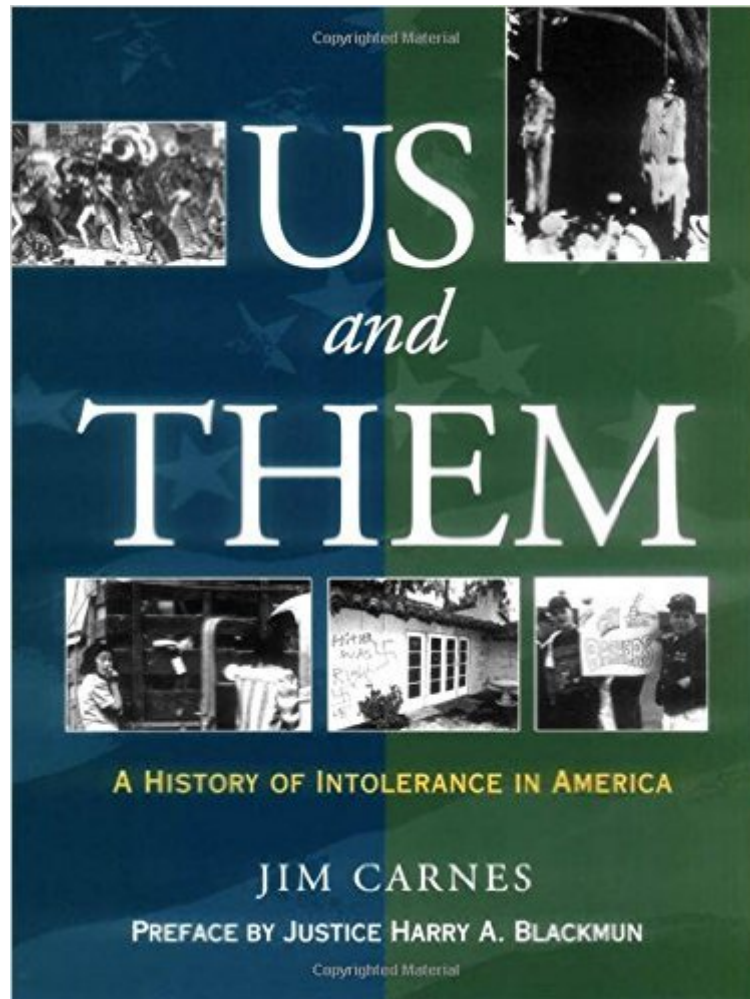


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# Us And Them?: A History Of Intolerance In America



## Synopsis

The history of intolerance in the United States begins in colonial times. Discrimination on the basis of religion, race, and sexual orientation have been characteristic of our society for more than three centuries. "Us and Them" illuminates these dark corners of our nation's past and traces its ongoing efforts to live up to its ideals. Through 14 case studies, using original documents, historical photos, newly commissioned paintings, and dramatic narratives, readers begin to understand the history and psychology of intolerance as they witness firsthand the struggles that have shaped our collective identity. We read about Mary Dyer, who was executed for her Quaker faith in Boston in 1660. We learn how the Mormons were expelled from Missouri in 1838. The attack on Chinese miners in Rock Spring, Wyoming in 1885, the battle of Wounded Knee in 1890, the activities of the Ku Klux Klan in Mobile, Alabama in 1981, and the Crown Heights riot in New York in 1991--all are presented in clear and powerful narrative that brings to life history that is often forgotten or slighted.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #135,997 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in [Books > Teens > Social Issues > Prejudice](#) #17 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Tolerance](#) #80 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > United States](#)

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Jim Carnes explores the other side of American history. In his book, US AND THEM: A HISTORY OF INTOLERANCE IN AMERICA, Carnes introduces readers to issues in US history that are briefly expressed in textbooks. However, this book has a textbook format, but it is informative and insightful when examining the history of the United States in terms of religious, racial, and social intolerance.

Although the book may be geared towards social studies and history classes, grades 5-12, or libraries, it is an effective learning tool towards setting the stage to discuss intolerance that has occurred within American history. *US AND THEM* covers the most pivotal events in American history that have had a drastic affect on its people and communities. Carnes shows a birds-eye view of societal indifferences and injustices that occurred in the seventeenth, nineteenth, and twentieth century. Each of the chapters in the book are succinct and detailed, however, they leave the reader with a better perspective of events, such as the Salem Witch Trials, the debacle between Protestants and Catholics in Philadelphia in 1844, the Ghost Dance at Wounded Knee, and several other events that happened in the 1980s and 1990s pertaining to ethnic and gender issues. The narrative and first person accounts situated within the side margins of the pages are helpful in providing the historical background of each particular event. Two essential sections, "At issue" and "The context" synthesize the facts between the myths, and the graphic illustrations within the text may invoke strong emotions and open the doors for discussion and critical analysis; undoubtedly, questions will arise on why issues such as gender, race and religion were problematic issues in history and continue to be today.

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