

biggest upset in boxing history

biggest upset in boxing history moments have captivated fans and analysts alike, showcasing the unpredictable nature of the sport. These shocking outcomes often involve underdogs defeating reigning champions or highly favored contenders, rewriting boxing narratives and inspiring generations. Understanding the biggest upsets in boxing history involves examining key fights, the context leading up to these events, and their lasting impact on the sport. From unexpected knockouts to controversial decisions, these upsets highlight the dramatic and thrilling essence of boxing. This article explores some of the most significant upsets, the fighters involved, and the historical significance behind these remarkable bouts.

- Defining the Biggest Upset in Boxing History
- Notable Historic Upsets
- Factors Contributing to Major Boxing Upsets
- Impact of Upsets on Boxing and Fighters' Careers
- Memorable Underdog Victories in Modern Boxing

Defining the Biggest Upset in Boxing History

The term “biggest upset in boxing history” refers to a fight result that defies widespread expectations, where an underdog or less favored boxer defeats a dominant or heavily favored opponent. These upsets are often characterized by a significant disparity in experience, skill level, or betting odds. Defining the magnitude of an upset can be subjective, but it generally involves a combination of pre-

fight predictions, the reputation of the fighters, and the manner in which the victory was achieved.

Criteria for an Upset

Several factors contribute to classifying a fight as a major upset in boxing history:

- **Betting Odds:** A highly unlikely victory based on bookmakers' odds.
- **Champion vs. Underdog:** When a reigning champion is defeated by a lesser-known or unheralded fighter.
- **Fight Context:** Expectations from fans, analysts, and media coverage prior to the bout.
- **Result Impact:** The victory causes a significant shift in rankings, titles, or the sport's landscape.

Why Upsets Matter in Boxing

Biggest upsets in boxing history are more than just surprising results; they have a lasting influence on the sport's narrative. These fights symbolize the unpredictability of boxing and demonstrate that determination and strategy can overcome skill gaps. Upsets often lead to new rivalries, shifts in promotional focus, and can redefine a fighter's legacy.

Notable Historic Upsets

Boxing history is rich with dramatic upsets that remain etched in the memory of fans and historians. These fights not only shocked audiences but also altered the course of boxing careers and divisions.

James “Buster” Douglas vs. Mike Tyson (1990)

Arguably the most famous upset in boxing history, Buster Douglas’s victory over Mike Tyson in 1990 stunned the world. Tyson, undefeated and considered unbeatable, was the undisputed heavyweight champion and a global superstar. Douglas entered the fight as a 42-1 underdog but delivered a knockout in the 10th round, ending Tyson’s reign and shocking the boxing community.

Leon Spinks vs. Muhammad Ali (1978)

Leon Spinks, with only seven professional fights under his belt, faced the legendary Muhammad Ali in a heavyweight title bout. Despite Ali’s experience and status as a three-time champion, Spinks secured a split decision victory, marking one of the biggest upsets by a relative newcomer in boxing history.

Andy Ruiz Jr. vs. Anthony Joshua (2019)

Andy Ruiz Jr. shocked the world by defeating Anthony Joshua in June 2019. Joshua, a dominant heavyweight champion, was expected to retain his titles easily. Ruiz entered as a significant underdog but won by technical knockout in the seventh round, becoming the first heavyweight champion of Mexican descent and delivering one of the biggest upsets in recent boxing history.

Other Historic Upsets

- Hasim Rahman vs. Lennox Lewis (2001) – Rahman’s unexpected knockout victory for the heavyweight title.
- Vasiliy Lomachenko vs. Orlando Salido (2014) – Lomachenko’s rare early-career loss against a seasoned opponent.

- Michael Dokes vs. Mike Weaver (1982) – A shocking first-round knockout to claim the heavyweight title.

Factors Contributing to Major Boxing Upsets

Several elements can lead to the biggest upset in boxing history, often combining to create a perfect storm of unpredictability in the ring.

Physical and Mental Preparedness

Upsets can result from one fighter being better prepared physically or mentally. Overconfidence, inadequate training, or distractions can cause favorites to underperform. Conversely, underdogs who train rigorously and maintain focus can exploit these vulnerabilities.

Fight Strategy and Adaptability

Effective strategy and in-fight adaptability are crucial. Some underdogs implement game plans that neutralize their opponent's strengths or exploit weaknesses, leading to surprising results. Tactical brilliance can overcome physical or experience disparities.

