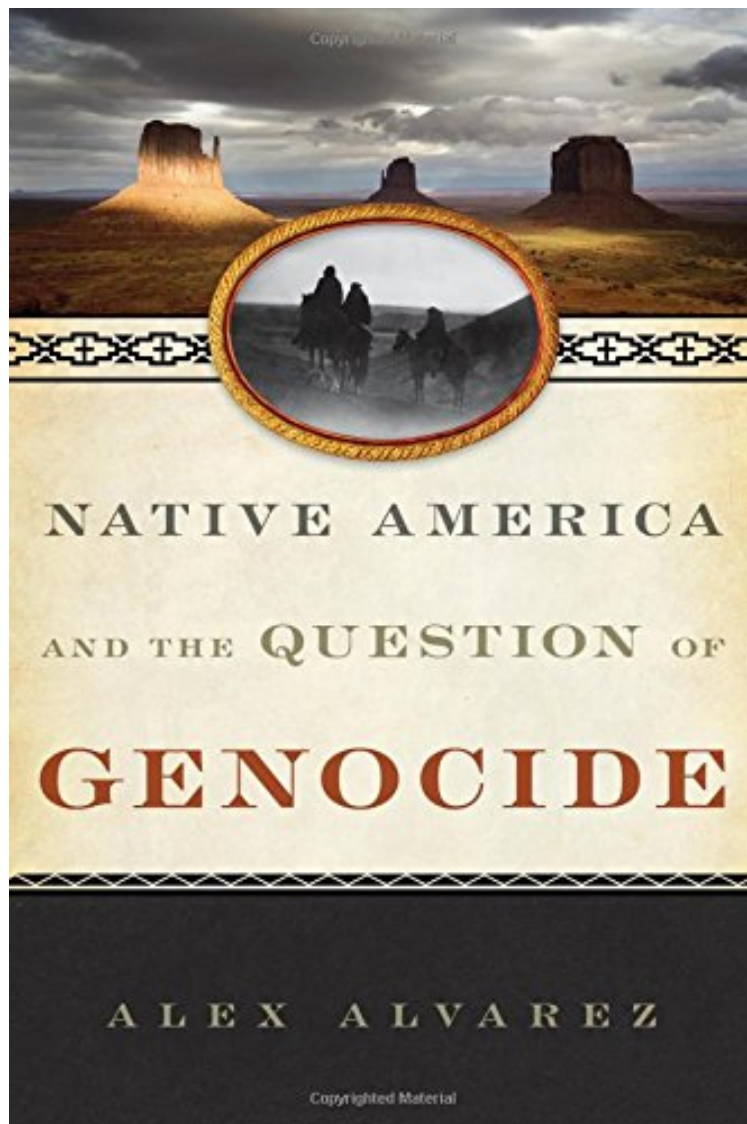


(Mobile pdf) Native America and the Question of Genocide (Studies in Genocide: Religion, History, and Human Rights)

Native America and the Question of Genocide (Studies in Genocide: Religion, History, and Human Rights)

Alex Alvarez

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Alex Alvarez : Native America and the Question of Genocide (Studies in Genocide: Religion, History, and Human Rights) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Native America and the Question of Genocide (Studies in Genocide: Religion, History, and Human Rights):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Lord Zane Very interesting book. 0 of 0 people found

the following review helpful. Five StarsBy AimeeA necessary read. Also look into the book Murder State.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read!By StefanieWhat a great book! It is engaging and a pleasure to read. If you are interested in learning about the history of Native tribes in North America and their experiences in more recent U.S. history, I would highly recommend this book. It focuses on the question of genocide in connection to the Native American experience but also highlights other parts of the very complex interactions between European explorers, settlers, and the many tribes across the continent. Alvarez addresses the well-known aspects of communicable diseases from Europe that wreaked havoc on the Native population. The often-referenced hostilities and wars amongst the European powers but also Native tribes are discussed, as alliances were made across ethnic and international lines. Last but not least, this book delves into the complicated and recent history of the Native American boarding schools, which in the name of assimilation supported the removal of Native children from their home communities and the forceful stripping of any cultural aspects that the children had been raised with. Alvarez work is a great read for anyone new to this topic, who is curious to learn more about the Native American experience in the United States. It is also recommendable for classes and students.

