

**THE
LAST REAL
IMMIGRANT**

**FROM OLD WORLD
ROOTS TO NEW WORLD
OPPORTUNITIES**

BY JOSEPH GALLIANI

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To Dad. For his everlasting presence and inspiration.

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

As I write this book, I feel that I lived a blessed yet somewhat laborious life, notwithstanding many of the obstacles that have always been around me. They made me a better man. But if it weren't for my father's teachings, I would have tripped and fallen as I encountered many of those obstacles. This is my first, and possibly my last, book that I would contemplate writing; too many years in the making. I want to make it my best. After all, my credentials are in the IT profession, but that technology never changed me and who I am. It just made me aware that without culture, respect, and hard work, you don't achieve higher grounds.

The upcoming one-hundred years of our history in this book, which is well entrenched in my family, is my legacy to it. I wasn't aware at a very young age that because of my father, I would be catapulted on a journey that would take me across three continents. As a naturalized American now, I have a much wider perspective and understanding of this wonderful world, but America tops it all. How I wrote this book is just as if I am conversing with you, the reader. I learned at an early age that balanced and fact-driven communications bring every one of us together. It makes us understand who we are, where we come from, and where we want to go. My dialogued stories, hopefully, will flow naturally from this paper to your soul.

I want to thank all my readers for their support, and I invite you to provide your honest feedback. We really need to make our time here as productive as it can be. Every line of work is important no matter what you do. My father, to whom this book is dedicated, worked with his hands but

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was guided by his incredible, logical intellect and often idealistic mind. He accomplished all that he could during his tenure. I ask all of you to remain engaged and proactive in everything that you aspire to do. If “The Last Real Immigrant” did it, I believe that you can also accomplish it. Hopefully, this book will guide you to undertake this task. –Joseph Galliani

INTRODUCTION

As we currently navigate through these highly charged political times, this book addresses the history and the experiences of an immigrant family. This book accounts a family history that isn't entirely mine but could represent a shared past, full of sacrifices but involving accomplishments too. The story of my family took place during one of the last waves of the European migration to America. This book starts in the country where it all began for us: the North African land of Libya, which was once a thriving Italian colony.

Apart from the vast history of Italy, it is interesting to remember that Libya benefited from the introduction of both the modern European irrigation systems and home-building techniques. From 1910 to 1946, colonial Italy worked hard to bring Libya out of the "middle ages" and imprinted some of its cultures on the various Arab nations. My family members, all Italian citizens, unfortunately, migrated back to Italy, our homeland, in the late 1950s as Libya started to show signs of internal monarchy government deterioration and financial uncertainties. Living in Italy in the 1960s, we experienced part of the country's many financial instabilities and trying times. During those years, many groups of skilled Italians seized the risks, looking for more opportunities, and immigrated to their final destination: The United States of America. Reading this book, Americans can re-experience the 1960s and 1970s and rejoice that once upon a time, America implemented Immigration Laws to benefit American growth and security.

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This book recounts not only my personal history but also that of my family meeting the requirements and rules of the American immigration system of the 1960s era. Thus, this work analyzes how the "merit system" worked then - and should still work today - representing, in my opinion, the only correct approach to enriching our country with immigrants that bring skills, hard work, and vision. If we look back to this period, those immigrants have accelerated the growth, the economy, the presence, and the strength of the United States in the world. That progress was accomplished by taking a bilateral approach: on the one hand, by integrating with the American philosophy; on the other by keeping their own culture, a parameter to achieve greatness and prosperity. Nowadays, dealing with the current immigration circumstances, one should look back and reevaluate the use of the functioning process used in those times to enter America.

This book is divided into three parts. The first one I call "Out of Africa." It details and describes my family's roots and life in Northern Africa. It starts in the 1950s in Tripoli, the capital city of Libya, and contains many references to our earlier historical generational epochs. It is undeniable that each family has their own origins. The history of mine is not for the faint-hearted: it carried joy and sorrow as we fought to establish our identity and history. The challenges also established the concepts and guidelines for our early successes and, unfortunately, also some disappointments too. Coming from far and exotic places where only a few thrived and endured in spite of everything, my family blossomed and prospered, especially when we got to America. With each experience, though, the body, the mind, and the character become a gateway to challenge the future with each of the previously obtained lessons.

The second part, titled "Out of Italy," highlights our family's early accomplishments and proficiencies that catapulted us to where we are and live today. It takes place in 1960s Italy, a time of new discoveries and peace

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but one that demands hard work. It shaped the skin and principles of the family and our early contributions guided by an entrenched work ethic. It explains how respect, hard work, and education go hand in hand to achieve one's goals. As Italians with a rich millennial history, we struggled with the system and government of those ages. By the early 1960s, World War II was over for the Italian population. However, it still carried with it a heavy burden of reconstruction for all European citizens.

Ingenuity carried Italians through time, even before Christ engraved our genetic heritage. The great minds who lived in all the different countries of Europe have contributed their culture, art, intellect, and working principles to create the great "melting pot" represented by the United States of America.

The last part of the book I call "Coming to America" covers almost half of this book's content. It narrates, with sometimes unpolished realities, our American experiences starting with our arrival in the late 1960s to the present day. By reading the substance and some of the stories and events that took place, especially during the early days of our entry into the country and those early years, you can realize some of the burdens and sacrifices that awaited every immigrant family. Baby Boomers or Generation X may find solace in reading and recalling some of these events from decades past in America. I strongly recommend this book to Millennials since it may reinforce in them the traditional views and expectations of their parents. My real-life illustrations, family experiences, and trials throughout all three parts of this book should convey what immigration can achieve by using my family as an example. Earlier American immigration laws were not perfect by any means, but they produced and gathered the correct effect in shaping the last century of our American past.

If history is to be studied, we must learn from it, not reject it. It is evident that our country, in this current era, does not truly look at the past or

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is somewhat disengaged in identifying the accomplishments and endeavors of this nation's record.

It is important to remember that most immigrants entered the U.S. by qualifying for entry based on immigration laws, which seemed or were, partially defective. Despite that, in most cases, they achieved the intended outcome. Looking at our nation today, we can notice that the immigrants of the past century have made substantial contributions to global prominence in the international scenario of the USA. Unfortunately, our country's immigration system currently operates on an untested and logistics-less basis.

We are experiencing a new wave of unfettered immigration.

Legitimately skilled immigrants of the past and their families have contributed heart and soul to America's past and future. Their impact has also shaped our country into the ultimate economic and military power in the world. Uninhibited and unregulated immigration, for the most part, does not bear many fruits or skills or bring progress to our nation to meet our future needs.

A reflection on the topic is, therefore, needed. Should our government allow entry to everyone who wants to enter and live in our country? Do we want an open borders nation? What about those who came, sometimes waiting for years, vetted by American ideology and laws of those early days, presenting merits, skills, and a guarantor before being allowed to reside here? Should our immigrant class be exasperated by what my family and I had to endure and engage in? My father, the patriarch of my family, sacrificed a lot and had to prove much, sometimes working endless hours. The journey of my family's history is about to start: would you be able to assimilate into this rich immigrant-centered American history? You will be the ultimate judge.

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My family and I have adapted to our new life in America with its customs, foods, and work ethics, and, as you will discover through the reading, the stories depicted bring this book to life. My experiences and that of my family - that maybe, at the end of this book, will become a little bit of yours too - are about to be presented. As your eyes read the pages, you will assume the arduous role of critic, judge, and the final advocate. At the end of the reading, you will surely be able to answer the questions you encounter.

The Last Real Immigrant. That is how I decided to title my book. But what if it is not really the last?

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