

A GENERATION REMOVED

The Fostering and Adoption of Indigenous Children in the Postwar World

MARGARET D. JACOBS

"Essential and timely reading."—*Journal of American History*

"[Jacobs] effectively elucidates the complicated policies surrounding the Indigenous child welfare crisis in a mesmerizing narrative that highlights how it's not just an 'American Indian story . . . but a profoundly American one.'"—Elise Boxer, *South Dakota History*

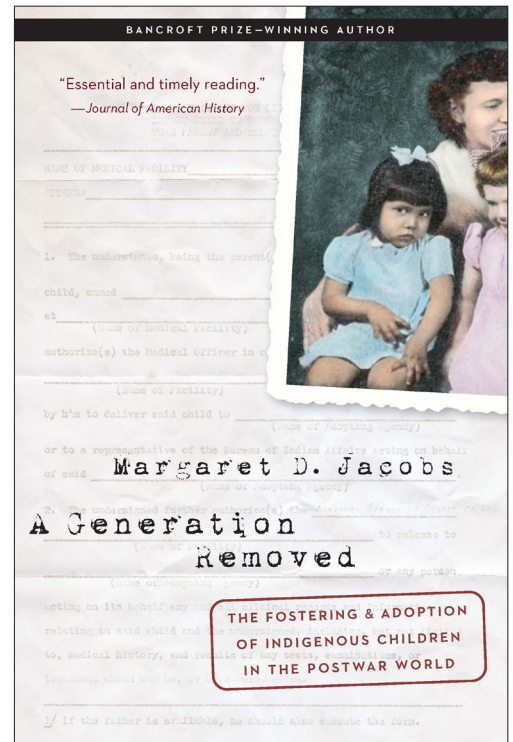
"Justice, Jacobs explains, will come only when nonindigenous people acknowledge the damage done. *A Generation Removed* makes a major contribution toward bringing the story to light. It remains for the rest of us to read and teach it."
—Sherry Smith, *Western Historical Quarterly*

On June 25, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court heard the case *Adoptive Couple vs. Baby Girl*, which pitted adoptive parents Matt and Melanie Capobianco against baby Veronica's biological father, Dusten Brown, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Veronica's biological mother had relinquished her for adoption to the Capobiancos without Brown's consent. Although Brown regained custody of his daughter using the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Capobiancos, rejecting the purpose of the ICWA and ignoring the long history of removing Indigenous children from their families.

In *A Generation Removed*, a powerful blend of history and family stories, award-winning historian Margaret D. Jacobs examines how government authorities in the post-World War II era removed thousands of American Indian children from their families and placed them in non-Indian foster or adoptive families. By the late 1960s an estimated 25 to 35 percent of Indian children had been separated from their families.

Jacobs also reveals the global dimensions of the phenomenon: these practices undermined Indigenous families and their communities in Canada and Australia as well. Jacobs recounts both the trauma and resilience of Indigenous families as they struggled to reclaim the care of their children, leading to the ICWA in the United States and to national investigations, landmark apologies, and redress in Australia and Canada.

Margaret D. Jacobs is Chancellor's Professor of History at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. She is the author of the Bancroft Prize–winning *White Mother to a Dark Race: Settler Colonialism, Maternalism, and the Removal of Indigenous Children in the American West and Australia, 1880–1940* (Nebraska, 2009) and *After One Hundred Winters: In Search of Reconciliation on America's Stolen Lands*, among other books.



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