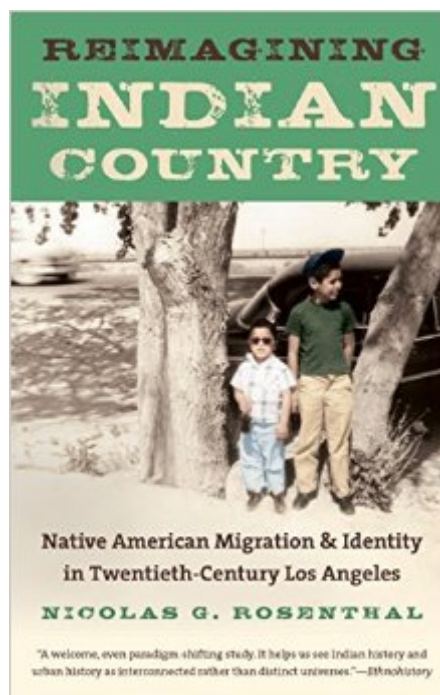


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Reimagining Indian Country: Native American Migration And Identity In Twentieth-Century Los Angeles (First Peoples: New Directions In Indigenous Studies)



Synopsis

For decades, most American Indians have lived in cities, not on reservations or in rural areas. Still, scholars, policymakers, and popular culture often regard Indians first as reservation peoples, living apart from non-Native Americans. In this book, Nicolas Rosenthal reorients our understanding of the experience of American Indians by tracing their migration to cities, exploring the formation of urban Indian communities, and delving into the shifting relationships between reservations and urban areas from the early twentieth century to the present. With a focus on Los Angeles, which by 1970 had more Native American inhabitants than any place outside the Navajo reservation, *Reimagining Indian Country* shows how cities have played a defining role in modern American Indian life and examines the evolution of Native American identity in recent decades. Rosenthal emphasizes the lived experiences of Native migrants in realms including education, labor, health, housing, and social and political activism to understand how they adapted to an urban environment, and to consider how they formed--and continue to form--new identities. Though still connected to the places where indigenous peoples have preserved their culture, Rosenthal argues that Indian identity must be understood as dynamic and fully enmeshed in modern global networks.

Book Information

Series: First Peoples: New Directions in Indigenous Studies

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: The University of North Carolina Press; 1 edition (August 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1469617560

ISBN-13: 978-1469617565

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.6 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #346,285 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #186 in [Books > History >](#)

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Customer Reviews

Termination and Indian Assimilation is the focus of this book and Rosenthal makes it clear that moving into the cities wasn't always an encouraged form of escape. Although the boarding schools

that began to pull youthful Indians off reservations were instilling domesticated American value, the loss and disconnection of Indian life and culture seem to play a huge role in the Indian transition and acculturation. Constantly kept in the under-belly of labor and society, assimilation became an experience in poverty and destitution where very few Indians were able to prosper in American society. Rosenthal details the types of work and opportunities provided by city life and outlines those who were successful and those who were not. This book also provides an insight to specific programs that enabled Indians to navigate through a brand-new way of life, much of which was guided by the BIA.

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