

CHOICE *connect*

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Editorial Offices: 575 Main Street, Suite 300, Middletown, CT 06457-3445
Phone: (860) 347-6933
Fax: (860) 704-0465
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The following review will appear in the August 2016 issue of CHOICE. The review is for your internal use only until our publication date of 01 August 2016

North America

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Pierce, Jason E. **Making the white man's West: whiteness and the creation of the American West.** University Press of Colorado, 2016. 296p bibl index afp ISBN 9781607323952, \$45.00; ISBN 9781607323969 ebook, \$36.00.

American western history continues to attract plenty of public and academic attention. Pierce (Angelo State Univ.) focuses on the ways western settlement reflected national ideas about who could be a "real" American. The author teaches courses in US western history and Indians in the US, and they influenced his writing on the topic. In clear but academic prose, he ties western settlement to national attitudes about non-white ethnic peoples. Clearly, 19th-century Americans saw the vacant West as a place for white, northern Europeans to prosper. The author examines immigration and ethnic issues of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and shows how the West encouraged the settlement of racially "pure" Americans while trying to exclude dark-skinned and non-white people from the region. Pierce traces how early immigration laws gave preferential treatment for some while limiting other groups' access to the West. This competent study reflects much current thinking about national ethnic ideas, but it is unlikely to be of wide interest to undergraduate students.

--R. L. Nichols, *University of Arizona*

Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students, faculty.