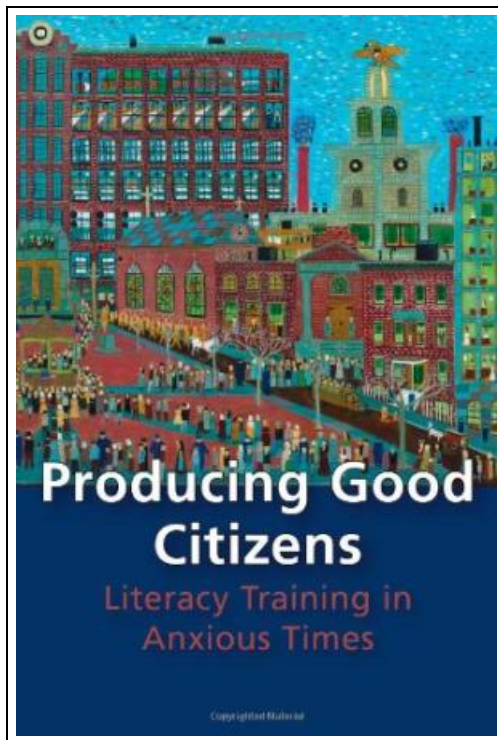


## Producing Good Citizens: Literacy Training in Anxious Times (Paperback)



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## PRODUCING GOOD CITIZENS: LITERACY TRAINING IN ANXIOUS TIMES (PAPERBACK)



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University of Pittsburgh Press, United States, 2014. Paperback. Condition: New. New. Language: English . Brand New Book. 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 1910s and 1920s: Americanisation and citizenship programmes sponsored by the federal government, union-sponsored programmes and first year university writing programmes. Wan also demonstrates how each literacy programme had its own motivation: the federal government desired productive citizens, unions needed educated members to fight for labour reform, and university educators looked to aid social mobility. Citing numerous literacy theorists, Wan analyses the correlation of reading and writing skills to larger currents within American society. She shows how early literacy training coincided with the demand for labourers 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, labour newspapers, factory manuals, policy documents, public deliberations on citizenship and literacy, and other materials from the period to reveal the goal and rationale...



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