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“Adaptation, Immigration, and Identity: The Tensions of American Jewish Food Culture”



This thesis studies how and why Jewish food culture has become linked to American Jewish identity through the evaluation of how different generations of immigrants to the United States changed their food culture upon arrival. It not only looks at conventionally studied immigration periods in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but also treats a new group, Holocaust survivors, as first-generation migrants. It ends with an analysis of how American Jews have altered holiday food rituals to include Holocaust memorials, evaluating through what means and thought such a destructive event has made its way into American Jewish holiday celebration.