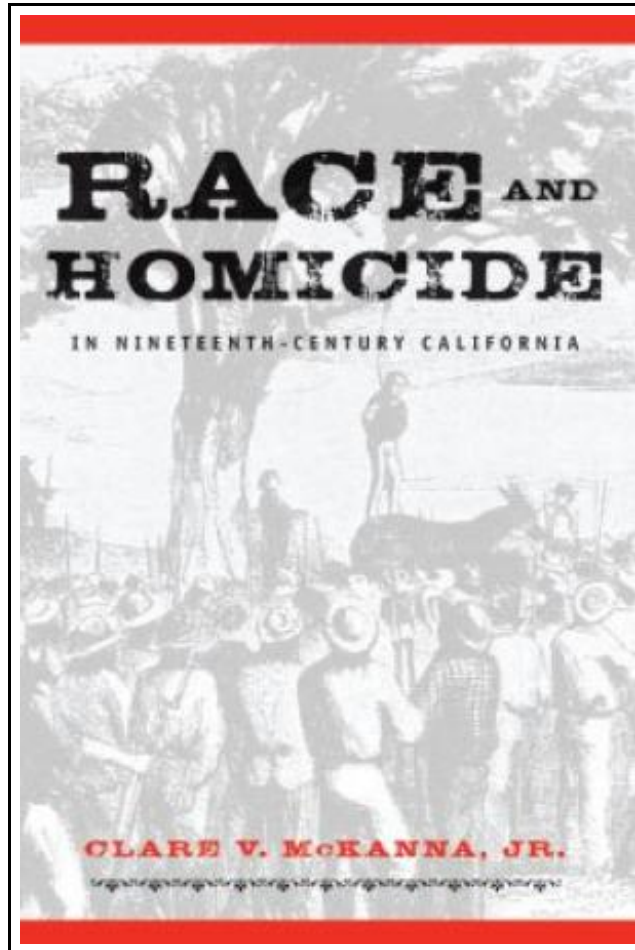


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University of Nevada Press, Reno, 2002. Softcover. Book Condition: New. 168 pages. Softcover. New book. AMERICAN WEST. Nineteenth-century California was a society in turmoil, with a rapidly growing population, booming mining camps, insufficient or nonexistent law-enforcement personnel, and a large number of ethnic groups with differing attitudes toward law and personal honor. Violence, including murder, was common, and legal responses varied broadly. *Race and Homicide in Nineteenth-Century California* examines coroners' inquest reports, court case files, prison registers, and other primary and printed sources to analyze patterns of homicide and the state's embryonic justice system. Author Clare V. McKanna discovers that the nature of crimes varied with the ethnicity of perpetrators and victims, as did the conduct and results of trials and sentencing patterns. This book presents a carefully detailed portrait of a society in flux, where ancient Spanish and Chinese legal practices collided with English common law and the "Code of the West," where greed, poverty, and downright meanness created tensions that frequently led to bloodshed. The text, enhanced with testimony from contemporary sources and illustrated with numerous period photographs, is an engaging and intelligent study of a frontier society where the law was neither omnipresent nor, frequently, impartial. Clare V. McKanna, Jr., is the author of *Homicide, Race, and Justice in the American West*; *The Trial of Indian Joe*; and *White Justice in Arizona: Apache Murder Trials in the Nineteenth Century*. He is a lecturer in the departments of history and American Indian studies at San Diego State University. "*Race and Homicide in Nineteenth-Century California* is a significant contribution in the field. It is based on exhaustive research, careful analysis, and apt interpretation of the data. Most importantly, the American Indian, usually invisible in scholarly work on the criminal justice system, is visible, prominent, and important in the analysis."...



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