External Circumstances

Factors such as injuries, weight issues, psychological pressure, or controversial judging can influence outcomes. Sometimes, unforeseen circumstances tip the scales in favor of the underdog, contributing to a historic upset.

Impact of Upsets on Boxing and Fighters' Careers

When the biggest upset in boxing history occurs, the ramifications extend beyond the immediate result, influencing careers and the sport's direction.

Career Transformations

Victories in major upsets often catapult underdogs into stardom, opening doors for lucrative fights and endorsements. For favorites who lose, such defeats can lead to career setbacks or motivate comebacks.

Changes in Division Dynamics

Upsets can shuffle rankings and titles, creating new championship lineages and rivalries. These outcomes keep divisions dynamic and maintain fan interest by introducing unpredictability.

Legacy and Historical Recognition

Fights recognized as the biggest upsets become part of boxing lore. Fighters involved are remembered for their roles in these moments, whether as the triumphant underdog or the fallen champion, shaping their legacies.

Memorable Underdog Victories in Modern Boxing

Modern boxing continues to witness remarkable upsets that capture global attention and redefine expectations.

Emmanuel Steward's Proteges and Unexpected Wins

Several fighters trained by legendary coach Emmanuel Steward delivered surprising victories, demonstrating the importance of skill development and strategic coaching in orchestrating upsets.

Recent Examples of Biggest Upsets

1. **Tyson Fury vs. Wladimir Klitschko (2015):** Fury dethroned the dominant Klitschko, ending his long reign in a major upset.
2. **Andy Ruiz Jr. vs. Anthony Joshua (2019):** As previously discussed, Ruiz's TKO shocked the heavyweight scene.
3. **Teofimo Lopez vs. Vasiliy Lomachenko (2020):** Lopez secured a unanimous decision against the highly skilled Lomachenko, surprising many analysts.

These examples highlight that the biggest upset in boxing history is not confined to the past but remains a thrilling aspect of the sport, continuing to inspire and engage fans worldwide.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is considered the biggest upset in boxing history?

One of the biggest upsets in boxing history is when Buster Douglas defeated Mike Tyson in 1990. Douglas was a 42-1 underdog but knocked out Tyson in the 10th round to claim the heavyweight title.

Why was Buster Douglas vs. Mike Tyson considered such a huge upset?

Mike Tyson was undefeated and considered invincible at the time, while Buster Douglas was seen as an underdog with little chance of winning. Douglas's knockout victory shocked the boxing world and changed the landscape of heavyweight boxing.

Are there any other notable upsets in boxing history besides Tyson vs. Douglas?

Yes, other notable upsets include James 'Buster' Douglas defeating Evander Holyfield in 1990, Muhammad Ali defeating Sonny Liston in 1964, and Andy Ruiz Jr. defeating Anthony Joshua in 2019.

How do boxing upsets impact the sport?

Boxing upsets captivate fans by demonstrating that outcomes are unpredictable, inspiring underdogs, and often leading to significant changes in rankings, titles, and careers. They keep the sport exciting and dynamic.

Has any boxer made a comeback after suffering a major upset?

Yes, many boxers have rebounded after major upsets. For example, Mike Tyson continued to fight and remain a prominent figure in boxing after his loss to Buster Douglas. Similarly, Anthony Joshua regained titles after his upset loss to Andy Ruiz Jr.

Additional Resources

1. Shockwaves in the Ring: The Biggest Upsets in Boxing History

This book explores the most unexpected outcomes in professional boxing, highlighting fights where underdogs defied all odds. It delves into the stories behind the fighters, the build-up to the matches, and the aftermath of these historic upsets. Readers gain insight into how these moments reshaped the

sport and inspired generations.

2. David vs. Goliath: Legendary Boxing Upsets That Changed the Game

Focusing on the classic underdog triumphs, this book chronicles several landmark fights where lesser-known boxers toppled reigning champions. It examines the psychological and physical factors that played crucial roles in these upsets. The narrative also discusses the cultural impact these bouts had on boxing's global appeal.

3. When Titans Fall: Inside Boxing's Greatest Shock Victories

Through detailed accounts and fighter interviews, this book reveals the drama and intensity behind some of boxing's most stunning surprise wins. It captures the emotions, strategies, and controversies that surrounded these bouts. The author also reflects on how these upsets influenced the careers of both winners and losers.

