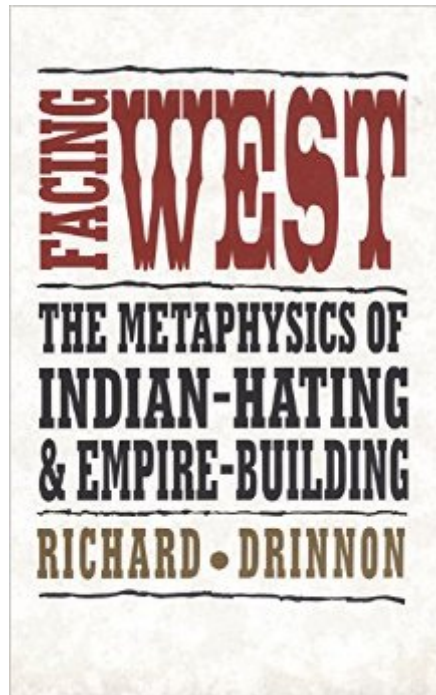


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Facing West: The Metaphysics Of Indian-Hating And Empire-Building



Synopsis

American expansion, says Richard Drinnon, is characterized by repression and racism. In his reinterpretation of "winning" the West, Drinnon links racism with colonialism and traces this interrelationship from the Pequot War in New England, through American expansion westward to the Pacific, and beyond to the Philippines and Vietnam. He cites parallels between the slaughter of bison on the Great Plains and the defoliation of Vietnam and notes similarities in the language of aggression used in the American West, the Philippines, and Southeast Asia.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"To all appearances," wrote Richard Drinnon, "it all began innocently enough with a first victim" (Indian-Hating 35). Indeed, in Drinnon's 'Facing West: The Metaphysics of Indian-Hating and Empire-Building,' those first victims finally have the chance to tell their story through the records of their conquerors. From John Endicott's war on the Niantics and Pequots, to the horrors of the My Lai massacre, Drinnon illustrates, with passion, power and unrelenting wit, how Indian-hating in the Americas became a national pastime, and how that same hate was turned against the native populations of the Philippines and Southeast Asia. A tremendous feat of scholarship that should not be missed.

Facing West is a tremendous work of research and very absorbing gathering of stories, especially of 2nd or third level leaders, who were well known and respected and well written about during their

times. While it features these leaders it also combines this with well documented information from personal documents and letters from the highest level leaders from leaders of colonies, Presidents of the U.S. and other high up leaders of the highest levels. I do not know how Thomas Jefferson, one of the great slaveholders of his time, could have declared what he did about human liberty. In one sense it was the 'Big Lie' and in another it applied to white European only in what Richard Drinnon calls a caste system, where the original inhabitants, the American Indians, and the slaves are thrown outside as lacking 'civilization, humanity, rights, or any kind of dignity, and whose culture and way of life is of any value. The focus for the 'Facing West' is the Indians, who had no rights of legal recognition, in any court, and as the original inhabitants had no claim to any of their lands either for where they first lived, or where they removed to. Physical genocide was practice by the first colonists, During the Revolutionary War and from American settlers from accompanied by Manifest Destiny Many of the basics keep re-occurring through time. It was frequent policy to kill all Indians, men, women and children while claiming that that is only what the Indians (savages) did. In fact they were so fearful of the Indians' murderousness that the confidently to squat on their lands they wanted to take over. The debate about whether kill off all the Indians in existence or merely by force cause them to lose their language, way of life, relationship to nature, and religion began in the early 1800's with Thomas McKenney advocating for the more humane genocide of the mind (by the 1880s it would be called 'kill the Indian and save the man.'). Drinnon goes beyond the original frontier to empire building from 1898 and the Spanish American War and the Philippine resistance and the Vietnam War .I wrote a little book on some American history myself. It is not so good or such a great effort as ' Facing West' It is called 'Rising with the Underclass and Poems' and has some worthwhile history to share, and some good poetry. It is short, not at all on a level with Facing West. Everyone should read books such as 'Facing West' There is something seriously wrong with a country founded on a dominant and shared ideology that some peoples are less than human and are worthless..

A very good analysis, ocassioanlly one-sided, but the side he takes is that of the weak.

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