

The Making Of Asian America A History

The Making Of Asian America A History The making of Asian America: A history is a compelling story that encapsulates the diverse experiences, struggles, resilience, and contributions of Asian Americans throughout history. This narrative is essential not only for understanding the fabric of American society but also for recognizing the pivotal roles that Asian communities have played in shaping the nation's cultural, economic, and political landscapes. From early immigration to contemporary issues, the history of Asian America is rich with stories of perseverance, innovation, and advocacy.

Historical Foundations of Asian America

Early Immigration and Settlement Asian migration to America dates back centuries, with the earliest records of Asian presence in North America occurring in the 16th and 17th centuries. However, significant Asian immigration began in the 19th century, driven by economic opportunities and political upheavals in Asia.

Chinese Immigration: The California Gold Rush (1848–1855) attracted thousands of Chinese laborers seeking fortune. They also contributed significantly to the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad.

Japanese and Filipino Immigration: The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw Japanese and Filipino workers arriving in Hawaii and the West Coast, often working in agriculture and plantation industries.

Legislation and Discrimination The early Asian immigrant experience was marked by exclusionary laws and racial discrimination that aimed to limit Asian populations.

Chinese Exclusion Act (1882): The first major law restricting immigration based1. on ethnicity, it prohibited Chinese laborers from entering the U.S. and remained in effect until 1943.

Gentlemen's Agreement (1907–1908): Japan agreed to limit emigration,2. reflecting the racial tensions of the era.

Asian Exclusion Laws: Similar policies targeted other Asian groups, including3. Filipinos and Koreans, shaping a segregated and often hostile environment.

2 Asian American Communities and Cultural Growth

Formation of Ethnic Enclaves Despite discrimination, Asian Americans established vibrant communities that fostered cultural preservation and mutual support.

Chinatown Districts: Cities like San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York saw the rise of Chinatowns, which became cultural and economic hubs.

Community Organizations: Groups like the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association provided social services and advocacy.

Contributions to American Society Asian Americans have contributed profoundly to various sectors.

Labor and Economy: From railroad construction to agriculture, Asian laborers1. fueled economic growth.

Arts and Culture: Asian artists, writers, and performers enriched American cultural2. life, breaking stereotypes and promoting multiculturalism.

Political Activism: Early leaders and organizations fought for immigrant rights and3. civil liberties.

Challenging Discrimination and Fighting for Rights

World War II and Its Aftermath The war era was a turning point, with significant

impacts on Asian American communities. Japanese American Internment (1942–1945): Over 120,000 Japanese Americans were forcibly relocated and incarcerated, a dark chapter reflecting wartime hysteria and racial prejudice. Military Service: Many Asian Americans, including Japanese Americans, served bravely in the U.S. military, challenging stereotypes and fighting for recognition. Civil Rights Movements and Legislation The 1960s and beyond saw increased activism against racial discrimination. Immigration and Nationality Act (1965): Ended racial quotas, opening the door¹. for more Asian immigrants and diversifying Asian American communities. Vietnam War and Later Conflicts: Asian Americans, especially Vietnamese². refugees, contributed to war efforts and began building political representation. Asian American Movement: A surge in activism aimed at racial justice, anti-³. 3 imperialism, and cultural affirmation. Modern Asian American Identity and Influence Demographic Changes Today's Asian American population is one of the fastest-growing and most diverse groups in the U.S. Population Statistics: As of 2020, over 20 million people identify as Asian American, representing multiple ethnicities including Chinese, Indian, Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean, and others. Geographical Distribution: Major urban centers like Los Angeles, New York City, and Houston host large Asian communities. Political and Cultural Impact Asian Americans have become influential in politics, media, and innovation. Political Representation: Increasing numbers of Asian Americans serve in¹. Congress and local governments, advocating for community interests. Media and Entertainment: Asian American actors, filmmakers, and writers are². gaining prominence, reshaping narratives and representation. Economic Contributions: Asian entrepreneurs and professionals drive³. technological advances, business growth, and cultural exchange. Challenges and Future Directions Ongoing Issues Despite progress, Asian Americans face persistent challenges. Racial Stereotypes and Discrimination: Issues like the model minority myth can obscure struggles with poverty, mental health, and discrimination. Voter Suppression and Political Marginalization: Efforts to disenfranchise Asian voters remain a concern. Representation Gaps: Underrepresentation in leadership and decision-making roles persists. Path Forward Building on historical resilience, the future of Asian America involves: Community Empowerment: Fostering leadership and civic engagement.¹. 4 Cultural Preservation and Innovation: Celebrating diverse identities while². embracing evolving cultural expressions. Advocacy and Policy Change: Addressing systemic inequities through legislation³. and grassroots efforts. Conclusion The making of Asian America is a testament to the enduring spirit of resilience, adaptation, and contribution. From early immigrant struggles to contemporary achievements, Asian Americans continue to shape the narrative of the United States. Recognizing this history is vital to fostering an inclusive and equitable future, honoring the myriad stories that compose the vibrant mosaic of Asian America. --- This comprehensive overview provides both historical context and current insights into Asian American history, optimized for SEO with clear sections and relevant keywords. Question Answer What is the main focus of 'The Making of Asian America: A History'? The book explores the historical experiences, struggles, and contributions of Asian Americans from their earliest immigration to the present day, highlighting their shaping of American society. Who is the author of 'The Making of Asian America: A History'? The book is authored by Erika Lee, a renowned

