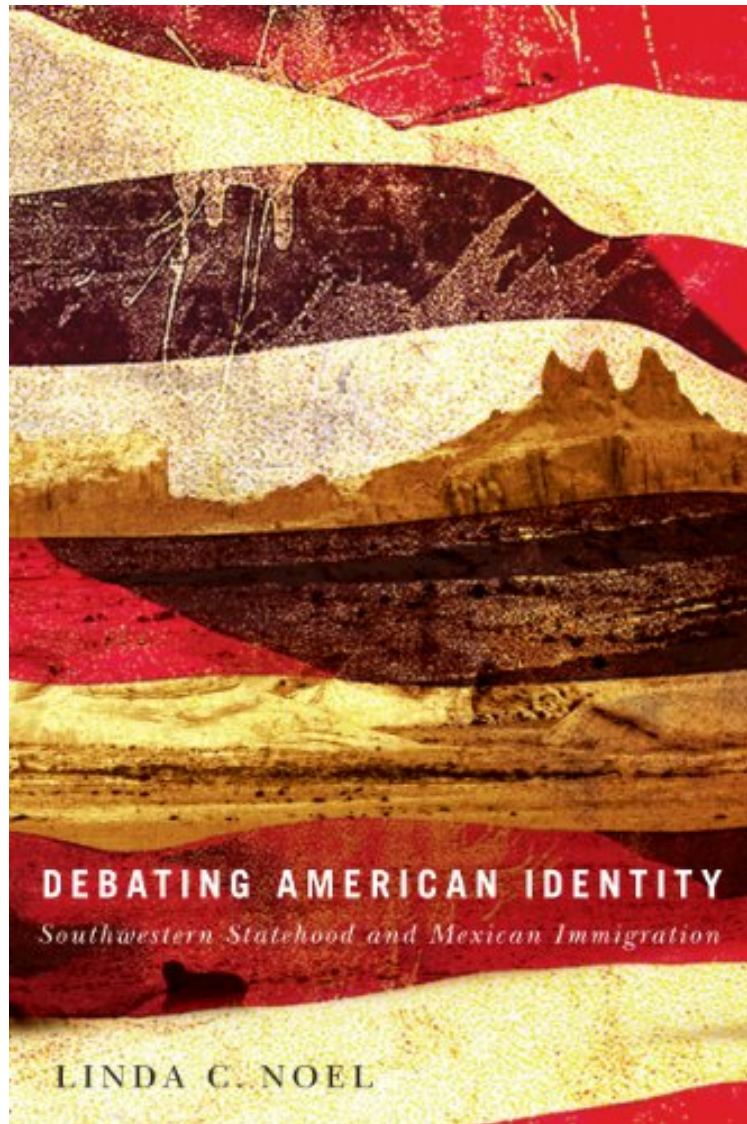


(Download pdf ebook) Debating American Identity: Southwestern Statehood and Mexican Immigration

Debating American Identity: Southwestern Statehood and Mexican Immigration

Linda C. Noel

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Linda C. Noel : Debating American Identity: Southwestern Statehood and Mexican Immigration before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Debating American Identity: Southwestern Statehood and Mexican Immigration:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. To Understand The Border DebateBy Glen AaronHave you an interest in the border protection, immigration, Homeland Security debate? If you do, you will probably agree that any

healthy discussion should be void of information bias, hip -shot conclusions, or bumper sticker cliches and based upon accurate data and historical fact. While accurate data and historical fact may not change an opinion, it nevertheless will allow meaningful discussion. A very good starting point is to purchase and read the recent release by the University of Arizona Press of author Linda C. Noel's *Debating American Identity*. Noel takes us to the seed of today's debates and creates greater understanding of where our polarization began on these subjects by reviewing the late 1900s relating to New Mexico and Arizona statehood admission. Those debates of the late 19th and early 20th century set forth the differing attitudes of Americans as they argued about how or whether newcomers could or should fit into the American identity. Then, as today, views ranged from exclusionism, assimilation, pluralism, or marginalization. Is it class status, race, or culture that determines American identity? This is a must read for every American on a subject that devils us, even today. Glen Aaron

In the early 1900s, Teddy Roosevelt, New Mexico governors Miguel Antonio Otero and Octaviano Larrazolo, and Arizona legislator Carl Hayden along with the voices of less well-known American women and men promoted very different views on what being an American meant. Their writings and speeches contributed to definitions of American national identity during a tumultuous and dynamic era. At stake in these heated debates was the very meaning of what constituted an American, the political boundaries for the United States, and the legitimacy of cultural diversity in modern America. In *Debating American Identity*, Linda C. Noel examines several nation-defining events: the proposed statehood of Arizona and New Mexico, the creation of a temporary worker program during the First World War, immigration restriction in the 1920s, and the repatriation of immigrants in the early 1930s. Noel uncovers the differing ways in which Americans argued about how newcomers could fit within the nation-state, in terms of assimilation, pluralism, or marginalization, and the significance of class status, race, and culture in determining American identity. Noel shows not only how the definition of American was contested, but also how the economic and political power of people of Mexican descent, their desire to incorporate as Americans or not, and the demand for their territory or labor by other Americans played an important part in shaping decisions about statehood and national immigration policies. *Debating American Identity* skillfully shows how early twentieth century debates over statehood influenced later ones concerning immigration; in doing so, it resonates with current discussions, resulting in a well-timed look at twentieth century citizenship.

Usually, scholars discuss exclusionism versus assimilationism, but Noel's presentation of the marginalizationist and pluralist approaches are new and significant. Patrick D. Lukens, author of *A Quiet Victory for Latino Rights: FDR and the Controversy Over Whiteness*