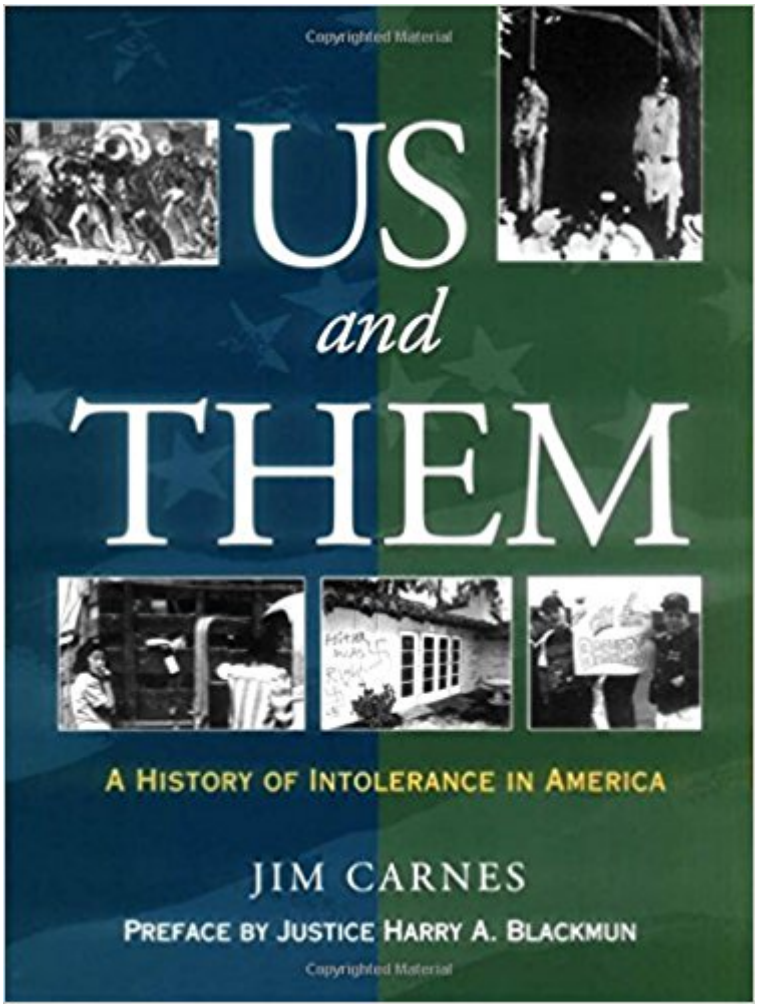
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Us And Them?: A History Of Intolerance In America



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Synopsis

The history of intolerance in the United States begins in colonial times. Discrimination on the basis of religion, race, and sexual orientation have been characteristic of our society for more than three centuries. "Us and Them" illuminates these dark corners of our nation’s past and traces its ongoing efforts to live up to its ideals.Through 14 case studies, using original documents, historical photos, newly commissioned paintings, and dramatic narratives, readers begin to understand the history and psychology of intolerance as they witness firsthand the struggles that have shaped our collective identity.We read about Mary Dyer, who was executed for her Quaker faith in Boston in 1660. We learn how the Mormons were expelled from Missouri in 1838. The attack on Chinese miners in Rock Spring, Wyoming in 1885, the battle of Wounded Knee in 1890, the activities of the Ku Klux Klan in Mobile, Alabama in 1981, and the Crown Heights riot in New York in 1991--all are presented in clear and powerful narrative that brings to life history that is often forgotten or slighted.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #35,871 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Social Issues > Prejudice #8 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Tolerance #25 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > United States

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

Gr. 7^-12. The language of hatred is the same through the centuries, even in a country that draws its strength from diversity. Each chapter in this excellent history focuses in depth on one individual’s experience or on a particular episode of bigotry--the Cherokee people’s journey to exile on the Trail of Tears, the nineteenth-century conflict between Protestant nativists and Catholic immigrants in

Philadelphia, the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, the recent race riots in Crown Heights, the murder of a gay man in Maine, and more. The accounts are grim (several chapters end in death, including lynching or massacre), and in each case readers are asked to think about what happened to ordinary people and to connect the episode with prejudice throughout our history and right now. The large-size volume has a handsome, readable design, with lots of boxed quotes and insets, contemporary photos and prints, and bold, dramatic pastel illustrations. There's a long bibliography, but the lack of source notes is a serious drawback (which 1992 survey found that 47 per cent of high-school students would participate in racist incidents or silently support them?). Teaching Tolerance, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center, includes this book as the text component in a kit that also contains a video, The Shadow of Hate, and a teacher's guide. The book should get widespread use, both for classroom discussion and for personal reading. Hazel Rochman --This text refers to the Digital edition.

