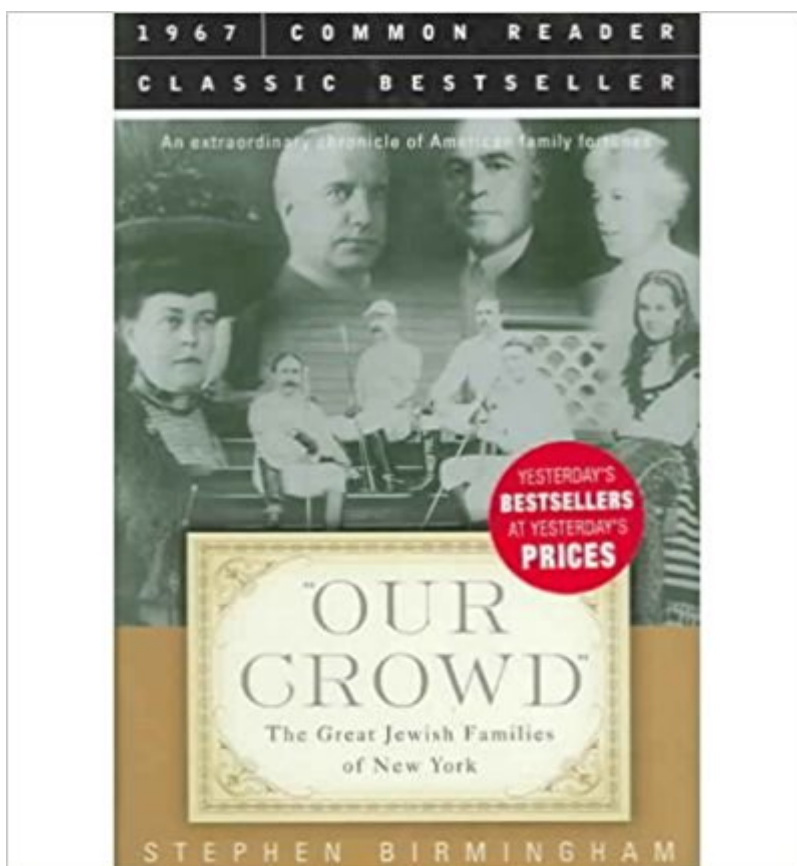


The book was found

Our Crowd: The Great Jewish Families In New York



Synopsis

Book by Birmingham, Stephen

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Book by Birmingham, Stephen

Early in the book, I was afraid there would be too much detail of a kind I don't much care for (clothes, manners, statements of stuffy dowagers about commoners, that sort of thing). However, I think this author achieved a fine balance between important details of business and telling details of pleasure, family life, morals, and so on. The financial detail, and the business history as these families moved through various deals and pursuits, turned out very fine. One can see how, with good reason, first British and then American political figures came to rely critically on these German Jewish families to accomplish important financial tasks. Next stop, and a natural transition from this: "The Warburgs" by Ron Chernow, and "The New Crowd" by J. Ehrlich and B. Rehfeld..

Having heard references to "Our Crowd," I now assume at least some were to this book, the 1st edition of which was published in 1967. There have been 14 editions published. It's amazing, the gang is all here. You get to find out all about how the great Jewish names in American business, particularly in the financial industry, got going in the 19th Century. This includes families with last names: Warburg; Seligman (this name gets the most coverage); Guggenheim (the one that made it in a non-financial industry); Schiff; Straus; Goldman; Sachs; Loeb and much more. The individuals

depicted worked hard, were discrete and hardcore-ambitious. Most had humble beginnings but became a kind of aristocracy, with summer homes in some of the most exclusive locales in America. They invented methods of doing business, and prospered. I think *Our Crowd* can be inspirational, to some extent, in that it tells of many individuals that made it big in the Horatio Alger sense. The rewards went to hard work, persistence, education and risk. On the other hand, this book had many starts within it, and a great many detailed tangents. This made it often tedious to read, quite frankly. If the stories weren't true, the book would be unreadable due to broken threads of suspension, drama and continuity. The fact that the stories are true, however, makes *Our Crowd* a primary source to understand the history of American business.

I'd love to see PBS make a series based on this book.

Interesting but very concentrated on a few families. A mix of business and social history. A reasonable introduction to an amazing story. His book about the great Sephardic families "The Grandees" is more worthwhile because their history is so little known and written about.

This is an absolute classic. Every page is lively and full of entertaining and remarkable stories. Further, it's indispensable as history of New York, of the Jewish diaspora, of American commercial history, of banking and of changing mores and culture.

Great book.

I enjoy Stephen Birmingham and loved this book. The great Jewish families came to America seeking a better life, usually beginning with just one person, travelling in the cramped, sickening part of the boat and without proper food. In New York they started with maybe a push cart full of stuff and they worked very hard to make it in their new world. Birmingham is a marvelous guide through their sometimes perilous but always interesting journeys.

Great price and condition. Fast delivery. All good.

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