

Culture **KILLERS**

Culture Healers

A Television Documentary

Culture Killers Culture Healers is a documentary that will address the social impact of forced inculturation and abuse of North American Indigenous people, and the need for healing and reconciliation. This is perhaps the most overlooked social justice issue of our time, and we are confident the film can make an impact.

While the early founders of our nation formed a more perfect union, it was at the expense of another culture - the Indigenous of North America. A collision of these cultures was inevitable. The US and Canadian governments attempted to wipe away as many of these people as possible⁽¹⁾. In 1887 US Army Captain Richard Pratt came up with a novel idea: "Kill the Indian, save the man." He theorized that by re-educating Indian children they could be assimilated into American culture with American values and job ready skills. Thus, the first Indian boarding school opened in Carlisle, PA two years later⁽²⁾.

The US government saw this plan as a viable means for dealing with Indians and opened boarding schools around the United States. Control of most schools were divided among Protestant and Catholic church organizations⁽³⁾. Canada also opened schools with the same control structures. It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of children were enculturated in the US and Canada. A few schools remain open in the US and operate as modern public institutions.

During most of this history, Indian children were forcefully removed from their homes and sent to boarding schools far away from their families. The goal of "re-education" centers was to strip the Indian culture, language, and traditions from them. These schools quickly became havens for physical, mental, and sexual abuse by their caretakers. After years of trauma, if they survived (estimated many thousands did not), the children would be released to begin a new life of confusion, pain, and learned behavioral patterns. These patterns include the same physical, mental, and sexual abuse - this time directed toward *their* children. They continue to this day⁽⁴⁾.

Our goal is to inform those unaware and to help heal people affected by this domino-effected abuse through the distribution of this documentary. Our goal is to broadcast this production throughout the US and Canada but perhaps more importantly, we plan to distribute it through every reservation in North America for the widest possible impact. It will raise awareness and most importantly provide solutions. We intend to facilitate and encourage dialogue toward psychological healing among the people who are suffering intergenerational effects of trauma. Consider that physical and mental trauma, sexual abuse, and murder are terrible things. However, even if they had never happened, forcefully removing children from their families, and keeping them separated is also trauma. Stripping them of their culture and loved ones is child abuse. Unfortunately, testimonies of survivors reveal all of these things occurred.

Please visit our website at www.thehealingdoc.com There you will find more information, backgrounds of key production team members, and a page to contribute to this healing effort.

Sources

1. Fixico, Donald L. "When Native Americans Were Slaughtered in the Name of 'Civilization'." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 2 Mar. 2018, www.history.com/news/native-americans-genocide-united-states.
2. "'Kill the Indian, and Save the Man': Capt. Richard H. Pratt on the Education of Native Americans." *HISTORY MATTERS - The U.S. Survey Course on the Web*, historymatters.gmu.edu/d/4929/.
3. Fixico, Donald L. "When Native Americans Were Slaughtered in the Name of 'Civilization'." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 2 Mar. 2018, www.history.com/news/native-americans-genocide-united-states.
4. "'Kill the Indian, and Save the Man': Capt. Richard H. Pratt on the Education of Native Americans." *HISTORY MATTERS - The U.S. Survey Course on the Web*, historymatters.gmu.edu/d/4929/