

the making of asian america

the making of asian america is a transformative journey that reveals the rich and complex history of Asian communities in the United States. This article explores the evolution, struggles, and cultural contributions of Asian Americans, tracing their path from early immigration to their significant roles in shaping American society today. Readers will learn about key historical events, the diversity within Asian American populations, the challenges faced through exclusion and discrimination, and the ongoing efforts for civil rights and representation. The narrative also highlights the influence of Asian traditions, values, and entrepreneurship in the broader cultural landscape. Through a detailed examination, this article offers a comprehensive look at how Asian America was made, emphasizing both its unique identity and its integral place in the fabric of American life. Dive in to discover the stories, milestones, and enduring impact that define the making of Asian America.

- The Origins of Asian Immigration to America
- Early Asian American Communities and Contributions
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The Origins of Asian Immigration to America

The making of Asian America began in the 19th century, marked by the arrival of the first Asian immigrants on American soil. Driven by a combination of economic hardship, political unrest, and the promise of opportunity, Chinese laborers were among the earliest groups to settle in the United States. They played a pivotal role in the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad, working under harsh conditions for minimal pay. Soon after, immigrants from Japan, Korea, India, and the Philippines followed, each group bringing their own hopes and traditions. These early arrivals often faced cultural isolation and difficult living conditions but laid the groundwork for future generations of Asian Americans.

Their journeys were shaped by both push and pull factors. The lure of gold during the California Gold Rush, plantation work in Hawaii, and agricultural opportunities in the West drew thousands across the Pacific. However, political turmoil, poverty, and colonial pressures in their homelands also contributed to their decisions to migrate. The origins of Asian immigration to America are a testament to resilience and determination, setting the stage for the diverse communities that would emerge over time.

Early Asian American Communities and Contributions

As Asian immigrants settled in America, they established vibrant communities, often in response to exclusion from mainstream society. Chinatowns, Japantowns, and Filipino enclaves became centers of social, cultural, and economic life. These neighborhoods provided essential support systems, preserving language, customs, and heritage while facilitating adaptation to a new environment.

Asian Americans contributed significantly to the development of the United States, particularly in sectors such as agriculture, fishing, mining, and railroads. Their labor was instrumental in building infrastructure and supporting local economies. Despite limited resources and frequent hostility, these communities demonstrated remarkable ingenuity and entrepreneurship.

- Creation of mutual aid societies for social support
- Establishment of ethnic newspapers and schools
- Introduction of Asian cuisine and cultural festivals
- Formation of religious and cultural organizations

These contributions not only enriched American society but also fostered a sense of unity and pride within Asian American communities, forming a foundation for future advocacy and growth.

Exclusion, Discrimination, and Legal Barriers

The making of Asian America was marked by significant periods of exclusion and discrimination. Government policies such as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the Immigration Act of 1924 specifically targeted Asian immigrants, restricting entry and naturalization. These laws were fueled by economic competition, racial prejudice, and widespread anti-Asian sentiment.

Asian Americans were subjected to segregation, violence, and denial of basic rights. Citizenship was often out of reach, and property ownership restrictions were common. Misconceptions and stereotypes further marginalized these communities, making integration into American society an ongoing struggle.

Despite these obstacles, Asian Americans organized protests, legal challenges, and community initiatives to fight for their rights. Their perseverance during this era laid the groundwork for later civil rights movements and legal victories, gradually opening doors for future generations.

World War II and Its Aftermath

World War II was a pivotal moment in the history of Asian America. During the war, over 120,000 Japanese Americans were forcibly removed from their homes and incarcerated in internment camps due to wartime hysteria and racism. This traumatic experience left a lasting impact on families and communities, highlighting the fragility of civil liberties.

At the same time, Asian Americans served in the U.S. military with distinction, challenging prevailing stereotypes and demonstrating loyalty to their country. The war's end brought gradual changes, as returning veterans advocated for equality and the U.S. government began to reevaluate exclusionary policies.

The aftermath of World War II saw the repeal of some discriminatory laws, such as the Magnuson Act of 1943, which allowed limited Chinese immigration and naturalization. These changes, though incremental, marked the beginning of broader acceptance and paved the way for future waves of Asian immigration.

Post-1965 Immigration and the Changing Face of Asian America

The passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 was a turning point in the making of Asian America. This landmark legislation abolished national origins quotas, enabling a dramatic increase in immigration from Asia. New arrivals came from countries such as Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Korea, India, and China, adding to the diversity of the Asian American population.

This new era brought highly educated professionals, refugees fleeing conflict, and families seeking reunification. Asian Americans began to settle in cities across the country, moving beyond traditional ethnic enclaves and

integrating into mainstream society. The demographic landscape of Asian America became more complex, reflecting a wide range of languages, religions, and cultural traditions.

