



# Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation

By Nicholas Sammond

Download now

Read Online →

## Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation By Nicholas Sammond

In *Birth of an Industry*, Nicholas Sammond describes how popular early American cartoon characters were derived from blackface minstrelsy. He charts the industrialization of animation in the early twentieth century, its representation in the cartoons themselves, and how important blackface minstrels were to that performance, standing in for the frustrations of animation workers. Cherished cartoon characters, such as Mickey Mouse and Felix the Cat, were conceived and developed using blackface minstrelsy's visual and performative conventions: these characters are not like minstrels; they are minstrels. They play out the social, cultural, political, and racial anxieties and desires that link race to the laboring body, just as live minstrel show performers did. Carefully examining how early animation helped to naturalize virulent racial formations, Sammond explores how cartoons used laughter and sentimentality to make those stereotypes seem not only less cruel, but actually pleasurable. Although the visible links between cartoon characters and the minstrel stage faded long ago, Sammond shows how important those links are to thinking about animation then and now, and about how cartoons continue to help to illuminate the central place of race in American cultural and social life.

↓ [Download Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the ...pdf](#)

📄 [Read Online Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and t ...pdf](#)

# Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation

By Nicholas Sammond

**Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation** By Nicholas Sammond

In *Birth of an Industry*, Nicholas Sammond describes how popular early American cartoon characters were derived from blackface minstrelsy. He charts the industrialization of animation in the early twentieth century, its representation in the cartoons themselves, and how important blackface minstrels were to that performance, standing in for the frustrations of animation workers. Cherished cartoon characters, such as Mickey Mouse and Felix the Cat, were conceived and developed using blackface minstrelsy's visual and performative conventions: these characters are not like minstrels; they are minstrels. They play out the social, cultural, political, and racial anxieties and desires that link race to the laboring body, just as live minstrel show performers did. Carefully examining how early animation helped to naturalize virulent racial formations, Sammond explores how cartoons used laughter and sentimentality to make those stereotypes seem not only less cruel, but actually pleasurable. Although the visible links between cartoon characters and the minstrel stage faded long ago, Sammond shows how important those links are to thinking about animation then and now, and about how cartoons continue to help to illuminate the central place of race in American cultural and social life.

## **Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation** By Nicholas Sammond Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #560745 in Books
- Published on: 2015-09-11
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.97" h x .49" w x 6.05" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 400 pages

 [Download Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and t ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation By Nicholas Sammond

---

### Editorial Review

#### Review

"This is a truly foundational book, explaining how blackface minstrelsy is central to the representational practices, industrial systems, and technologies of animation. *The Birth of an Industry* analyzes cinema and race through the lenses of labor and aesthetics, and the elegant and scrupulous historiographic practice serves as an example to scholars working in any number of fields. Nicholas Sammond has made an immediate and lasting contribution to our understanding of the peculiar symbiosis of race and cinema, and to its particular relevance to the animated film."

(Eric Smoodin, author of *Regarding Frank Capra: Audience, Celebrity, and American Film Studies*)

"Welcome to an X-ray of Toontown, its Bones showing. Minstrelsy has sometimes seemed the skeleton in the closet of American animation, its racist tar coons hiding inside our most beloved cartoons—Felix, Mickey, Bugs, Daffy, and a host of others both before and after them. With sweeping erudition and definitive archival and theoretical diagnoses, Nicholas Sammond shows just how pervasively blackface figurations have formed the backbone of our animated fantasy lives. Modern cartoons don't merely nod to nineteenth-century blackface performance, Sammond establishes, they constitute its afterlife."

(Eric Lott, author of *Love and Theft: Blackface Minstrelsy and the American Working Class*)

"Nicholas Sammond's study provides a detailed, thoughtful, exhaustively researched examination of the process by which the early animation studios cast about for technical and semiotic models to inform their new art form and drew upon the complex and conflicted vocabulary of blackface minstrelsy to do so."

(Christopher J. Smith *Journal of American History* 2016-09-01)

"*Birth of an Industry* is a welcome addition and valuable contribution to the ongoing academic discussion of the relationship of ethnic tensions to the art and business of animation."

(Christopher P. Lehman *African American Review* 2016-06-01)

"Sammond's impressive *Birth of an Industry* condenses and stretches various links among the evolving art, labor, and business of early animated film."

(T. Lindvall *Choice* 2016-04-01)

#### About the Author

Nicholas Sammond is Associate Professor of Cinema Studies at the University of Toronto. He is the author of *Babes in Tomorrowland: Walt Disney and the Making of the American Child, 1930-60*, and the editor of *Steel Chair to the Head: Essays on Professional Wrestling*, both also published by Duke University Press.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

#### Kim Bartlett:

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students since they are still students or that for all people in the world, the actual best subject for that? Only you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has

different personality and hobby per other. Don't be pushed someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great in addition to important the book *Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation*. All type of book could you see on many sources. You can look for the internet resources or other social media.

### **Sang Weems:**

As people who live in typically the modest era should be update about what going on or information even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era and that is always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation* is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

### **Eunice Randle:**

Do you like reading a e-book? Confuse to looking for your selected book? Or your book has been rare? Why so many concern for the book? But virtually any people feel that they enjoy regarding reading. Some people likes reading, not only science book but in addition novel and *Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation* as well as others sources were given know-how for you. After you know how the good a book, you feel wish to read more and more. Science publication was created for teacher or even students especially. Those ebooks are helping them to put their knowledge. In additional case, beside science guide, any other book likes *Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation* to make your spare time far more colorful. Many types of book like this one.

### **Jeremy Bryant:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got learners? We believe that that query was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everybody has different hobby. And also you know that little person similar to reading or as reading through become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important and book as to be the matter. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You will find good news or update regarding something by book. Numerous books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them is *Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation*.

**Download and Read Online *Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation* By Nicholas Sammond #8TICQUPFE9R**

## **Read Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation By Nicholas Sammond for online ebook**

Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation By Nicholas Sammond Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation By Nicholas Sammond books to read online.

## **Online Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation By Nicholas Sammond ebook PDF download**

**Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation By Nicholas Sammond Doc**

**Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation By Nicholas Sammond Mobipocket**

**Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation By Nicholas Sammond EPub**

**8TICQUPFE9R: Birth of an Industry: Blackface Minstrelsy and the Rise of American Animation By Nicholas Sammond**