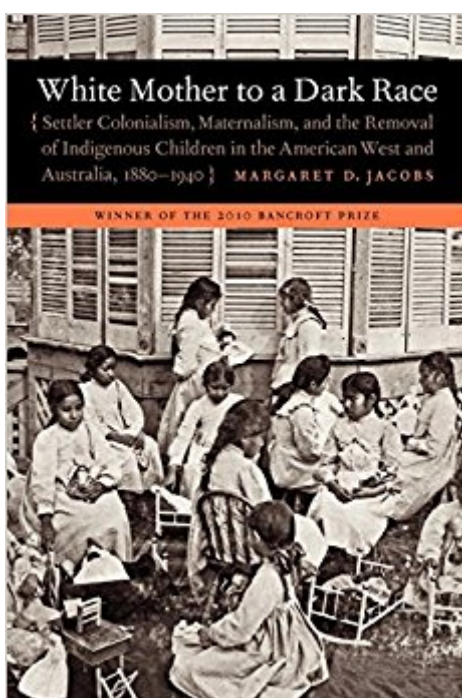


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# White Mother To A Dark Race: Settler Colonialism, Maternalism, And The Removal Of Indigenous Children In The American West And Australia, 1880-1940



## Synopsis

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, indigenous communities in the United States and Australia suffered a common experience at the hands of state authorities: the removal of their children to institutions in the name of assimilating American Indians and protecting Aboriginal people. Although officially characterized as benevolent, these government policies often inflicted great trauma on indigenous families and ultimately served the settler nations' larger goals of consolidating control over indigenous peoples and their lands. *White Mother to a Dark Race* takes the study of indigenous education and acculturation in new directions in its examination of the key roles white women played in these policies of indigenous child-removal. Government officials, missionaries, and reformers justified the removal of indigenous children in particularly gendered ways by focusing on the supposed deficiencies of indigenous mothers, the alleged barbarity of indigenous men, and the lack of a patriarchal nuclear family. Often they deemed white women the most appropriate agents to carry out these child-removal policies. Inspired by the maternalist movement of the era, many white women were eager to serve as surrogate mothers to indigenous children and maneuvered to influence public policy affecting indigenous people. Although some white women developed caring relationships with indigenous children and others became critical of government policies, many became hopelessly ensnared in this insidious colonial policy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"[White Mother to a Dark Race is] a monumental comparative study."-Cristina Stanciu, SAIL --

Cristina Stanciu \* SAIL \* "This study stands as an excellent model and should encourage further comparisons between federal Indian policy and other maternalist projects within the United States as well as intimate strategies in other colonial regimes."-Cathleen D. Cahill, *Western Historical Quarterly* -- Cathleen D. Cahill \* *Western Historical Quarterly* \* "[Margaret D. Jacobs] has produced a balanced, meticulously researched book filled with heartbreaking stories of loss and uplifting accounts of survival."-Lynette Russell, *Great Plains Quarterly* -- Lynette Russell \* *Great Plains Quarterly* \* "Jacobs' focus on the role of white women, and specifically the function of maternalism, generates important insights into the interrelationship between race and gender in the creation of the modern white nation. Attention to the specificities of colonial regimes in the different locations of Australia and the American West-revealing the uncanny similarities as well as significant differences-can only enhance our critical understanding."-Trish Luker, *International Journal of Critical Indigenous Studies* -- Trish Luker \* *International Journal of Critical Indigenous Studies* \* "[Jacobs] has taken the study of these nineteenth and early twentieth century institutionalizing policies in a rewarding new direction. . . . I highly recommend this book to anyone who is interested in indigenous studies, women's studies, and the history of intercultural relations in colonizing situations like the American West."-Nancy J. Parezo, *Journal of Arizona History* -- Nancy J. Parezo \* *Journal of Arizona History* \* "This book deserves wide readership in U.S. western history, women's history, Indian history, and comparative ethnic studies."-Peggy Pascoe, *Montana, the Magazine of Western History* -- Peggy Pascoe \* *Montana, the Magazine of Western History* \*

Margaret D. Jacobs is a professor of history and the director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is the author of *Engendered Encounters: Feminism and Pueblo Cultures, 1879-1934* (Nebraska 1999).

As a history student, I read this book largely to supplement a course lectured by one of Dr. Jacob's own former students, but I found myself unable to put it down after opening it. I think this book is definitely a must-read for any Native Studies historians, or any history student esp. in the Midwest and Western U.S. and in Australia. Jacobs covers very well the topics of indigenous child removal, including the affects it had on children and families and the consequences of removal policies. She also clearly explains every facet of white maternalism which offers invaluable contextual information. Neither praising nor vilifying those involved in child removal, Jacobs' writing style allows readers to formulate their own views and responses to child removal policies. Dr. Jacobs mentions many case studies she performed and her time spent researching is very well reflected in this book. The book

ends with a very powerful epilogue and afterword.

Absolutely wonderful! This history is not caught up in one side says this and the other says that. It shares the stories of women and the children who were raised by them. Some had great stories, others were horrific. They were honest and non-apologetic. Jacobs writes in a "Here is what happened!" manner.

"White Mother to a Dark Race" is a saddening eye opener, and helpful source for any good discussion about the topic.

The book came in great condition. I did not have to wait so long and the book was needed for a last minute assignment so it worked out perfectly! I will order future books from this company!

This is an important and prize-winning book that deserves wide distribution, including college course adoptions in several disciplines. But the price of the book guarantees failure. A major trade publisher should buy the paperback rights and release a reasonably priced paperback ASAP.

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