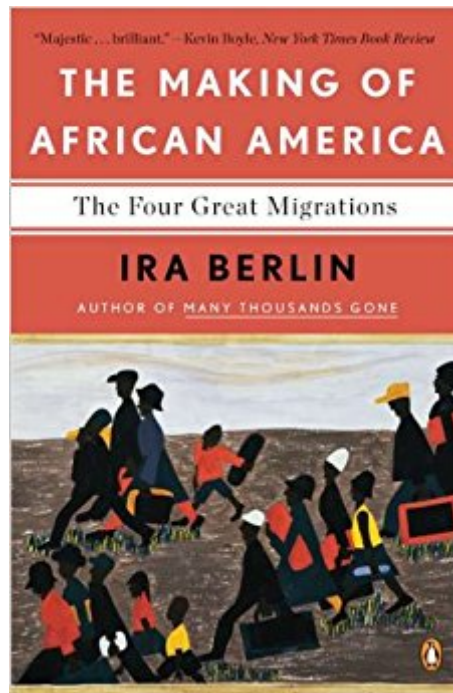




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# **The Making Of African America: The Four Great Migrations**



## Synopsis

An award-winning historian's sweeping new interpretation of the African American experience. In this masterful account, Ira Berlin, one of the nation's most distinguished historians, offers a revolutionary-and sure to be controversial-new view of African American history. In *The Making of African America*, Berlin challenges the traditional presentation of a linear, progressive history from slavery to freedom. Instead, he puts forth the idea that four great migrations, between the seventeenth and twenty-first centuries, lie at the heart of black American culture and its development. With an engrossing, accessible narrative, Berlin traces the transit from Africa to America, Virginia to Alabama, Biloxi to Chicago, Lagos to the Bronx, and in the process finds the essence of black American life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Berlin (*Many Thousands Gone*) offers a fresh reading of American history through the prism of the great migrations that made and remade African and African American life. The first was the forcible deportation of Africans to North America in the 17th and 18th centuries, followed by their forced transfer into the American interior during the 19th century. Then came the migration of the mid-20th century as African-Americans fled the South for the urban North, and the arrival of continental Africans and people of African descent from the Caribbean during the latter part of the 20th century. Berlin sees migration and the reshaping of communities to their new environments as central to the African-American experience. Movement is a matter of numbers, and Berlin provides them in detail

kept fully readable by his attention to the cultural products of the shifts. In particular, he follows the church as it moves, the music as it takes on new themes, and kinship as it broadens. Berlin's careful scholarship is evidenced in his rich notes; the ordinary reader will be pleased by the fluidity and clarity of his prose. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Slavery, migration, and, more recently, immigration all constitute the making of African Americans, a history older and far more complex than that of most other Americans. Historian Berlin explores the four great migrations that have produced the distinct culture of African Americans: the transatlantic slave trade; the migration of African slaves from the Atlantic coast inland to southern plantations; the great migration from the rural South to the urban North, particularly during World War II; and the latest movement in the diaspora, the immigration to the U.S. of people of African descent from Africa, the Caribbean, and Europe. Berlin analyzes the movements, the dynamics of changes in customs and mores, as well as the sense of place developed by African Americans as they adjusted to each migration, voluntary and involuntary. He explores the changes in culture, music, politics, social institutions, and economics that defined each movement and redefined African Americans. Berlin also explores the latest migration, tensions, and feelings of kinship between native-born African Americans and newcomers, and the ultimate impact on perceptions of what it means to be black in America. --Vanessa Bush --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A great read that explains the transformations in both black American and general American history - transformations in culture, economics, and values. A really excellent read.

The book has a lot of facts, but I found it hard to read since you needed to keep going back to reference some of the statistics. I enjoyed some of the stories used to emphasise the facts. After reading I think it will be a great reference book. It is not a book that would be classified as an easy read.

Well researched--lots of qualitative examples of African roots in America

This is an extremely interesting take on explaining African American culture. Particularly powerful is the information on the more recent immigrants from Africa who are now American citizens.

Intellectual, in-depth read. Covers the subject, but doesn't feel like an "old" book. A great book from Dr. Ira Berlin.

Thanks!

The book that was delivered to me look visually different from the one that is required by the class. I'm hoping that there are no major differences. Overall, I'm not 100% satisfied.

Good for the children.

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