1. Record Nr. UNINA9910463873703321 Autore Chang Derek <1969-> Titolo Citizens of a Christian nation [[electronic resource]]: Evangelical missions and the problem of race in the nineteenth century / / Derek Chang Philadelphia,: University of Pennsylvania Press, c2010 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-283-89747-4 0-8122-0595-2 Descrizione fisica 237 p Collana Politics and culture in modern America Disciplina 266.6131 Soggetti Home missions - United States - History - 19th century Baptists - Missions - United States - History - 19th century Evangelistic work - United States - History - 19th century African Americans - Missions - History - 19th century Chinese Americans - Missions - History - 19th century White people - United States - Attitudes - History - 19th century Missionaries - United States - Attitudes - History - 19th century Racism - Religious aspects - Baptists - History - 19th century Electronic books. United States Race relations Religious aspects History 19th century Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Front matter -- Contents -- Introduction -- Chapter 1. "A Grand and Awful Time" -- Chapter 2. Faith and Hope -- Chapter 3. Callings --Chapter 4. Congregation -- Chapter 5. Conflict and Community --Conclusion -- Notes -- Index -- Acknowledgments Sommario/riassunto In America after the Civil War, the emancipation of four million slaves and the explosion of Chinese immigration fundamentally challenged traditional ideas about who belonged in the national polity. As Americans struggled to redefine citizenship in the United States, the "Negro Problem" and the "Chinese Question" dominated the debate. During this turbulent period, which witnessed the Supreme Court's

Plessy v. Ferguson decision and passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act,

among other restrictive measures, American Baptists promoted religion instead of race as the primary marker of citizenship. Through its domestic missionary wing, the American Baptist Home Missionary Society, Baptists ministered to former slaves in the South and Chinese immigrants on the Pacific coast. Espousing an ideology of evangelical nationalism, in which the country would be united around Christianity rather than a particular race or creed, Baptists advocated inclusion of Chinese and African Americans in the national polity. Their hope for a Christian nation hinged on the social transformation of these two groups through spiritual and educational uplift. By 1900, the Society had helped establish important institutions that are still active today. including the Chinese Baptist Church and many historically black colleges and universities. Citizens of a Christian Nation chronicles the intertwined lives of African Americans, Chinese Americans, and the white missionaries who ministered to them. It traces the radical, religious, and nationalist ideology of the domestic mission movement, examining both the opportunities provided by the egalitarian tradition of evangelical Christianity and the limits imposed by its assumptions of cultural difference. The book further explores how blacks and Chinese reimagined the evangelical nationalist project to suit their own needs and hopes. Historian Derek Chang brings together for the first time African American and Chinese American religious histories through a multitiered local, regional, national, and even transnational analysis of race, nationalism, and evangelical thought and practice.