

**THE SLAV INVASION AND
THE MINE WORKERS: A
STUDY IN IMMIGRATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649161508

The Slav invasion and the mine workers: a study in immigration by Frank Julian Warne

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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FRANK JULIAN WARNE

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BY
FRANK JULIAN WARNE, PH.D.



PHILADELPHIA AND LONDON
J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY

1904

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Published April, 1904

Printed by
J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, U. S. A.

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INTRODUCTION

THE recent change in the character of immigration to the United States, by which natives of Poland, Austria, Hungary, Russia, Italy, etc., have very largely supplanted those previously coming from Ireland, England, Wales, Germany, Scotland, etc., is having far-reaching effects upon American institutional and industrial life. This particular study in immigration points out the most important of these effects by presenting the results of a first-hand investigation of actual conditions in the anthracite coal-fields of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

This book shows how the competition of the so-called Slav races, including the Italian, for the places in and about the hard-coal mines of the English-speaking mine-workers—the Irish, English, Welsh, Germans, Scotch, etc.—has resulted in a conflict between these two distinct groups for industrial supremacy in hard-coal mining, and

how this is forcing the English-speaking nationalities out of this industry and out of that section. The strikes of 1900 and 1902 were mere surface indications of the wide-spread industrial unrest which naturally accompanies this struggle; they should be regarded as mere episodes in this great conflict of races. While emphasis is herein properly laid upon the industrial characteristics of this immigration—for immigration in the anthracite region is primarily an industrial problem—attention is also directed towards some of its educational, religious, political, and general social features.

In face of the tendency for the better citizen type of English-speaking mine-workers to leave the coal-fields, will the American communities in the anthracite-producing counties be able to assimilate the enormous influx of the Slav element? It is upon the answer to this question that so much depends. The best that can be said now is that this power of assimilation in Northeastern Pennsylvania, if not overestimated, is being weakened by the heavy task thrust upon

it, and that unless aid comes from other sources it may be questioned whether American ideals and institutions are to be equal to the work of making the Slav immigrant into an American citizen. The one bright ray of hope lighting up the uncertain future is shed from the activity in these coal-fields of the United Mine Workers of America. With this organization, to a much greater degree than most of us realize, rests the solution of many of the problems presented in the hard-coal producing communities. Its power of uniting the mine-workers of all nationalities and creeds and tongues—of bringing together the Slav and the English-speaking employees on the common ground of industrial self-interest—has only recently been demonstrated. Through this it is breaking down the strong racial ties which until its entrance into the region kept the two groups apart. In brief, this organization is socializing the heterogeneous mass. In thus indicating the task the United Mine Workers of America is performing, and must continue to perform, the writer does not lose sight of the fact