

Kids without a Country: Unaccompanied "Alien" Children

Larry Brendtro, PhD, and Robert Foltz, PsyD, Associate Professor, Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Chicago, Illinois Violence, poverty, and war are displacing hundreds of thousands of children and youth who risk danger and death to desperately seek a better future beyond their homeland. Reclaiming Youth is at the forefront of this international crisis, working with the Office of Refugee Resettlement.



Kids without a Country: Unaccompanied “Alien” Children

Larry Brendtro,
Augustana University

Robert Foltz, Chicago School
Of Professional Psychology



The Stories of Immigrants

Ole the Viking welcomes you to Augustana — founded by Norwegian immigrants.



Augustana College was founded in 1860 for Norwegian and Swedish students experiencing discrimination by the Anglos at Illinois State University. It began in Rock Island, Illinois, but the Norwegians moved on, ending in South Dakota.

Famine, starvation, and poverty led 600 settlers to leave Trondheim, Norway, settling north of Sioux Falls.



Nidaros Cathedral
Trondheim Norway
Completed 1300

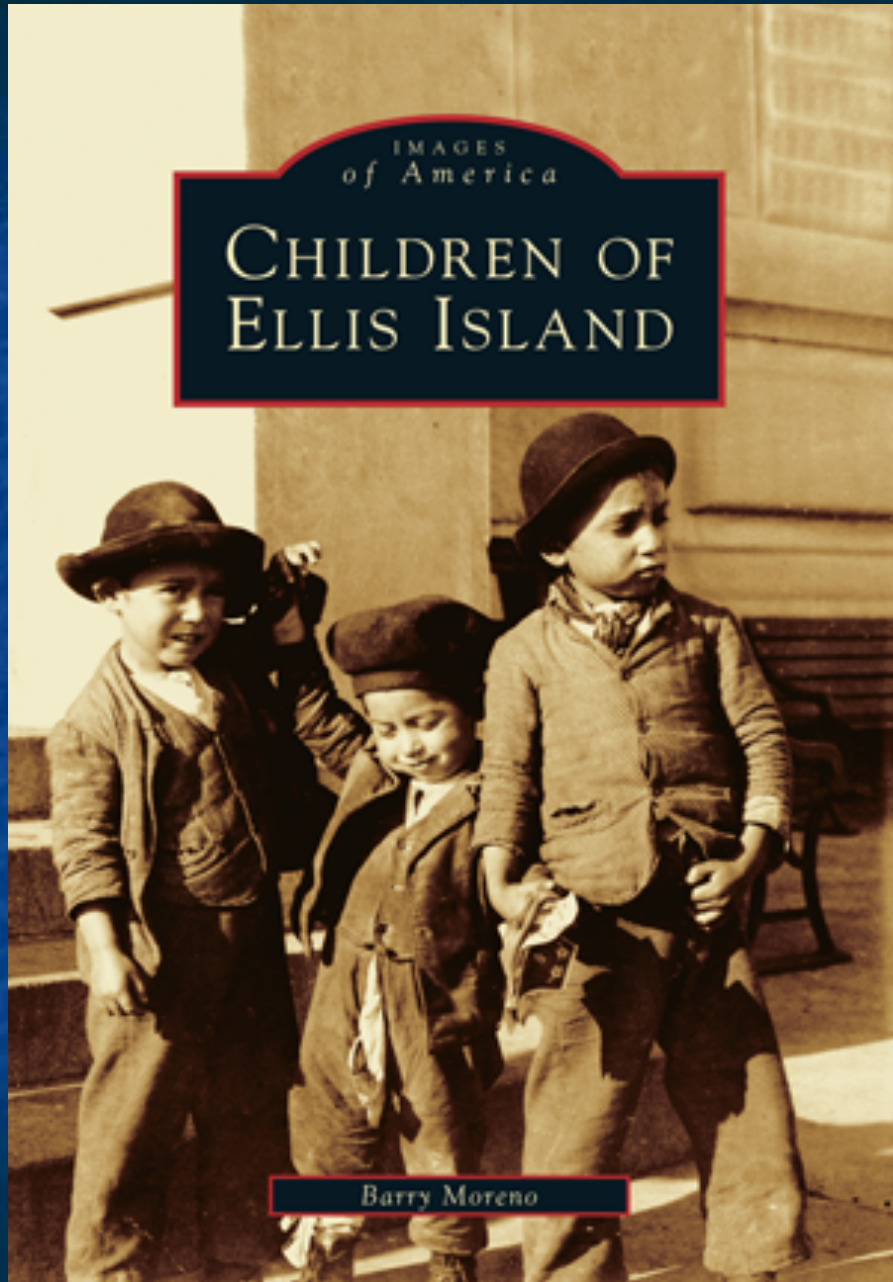
The immigrants built four churches named Nidaros, keeping their language alive.