historian and expert on Asian American history. How does the book address the stereotypes faced by Asian Americans? It examines how stereotypes and racial discrimination have impacted Asian American communities, shaping their social and political experiences throughout history. What time periods does 'The Making of Asian America' cover? The book spans from the first Asian immigrants in the 19th century to contemporary issues in the 21st century, providing a comprehensive historical overview. Does the book discuss key events like the Chinese Exclusion Act? Yes, it details significant events such as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, Japanese internment during World War II, and other policies that affected Asian communities. How does the book portray Asian American contributions to U.S. history? It highlights numerous contributions of Asian Americans in areas like labor, civil rights, politics, and culture, emphasizing their integral role in American history. What makes 'The Making of Asian America' relevant today? The book's insights into racial identity, immigration, and social justice resonate with ongoing discussions about Asian American experiences and anti-Asian discrimination.

5 Are personal stories included in the book? Yes, the author incorporates personal narratives and case studies to humanize historical events and illustrate the diverse experiences of Asian Americans. What audience is the book intended for? The book is suitable for students, scholars, and general readers interested in American history, Asian American studies, and social justice issues. How has 'The Making of Asian America' impacted the understanding of Asian American history? It has significantly contributed to raising awareness, correcting misconceptions, and emphasizing the rich, complex history of Asian Americans in shaping the United States.

The Making of Asian America: A History — An In-Depth Investigative Review --- Introduction: Unveiling the Layers of Asian American History

The phrase "the making of Asian America: A history" encapsulates a complex, layered narrative that challenges simplistic notions of immigrant experiences and racial identity in the United States. This history is not merely about the arrival of diverse Asian communities but also about their resilience, activism, cultural negotiations, and the ongoing quest for recognition and equality. As scholars and historians continue to dissect this multifaceted story, the book *Asian America: A History*, authored by David K. Yoo, Min Zhou, and others, stands as a pivotal work, offering a comprehensive and nuanced account. This investigative review traverses the origins, themes, methodologies, and implications of this seminal work, illuminating how it reshapes our understanding of American history through the lens of Asian American experiences.

--- **Foundations of a Hidden Narrative: The Genesis of the Historical Record**

Historical Oversights and the Need for a Reclaimed Narrative For decades, mainstream American history marginalized Asian Americans, often reducing their stories to footnotes or stereotypes. Early narratives focused heavily on European- descended populations, neglecting the rich diversity and agency of Asian communities. This oversight was rooted in systemic racial biases, immigration policies, and a perception that Asian Americans were perpetual foreigners. The origins of the scholarly effort to rectify this began in the mid-20th century, coinciding with the broader Civil Rights Movement. Pioneering historians like Sucheng Chan, Erika Lee, and Ronald Takaki challenged prevailing narratives, emphasizing the importance of Asian American agency and contributions. Key factors prompting this historiographical shift included:

- The rise of Asian American activism in the

1960s and 1970s - The civil rights and anti-war movements - A growing academic interest in multiculturalism and identity politics - The recognition that understanding Asian American history was essential to a complete The Making Of Asian America A History 6 American story