4. The Upset Artists: Stories of Boxing's Most Unexpected Champions

This collection profiles boxers who, against all expectations, clinched championship titles in career-defining matches. Each chapter offers a deep dive into the fighter's background, training, and mindset leading up to their shocking victories. The book celebrates perseverance and the unpredictable nature of the sport.

5. Knockout Surprises: The Biggest Underdog Wins in Boxing

Highlighting knockout victories that stunned audiences worldwide, this book recounts the moments when underdogs delivered devastating blows to favorites. It provides a round-by-round analysis of these fights, emphasizing tactical shifts and pivotal moments. Readers gain appreciation for the skill and heart required to achieve such upsets.

6. Against All Odds: The Most Shocking Defeats of Boxing Champions

This book focuses on the champions who faced unexpected defeats, analyzing what went wrong and how it affected their legacies. It explores the psychological pressures champions endure and the factors that can lead to their downfall. The author offers a balanced view of triumph and tragedy in the boxing world.

7. *The Ring's Greatest Surprises: Unforgettable Boxing Upset Stories*

A compilation of unforgettable upset stories, this book captures the unpredictability and excitement that define boxing. It features vivid storytelling and historical context, making each fight come alive for the reader. The book also discusses how these surprises have kept fans engaged through the decades.

8. *Underdogs Unleashed: The Rise of Unexpected Boxing Heroes*

This book celebrates the rise of underdog fighters who shocked the boxing community with their unexpected victories. It highlights their determination, training regimes, and the obstacles they overcame. The narrative serves as an inspiration for aspiring athletes and fans alike.

9. *Flipping the Script: How Boxing's Biggest Upsets Redefined the Sport*

Examining the broader impact of major upsets, this book discusses how these events changed boxing's strategies, training, and promotion. It includes expert commentary and analysis on the evolution of the sport following these landmark fights. Readers will understand how upsets are more than just surprises—they are catalysts for change.

Biggest Upset In Boxing History

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biggest upset in boxing history: Boxing in New Jersey, 1900-1999 Robert F. Fernandez, Sr., 2014-08-20 For all hard-core boxing fans, this book introduces the reader to New Jersey stars of the 20th century--gladiators who fought in blood-soaked rings bringing entertainment to millions for little pay. They must not be forgotten. The book contains many little known facts about these fine men, all trying to punch out a living for their families in hard times. The author has followed the sport for 75 years and worked in all phases of it. Readers will learn of the hard work, dedication and respect developed by these fighters in the sweet science.

biggest upset in boxing history: Giants on My Shoulders, the Untold Story Behind the Greatest Upset in Boxing History Ben Clement, 2012-09-01 An extraordinary account of the life of unknown club boxer, Frank Steele, who sparred with legendary boxing greats like Muhammad Ali, George Foreman, Joe Frazier and Ernie Shavers. Impoverished from birth and poorly educated, Frank did the best he could to parlay his boxing prowess and brute strength into fame and fortune. Hired as Foreman's chief sparring partner to help prepare the champ for the Ali Rumble in the Jungle fight in Africa, he was fired after doing his job too well -- beating up Foreman and knocking

his headgear into the audience. When Ali heard about the incident, he paid Frank \$3,000 for the secret to defeating the unbeaten and seemingly invincible champion. This is the untold story of what lead to the greatest upset in boxing history.

biggest upset in boxing history: Undisputed: An action packed fantasy boxing book where the greatest heavyweights go head-to-head Bruce Anthony, 2024-06-10 As seen in thrilling TikTok trailers comes an exciting fantasy league with twenty of the greatest heavyweight boxers in history colliding to see who's the best ever. Readers are raving about Undisputed! 'This is the best boxing book I've ever read' 'I was so immersed in the fights it felt like I was in the ring myself, once I put the book down couldn't help shadow boxing with my cat.....the cat won' 'If you like boxing or sport in general do yourself a favour and give this a read '

..... Ladies and gentlemen, it's now time for the main event of book publishing. Steeped in history, the blue ribbon division has experienced some of the most awe-inspiring and exciting moments in sports. Today, in these very pages, we'll pit the twenty greatest heavyweight boxers head-to-head to see who comes out on top. There will be no ducking tonight. Each warrior will fight the other in a fantasy league in some of the most exciting pugilistic combat to ever be written. Be witness to epic, non-stop action with 190 incredible fights, such as Muhammad Ali vs. Mike Tyson, Lennox Lewis vs. Riddick Bowe, George Foreman vs. Sonny Liston and Rocky Mariano vs. Joe Frazier. So let's lace up those gloves and start the ring walks...

