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Boarding School Blues: Revisiting American Indian Educational Experiences (Indigenous Education)



Synopsis

Like the figures in the ancient oral literature of Native Americans, children who lived through the American Indian boarding school experience became heroes, bravely facing a monster not of their own making. Sometimes the monster swallowed them up. More often, though, the children fought the monster and grew stronger. This volume draws on the full breadth of this experience in showing how American Indian boarding schools provided both positive and negative influences for Native American children. The boarding schools became an integral part of American history, a shared history that resulted in Indians "turning the power" by using their school experiences to grow in wisdom and benefit their people. The first volume of essays ever to focus on the American Indian boarding school experience, and written by some of the foremost experts and most promising young scholars of the subject, *Boarding School Blues* ranges widely in scope, addressing issues such as sports, runaways, punishment, physical plants, and Christianity. With comparative studies of the various schools, regions, tribes, and aboriginal peoples of the Americas and Australia, the book reveals both the light and the dark aspects of the boarding school experience and illuminates the vast gray area in between.

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Customer Reviews

Clifford E. Trafzer is a professor of American Indian history, director of public history, and director of graduate studies at the University of California, Riverside. His many books include *As Long as the*

Grass Shall Grow and Rivers Flow: A History of Native Americans. Jean A. Keller is an adjunct professor of American Indian studies at Palomar College in San Marcos, California, and a private cultural resources consultant. She is the author of Empty Beds: Indian Student Health at Sherman Institute, 1902-1922. Lorene Sisquoc is the curator of the Sherman Indian Museum in Riverside, California. She teaches Native American traditions to high school students and instructs extension classes in Native American studies.

I read this for my North American Indians Anthropology Class. I enjoyed this book a lot. It is a very interesting document about Native American Boarding School experiences across many Indian cultures from about 1879-1950. The essays are pretty comprehensive and there are even some comparisons to other cultural boarding schools in their own environments, such as those of the Cherokees, Choctaws, Scottish, English, and Australians. Its also interesting to think that the idea for boarding schools came from one man's interpretation of another's idea. (Richard H. Pratt, Jeremy Bentham's Panopticon). Its a great introduction to Indian boarding schools as long as you remember that this book looks at the positives of the schools. You must not forget about the negatives, which are overwhelming. Anyway, its a valuable source of information with lots of interesting stories.

Just what we ordered and at a great price!

I am so pleased with the book I received. What I am looking for is more information about the Indian boarding school, Chilocco. Keep me in mind if another book comes out about Native Americans schooling. Thank you.

I got this book for a Native American Anthropology class. Great book. Really explains all the horrible things those kids went through.

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