



## EDUCATION for EMPIRE

AMERICAN SCHOOLS, RACE, AND  
THE PATHS OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP

CLIF STRATTON

# Education for Empire: American Schools, Race, and the Paths of Good Citizenship

By Clif Stratton

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*Education for Empire* brings together topics in American history often treated separately: schools, race, immigration, and empire building. During the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, American imperial ambitions abroad expanded as the country's public school system grew. How did this imperialism affect public education? School officials, teachers, and textbook authors used public education to place children, both native and foreign-born, on multiple uneven paths to citizenship.

Using case studies from around the country, Clif Stratton deftly shows that public schooling and colonialism were intimately intertwined. This book reveals how students—from Asians in the U.S. West and Hawai‘i to blacks in the South, Mexicans in the Southwest, and Puerto Ricans in the Caribbean and New York City—grappled with the expectations of citizenship imposed by nationalist professionals at the helm of curriculum and policy. Students of American history, American studies, and the history of education will find *Education for Empire* an eminently valuable book.

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### **Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### From the Inside Flap

“It has long been said that schools are laboratories of American democracy. In this powerful, convincing, and profoundly disturbing history, Clif Stratton obliterates this myth and reveals the frightening truth: that public education was meant, in an age defined by immigration, empire, and migration, to foster and maintain the privilege of a select few while ensuring that this privilege would remain beyond the reach of people of color, the poor, and colonial subjects. This should be required reading for anyone who cares about schooling, education, and justice.”—Matthew Pratt Guterl, author of *Josephine Baker and the Rainbow Tribe*

“At the turn of the twentieth century, the United States built an empire overseas and modern, bureaucratic school systems at home. Clif Stratton brings these two developments together, casting American education as an imperial project rather than simply a national one. He also shows how colonized Americans could resist the fate that educators prescribed for them in schools that became ideological battlegrounds over the meaning of America itself. The question of who gets to be ‘American’ continues into the present, of course. Anyone who wants to understand our conflicted answers will also want to read this bold and original book.”—Jonathan Zimmerman, New York University

“*Education for Empire* deepens the long-held analyses that racism at home justifies racism abroad and the conquest and colonization of nonwhites abroad reinforces white supremacy and nonwhite subordination at home. We also know education as a tool of control and liberation. Exceptional in this remarkable study is the particular role of school officials, textbook authors, and teachers at the local and national levels in promoting racial nationalism in US citizenship, immigration laws, and imperialism.”—Gary Y. Okihiro, Professor of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

“This is a compelling study that illuminates the close alliance between empire building and public schooling. It reveals both the racist actions of those in seats of power and the acts of resistance taken by those in subordinated positions.”—Eileen H. Tamura, author of *In Defense of Justice: Joseph Kurihara and the Japanese American Struggle for Equality*

#### About the Author

**Clif Stratton** is Clinical Assistant Professor of History and Assistant Director of the Roots of Contemporary Issues program at Washington State University. He is the 2014 recipient of the American Historical Association's Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Award.

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#### From reader reviews:

#### Deborah Brantley:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite book and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled Education for Empire: American Schools, Race, and the Paths of Good Citizenship. Try to make the book Education for Empire: American Schools, Race, and the Paths of

Good Citizenship as your close friend. It means that it can to become your friend when you really feel alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortuned to suit your needs. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So , we need to make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

**Jose Miller:**

Typically the book Education for Empire: American Schools, Race, and the Paths of Good Citizenship will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to read, this book very suited to you. The book Education for Empire: American Schools, Race, and the Paths of Good Citizenship is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

**Mary Lerrick:**

Spent a free time to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book is usually option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the publication untitled Education for Empire: American Schools, Race, and the Paths of Good Citizenship can be very good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

**Stan Smith:**

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them family or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent all day every day to reading a publication. The book Education for Empire: American Schools, Race, and the Paths of Good Citizenship it is rather good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book features high quality.

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