

Claudio Saunt. *Unworthy Republic the Dispossession of Native Americans and the Road to Indian Territory*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc, 2020. Pp. 303. Paper \$16.95.

Claudio Saunt, Richard B. Russell Professor of American History at the University of Georgia, examines how the Indian Removal Act of 1830 was used by the United States government and its citizens to expand the nation and remove any other people who were considered to not be of part of the European decent. Saunt's use of "white power" illustrates how much the government and businessmen men alike would take advantage of native people to gain control of native peoples' land. When Native Americans claimed rights to lands under treaties signed between their nation and the United States government. The natives were misled by government officials and businessmen when it came to how much value their land had. Displacement of Native Americans grew in the 1830s under the Jackson administration. The term "white power" developed after the American Revolution to deny the Native American people rights to their land. Saunt illustrates how the United States government forcefully removed, displaced, and deported Native Americans from their homelands and created Indian Territories for these Native Americans. With the support of manuscripts, Indian Affairs records, and the National Archives, Saunt demonstrates how the United States addressed what it considered "The Indian question," "state-sponsored expulsion of the 1830s," and the "inevitable expulsion of indigenous people."

Andrew Jackson signed into law the Indian Removal Act (1830) allowed for the President to renegotiate or forfeit any treaties made with Native Americans; this was just the beginning of hostile relations between the United States with Native Americans. The act allowed the United States government to forcefully remove Native Americans east of the Mississippi from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and as far north from what is presented day Wisconsin, and Iowa was moved west of the Mississippi to a location the United States claimed to be Indian territory presented day Oklahoma. Saunt uses the words "deportation, expulsion, and extermination" to drive his point. From warfare, displacement, and migration, Native Americans saw 15,000 or more die and more than 100,000 displaced from 1830-1838.

Saunt's book is organized into five sections and eleven chapters. The first section questioned land ownership who had the right to the vast open area of land which Americans claimed by settling on it and the idea of "white power". The second section chapters 3 and 4 is about government representation and how the United States enforced state laws when it came to Native Americans. The third section, includes chapters 5 and 6, are about the sale of land and the arrival of new diseases that would hit the Native American population. The fourth section chapters 7 and 8 is about bankers and the rush of "white" people into Native American people's land. The fifth section which consists of chapters 9,10 and 11 is about war, the outcome of the war, and the displacement of Native Americans. Saunt's writing is detailed and does not hold back on the serious events that occurred. Each chapter explains how citizens, politicians, and the United States government displaced Native American people to create a large powerful nation. This book demonstrates how the United States treated Native Americans which cost the loss of lives due to forced removal and traveling conditions. This is a dark part of the United States' history in which it committed genocide to become the nation it is today. *Unworthy Republic* provides the understanding of how the United States carried out a massive removal of people to accomplish the expansion of the nation to the West. This text is not only about Native American history but also about the history of the United States and its interactions with Native Americans. The United States federal government along with local state governments used laws and treaties to remove (deport) Native Americans from their homelands. The displacement of Native Americans from their homelands was due to a nation that desired to expand at any cost. The Jackson administration of the 1830s made political ideas a reality. This book is good for U.S. history upper-division university classes for research.

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