1. Record Nr. UNINA9910789382703321 Autore Wan Amy J. Titolo Producing good citizens: literacy training in anxious times // Amy J. Pubbl/distr/stampa Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:,: University of Pittsburgh Press,, 2014 ©2014 **ISBN** 0-8229-7960-8 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (231 pages) Collana Pittsburgh Series in Composition, Literacy, and Culture Classificazione LAN010000LAN005000 302.2/244 Disciplina Literacy - Political aspects - United States - History - 20th century Soggetti Citizenship - United States - History - 20th century Immigrants - United States - History - 20th century Acculturation - United States - History - 20th century Americanization - History - 20th century United States Social conditions 1865-1918 United States Social conditions 1918-1932 United States Ethnic relations Political aspects History 20th 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. In the Name of Citizenship -- Literacy Training, Americanization, and Nota di contenuto the Cultivation of the Productive Worker-Citizen -- Class Work: Labor Education and Literacy Hope -- English and Useful Citizenship in a Culture of Aspiration -- Teaching Literacy and Citizenship in the Twenty-First Century. Sommario/riassunto "Recent global security threats, economic instability, and political uncertainty have placed great scrutiny on the requirements for U.S. citizenship. The stipulation of literacy has long been one of these criteria. In Producing Good Citizens, Amy J. Wan examines the historic roots of this phenomenon, looking specifically to the period just before World War I, up until the Great Depression. During this time, the United States witnessed a similar anxiety over the influx of immigrants, economic uncertainty, and global political tensions. Early on, educators bore the brunt of literacy training, while also being charged with

producing the right kind of citizens by imparting civic responsibility

and a moral code for the workplace and society. Literacy quickly became the credential to gain legal, economic, and cultural status. In her study. Wan defines three distinct pedagogical spaces for literacy training during the 1910's and 1920's: Americanization and citizenship programs sponsored by the federal government, union-sponsored programs, and first year university writing programs. Wan also demonstrates how each literacy program had its own motivation: the federal government desired productive citizens, unions needed educated members to fight for labor reform, and university educators looked to aid social mobility. Citing numerous literacy theorists, Wan analyzes the correlation of reading and writing skills to larger currents within American society. She shows how early literacy training coincided with the demand for laborers during the rise of mass manufacturing, while also providing an avenue to economic opportunity for immigrants. This fostered a rhetorical link between citizenship. productivity, and patriotism. Wan supplements her analysis with an examination of citizen training books, labor newspapers, factory manuals, policy documents, public deliberations on citizenship and literacy, and other materials from the period to reveal the goal and rationale behind each program. Wan relates the enduring bond of literacy and citizenship to current times, by demonstrating the use of literacy to mitigate economic inequality, and its lasting value to a productivity-based society. Today, as in the past, educators continue to serve as an integral part of the literacy training and citizen-making process"--