

to improve their knowledge on queer issues. Anyone interested in different manifestations of human sexuality will find this book fascinating and appealing.

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Nancy Shoemaker. *Native American Whalers and the World: Indigenous Encounters and the Contingency of Race*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2015. x + 303 pp. ISBN 9781469622576, \$34.95 (cloth).

Nancy Shoemaker's *Native American Whalers and the World: Indigenous Encounters and the Contingency of Race* is an important addition to the growing literature on what Martha Hodes ("The Mercurial Nature and Abiding Power of Race," *American Historical Review* 108, 2003) has memorably termed "the mercurial nature" of race. Clearly written and persuasively argued, *American Whalers and the World* examines how Native Americans who served on nineteenth-century New England whalerships experienced being Indian as they traveled around the world and then returned home. Race, as scholars have often observed, is contingent on time and place. What Shoemaker adds to this understanding is the degree to which racial classifications are also situational. Shoemaker illustrates how the situation in which a native New England whaler found himself shaped how others thought about him as an Indian and thus his lived experience of being Indian. Native New England whalers experienced race in a number of different ways, depending on whether they were aboard ship ("The Ship," Chapters 1, 2, and 3); on a beach in the Pacific Ocean, encountering another kind of native ("The Beach," Chapters 4, 5, and 6); a foreign resident on a Pacific island ("Islands," Chapters 7, 8, and 9); or back in New England ("The Reservation," Chapter 10).

New England whalerships were perhaps as close to a meritocracy as any Indian was likely to experience in the nineteenth century. Because of a pressing need for labor that created a racially diverse workforce and a desire to maximize profits, ship owners hired Indians they deemed to be capable whalers to serve as officers. Native American officers enjoyed the privileges of rank in better accommodations, as well as the knowledge that owners, crews, and the law

supported their authority to issue orders to white subordinates. Race was not, as Shoemaker explains, absent from the reasoning of owners in their decisions to employ native officers. Indians were widely believed to be blessed with superior eyesight and a gift for hunting that made them valuable additions to a whaleship.

A native whaleman's status on board ship as an officer trumped some aspects of race, but it was on the beaches of the Pacific Ocean that the racial status of Indians became particularly ambiguous. As part of the vanguard of American domination, native whalers were viewed on the side of civilization in a confrontation with racially inferior savages. Native whalers were thus the sort of foreigner that their ancestors had faced on the shores of seventeenth century New England. In Part 3, "Islands," Shoemaker shows how the native whalers who settled on Pacific islands were always considered foreigners and thus indistinguishable to the local population from the missionaries and other Americans bent on colonization. Even the United States Navy treated native whalers as American citizens worthy of government support and protection. Finally, as Shoemaker chronicles in Part 4, "The Reservation," it was in their return to New England that native whalers once again experienced the perception that they were part of a degraded race that had lost even the exotic appeal of their earlier savagery.

Shoemaker's decision to divide her discussion into four parts is effective. It gives her story a clear narrative arc that imposes a degree of order on a very messy process. As Shoemaker is careful to point out, "the racial category Indian in nineteenth-century America was inherently contradictory and just as mobile as the Indians themselves" (p. 18). These four different situations native whalers experienced also metaphorically mirror, in Shoemaker's telling, different stages in the process by which Europeans colonized America and America was, by the first decades of the nineteenth century, putting the Pacific under its dominion. From the earliest encounters on the beach, when trade was mutually beneficial and the newcomers were primarily interested in the extraction of resources, to the invaders' later desire to appropriate land and subjugate the population, native whalers served as the agents of colonization.

Native American Whalers and the World also offers much to legal scholars trying to understand how crews from competing ships fashioned customs and practices that resolved disputes at sea over a very valuable commodity without violence or resort to litigation. That whaleship discipline and respect for rank was such that it was honored even when exercised by an Indian over white crew members helps explain how the close-knit community of New England whalers in the Pacific managed to keep their focus on the bottom line and the

welfare of an entire industry and not the short-term gain of a single vessel.

The breadth and depth of Shoemaker's research are impressive. Befitting the story of a particularly peripatetic group of men, Shoemaker has consulted material in collections around the world. Shoemaker's research has ranged from the rich collection of logbooks and business records housed at the New Bedford Whaling Museum to holdings in Australia, New Zealand, and the Fiji Islands. Her use of the often neglected *Despatches from United States Consuls* is particularly effective in understanding the experiences of native New England whalers. At the core of Shoemaker's research are the various logbooks and journals kept by native whalers. Even though these men did not directly discuss what it meant to them to be Indian, Shoemaker has found much in their words about the workaday world of nineteenth-century whaling that illuminates the situational nature of how race operates. A scholar seeking to conduct research in or better understand nineteenth-century whaling will find in this volume an extensive and useful bibliography and two appendices detailing Shoemaker's databases of native whalers and the logbooks and journals they produced.

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Hartmut Berghoff and Cornelia Rauh; translated by Casey Butterfield. *The Respectable Career of Fritz K: The Making and Remaking of a Provincial Nazi Leader*. New York: Berghahn Books, 2015. xv + 360 pp. ISBN 978-1-78238-593-6, \$120.00 (cloth).

With their biography of the Nazi functionary Fritz Kiehn, historians Hartmut Berghoff and Cornelia Rauh have delivered a formidable study. The product of a decade and a half of research, the work appeared in Germany in 2000, where it unleashed an emotional public debate in the town of Trossingen, Kiehn's hometown, as inhabitants grappled with the legacy of this honored citizen and the Third Reich. Incorporating this furor into their English edition, Berghoff and Rauh not only provide an astute examination of the biographical continuities and interruptions of a Nazi at the local level, but also how that history continues to reverberate.