biggest upset in boxing history: Baddest Man Mark Kriegel, 2025-06-03 From the acclaimed New York Times bestselling author whose coverage of Mike Tyson and his inner circle dates back to the 1980s, a magnificent noir epic about fame, race, greed, criminality, trauma, and the creation of the most feared and mesmerizing fighter in boxing history. On an evening that defined the greed is good 1980s, Donald Trump hosted a raft of celebrities and high rollers in a carnival town on the Jersey Shore to bask in the glow created by a twenty-one-year-old heavyweight champion. Mike Tyson knocked out Michael Spinks that night and in ninety-one frenzied seconds earned more than the annual payrolls of the Los Angeles Lakers' and Boston Celtics' players combined. It had been just eight years since Tyson, a feral child from a dystopian Brooklyn neighborhood, was delivered to boxing's forgotten wizard, Cus D'Amato, who was living a self-imposed exile in upstate New York. Together, Cus and the Kid were an irresistible story of mutual redemption—darlings to the novelists, screenwriters, and newspapermen long charmed by D'Amato, and perfect for the nascent industry of cable television. Way before anyone heard of Tony Soprano, Mike Tyson was HBO's leading man. It was the greatest sales job in the sport's history, and the most lucrative. But the business of Tyson concealed truths that were darker and more nuanced than the script would allow. The intervening decades have seen Tyson villainized, lionized, and fetishized—but never, until now, fully humanized. Mark Kriegel, an acclaimed biographer regarded as “the finest boxing writer in America,” was a young cityside reporter at the New York Daily News when he was first swept up in the Tyson media hurricane, but here he measures his subject not by whom he knocked out but by what he survived. Though Tyson was billed as a modern-day Jack Dempsey, in truth he was closer to Sonny Liston: Tyson was Black, feared, and born to die young. What made Liston a pariah, though, would make Tyson—in a way his own handlers could never understand—a touchstone for a generation raised on a soundtrack of hip hop and gunfire. What Peter Guralnick did for Elvis in *Last Train to Memphis* and James Kaplan for Sinatra in *Frank*, Kriegel does for Tyson. It's not just the dizzying ascent that he captures but also Tyson's place in the American psyche.

biggest upset in boxing history: Inside the Lines Thomas DeNigris, 2021-01-21 Parlays and Teasers and Point Spreads, oh my! A Nickel, a Dime? Sports books and Bookies and Organized Crime. JFK, RFK, Christie and more. RICO, SCOTUS and PASPA no more. Football. Basketball. Baseball. Hockey. The NCAA!! What? Better yet...Who? Why? When? Where? How? Yes, *Inside the Lines* is here to de-mystify the incredibly mysterious and most often misunderstood World of Sports Betting. Since the first sporting event was conducted, there was no doubt betting on the outcome. And as sports grew in popularity, so, too, did betting...Gambling. So much so that this Sports Betting World took on all corners: from Jimmy The Greek Snyder, Las Vegas and New Jersey to ineffective

laws, hard-hitting legislation that caused numerous battles between the Good and the Bad. It's a popular world, this Sports Betting World; one that fans know about and are interested in. Yet, despite the popularity and interest, many sports fans are afraid to enter into it due to its mysterious procedures and language. Well, *Inside the Lines* seems to clear it all up, virtue of Author Tom DeNigris personal journey through the world. Find out how this world all got started; who started it and where and how; who still stars in it; how our government and leagues fought against only to join it; how the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) opened the doors for all to enter in a very legal way. Read about the Laws, the battles, understand the jargon (Nickles and Dimes, Sharps and Squares, Money Lines, Totals et al), and a gentleman named Boxcar who makes a living betting on sporting events. *Inside the Lines*, a journey into The Who, What, When, Where, and How of the Sports Betting World.

