carolina Press must also be commended for the inclusion of so many phenomenal photographs . . . which give the nuanced narrative even more profound strength.--Labour/Le TravailTraces the evolution of radical organization from first generation immigrants, who brought local organizing and direct action tactics from Italy to the United States, to their children, who would embrace labor reformism.--New York HistoryGuglielmo offers new insight to labor and gender scholars who seek fresh information on the anarchist and socialist movement among female workers.--The History Teacher[This] well-written study . . . makes a significant contribution to our understanding of a key period of radical activity in the United States. . . . A pathbreaking work that will hopefully inspire others to study the many overlooked dimensions of this critical period of transnational radicalism, including women's role in it.--Journal of American StudiesLiving the Revolution is a major achievement . . . . Capacious, humanistic, and provocative.--Voices in Italian AmericanaGuglielmo provides a fresh look at the connections among labor militancy, migration, gender, and race. Living in the Revolution effectively challenges the traditional narrative of early twentieth-century activism among Italian American women and therefore should be of great interest to labor historians.--LaborMeticulously researched and with a remarkable command of the bilingual archives.--Women's of BooksThis book is destined to change the way historians think about Italian American working-class women. . . . A groundbreaking, compelling, and inspiring narrative that reveals a rich history of female resistance and radicalism. . . . [An] immensely important contribution. . . . Essential reading for anyone interested in the history of feminism, radicalism, immigration, and working-class life.--Left History Living the Revolution will alter what you thought you knew--about Italian women, about immigrants, and about radicalism. Read this book!--Donna R. Gabaccia, University of MinnesotaLiving the Revolution is a very special achievement--researched with extraordinary depth, conceptualized with sophistication, and written with both power and charm. Working from a fully bilingual archive, Guglielmo has arranged a thousand tiny fragments and shards into a coherent, compelling, and always soundly reasoned historical portrait. This is one of the best studies on any European ethnic group I have read in a very long time.--Matthew Frye Jacobson, Yale UniversityA groundbreaking piece of scholarship that finally shatters the notion that Italian American women were either apolitical or marginal players in U.S.-based immigrant politics in the first half of the twentieth century. This beautifully written and argued account restores Italian American women to the center of our historical understanding of anarchism in the United States as well as both pro- and antifascist organizing in the 1920s, '30s, and '40s. Guglielmo's book also deepens historical understanding of race and whiteness in the urban North.--Annelise Orleck, author of Storming Caesar's Palace: How Black Mothers Fought Their Own War on PovertyA riveting history that left me feeling inspired, moved, and proud.--Annabella SciorraHere is the new paradigm in the history of gender and immigration. Guglielmo's careful attention to transnational capitalism and diaspora as well as to Italians' shifting political formations around race make this book as innovative and inspiring as the voices of Italian women anarchists she so vividly documents. A must-read!--Nan Enstad, University of Wisconsin, MadisonFrom the Inside FlapGuglielmo brings to life the Italian working-class women of New York and New Jersey who helped shape the vibrant radical political culture that expanded into the emerging industrial union movement. Tracing the activism of two generations of women who worked in the needle and textile trades, she explores the ways immigrant women and their American-born daughters drew on Italian traditions of protest to form new urban female networks of everyday resistance and political activism. And she shows how their commitment to revolutionary and transnational social movements diminished as they became white working-class Americans.