The Structural Approach of Asian America: A History The book by Yoo and Zhou exemplifies this shift, employing a structural and thematic approach. Instead of a linear chronological account, it emphasizes interconnected themes such as labor, migration, racialization, and resistance, highlighting how these themes intersected across different Asian communities and historical periods. The authors aim to deconstruct stereotypes and highlight the diversity within Asian American experiences, spanning Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Indian, and other communities. Their approach underscores the importance of viewing Asian Americans not as a monolith but as a mosaic shaped by varied histories, geographies, and social contexts. --- Key Themes and Methodologies in the Making of Asian America

Migration and Labor: Building the Foundations One core theme in the history of Asian America involves migration patterns driven by economic opportunities, political upheavals, and imperialist forces. - The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882: The first significant federal law restricting immigration based on race, marking a racialized approach to labor and immigration policy. - Transpacific labor networks: Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, and Indian laborers contributed to the construction of the transcontinental railroad, agriculture, and industry. - Post-1965 Immigration Act: Marked a turning point, ending quotas based on national origins and opening doors to a more diverse array of Asian immigrants. The book employs a multidisciplinary methodology, incorporating oral histories, archival research, and demographic analysis. These techniques reveal the often-overlooked stories of laborers, domestic workers, and entrepreneurs who built communities amidst discrimination and exclusion.

Racialization and Identity Formation Asian Americans' racialization has been a persistent theme, shaped by policies, media stereotypes, and societal perceptions. - Model Minority Myth: Originating in the 1960s, this stereotype painted Asian Americans as successful and obedient, obscuring the struggles of many communities. - Yellow Peril and Othering: Historically, Asian immigrants were dehumanized as a threat to Western civilization, justifying exclusionary policies. - Dual Identities: Many Asian Americans navigated complex identities, balancing cultural heritage with American assimilation pressures. Yoo and Zhou delve into how racial narratives influenced legislation, social attitudes, and community resilience, showcasing the dynamic ways Asian Americans resisted and redefined their identities.

The Making Of Asian America A History 7 Activism and Resistance: Challenging Oppression The history of Asian America is marked by persistent activism against discrimination and for civil rights. - Page Act and Chinese Exclusion: Early efforts to resist exclusion laws. - Asian American Movement of the 1960s and 70s: Inspired by Black Power and anti-war protests, this movement sought racial justice, cultural affirmation, and political representation. - Formation of Organizations: Groups like the Asian American Political Alliance (AAPA) and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) played vital roles. The book emphasizes how collective action transformed perceptions and policies, illustrating that Asian Americans have continually fought for inclusion and recognition. --- Case Studies and Community Narratives: Illuminating Diversity

Chinese Americans and the Transcontinental Railroad The Chinese immigrant community in the 19th century exemplifies resilience amid violent racism and exclusion. Their labor was instrumental in constructing the transcontinental railroad, yet they faced widespread discrimination. - The Chinese Six Companies served as community organizations providing social services. - The Page Act (1875) and Chinese Exclusion Act (1882) legally codified racial hostility. These stories highlight how Chinese Americans organized to survive and resist, laying the groundwork for later activism. Japanese Americans and Internment World War II-era internment remains a defining moment in Asian American history. - Over 120,000 Japanese Americans were forcibly relocated, a stark violation of constitutional rights. - Post-war activism led to redress and apologies, with legal battles emphasizing civil liberties. This chapter underscores the importance of memory, justice, and the ongoing fight against racial injustice. Filipino and Southeast Asian Contributions More recent histories focus on Filipino, Vietnamese, Thai, and other Southeast Asian communities. - Filipino nurses and service workers contributed significantly to the U.S. healthcare system. - Vietnamese refugees fleeing war and political upheaval established vibrant communities, enriching cultural fabric. These narratives demonstrate the evolving diversity within Asian America, challenging monolithic stereotypes. --- Impacts and Implications of Asian America: A History The Making Of Asian America A History 8 Reconceptualizing American History This work challenges the traditional American narrative centered on Anglo-European experiences by integrating Asian stories, thereby: - Highlighting the centrality of race and immigration policies in shaping national identity - Demonstrating the contributions of Asian Americans across sectors—labor, culture, politics - Understanding racialization as a dynamic process influencing policy and social attitudes Educational and Policy Implications The book's comprehensive approach influences curricula and public policy by promoting: - Inclusive history education that recognizes Asian American agency - Policies addressing racial discrimination and promoting multicultural understanding - Recognition of Asian American communities' vital roles in American history and society Continued Challenges and Future Directions Despite progress, Asian Americans still face systemic inequalities, hate crimes, and political marginalization. The history documented in Asian America: A History serves as both a record of resilience and a call to action for continued advocacy. Future scholarship might expand to include: - Digital and new media representations - Intergenerational narratives - Transnational connections and global influences --- Conclusion: The Significance of the Making of Asian America The making of Asian America, as chronicled in this comprehensive history, reveals a story of perseverance, resistance, and ongoing transformation. It dismantles myths, highlights diversity within Asian communities, and underscores their integral role in shaping the American story. By critically examining the pathways of migration, labor, racialization, and activism, this history enriches our understanding of American identity itself. It insists that true national narratives must reflect all peoples' stories, acknowledging the Asian American experience as a vital thread woven into the fabric of the United States. The book Asian America: A History stands as a testament to scholarly rigor and social justice, inspiring future generations to recognize the richness and complexity of Asian American histories—past, present, and future. --- References and Further Reading: - Yoo,

