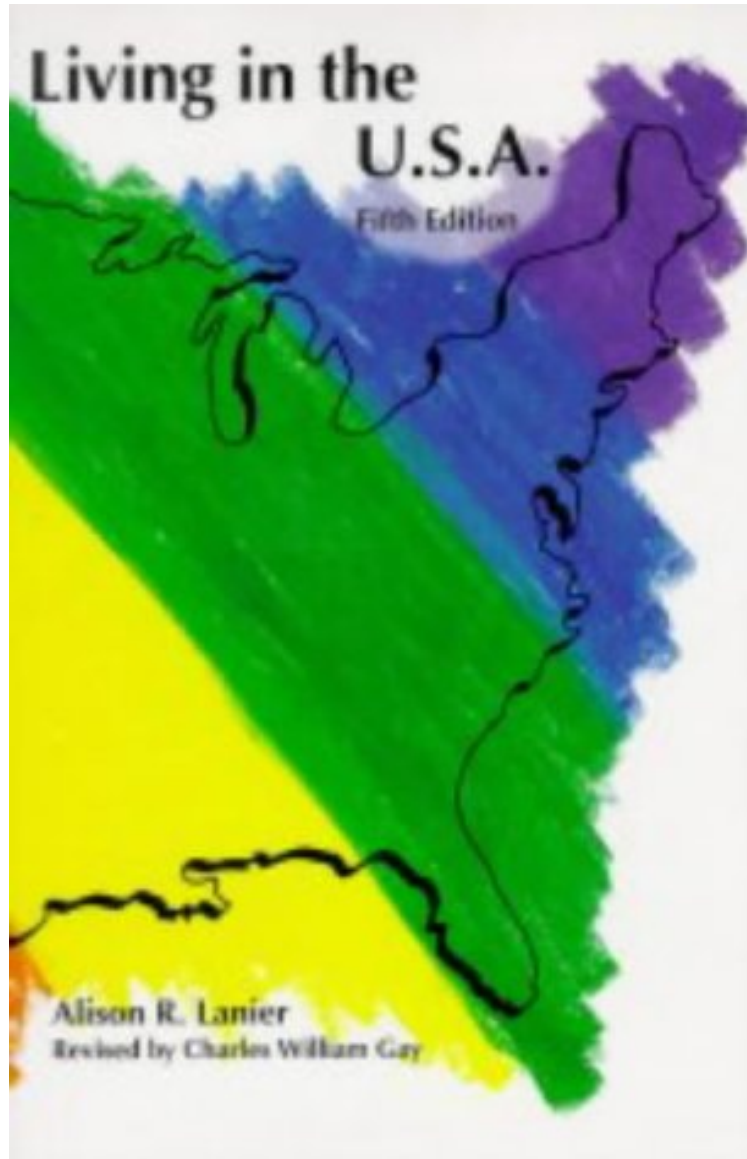


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Living in the USA (5th Edition)

Alison Raymond Lanier

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Alison Raymond Lanier : Living in the USA (5th Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Living in the USA (5th Edition):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Useful but very basic information. Probably only useful to people from non-Western countries. By Paul This is very basic. It may have been useful before the Internet for people who never lived in a Western country and did not know anything about the United States ahead of time. For example, it

may be helpful to someone from a non-Western country going to school in the United States for the first time.⁹ of 10 people found the following review helpful. very helpful, though slightly biased, guide for newcomersBy Glenn H. This book is a tremendously useful reference tool for newcomers to America. It is almost like two books in one: a how-to guide describing the nuts and bolts of settling into a life in the United States, and a cultural anthropology attempting to explain what it's like to live here, amidst the "native" Americans. There are two minor downsides to the practical parts of the book. One, they are a little bit dated. Again and again, readers are directed to consult printed matter (newspapers, bulletins, etc.) for further information. The Internet is acknowledged, but its usefulness as a source of information is given short shrift. I'm reluctant to label this as a "fault," but rather an indication of just how much the Internet has transformed our lives in just the few short years since this book was published. No doubt a 7th Edition, if one is in the works, will take care of this minor shortcoming. The other minor quibble is that, though the book tries to be comprehensive, it does tend to focus on what life is like in our major cities. Life in the suburbs is not as regularly mentioned, and rural life is almost entirely overlooked. There is a logic to this, insofar as new immigrants traditionally come to the cities first, and only later (if at all) branch out to the suburbs. However, this urban focus should be noted by any reader who is intending to make their home in the suburbs, or especially in the countryside. As for the "what Americans are like" parts . . . the book tackles a variety of vexing political and social issues, trying to make sense of them for the benefit of an outsider. By and large, I think it does a good job of being evenhanded, describing the viewpoints of the various issues from both a liberal and a conservative perspective. The default mode does lean a bit left, though not overtly so. HOWEVER . . . then there's the book's final chapter, intended to address post-9/11 concerns. Here the book takes a hard-left turn, reading more like something that Noam Chomsky might have written. Thus we have a section on the rise of Christian fundamentalism as a potential threat, while completely downplaying the concurrent (and, in my opinion, exponentially greater) risk posed by militant, fundamentalist Islam. We're told that Americans have become afraid of Muslims, as if this is an entirely unfounded and unwarranted prejudice that just cropped up out of the blue, for no apparent reason -- as opposed to a reaction, justified or not, to the undeniable fact that nearly all terrorist acts against the West are currently being committed by those claiming the name of Allah. The idea of energy independence is presented as a choice of either despoiling our pristine wilderness areas by drilling for oil (which won't be sufficient anyway, we're told), or embracing wind, solar, hydro, and other "niche" sources of power. The reader is reminded that Americans make up only 4 percent of the world's population but consume 25 percent of its energy, the clear implication being that we're a bunch of selfish wastrels. Not that there's not some truth to that, but there's not even a hint that we use some of this "extra" energy to produce things (such as food, disaster relief, and military power) that we use for the benefit of others around the world, often at no cost to the beneficiaries. It may seem odd that I've given so much attention to just one chapter out of many, but such is the jarringly negative impression it made on me, at the conclusion of an otherwise laudatory book. I still recommend the rest of the book, with the minor caveats mentioned above; but the final chapter ought to just be torn out and thrown away.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book, over delivers, good price, FAST deliveryBy MaverickExcellent book, over delivers, good price, FAST delivery

This is a guide for corporations, intercultural training firms, international organizations and governmental and non-governmental agencies. New to this edition are sections on housing agreements and leases, college and university education, investment in the US, buying second-hand and relationships. Topics covered include first impressions, customary behaviour patterns and dominant attitudes, business practices and the workplace environment, social manners and courtesies, transportation, money management, medical care, food and dining customs, shopping, communications, and safety and emergencies. For long-term visitors, there are chapters on housing, care of young children, schools, teenage life, household help, religion, friendships and leisure-time activities.

Comprehensive in its detail and attentive to the swirls of current events and attitudes, *Living in the U.S.A.* makes U.S. practices, habits and lifestyles understandable and navigable, even when uncomfortable for today's newcomers. It is local knowledge at its most digestible. Dr. George F. Simons, George Simons International
About the Author
The late Alison Lanier, the original author, brought to the book long experience in briefing foreign managers and professionals coming to work in the U.S. Jef Davies was the international student adviser at Clark University, he is actively involved at the Oregon Summer Institute for Intercultural Communication as Director of the interns each summer, and is currently writing his Ph.D. dissertation.