



The Grammar of Good Intentions: Race and the Antebellum Culture of Benevolence (Hardback)

By Susan M. Ryan

Cornell University Press, United States, 2003. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 242 x 163 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Reading an array of texts by Herman Melville, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Beecher Stowe, William Wells Brown, and others, Ryan (English, U. of Louisville) explores the debates over the form and function of benevolence in the American South, whether used to justify slavery and Indian removal in the name of Christianization or to condemn them. She situates herself in the messy middle-ground between arguments that benevolence was either misguided and unself-conscious or the voluntaristic utopia sought by current critics of the welfare state. Her focus is on discord in discussions of benevolence as it related to expansionism and racialized violence in the Indian removal debates of the 1820s and 30s, near-sacred notions of self-reliance paired with efforts to keep African-Americans dependent, and abolitionism. Annotation (c) Book News, Inc., Portland, OR).



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