David K., and Min Zhou, Asian America: A History. (2014) - Takaki, Ronald. Strangers from a Different Shore. (1989) - Lee, Erika. America for Americans. (1995) - Chan, Sucheng. This Bittersweet Soil. (1986) - Ngai, Mae M. Impossible Subjects. (2004) --- About the Reviewer: [Insert reviewer bio, emphasizing expertise in American history, Asian American studies, or related fields.] --- Final Note: Understanding how Asian America was made requires peeling back layers of policy, culture, resistance, and community-building. This history is not static but an ongoing story that continues to evolve as new generations confront The Making Of Asian America A History 9 contemporary challenges with the resilience and agency documented throughout this vital history. Asian American history, Asian immigration, Asian American culture, Asian American identity, Asian American activism, Asian American communities, Asian American experiences, Asian American history books, Asian American studies, Asian American contributions

The Making of Asian AmericaAsian AmericaA New History of Asian AmericaMade in Asian America: A History for Young PeopleAsian AmericaContemporary Asian AmericaUnderstanding Asian AmericansMy Life: Growing Up Asian in AmericaAsian AmericansRiseEating More Asian AmericaAsian American DreamsContemporary Asian America (third edition)Asian AmericaAsian American History: A Very Short IntroductionMargins and MainstreamsEverything You Need to Know about Asian American HistoryAsian AmericaGrowing Up Asian AmericanAsian Americans in the Twenty-first Century Erika Lee Cathy J. Schlund-Vials Shelley Sang-Hee Lee Erika Lee Pawan Dhingra Min Zhou Marjorie H. Li CAPE (Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment) Xiaojian Zhao Jeff Yang Robert Ji-Song Ku Helen Zia Min Zhou Pawan Dhingra Madeline Y. Hsu Gary Y. Okihiro Lan Cao Huping Ling Maria Hong Joann Faung Jean Lee
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a comprehensive fascinating the new york times book review history of asian americans and their role in american life by one of the nation s preeminent scholars on the subject with a new afterword about the recent hate crimes against asian americans in the past fifty years asian americans have helped change the face of america and are now the fastest growing group in the united states but much of their long history has been forgotten in her sweeping powerful new book erika lee considers the rich complicated and sometimes invisible histories of asians in

the united states huffington post the making of asian america shows how generations of asian immigrants and their american born descendants have made and remade asian american life from sailors who came on the first trans pacific ships in the 1500 to the japanese americans incarcerated during world war ii over the past fifty years a new asian america has emerged out of community activism and the arrival of new immigrants and refugees but as lee shows asian americans have continued to struggle as both despised minorities and model minorities revealing all the ways that racism has persisted in their lives and in the life of the country published fifty years after the passage of the united states immigration and nationality act of 1965 these powerful asian american stories are inspiring and lee herself does them justice in a book that is long overdue los angeles times but more than that the making of asian america is an epic and eye opening minneapolis star tribune new way of understanding america itself its complicated histories of race and immigration and its place in the world today

