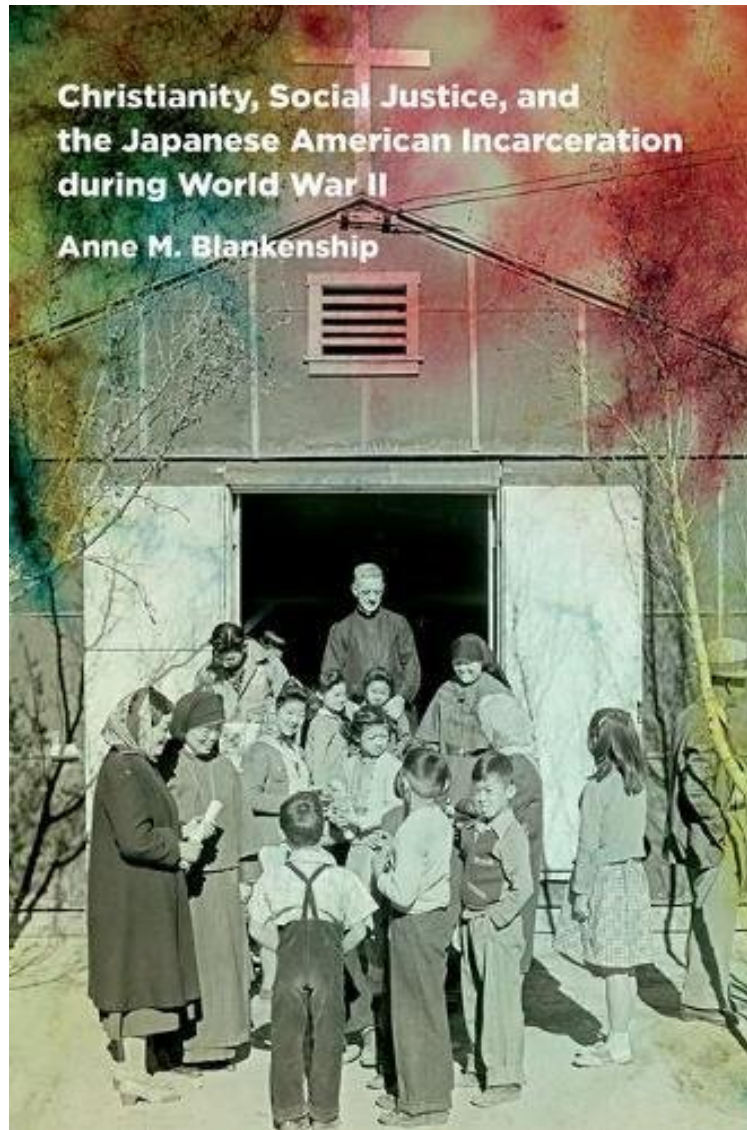


# Christianity, Social Justice, and the Japanese American Incarceration during World War II

Anne M. Blankenship

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#188879 in Books Anne M Blankenship 2016-11-07Original language:English 9.26 x .79 x 6.19l, .0 #File Name: 1469629208296 pagesChristianity Social Justice and the Japanese American Incarceration During World War II | File size: 52.Mb

**Anne M. Blankenship : Christianity, Social Justice, and the Japanese American Incarceration during World War II** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Christianity, Social Justice, and the Japanese American Incarceration during World War II:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Thank you!By SokayitsmeI purchased this book for my Mom, who

was interned at Minidoka, near Hunt, Idaho, specifically for the parts of the book about Rev. Emery Andrews (or 'Andy', as we called him). She enjoyed this part of the book very much and showed the book to Andy's son, who is also a pastor. Thank you, Ms. Blankenship for writing this book. It's especially important for these stories to be told as the interned Nisei are passing away and historically, they didn't talk about internment much while the Sansei (3rd generation in the U.S.) were growing up. The stories must be told and shared to prevent such violations of civil rights from happening again. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Gripping Tale of Betrayal, Reorientation, and Hope By Moses Lee This is a powerful and sobering tale of how Japanese American Christians fared and, to some extent, thrived during their incarceration in World War II. Despite facing silent betrayal by pretty much every single American Christian group minus the Quakers when the executive order was signed by President Roosevelt, the Japanese American church persevered and was able to organize worship services within the camps. But their sad plight continued even after they were released as mainline Protestant denominations voted to "merge" Japanese American congregations into preexisting majority culture ones. With the exception of a few notable congregations, the results were disastrous and homogenous churches once again proved the best context for them to grow.

Anne M. Blankenship's study of Christianity in the infamous camps where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II yields insights both far-reaching and timely. While most Japanese Americans maintained their traditional identities as Buddhists, a sizeable minority identified as Christian, and a number of church leaders sought to minister to them in the camps. Blankenship shows how church leaders were forced to assess the ethics and pragmatism of fighting against or acquiescing to what they clearly perceived, even in the midst of a national crisis, as an unjust social system. These religious activists became acutely aware of the impact of government, as well as church, policies that targeted ordinary Americans of diverse ethnicities. Going through the doors of the camp churches and delving deeply into the religious experiences of the incarcerated and the faithful who aided them, Blankenship argues that the incarceration period introduced new social and legal approaches for Christians of all stripes to challenge the constitutionality of government policies on race and civil rights. She also shows how the camp experience nourished the roots of an Asian American liberation theology that sprouted in the sixties and seventies.

[Blankenship] deftly demonstrates the complexities of white Christian programs and Nikkei religious practice and the importance of spiritual life to the incarceration story.--Western Historical Quarterly Will likely spark productive classroom discussions about the complex layers of power, agency, struggle, and meaning in the religious experiences and ideologies of the incarcerated, the incarcerators, and bystanders.--Reading Religion Opens up [the story of how some American church people ministered to Japanese Americans in the camps] with skill, deep research, and compelling storytelling and analysis. It's certain to become the definitive work on the subject. And it compels thought on how to respond to the current hysteria around other immigrant groups perceived to be disloyal.--The Christian Century This important work argues convincingly that to understand Japanese incarceration, it is essential to incorporate the role of protest movements within the U.S. religious community. Highly recommended.--Choice Christianity, Social Justice, and the Japanese American Incarceration during World War II will serve as the definitive book on Christianity in the incarceration experience. One of very few studies that manages to attend to the voices of those within the camps and those beyond the barbed-wire fences.--Duncan Ryuken Williams, University of Southern California The first full exploration of the role of Christianity among Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II, this powerful book is a marvelous introduction to an unjustly neglected topic. Taking the study of Japanese Americans in a new direction, Anne Blankenship deepens our understanding not only of religious practice in the camps but of government regulation of freedom of religion. A vital addition to literature in religious studies, history, and ethnic studies.--Greg Robinson, Universite du Quebec a Montreal About the Author Anne M. Blankenship is assistant professor of American religious history at North Dakota State University.