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biggest upset in boxing history: *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1896 to the Present* Paul Finkelman, 2009 Alphabetically-arranged entries from A to C that explores significant events, major persons, organizations, and political and social movements in African-American history from 1896 to the twenty-first-century.

biggest upset in boxing history: *The Great Depression on Film* David Lührssen, 2022-08-23 This book presents the Great Depression through the lens of 13 films, beginning with movies made during the Depression and ending with films from the 21st century, and encourages readers to examine the various depictions of this period throughout history. *The Great Depression on Film* is a unique guide to how the Great Depression was represented and is remembered, making it an excellent resource for students or anyone interested in film history or U.S. history. Each film is set in a different sector of American life, focusing on such topics as white supremacy, political protest, segregation, environmental degradation, crime, religion, the class system, and popular culture in the U.S. during the 1930s. This book is indispensable for clearing away misconceptions fostered by the movies while acknowledging the power of film in shaping public memory. The book separates fact from fiction, detailing where the movies are accurate and where they depart from reality, and places them in the larger context of historical and social events. Eyewitness or journalistic accounts are referenced and quoted in the text to help readers differentiate between ideas, attitudes, and events presented in the films, as well as the historical facts which inspired those films.

biggest upset in boxing history: *The 1930s* J.B. Bennington, Zenia Sacks DaSilva, 2016-04-26 In 2010, Hofstra University celebrated its 75th anniversary, inviting scholars to the campus to discuss the world as it was in the year Hofstra was founded. The conference "1935: The Reality and the Promise" provided a wide-ranging exploration of the 1930s with presentations, discussions, and events highlighting the arts, entertainment, society, politics, literature, and science in that

momentous decade. This volume encompasses a selection of the most interesting and enlightening papers from this conference, providing both depth and breadth of coverage. By any measure, the 1930s was a pivotal decade in modern history – a time when the reality of current events and the foreshadowing of events to come tempered all promise. The tension between reality and promise is a recurrent theme in the chapters brought together here, as well as in the personalities and faces that came to define this decade.

biggest upset in boxing history: American Sports Murry R. Nelson, 2013-05-23 America loves sports. This book examines and details the proof of this fascination seen throughout American society—in our literature, film, and music; our clothing and food; and the iconography of the nation. This momentous four-volume work examines and details the cultural aspects of sport and how sport pervasively reflects—and affects—myriad aspects of American society from the early 1900s to the present day. Written in a straightforward, readable manner, the entries cover both historical and contemporary aspects of sport and American culture. Unlike purely historical encyclopedias on sports, the contributions within these volumes cover related subject matter such as poetry, novels, music, films, plays, television shows, art and artists, mythologies, artifacts, and people. While this encyclopedia set is ideal for general readers who need information on the diverse aspects of sport in American culture for research purposes or are merely reading for enjoyment, the detailed nature of the entries will also prove useful as an initial source for scholars of sport and American culture. Each entry provides a number of both print and online resources for further investigation of the topic.

biggest upset in boxing history: From Prison to the Premiership - The Amazing True Story of Britain's Hardest Footballer Jamie Lawrence, 2016-02-24 Few footballers have 'Jailhouse Rock' played over the PA when they make their professional debut, but that's what happened to Jamie Lawrence when he came on as a substitute for Sunderland against Middlesbrough in 1993. In a life that has seen him go from prison to the football premiership, Jamie has one hell of a story to tell. In a career that has lasted over 12 years, Jamie Lawrence has played in the Premiership against some of the world's best players, including David Beckham. He has won the Liverpool Cup with Leicester and has played for Jamaica in World Cup qualifiers. But his route into football's elite was far from conventional, for Jamie spent his late teens in Borstal. Jamie's skill for football emerged at the age of three, but although he played for local teams in Battersea as a schoolboy, he wasn't scouted by a professional club. When his parents returned to Jamaica when he was 17, Jamie fell into a life of petty crime. It was during his second spell in prison, at Camp Hill on the Isle of Wight, that he began to turn his life around. He joined the prison football team and his talent was spotted when they played a semi-professional team. Three months after his release from prison in 1993, Jamie was signed by Sunderland. Jamie's character, which is as colourful as his ever-changing hair styles, has endeared him to everyone he meets. Fans, managers, team-mates, opponents, friends and ex-lovers all tell tales of his various escapades, including his legendary capacity for consuming Guinness and his numerous sexual adventures. And Jamie reveals how he has matured to the point that he is now in a settled relationship and is taking responsibility for his children. This biography of a hilarious insight into one of football's greatest characters.