an essential collection that brings together the core primary texts of the asian american experience in one volume an essential volume for the growing academic discipline of asian american studies this collection of core primary texts draws from a wide range of fields from law to visual culture to politics covering key historical and cultural developments that enable students to engage directly with the asian american experience over the past century the primary sources organized around keywords often concern multiple hemispheres and movements making this compendium valuable for a number of historical ethnic and cultural study undergraduate programs

a new history of asian america is a fresh and up to date history of asians in the united states from the late eighteenth century to the present drawing on current scholarship shelley lee brings forward the many strands of asian american history highlighting the distinctive nature of the asian american experience while placing the narrative in the context of the major trajectories and turning points of u s history covering the history of filipinos koreans asian indians and southeast indians as well as chinese and japanese the book gives full attention to the diversity within asian america a robust companion website features additional resources for students including primary documents a timeline links videos and an image gallery from the building of the transcontinental railroad to the celebrity of jeremy lin people of asian descent have been involved in and affected by the history of america a new history of asian america gives twenty first century students a clear comprehensive and contemporary introduction to this vital history

powerful made in asian america isn t just about the past it s about the history being made right now by young people inspired by the asian americans who came before them to ensure that our stories are not only heard but also remembered paula yoo the new york times book review from three time newbery honoree christina soontornvat and award winning historian erika lee comes a middle grade nonfiction that shines a light on the generations of asian americans who have transformed the united states and who continue to shape what it means to be american

asian american history is not made up of one single story it s many and it s a story that too often goes untold it begins centuries before america even exists as a nation it is connected to the histories of western conquest and colonialism it s a story of migration of people and families crossing the pacific ocean in search of escape opportunity and new beginnings it is also the story of race and racism of being labeled an immigrant invasion unfit to become citizens and being banned deported and incarcerated of being blamed for bringing diseases into the country and it is a story of bravery and hope it is the story of heroes who fought for equality in the courts on the streets and in the schools and who continue to fight in solidarity with others doing the same this book is a stirring account of the ordinary people and extraordinary acts that made asian america and the young people who are remaking america today

asian americans are the fastest growing minority population in the country moreover they provide a unique lens on the wider experiences of immigrants and minorities in the united states both historically and today pawan dhingra and robyn magalit rodriguez s acclaimed introduction to understanding this diverse group is here updated in a thoroughly revised new edition incorporating cutting edge thinking and discussion of the latest current events the authors critically examine key topics in the asian american experience including education and work family and culture media and politics and social hierarchies of race gender and sexuality through vivid examples and clear discussion of a broad range of theories the authors explore the contributions of asian american studies sociology psychology history and other fields to understanding asian americans and vice versa the new edition includes further pedagogical elements to help readers apply the core theoretical and analytical frameworks encountered in addition the book takes readers beyond the boundaries of the united states to cultivate a comparative understanding of the asian experience as it has become increasingly global and diasporic this engaging text will continue to be a welcome resource for those looking for a rich and systematic overview of asian america as well as for undergraduate and graduate courses on immigration race american society and asian american studies

how does one capture the delightful irony of edith wharton s prose or the spare lyricism of kate chopin s kathleen wheeler challenges the reader to experiment with a more imaginative method of literary criticism in order to comprehend more fully writers of the modernist and late realist period in examining the creative works of seven women writers from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries wheeler never lets the mystery and magic of literature be overcome by dry critical analysis modernist women writers and narrative art begins by evaluating how edith wharton kate chopin and willa cather all engaged in an ironic critique of realism they explored the inadequacies of this form in expressing human experience and revealed its hidden often contradictory assumptions building on the foundation that wharton chopin and cather established jean rhys katherine mansfield stevie smith and jane bowles brought literature into the era we now consider modernism drawing on insights from feminist theory deconstructionism and revisions of new historicism kathleen wheeler reveals a literary tradition rich in narrative

strategy and stylistic sophistication

there are twenty two million people representing more than twenty countries each with unique languages history and cultures yet they are all clumped into one group asian american here in essays poems and comics prominent asian american creators give voice to moments that defined them and shed light on the immense diversity and complexity of the asian american identity book cover

