



The Quest for Citizenship: African American and Native American Education in Kansas, 1880-1935

By Kim Cary Warren

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In *The Quest for Citizenship*, Kim Cary Warren examines the formation of African American and Native American citizenship, belonging, and identity in the United States by comparing educational experiences in Kansas between 1880 and 1935. Warren focuses her study on Kansas, thought by many to be the quintessential free state, not only because it was home to sizable populations of Indian groups and former slaves, but also because of its unique history of conflict over freedom during the antebellum period.

After the Civil War, white reformers opened segregated schools, ultimately reinforcing the very racial hierarchies that they claimed to challenge. To resist the effects of these reformers' actions, African Americans developed strategies that emphasized inclusion and integration, while autonomy and bicultural identities provided the focal point for Native Americans' understanding of what it meant to be an American. Warren argues that these approaches to defining American citizenship served as ideological precursors to the Indian rights and civil rights movements.

This comparative history of two nonwhite races provides a revealing analysis of the intersection of education, social control, and resistance, and the formation and meaning of identity for minority groups in America.

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Editorial Review

Review

Warren's well-researched and valuable study is intriguing.--*American Historical Review*

Students of the history of education will benefit from this helpful investigation that allows comparison to contemporary schools like the Hampton Institute and Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Institute.

Recommended.--*Choice*

A valuable contribution to Kansas history and essential reading for those interested in education and the construction of identities among two of America's most prominent minority groups." --*The Journal of American History*

A bold and important work that situates the Kansas story in the larger context of race relations in America . . . This very fine book deserves a careful reading by educational historians. Students, moreover, will find it a fascinating window on the complex connections between race, education, and the meaning of citizenship in America.--*History of Education Quarterly*

A good, well-documented contribution to our understanding of the driving forces behind education for African Americans and Native Americans and the end results of such schooling.--*Kansas History*

A thoughtful examination of the educational, philosophical, and developmental history of nonwhite peoples in the United States, highly recommended as a worthy addition to college and public library American History shelves.--*Midwest Review of Books*

Review

With clarity, insight, and understanding, Kim Cary Warren vividly brings to life the heroic educational struggles of African Americans and Native peoples as they embraced alternative conceptions of citizenship during a transformative period of American history.--William J. Reese, author of *America's Public Schools: From the Common School to "No Child Left Behind"*

In this engrossing comparative study, Kim Warren explores the education of African American and Native American students in Kansas in order to make larger claims about the meanings and expectations of U.S.

citizenship. The work she has done to unearth fresh materials, as well as to smartly reexamine well-known figures in the histories of black and Indian schooling, shines through in this illuminating book.--Tiya Miles, author of *Ties That Bind: The Story of an Afro-Cherokee Family in Slavery and Freedom*

Drawing on thorough research, Warren uses overlooked stories of Kansas schools for African Americans and American Indians to explore broader patterns of racism and identity construction. In doing so she addresses a neglected area--the comparison of African American and American Indian experiences in an age commonly called 'Jim Crow' for the former and 'assimilation' for the latter.--Wilbert H. Ahern, Morse-Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor of History and American Indian Studies, University of Minnesota, Morris

About the Author

Kim Cary Warren is assistant professor of history at the University of Kansas.

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