"This balanced account belongs in all libraries."--Library Lane"Effectively presents stories of intolerance from colonial times to the present."--The Horn Book Guide"Each chapter in this excellent history focuses in depth on one individual's experience or on a particular episode of bigotry.... The large-size volume has a handsome, readable design.... Should get widespread use, both for classroom discussion and for personal reading."--Booklist

This book gives a good educational insight to the history oh prejudice and discrimination. Very good read for educational purposes.

Great book.

There does not seem to be much available for the general reader about the treatment of immigrants to this country. We seem to repeat the same patterns with each new group. A good source of information.

Jim Carnes explores the other side of American history. In his book, US AND THEM: A HISTORY OF INTOLERANCE IN AMERICA, Carnes introduces readers to issues in US history that are briefly expressed in textbooks. However, this book has a textbook format, but it is informative and insightful when examining the history of the United States in terms of religious, racial, and social intolerance. Although the book may be geared towards social studies and history classes, grades 5-12, or

libraries, it is an effective learning tool towards setting the stage to discuss intolerance that has occurred within American history.US AND THEM covers the most pivotal events in American history that have had a drastic affect on its people and communities. Carnes shows a birds-eye view of societal indifferences and injustices that occurred in the seventeenth, nineteenth, and twentieth century. Each of the chapters in the book are succinct and detailed, however, they leave the reader with a better perspective of events, such as the Salem Witch Trials, the debacle between Protestants and Catholics in Philadelphia in 1844, the Ghost Dance at Wounded Knee, and several other events that happened in the 1980s and 1990s pertaining to ethnic and gender issues.The narrative and first person accounts situated within the side margins of the pages are helpful in providing the historical background of each particular event. Two essential sections, "At issue" and "The context" synthesize the facts between the myths, and the graphic illustrations within the text may invoke strong emotions and open the doors for discussion and critical analysis; undoubtedly, questions will arise on why issues such as gender, race and religion were problematic issues in history and continue to be today.Indeed, Carnes and the preface by the late Chief Justice Harry A. Blackmun acknowledge the importance of the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution and the relevance these documents have toward excluding intolerance and ignorance within society during critical periods, times of war or economic hardships. This book reiterates the importance and the understanding of laws and rights, and should be recommended reading for all ages, especially when judgments of the past are being reinterpreted and transformed.

From the Chinese in the mines in California in the 1850s to Mormons in Missouri ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Us and ThemÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• shows a dark history of racism, prejudice and discrimination in the United States of America. This timely book is an essential read in learning about a different side of America that doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t get discussed as much. Immigrants coming to America usually hear about America being the land of opportunity where dreams come true, but for many groups of people throughout history and to this day America has also been an oppressive country limiting the possibilities of many while in the process stigmatizing and dehumanizing them. The Cherokee Indians are an example of this as whites said they were savages in the 1820ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s but in return the whites savagely tortured and imprisoned all Cherokee men, women and children. I recommend this book for anybody just coming to this country living here for the first time as a way to understand an unbiased but insightful view of this country from itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s conception and birth.

In an age of sanitized history and calls for revisionism that make people feel comfortable, there is a great need for more books like Jim Carnes' history of intolerance in America. With 128 pages of text and 16 concise chapters this book corrects much of the white washing that is taking place in much longer history texts, even at the college level. Religious liberty, Native American exile, freedom from slavery, racial extermination, and ethnic tensions are highlighted with graphic images and easily accessible narratives. The trials of diverse groups such as Mormons, Catholics, Chinese, Native Americans, Jewish immigrants, Mexican Americans, Japanese citizens, and just playing Americans are dramatically highlighted in an unforgettable montage of images and words that give the lie to the "melting pot" that is the United States.Paintings, etchings, drawings, and photographs illustrate in no uncertain terms would hate has done to this country. More than that the pictures combined with the simple prose personalizes each inequity that is introduced. For example, "A Rose for Charlie" presents photographs of the community disrupted by hate, as well as that community's response to the hate. From photographs of hate speech scrawled on walls to portraits of citizens mourning the victim of a deadly hate crime present a view of America that could not be farther from the Norman Rockwell ideal we all wish this country would be. For those interested, a fictionalized account of this particular crime can be found in "The Drowning of Stephan Jones" by Bette Greene, which chronicles the death of the young man simply because of who he loved.It should be an essential book for all classrooms.

This terrific book effectively tells the story of oppression inthe United States and subtly connects the interrelatedness ofoppressions by putting the chapters side by side. The information and sidebars are magnificent in their detail and it is nice to have many sides of history that are so rarely shown. I learned more about history from this book than any history textbook I can remember. The stories of racial, religious, ethnic, and gay oppressions become human stories in this book--hopefully stories that we can learn from and choose not to repeat.

Great book. Easy to read. Intended for Junior High students.

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