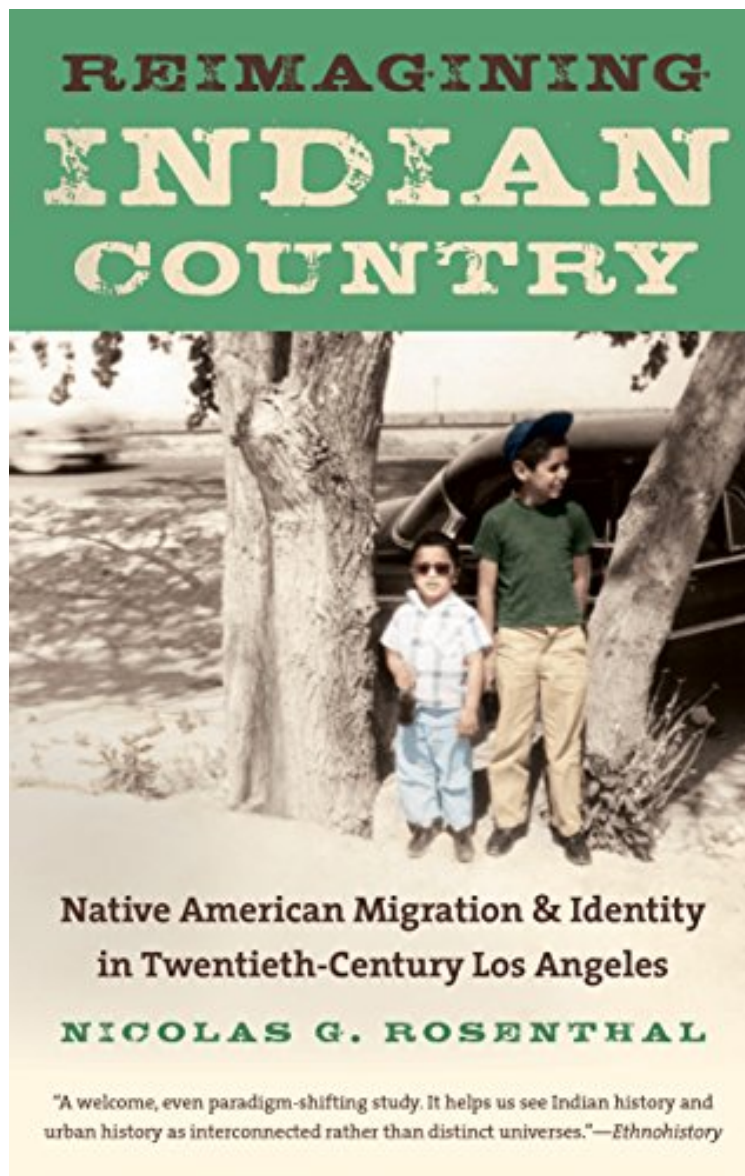


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Reimagining Indian Country: Native American Migration and Identity in Twentieth-Century Los Angeles (First Peoples: New Directions in Indigenous Studies)

Nicolas G. Rosenthal

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Nicolas G. Rosenthal : Reimagining Indian Country: Native American Migration and Identity in Twentieth-Century Los Angeles (First Peoples: New Directions in Indigenous Studies)

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Reimagining Indian Country: Native American Migration and Identity in Twentieth-Century Los Angeles (First Peoples: New Directions in Indigenous Studies)*:

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Tough Read but extremely informative
By Brian D. Ferrero
Termination and Indian Assimilation is the focus of this book and Rosenthal makes it clear that moving into the cities wasn't always an encouraged form of escape. Although the boarding schools that began to pull youthful Indians off reservations were instilling domesticated American value, the loss and disconnection of Indian life and culture seem to play a huge role in the Indian transition and acculturation. Constantly kept in the under-belly of labor and society, assimilation became an experience in poverty and destitution where very few Indians were able to prosper in American society. Rosenthal details the types of work and opportunities provided by city life and outlines those who were successful and those who were not. This book also provides an insight to specific programs that enabled Indians to navigate through a brand-new way of life, much of which was guided by the BIA.

For decades, most American Indians have lived in cities, not on reservations or in rural areas. Still, scholars, policymakers, and popular culture often regard Indians first as reservation peoples, living apart from non-Native Americans. In this book, Nicolas Rosenthal reorients our understanding of the experience of American Indians by tracing their migration to cities, exploring the formation of urban Indian communities, and delving into the shifting relationships between reservations and urban areas from the early twentieth century to the present. With a focus on Los Angeles, which by 1970 had more Native American inhabitants than any place outside the Navajo reservation, *Reimagining Indian Country* shows how cities have played a defining role in modern American Indian life and examines the evolution of Native American identity in recent decades. Rosenthal emphasizes the lived experiences of Native migrants in realms including education, labor, health, housing, and social and political activism to understand how they adapted to an urban environment, and to consider how they formed--and continue to form--new identities. Though still connected to the places where indigenous peoples have preserved their culture, Rosenthal argues that Indian identity must be understood as dynamic and fully enmeshed in modern global networks.

Reimagining Indian Country successfully complicates, and perhaps overturns, what has become the standard narrative in twentieth-century American Indian history. . . . A welcome, even paradigm-shifting study. It helps us see Indian history and urban history as interconnected rather than distinct universes.--*Ethnohistory*
Rosenthal adds a solid, highly original, and thought-provoking volume that documents and examines Native American migration into the Los Angeles area. . . . Essential. All levels/libraries.--*Choice*
Takes a large step toward ending the conceptual segregation that has kept modern Native American history in the academic ghetto.--*American Historical*
Reimagining Indian Country would be of interest to historians and to Native studies professors and students as well as anyone interested in better understand the history of Los Angeles infusing the American Indian perspective and involvement.--*American Indian Quarterly*
Goes beyond simplistic explanations for Indian urbanization. . . . This is an important study that succeeds in showing the influence of cities in the evolution of Indian Country and Indianness over the past century.--*Montana The Magazine of Western History*
Reimagining Indian Country moves one very big step closer to a fuller accounting of what is one of the most important trends in twentieth-century indigenous history.--*Pacific Historical*
A book that should be read by policy makers who are interested in truly helping American Indians beyond mere lip service.--*Native News Network*
Offers a richer history of indigenous people living, working, and interacting with diverse metropolitan populations throughout the twentieth century. . . . [A] detailed and accessible study.--*American Indian Library*
The author has laid a strong foundation for an ambitious project within the field of Native American history.--*Southern California Quarterly*
For decades now, a significant number of native people have traded the sandstone canyons of their reservations for the concrete canyons of major U.S. cities. Rosenthal's fine book is one of a handful of recent monographs to acknowledge this prominent trend.--*Journal of American History*
A groundbreaking book. Rosenthal demonstrates that Indians are much more than survivors of harmful federal policies. Challenging previous urban native studies, Rosenthal reveals the many ways Indians used their mobility to adapt, to redefine Indian Country, and to modernize their identity.--Donald L. Fixico, Distinguished Foundation Professor of History, Arizona State University
Engagingly written and exhaustively researched, Nicolas Rosenthal's sophisticated analysis of urbanization sets a new standard in the field.--Daniel Cobb, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Tracing the lives of urban Indians through the experiences of workers, community organizers, parents and children, Rosenthal's study helps us understand how cities became Indian country--and how Native people made it so.--Brian Hosmer, H.G. Barnard Chair in Western American History at the University of Tulsa and co-editor (with Larry Nesper) of *Tribal Worlds: Critical Studies in American Indian Nation Building*
About the Author
Nicolas G. Rosenthal is associate professor of history at Loyola Marymount University.