Did Native Americans suffer genocide? This controversial question lies at the heart of Native America and the Question of Genocide. After reviewing the various meanings of the word genocide, author Alex Alvarez examines a range of well-known examples, such as the Sand Creek Massacre and the Long Walk of the Navajo, to determine where genocide occurred and where it did not. The book explores the destructive beliefs of the European settlers and then looks at topics including disease, war, and education through the lens of genocide. Native America and the Question of Genocide shows the diversity of Native American experiences postcontact and illustrates how tribes relied on ever-evolving and changing strategies of confrontation and accommodation, depending on their location, the time period, and individuals involved, and how these often resulted in very different experiences. Alvarez treats this difficult subject with sensitivity and uncovers the complex realities of this troubling period in American history.

From Booklist Alvarez tackles the complex question of whether or not the post-contact decimation of Native American populations, magnified by events such as the Sand Creek Massacre, constituted genocide. He defines genocide as an attempt to destroy a population group. Further, he concludes that genocide entails a strategy, not just an event or series of events. Its through this lens that he views a selection of massacres, waves of disease, forced removal to reservations, and native childrens mandatory attendance at military and church-run boarding schools, in his attempt to ascertain whether any of these qualify as genocide. Wounded Knee and the Sand Creek Massacre he labels as isolated events, not committed as acts of policy meant to exterminate entire tribes. The Long Walk of the Navajo to the Bosque Redondo Alvarez calls traumatic, but not genocidal, for it was intended to kill Navajo culture, but leave the people alive the crux, he says, of cultural genocide. In his sensitive treatment of this difficult issue, Alvarez strikes a balance between scholarly pragmatism and a humanists empathy for the victims of this immense tragedy. --Deborah Donovan Many Native American activists have claimed that their peoples have been subjected to genocide since the arrival of the first Europeans to the Americas. In this work, Alvarez seeks to determine whether the assertions are correct. He provides a detailed examination of various definitions of genocidewhich he defines as the implementation of a strategy designed to exterminate a group of peoplehow they are applied and why. According to the author, planning and intent are the key aspects lacking in much of the evidence put forth to support the accusations. It has been argued that disease was used as a weapon, but Alvarez demonstrates that this devastation was inadvertently transmitted. The author looks for collusion among the colonial-era Dutch, English, French, and Spanish, on a plan to eradicate the native peoples. To believe that European powers enacted such an effort would have denied Native Americans their own agency, yet they actively played European powers against one another to advance their interests. Alvarez acknowledges that many atrocities were committed by Euro-Americans but sees those as distinct from massacre. VERDICT. . . This book is essential reading for anyone interested in human rights as it is a primer on what genocide is and is not. (Library Journal, Starred) Alvarez takes up a set of challenging questions. Unlike many before him, he does not seek to advance a polemic, but instead reflects on the complexities of history, atrocity, and interpretation. He provides a useful introduction to Indian-white relations and the concept of genocide while considering the applicability of the latter to describe the former. Alvarez opens his discussion with a set of framing chapters devoted to precontact history, definitions of and debates about genocide, and the place of Indianness in Western thought. These lay a foundation for his deeper, more thematic chapters. In particular, Alvarez examines disease, wars and massacres, displacement, and efforts at assimilation, exploring the evidence and arguments over to what extent and in what ways each might constitute genocide. The author concludes with a meditation on the power of words, the limits of analysis, and the necessity of complexity. Alvarez writes in an approachable style, encouraging reflection on big questions and the competing answers to them. As such, this book should appeal to students and instructors alike in a wide range of fields, from American Indian studies to political science. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All levels/libraries. (CHOICE) Arguing the term genocide is too often used as a blanket pronouncement based on 'a general sense of outrage and horror,' Alvarez (Violence: The Enduring Problem) turns to Native American history to provide a more

