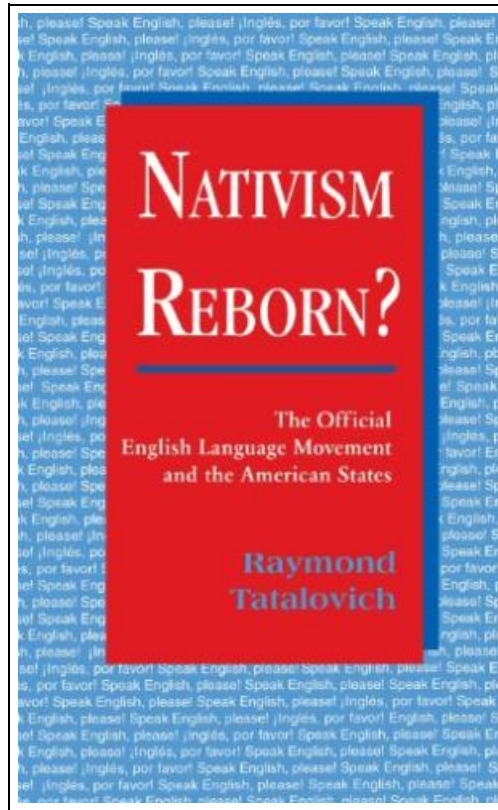


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Reviews

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(Janie Wilkinson)

NATIVISM REBORN?: THE OFFICIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE MOVEMENT (HARDBACK)



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The University Press of Kentucky, United States, 1995. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 224 x 148 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In July 1992 Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-WV) angrily suggested during floor debate. that the United States should not continue accepting immigrants who speak no English. I pick up the telephone and call the local garage, Byrd said. I can t understand the person on the other side of the line. I m not sure he can understand me. They re all over the place, and they don t speak English. We want more of this? Later he apologized for the remark, saying, I regret that in the heat of the moment I spoke unwisely. Is America in the midst of another backlash against foreigners? In the wide-ranging controversy over multiculturalism that has generated much heat in recent years, one of the most volatile issues is whether the United States should reflect a dominant English-speaking majority or encourage a multilingual culture.Tied up with this emotional issue is a growing anxiety on the part of many Americans about the new wave of non-European immigrants. It is not without significance, says S.I. Hayakawa, who was a founder of U.S. English, that pressure against English language legislation does not come from any immigrant group other than the Hispanic: not from the Chinese or Koreans or Filipinos or Vietnamese; nor from immigrant Iranians, Turks, Greeks, East Indians, Ghanians, Ethiopians, Italians, or Swedes. Raymond Tatalovich has conducted the first detailed, systematic, and empirical study of the official English movement in the United States, seeking answers to two crucial questions: What motivations underlie the agitation for official English? Does the movement originate at the grassroots level or is it driven by elites?Since 1980, fifteen states have passed laws establishing English as the official language...



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