



Talking Back To Civilization: Indian Voices from the Progressive Era (Bedford Cultural Editions Series)

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As progressive reformers took on America's ills at the start of the 20th century, a new generation of Native American reformers took on America, "talking back" to the civilization that had overrun but not crushed their own. This volume offers a collection of 21 primary sources, including journal articles, testimony, and political cartoons by Native Americans of the Progressive Era, who worked in a variety of fields to defend their communities and culture. Their protests are divided into seven chapters by topic, as they defended native religion, protested European-influenced attempts to "civilize" Native children in boarding schools, challenged US Indian policy, explained the connection between their service for the US in World War I and their desire for self-determination, and testified before Congress in land claims cases. Spanning the period from the World's Columbian Expedition in 1893 to Congressional land hearings on the Indian reservations in the 1920s, this rich array of voices fills an important gap in the chronology of Native American studies. An engaging introduction includes background on the Progressive Era, while headnotes for each document, striking illustrations, a chronology of major events, and a bibliography support the firsthand accounts.

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Editorial Review

Review

"I like the concept of 'talking back' to civilization used in this [book] and the various political perspectives represented in the essays. These voices make clear that native people appropriated the language of the colonizers to make sense of their world, defend Indian rights, and challenge American politics during the Progressive Era. The documents show Indian people as activists and thinkers."

About the Author

Frederick E. Hoxie is Swanlund Professor of History at the University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign. He has also been Director of the D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian History and Vice President for Research and Education at the Newberry Library.

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