This paper contributes to the current dialogue concerning immigration, cultural assimilation, and citizenship. Analyzing the ways in which Jewish immigrants at the turn of the 20th century engaged in an educational environment that sought to Americanize them through deculturalization provides historical context for the current discourse. The socio-economic realities and ways in which Eastern European Jewish religious and cultural traditions were devalued and demonized by the public school system are explored. The subsequent fight to balance multiple cultural identities by members of the Eastern European Jewish immigrant community is presented. Finally, this history is juxtaposed with the similarly contradictory cultural education modern day immigrant populations receive. This historical case study supports implications that highlight the continued failure of mainstream America to ensure that the constitutional right to liberty is afforded to even the newest, and often times most vulnerable members of American society.