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HISTORY WORLD HISTORY FILM & TV MYTHS AND FOLKLORE QUOTATIONS NATURE BRITISH HISTORY FOOD & DRINK ART & MUSIC RELIGIONS & CULTURES MISCELLANEOUS ASTRONOMY GEOGRAPHY LANGUAGE CULTURE GEOGRAPHY BOOKS & WRITERS Good luck!

biggest upset in boxing history: LEARN SPANISH WITH GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZZES #5 Clic-books Digital Media, 2015-01-22 This book is 100% Spanish-English bilingual. It contains a series of general knowledge quizzes, each question in Spanish, followed by the same question in English, so you can quickly check your understanding. Another click and you get the answer, Spanish then English. The idea is simple: to improve your Spanish through reading bilingual texts, sentence by sentence. It's a fun way to practice your Spanish, and is also really useful for Spanish SATs and highschool Spanish. As you work through the questions and answers watch how quickly your confidence grows! Click through the questions at your own pace, trying to understand as much as you can in the Spanish version. Because the text is fully Spanish-English bilingual, you will always be able to see the full meaning of each sentence, thus helping to improve your Spanish reading comprehension and consolidate your knowledge of Spanish vocabulary. Parallel translations are like having a Spanish teacher sitting next to you as you learn! Whether you want a simple Spanish book or something more complex, this book will help. Clic-books are about little and often. Developing your Spanish reading is difficult and time-consuming. Whenever you have some free time, click through the questions in a relaxed and stress-free way, building your knowledge of Spanish grammar and vocabulary quickly and effectively using these fully bilingual texts. As a dual-language textbook, everything is in Spanish AND English. So don't worry if you don't immediately understand every word; you will always have translations to help you understand Spanish phrases and vocabulary as you go. Whatever your level, this Spanish reader will help you to develop your comprehension and grow your vocabulary quickly and efficiently. LEARN SPANISH WITH GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZZES is a fun resource for Spanish self-study. It's a quick and effective way to practice your Spanish, whether you use the language for travel, business, high school and college exams, or are taking Spanish SAT tests, ACT or PSAT / NMSQT tests. Anyone with a basic working knowledge of the language can benefit from this book. *** The translations in this book are as literal as possible while sticking to standard, everyday language. For that reason, the English phrases do not always reflect the Spanish texts word-for-word. Use them as a guide to comprehension, not as an exact parallel of the original Spanish.

biggest upset in boxing history: Rocky Lives! David E. Finger, 2014-05-27 Boxing fans love the upset, seeing the underdog surprise the heavy favorite and take the fight to him, winning over the fans and--perhaps even more important--the judges. Sylvester Stallone mined that emotion through his long series of Rocky films. Rocky is fiction, however. The men in Rocky Lives! are real. David E. Finger, a writer for top boxing website FightNews.com, presents chronologically seventy-five heavyweight boxing upsets of the 1990s. Some involve boxers still fighting today; others contain a cautionary tale of once-great boxers chasing one last payday. There are also the early-round disasters of wannabes and athletes who switched to boxing in midstream. From the Tyson-Douglas, Foreman-Moorer, and Lewis-McCall top-dollar fights to low-level curiosities like former New York Jet Mark Gastineau getting embarrassed or Eric Butterbean Esch taking to the ring, David Finger presents the best heavyweight upsets the 1990s have to offer. You'll read about crooked promoters drugging opponents, a convicted felon hoping victory in the ring will win him leniency, and a forty-five-year-old preacher looking to exorcise a two-decade-old demon. Rocky Lives! brings all the knockouts and slugfests right into your home.

biggest upset in boxing history: Irish Americans William E. Watson, Eugene J. Halus Jr., 2014-11-25 Virtually every aspect of American culture has been influenced by Irish immigrants and their descendants. This encyclopedia tells the full story of the Irish-American experience, covering immigration, assimilation, and achievement. The Irish have had a significant impact on America across three centuries, helping to shape politics, law, labor, war, literature, journalism, entertainment, business, sports, and science. This encyclopedia explores why the Irish came to America, where they settled, and how their distinctive Irish-American identity was formed.

Well-known Irish Americans are profiled, but the work also captures the essence of everyday life for Irish-Americans as they have assimilated, established communities, and interacted with other ethnic groups. The approximately 200 entries in this comprehensive, one-stop reference are organized into four themes: the context of Irish-American emigration; political and economic life; cultural and religious life; and literature, the arts, and popular culture. Each section offers a historical overview of the subject matter, and the work is enriched by a selection of primary documents.

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