

My immigrant ancestors were despised by America (Fitzsimmons)

<https://open.substack.com/pub/davidwfitzsimmons/p/my-immigrant-ancestors-were-despised>

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The ethnic history Fitzsimmons recounts is my own. The old west end of Toledo, where I grew up was a far cry from from the inner city of New York and other metropoli, but we had similar taken-for-granted ethnic divisions, including teen and pre-teen "gangs" that reflected the ethnic make-up of our neighborhoods. My maternal grandfather, himself of German descent (family name Kehle) used to call me Mick in lighthearted reference (not deference) to my grandmother's Irish background (maiden name O'Connor), and I can still remember in grade school being shocked to hear the term as a slur when I was half-jokingly called a "fuckin' mick" by a slightly older, and bigger, polak, hunkie, wop, dago or whatever he was.

For a look at the history without cartoons, see Noel Ignatiev, *How the Irish became White* (1995).