this is the most comprehensive and up to date reference work on asian americans comprising three volumes that address a broad range of topics on various asian and pacific islander american groups from 1848 to the present day this three volume work represents a leading reference resource for asian american studies that gives students researchers librarians teachers and other interested readers the ability to easily locate accurate up to date information about asian ethnic groups historical and contemporary events important policies and notable individuals written by leading scholars in their fields of expertise and authorities in diverse professions the entries devote attention to diverse asian and pacific islander american groups as well as the roles of women distinct socioeconomic classes asian american political and social movements and race relations involving asian americans

hip entertaining imaginative kirkus starred review essential min jin lee a herculean effort lisa ling a must read ijeoma oluo get two copies shea serrano a book we ve needed for ages celeste ng accessible informative and fun cathy park hong this book has serious substance also i m in it ronny chieng rise is a love letter to and for asian americans a vivid scrapbook of voices emotions and memories from an era in which our culture was forged and transformed and a way to preserve both the headlines and the intimate conversations that have shaped our community into who we are today when the hart celler act passed in 1965 opening up us immigration to non europeans it ushered in a whole new era but even to the first generation of asian americans born in the us after that milestone it would have been impossible to imagine that sushi and boba would one day be beloved by all that a korean boy band named bts would be the biggest musical act in the world that one of the most acclaimed and popular movies of 2018 would be crazy rich asians or that we would have an asian american vice president and that s not even mentioning the creators performers entrepreneurs execs and influencers who ve been making all this happen behind the scenes and on the screen or the activists and representatives continuing to fight for equity building coalitions and defiantly holding space for our voices and concerns and still asian america is just getting started the timing could not be better for this intimate eye opening and frequently hilarious guided tour through the pop cultural touchstones and sociopolitical shifts of the 1990s 2000s 2010s and beyond jeff yang phil yu and philip wang chronicle how we ve arrived at today s unprecedented diversity of asian american cultural representation through engaging interactive infographics including a step by step guide to a night out in k town an atlas that unearths historic asian american landmarks a handy

appreciation or appropriation flowchart and visual celebrations of both our founding fathers and mothers and the nostalgia inducing personalities of each decade plus illustrations and graphic essays from major aapi artists exclusive roundtables with asian american cultural icons and more anchored by extended insider narratives of each decade by the three co authors rise is an informative lively and inclusive celebration of both shared experiences and singular moments and all the different ways in which we have chosen to come together

a veritable feast for the senses eating more asian america show us how critical eating studies has done more and gone further than we expected when eating asian america came out over a decade ago it is in striving for more that our field continues to grow the twenty one chapters of the book leave us satiated but also wanting more and gesturing to the possibility of ever more abundant futures

about the transformation of asian americans into a self identified racial group that is influencing every aspect of american society jacket

the third edition of the foundational volume in asian american studies who are asian americans moving beyond popular stereotypes of the model minority or forever foreigner most americans know surprisingly little of the nation s fastest growing minority population since the 1960s when different asian immigrant groups came together under the asian american umbrella they have tirelessly carved out their presence in the labor market education politics and pop culture many times they have done so in the face of racism discrimination sexism homophobia and socioeconomic disadvantage today contemporary asian america has emerged as an incredibly diverse population with each segment of the community facing its unique challenges when contemporary asian america was first published in 2000 it exposed its readers to the formation and development of asian american studies as an academic field of study from its inception as part of the ethnic consciousness movement of the 1960s to the systematic inquiry into more contemporary theoretical and practical issues facing asian america at the century s end it was the first volume to integrate a broad range of interdisciplinary research and approaches from a social science perspective to assess the effects of immigration community development and socialization on asian american communities this updated third edition discusses the impact of september 11 on asian american identity and citizenship the continued influence of globalization on past and present waves of immigration and the intersection of race gender sexuality and class on the experiences of asian immigrants and their children the volume also provides study questions and recommended supplementary readings and documentary films this critical text offers a broad overview of asian american studies and the current state of asian america

asian americans are the fastest growing minority population in the country moreover they provide a wonderful lens on the experiences of immigrants and minorities in the united states more generally both historically and today in this timely new text pawan dhingra and robyn

