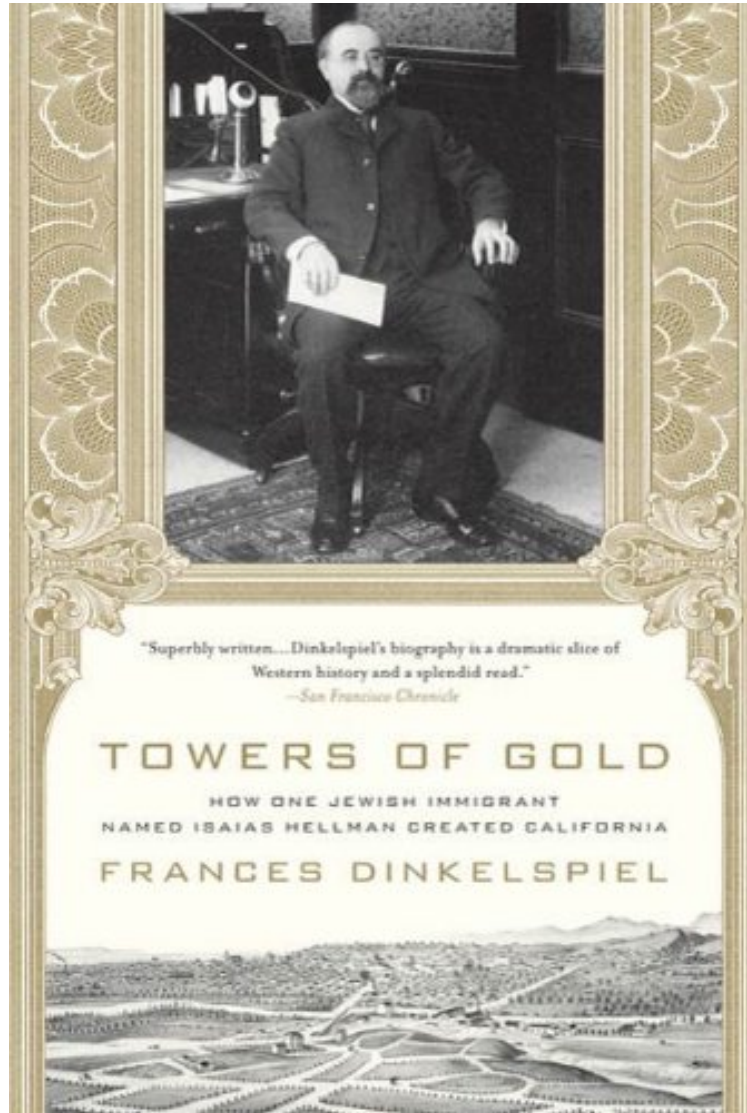


(Read now) Towers of Gold: How One Jewish Immigrant Named Isaias Hellman Created California

## Towers of Gold: How One Jewish Immigrant Named Isaias Hellman Created California

*Frances Dinkelspiel*

*audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#263996 in eBooks 2010-01-05 2010-01-05File Name: B003CI90OE | File size: 68.Mb

**Frances Dinkelspiel : Towers of Gold: How One Jewish Immigrant Named Isaias Hellman Created California** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Towers of Gold: How One Jewish Immigrant Named Isaias Hellman Created California:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Our book club read the book and every single member was glad to have read itBy Suzanne WilliamsThe book was a well-written mix of information about Hellman's personal life with descriptions of his business dealings. I'm a long-time Californian who had no clue about the existence or impact of this man. Our book club read the book and every single member was glad to have read it.0 of 0 people found the following

review helpful. Highly Enjoyable History of California Business from the 1850's By furibonda iena Frances Dinkelspiel has written a clear and absorbing business history of California, centered on her ancestor, I. W. Hellmann. She paints the raw atmosphere of Los Angeles in the 1850's and demonstrates why Hellmann earned the respect of the land grant ranchers and developing businessmen as well. His famous feat of producing a tower of gold on his front counter during a run on banks quieted a panic. He moved north to San Francisco and, through his marriage to an Our Crowd heiress, did major business involving all the natural resources of the West Coast. She points out his interest in the long view and the remarkable number of his descendants who have become civic leaders today. The bloodlines and the business dealings are clear and entertaining. She has taken a heroic subject and made it her own, which it is. She too is one of his many descendants living in the Bay Area today. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well-written, informative view of history By Marjem Kalter This book sheds light on the American West since before the civil war. It's explanation of life in Germany is also worth reading.

Isaias Hellman, a Jewish immigrant, arrived in California in 1859 with very little money in his pocket and his brother Herman by his side. By the time he died, he had effectively transformed Los Angeles into the modern metropolis we see today. In Frances Dinkelspiel's groundbreaking history, the early days of California are seen through the life of a man who started out as a simple store owner only to become California's premier money-man of the late 19th and early 20th century. Growing up as a young immigrant, Hellman quickly learned the use to which "capital" could be put, founding LA's Farmers and Merchants Bank, that city's first successful bank, and transforming Wells Fargo into one of the West's biggest financial institutions. He invested money with Henry Huntington to build trolley lines, lent Edward Doheney the funds that led him to discover California's huge oil reserves, and assisted Harrison Gary Otis in acquiring full ownership of the Los Angeles Times. Hellman led the building of Los Angeles' first synagogue, the Wilshire Boulevard Temple, helped start the University of Southern California and served as Regent of the University of California. His influence, however, was not limited to Los Angeles. He controlled the California wine industry for almost twenty years and, after San Francisco's devastating 1906 earthquake and fire, calmed the financial markets there in order to help that great city rise from the ashes. With all of these accomplishments, Isaias Hellman almost single-handedly brought California into modernity. Ripe with great historical events that filled the early days of California such as the Gold Rush and the San Francisco earthquake, *Towers of Gold* brings to life the transformation of California from a frontier society whose economy was driven by the barter of hides and exchange of gold dust into a vibrant state with the strongest economy in the nation.

From Booklist Hellman was California's premier financier in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a man whose financial acumen catapulted the state into the modern era and laid the groundwork for one of the world's most dynamic economies. Bankers such as Hellman were the men who smoothed the rough edges of the economy. They offered credit and invested in companies. Dinkelspiel, Hellman's great-great-granddaughter, points out that during financial panics—which happened about every 10 years in the nineteenth century—bankers provided stability. Hellman was both a builder and financier, a major investor and promoter of eight industries that shaped California—banking, transportation, education, land development, water, electricity, oil, and wine. At the height of his power, at the end of the first decade of the twentieth century, he controlled more than \$100 million in capital, equivalent to \$38 billion in 2006. --George Cohen From AudioFile