With this growth, Asian Americans made significant advances in education, business, science, and the arts, further shaping the social and economic fabric of the United States.

Asian American Identity, Culture, and Influence

The making of Asian America is deeply intertwined with questions of identity, belonging, and representation. Asian Americans have navigated complex intersections of race, ethnicity, and culture while forging unique identities that blend heritage with American values.

Cultural influence is evident in cuisine, fashion, music, film, and literature. Asian American artists, writers, and performers have gained national and international recognition, bringing diverse perspectives to the American cultural scene. Celebrations such as Lunar New Year, Diwali, and Obon have become part of the multicultural fabric of the nation.

Community organizations and advocacy groups have played crucial roles in promoting civic engagement, fighting discrimination, and fostering cross-cultural understanding. The rise of Asian American studies programs and representation in media and politics has further strengthened the community's voice and influence.

Contemporary Challenges and Achievements

Today, Asian Americans continue to face both challenges and achievements on their journey. Issues such as the model minority myth, underrepresentation in leadership, hate crimes, and stereotyping persist. The COVID-19 pandemic brought a surge in anti-Asian sentiment, prompting renewed activism and solidarity.

Despite obstacles, Asian Americans have made remarkable strides in business, academia, technology, government, and the arts. They have contributed to policy-making, scientific innovation, and economic growth, highlighting the ongoing importance of Asian American voices in shaping the country's future.

As the fastest-growing racial group in the United States, Asian Americans are poised to play an even greater role in defining what it means to be American, drawing strength from their history and diversity.

Q: What were the main factors driving early Asian immigration to America?

A: Early Asian immigration to America was driven by economic hardship, political unrest, and the search for better opportunities. Many sought work during the Gold Rush, on plantations, or in railroad construction, while others fled poverty or colonial pressures in their home countries.

Q: How did Asian American communities support themselves in the early years?

A: Early Asian American communities established mutual aid societies, ethnic newspapers, schools, and religious organizations. These efforts helped preserve their cultural heritage and provided essential support in the face of discrimination and exclusion.

Q: What were some key discriminatory laws affecting Asian Americans?

A: Key laws included the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which banned Chinese immigration, and the Immigration Act of 1924, which severely restricted Asian immigration. These laws reflected widespread anti-Asian sentiment and limited opportunities for Asian Americans.

Q: How did World War II impact Asian Americans?

A: During World War II, over 120,000 Japanese Americans were forcibly interned in camps, experiencing significant loss and trauma. The war also spurred Asian Americans to serve in the military and advocate for civil rights, leading to some gradual policy changes afterward.

Q: What changes did the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 bring?

A: The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 abolished restrictive national origins quotas, allowing a significant increase in Asian immigration. This legislation led to greater diversity within the Asian American population and expanded their impact on American society.

Q: How have Asian Americans influenced American culture?

A: Asian Americans have enriched American culture through cuisine, arts, literature, film, music, and festivals. Their contributions are visible in the popularity of Asian foods, fashion trends, and the rise of Asian American

artists in mainstream media.

Q: What are some contemporary challenges facing Asian Americans?

A: Contemporary challenges include the persistence of stereotypes, underrepresentation in leadership roles, hate crimes, and the impact of the model minority myth. The COVID-19 pandemic also led to increased anti-Asian sentiment and violence.

Q: In what ways have Asian Americans achieved success in recent decades?

A: Asian Americans have excelled in various fields such as technology, business, academia, government, and the arts. Many have become leaders and innovators, influencing policy, science, and culture at national and global levels.

Q: How do Asian Americans maintain their cultural identity?

A: Asian Americans maintain cultural identity through community organizations, celebrations, language schools, religious institutions, and intergenerational traditions. These efforts help preserve heritage while adapting to life in the United States.

Q: What is the significance of the making of Asian America today?

A: The making of Asian America is significant as it highlights the resilience, diversity, and contributions of Asian Americans. It underscores their essential role in shaping the nation's past, present, and future, and inspires ongoing efforts for inclusion and equity.

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The Making of Asian America: A Complex Tapestry of Immigration, Identity, and Influence

The phrase "Asian America" conjures a vast and multifaceted image. It's not a monolithic entity, but a vibrant tapestry woven from threads of countless individual stories, cultural traditions, and historical experiences. This blog post delves into the rich and complex history of Asian Americans, exploring the waves of immigration that shaped their communities, the challenges they faced, and their profound contributions to the American landscape. We'll unravel the intricacies of "the making of Asian America," revealing a narrative far richer and more nuanced than often depicted.