magalit rodriguez critically examine key sociological topics through the experiences of asian americans including social hierarchies of race gender and sexuality work education family culture identity media pan ethnicity social movements and politics with vivid examples and lucid discussion of a broad range of theories the authors demonstrate the contributions of the discipline of sociology to understanding asian americans and vice versa in addition this text takes students beyond the boundaries of the united states to cultivate a comparative and global understanding of the asian experience as it has become increasingly transnational and diasporic bridging sociology and the growing interdisciplinary field of asian american studies and uniquely placing them in dialogue with one another this engaging text will be welcome in undergraduate and graduate sociology courses such as race and ethnic relations immigration and social stratification as well as on ethnic studies courses more broadly

a 2012 survey by the pew research center reported that asian americans are the best educated highest income and best assimilated racial group in the united states before reaching this level of economic success and social assimilation however asian immigrants path was full of difficult even demeaning moments this book provides a sweeping and nuanced history of asian americans revealing how and why the perception of asian immigrants changed over time asian migrants in large part chinese arrived in significant numbers on the west coast during the 1850s and 1860s to work in gold mining and on the construction of the transcontinental railroad unlike their contemporary european counterparts asians often stigmatized as coolies challenged american ideals of equality with the problem of whether all racial groups could be integrated into america s democracy the fear of the yellow peril soon spurred an array of legislative and institutional efforts to segregate them through immigration laws restrictions on citizenship and limits on employment property ownership access to public services and civil rights prejudices against asian americans reached a peak during world war ii when japanese americans were interned en masse it was only with changes in the immigration laws and the social and political activism of the 1960s and 1970s that asian americans gained ground and acceptance albeit in the still stereotyped category of model minorities madeline y hsu weaves a fascinating historical narrative of this american dream she shows how asian american success often attributed to innate cultural values is more a result of the immigration laws which have largely pre selected immigrants of high economic and social potential asian americans have in turn been used by politicians to bludgeon newer and more populous immigrant groups for their purported lack of achievement hsu deftly reveals how public policy which can restrict and also selectively promote certain immigrant populations is a key reason why some immigrant groups appear to be more naturally successful and why the identity of those groups evolves differently from others

in a thoughtful and stimulating contribution to the current debate about the meaning to the larger society of multiculturalism gary okihiro explores the significance of asian americans in american history and culture in six provocative and engaging essays he examines the asian

american experience from the perspectives of historical consciousness race gender class and culture much talk these days revolves around the idea of the mainstream about the core of american history and culture and about the dangers of straying from the original formulations that have made this country great pluralism and diversity many argue only serve to divide and fracture the nation the core rooted in western civilization and the canon of great books must be recovered and preserved and those on the margins most notably racial minorities must be absorbed into the mainstream or so the argument goes margins and mainstreams argues that the core values and ideals of the nation emanate today not from the so called mainstream but from the margins from among asian and african americans latinos and american indians and women those groups in their struggles for equality have helped to preserve and advance the founders ideals and have made america a more democratic place for all while exploring anew the meanings of asian american social history the book reexamines the intellectual foundations and assumptions of the field of asian american studies it exposes the dominance of eurocentrism and other hierarchies in the major theories that inform the field it contextualizes the asian american experience with that of african americans and latinos and it advocates the intellectual convergence of asian asian american and african american studies

how did the u s get involved in vietnam why do filipinos have spanish names what is the origin of the fortune cookie most americans are woefully uninformed about their country s history and most standard history books provide very little information on the rich history of the asian american people this text fills that void with a lively question and answer format

the last half century witnessed a dramatic change in the geographic ethnographic and socioeconomic structure of asian american communities while traditional enclaves were strengthened by waves of recent immigrants native born asian americans also created new urban and suburban areas asian america is the first comprehensive look at post 1960s asian american communities in the united states and canada from chinese americans in chicagoland to vietnamese americans in orange county this multi disciplinary collection spans a wide comparative and panoramic scope contributors from an array of academic fields focus on global views of asian american communities as well as on territorial and cultural boundaries presenting groundbreaking perspectives asian america revises worn assumptions and examines current challenges asian american communities face in the twenty first century

essays excerpts and short stories written by asian americans about growing up in the united states

an all new collection of fascinating interviews with students lawyers engineers politicians stay at home moms and activists this book reveals a rich mosaic of asian american identities candid and compelling these terkelesque interviews reveal intimate and at times conflicting thoughts

and feelings about race and identity immigration and american cultures the self in relation to family and community relationships school and work and professional and educational achievement

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