West Nidaros Church
South Dakota
Completed 1912



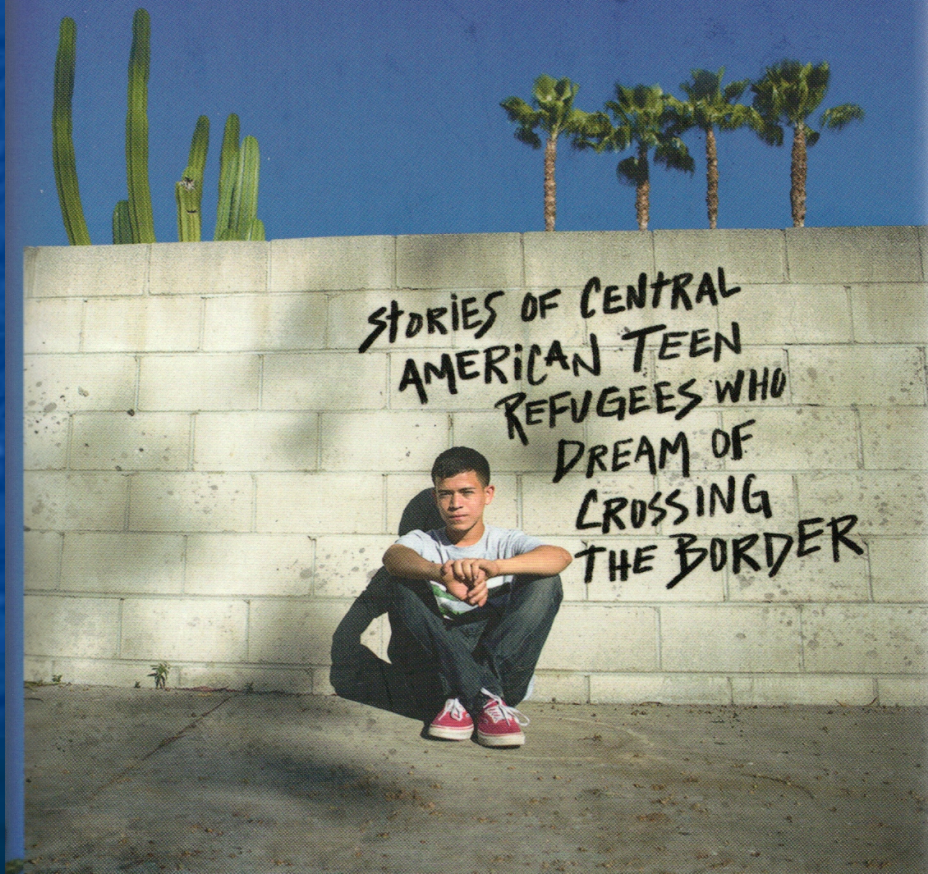
These Norwegians went west to homesteaded on land the U.S government took from Native Americans, building sod houses. Most abandoned their homestead after the great drought of 1911.



Over a million children came to America through Ellis Island, most with families but many were unaccompanied.

JUAN PABLO VILLALOBOS

THE OTHER SIDE





Unaccompanied children are those who enter without a parent or legal guardian. Those who come with a relative or grandparent are also legally “unaccompanied.”

Photo Child Migrants from Honduras after crossing the Rio Grand River into Texas

Most entering in 2021 were from Northern Triangle Countries

Guatemala 47%

Honduras 32%

El Salvador 13%

Mexico 1%

All other 7%

Age:

0--14 39%

15-16 39%

17 33%



Why do they leave their country?

What do they want in America?

2019 U.S. Policy— Create Conditions to Deter Immigration:

“cold all night long, lights on all night long, sleeping on concrete with an aluminum foil blanket”



Family Separation







Reclaiming Youth and
The Circle of Courage

Kids without a Country: Unaccompanied “Alien” Children

