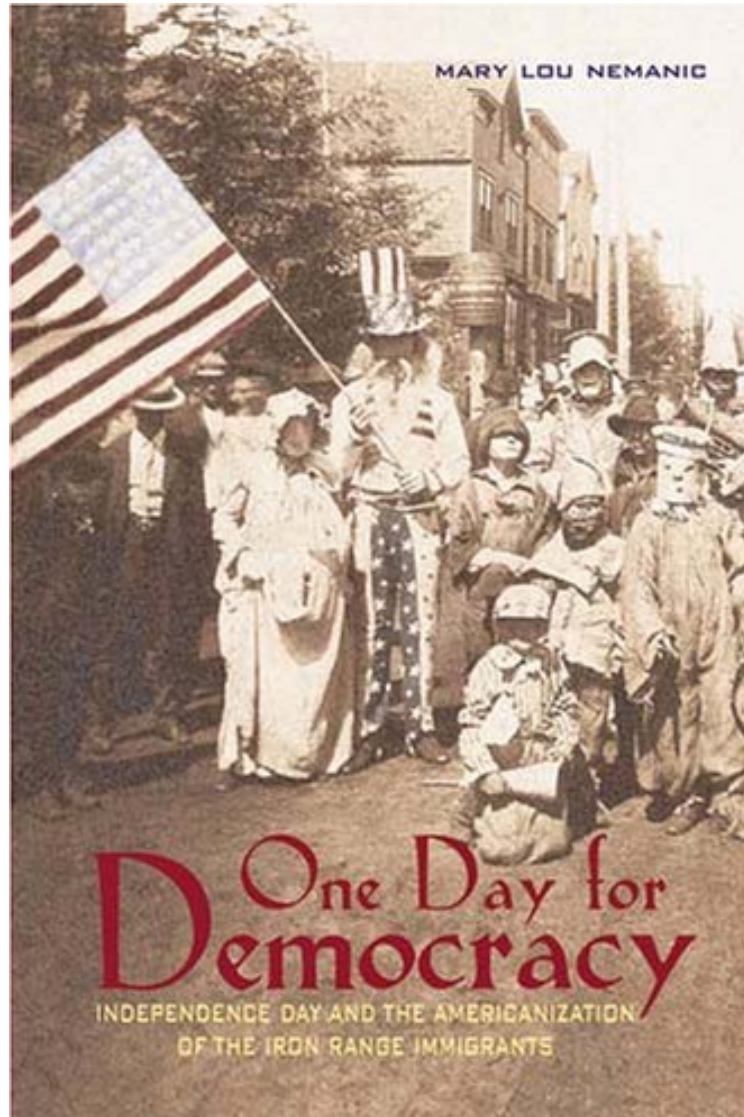


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## One Day for Democracy: Independence Day and the Americanization of Iron Range Immigrants

Mary Lou Nemanic

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**Mary Lou Nemanic : One Day for Democracy: Independence Day and the Americanization of Iron Range Immigrants** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised One Day for Democracy: Independence Day and the Americanization of Iron Range Immigrants:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. History and a HolidayBy S. SmithI enjoyed reading the history of a section of America and its population,highlighted with vivid celebrations of Independence Day.3 of 3 people found the

following review helpful. Iron Rangers By Federico U. Acerri For anyone interested in the art of photo interpretation, immigration history, radical politics/unionism, and a history of the Mesabi Iron Range, I would heartedly recommend this book. The extensive bibliography and footnotes, alone, are worth the price of the book. Dr. Nemanic has given both the academic world and those interested in the Iron Range much to assimilate. Her interpretation of the interplay of radical politics and unionism and the changing significance of the July Fourth celebrations will challenge more traditional visions/interpretations. The Iron Rangers may be laconic but they certainly were and are not inactive.

Just before the turn of the twentieth century, immigrants from eastern and southern Europe who had settled in mining regions of Minnesota formed a subculture that combined elements of Old World traditions and American culture. Their unique pluralistic version of Americanism was expressed in Fourth of July celebrations rooted in European carnival traditions that included rough games, cross-dressing, and rowdiness. In *One Day for Democracy*, Mary Lou Nemanic traces the festive history of Independence Day from 1776 to the twentieth century. The author shows how these diverse immigrant groups on the Minnesota Iron Range created their own version of the celebration, the Iron Range Fourth of July. As mass-mediated popular culture emerged in the twentieth century, Fourth of July celebrations in the Iron Range began to include such popular culture elements as beauty queens and marching bands. Nemanic documents the enormous influence of these changes on this isolated region and highlights the complex interplay between popular culture and identity construction. But this is not a typical story of assimilation or ethnic separation. Instead, *One Day for Democracy* reveals how more than thirty different ethnic groups who shared identities as both workers and new Americans came together in a remote mining region to create their own subculture.