

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

WELCOME, READERS, TO another glorious fall day in Oakland, California, home of the Ohlone, Muwekma, and Chochenyo peoples, and to *California History*'s third issue of 2021. This issue notes an important anniversary: fifty years have passed since the occupation (or liberation) of Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay (November 20, 1969–June 11, 1971). Our Public History column includes a thought-provoking reflection on the meanings of Alcatraz by William J. Bauer Jr., “Reclaiming Alcatraz: The Legacies and Continuities of the American Indian Occupation of Alcatraz Island, 1971–2021.” Also included is an extended discussion about teaching California Native history. Bay Area high school teacher Marilyn Rose Travis tells us about using Kent Blansett’s *Journey to Freedom: Richard Oakes, Alcatraz and the Red Power Movement* (2018) to teach U.S. History.¹ Additionally, William F. Deverell engages coauthors William J. Bauer Jr. and Damon B. Akins in a conversation about their 2021 book, *We Are the Land: A History of Native California*, a text suitable for use in U.S. history and California history classrooms. We hope that these essays will entertain readers while, at the same time, suggesting ways that educators might construct broader, more inclusive canvases for teaching all histories, from California to United States to global Catholic history (read the Deverell-Bauer-Akins piece, you’ll see).

But wait: there’s more! This issue travels far and wide: Brent M. S. Campney explores the ways that U.S. foreign policies shaped anti-Chinese impulses throughout the American West, convincing some westerners to explore exclusion by nonviolent means. Alina R. Méndez goes the other way, honing in on the “everyday violence” experienced by Mexican migrant men as they traveled back and forth across the U.S./Mexico border seeking work in the 1940s and ’50s. With Daniel Milowski we travel cross-country by train and automobile, examining the impact of the Santa Fe Railway and a legendary highway on the birth, life, and near-death of a western town. And finally, Diana L. Ahmad takes us sailing on the blue Pacific, traveling from California to the South Sea islands in the golden age of steamship travel.

BON VOYAGE!

NOTE

1. See our review at Randall A. Lake, REVIEW: Kent Blansett, *A Journey to Freedom: Richard Oakes, Alcatraz, and the Red Power Movement* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2018), in *California History* (2019) 96 (4): 112–114, at <https://doi.org/10.1525/ch.2019.96.4.112>.

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