nuanced understanding of the term. Throughout the book, the author gives examples of the varieties of contact between Europeans and natives of the Americas, including those of the Aztec and Inca. In most cases, these do not meet his definition of the term genocide. The decimation of Native Americans from small pox brought unwittingly by Europeans was not intentional and therefore not genocide. But giving Indians contaminated blankets in the hope that disease would, in the words of Major General Jeffrey Amherst: 'Extirpate this Execrable Race,' is genocide. While Alvarez condemns the many massacres and resettlements, he does not see them as genocide, since it was not the intent of the government to destroy the natives as a race. However, the author makes an excellent case for the intentional and long-term cultural genocide of Native Americans in the kidnapping of children for the purpose of 'acculturation.' The governmental attempt to destroy Native language, religion, history and culture, even under a misguided belief that this was a positive, 'civilizing' action is still cultural genocide. Alvarez gives a thought-provoking study that compels the reader to reexamine concepts that we too often address superficially. (Publishers Weekly) Alvarez tackles the complex question of whether or not the post-contact decimation of Native American populations, magnified by events such as the Sand Creek Massacre, constituted genocide. He defines genocide as an attempt to destroy a population group. Further, he concludes that genocide entails a strategy, not just an event or series of events. It is through this lens that he views a selection of massacres, waves of disease, forced removal to reservations, and native childrens mandatory attendance at military and church-run boarding schools, in his attempt to ascertain whether any of these qualify as genocide. Wounded Knee and the Sand Creek Massacre he labels as isolated events, not committed as acts of policy meant to exterminate entire tribes. The Long Walk of the Navajo to the Bosque Redondo Alvarez calls 'traumatic,' but not genocidal, for it was intended to kill Navajo culture, but leave the people alive. The crux, he says, of cultural genocide. In his sensitive treatment of this difficult issue, Alvarez strikes a balance between scholarly pragmatism and a humanists empathy for the victims of this immense tragedy. (Booklist) There is a desperate need for a carefully drawn analysis of the kind Alex Alvarez presents in this book. He has placed his analysis squarely within the context of genocide theory, and by doing so has surpassed many previous works on the topic through the care he has taken for the subject and the concepts upon which it rests. In short, this work is a benchmark for others to follow, and deserves to take its place among the first rank of studies dealing with the question of genocide relative to Native America. (Paul R. Bartrop, Florida Gulf Coast University) Without at all diminishing the inhumanities, injustices, and indignities that took place, Alvarez argues persuasively that United States Indian policy was far more complicated than genocide. This is a well-written, commonsense book that deserves to reach a wide audience. (David Wishart, University of Nebraska-Lincoln) Professor Alvarez has written a comprehensive analysis which directly confronts the controversial question concerning whether or not the destruction of the indigenous populations of the Americas was genocide. The book is exceedingly well written and one of the most interesting treatments of the topic I have seen. It should be of interest to students and teachers in a variety of fields including genocide studies, political science, history and criminal justice. (Herbert Hirsch, Virginia Commonwealth University) By addressing issues linked to the term genocide and to genocide studies in relationship with the complex histories of Native Americans, Alex Alvarez has put together a thought-provoking volume which will be a valuable resource for study and debate in the classroom. (Joyce Apsel, New York University) In this important and fascinating study Alex Alvarez examines the question whether or not the catastrophe that engulfed Native Americans following European colonization amounted to genocide. In his work he balances the scholars commitment to intellectual honesty with the humanists empathy for the victims. (Robert Melson, professor emeritus, Purdue University; former president of the International Association of Genocide Scholars) About the Author Alex Alvarez is professor of criminology and criminal justice at Northern Arizona University. He was the founding director of the Martin-Springer Institute for Teaching the Holocaust, Tolerance, and Humanitarian Values. He is author or coauthor of several books, including *Murder American Style*, *Violence: The Enduring Problem*, and *Governments, Citizens, and Genocide*, and *Genocidal Crimes*.