H2: Early Immigration and the Seeds of a Community

The story of Asian Americans begins long before the commonly recognized periods of mass immigration. While often overlooked, the presence of Asians in what is now the United States stretches back to the 16th century, with early contact between Filipino sailors and Spanish explorers. However, significant immigration didn't begin until the mid-19th century, primarily fueled by the California Gold Rush. Chinese laborers, vital to the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad, poured into the West Coast, facing immense prejudice and discriminatory laws like the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which effectively barred Chinese laborers from entering the country for decades. This early period laid the foundation for a complex relationship between Asian immigrants and American society, one marked by both opportunity and profound hardship.

H2: Waves of Immigration and Shifting Demographics

The 20th and 21st centuries witnessed further significant waves of Asian immigration. Japanese immigrants, initially welcomed as agricultural workers, later faced intense persecution culminating in the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II – a dark chapter in American history. Following World War II, immigration from other Asian countries like the Philippines, Korea, Vietnam, and India increased dramatically, each group bringing its unique cultural heritage and contributing to the evolving landscape of Asian America. These waves were often driven by political instability, economic opportunities, and family reunification.

H3: The Role of the Cold War and Refugee Resettlement

The Cold War played a significant role in shaping the demographics of Asian America. The United States actively recruited skilled professionals and intellectuals from various Asian countries, while also providing refuge to those fleeing communist regimes. This led to a significant influx of highly educated immigrants who contributed significantly to American scientific, technological, and economic advancements. The Vietnam War, in particular, resulted in a large-scale refugee resettlement program, bringing many Vietnamese refugees to the United States.

H2: The Challenges of Assimilation and Identity

The journey of Asian Americans has been fraught with challenges. They have continuously navigated the complexities of assimilation, facing racism, xenophobia, and the pressure to conform to a dominant culture while preserving their own traditions. The "model minority" myth, while seemingly positive, often overlooks the struggles faced by many within the Asian American community, creating divisions and obscuring the realities of poverty, discrimination, and intergenerational trauma. This myth simplifies the vast diversity of experiences and masks the systemic inequalities that many Asian Americans face.

H3: The Fight for Civil Rights and Representation

The fight for civil rights and equal representation has been a central theme in the history of Asian Americans. From challenging discriminatory legislation to advocating for affirmative action and fighting against hate crimes, Asian Americans have actively participated in the broader struggle for social justice. This fight continues today, as Asian Americans work to achieve full equality and dismantle systemic racism.

H2: Cultural Contributions and American Influence

Despite the challenges, Asian Americans have made indelible contributions to American culture, arts, science, and technology. From literature and film to cuisine and music, their influence is pervasive and undeniable. Their unique perspectives and experiences have enriched the American fabric, fostering innovation and creativity. Simultaneously, American culture has influenced and shaped the identities and experiences of Asian Americans, creating a dynamic interplay between assimilation and preservation of cultural heritage.

H2: The Future of Asian America

The making of Asian America is an ongoing process. As immigration patterns continue to evolve and new generations emerge, the story of Asian Americans will continue to unfold. Understanding this history is crucial for fostering inclusivity, addressing systemic inequalities, and celebrating the rich diversity that Asian Americans bring to the American experience. The future of Asian America will be shaped by its continued engagement in social justice initiatives, its ongoing cultural contributions, and its persistent pursuit of equality and representation.

Conclusion:

The story of Asian America is far from a simple narrative. It is a complex, multifaceted history shaped by immigration, prejudice, resilience, and the ongoing struggle for equality. By understanding the historical context, the challenges faced, and the remarkable contributions of Asian Americans, we can appreciate the richness and depth of this community and its significant role in shaping the American identity.

FAQs:

1. What was the impact of the Chinese Exclusion Act? The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 severely restricted Chinese immigration to the United States for decades, leading to widespread discrimination and hardship for Chinese Americans.
2. How did World War II impact Japanese Americans? World War II saw the forced internment of over 120,000 Japanese Americans, a gross violation of civil liberties.
3. What is the "model minority" myth and why is it problematic? The "model minority" myth portrays Asian Americans as uniformly successful and highly achieving, overlooking the struggles and inequalities faced by many within the community.
4. What are some key contributions of Asian Americans to American culture? Asian Americans have made significant contributions to various fields, including science, technology, arts, literature, and cuisine, enriching the American cultural landscape.
5. How can we better understand and appreciate the diversity within Asian America? We can better understand this diversity by actively engaging with different Asian American communities, listening to their stories, celebrating their cultures, and acknowledging their unique experiences.

the making of asian america: The Making of Asian America Erika Lee, 2015-09 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 as ... historian Erika Lee reminds us, Asian Americans also have deep roots in the country. *The Making of Asian America* tells the little-known history of Asian Americans and their role in American life, from the arrival of the first Asians in the Americas to the present-day. An epic history of global journeys and new beginnings, this book shows how generations of Asian immigrants and their American-born descendants have made and remade Asian American life in the United States: sailors who came on the first trans-Pacific ships in the 1500s 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. No longer a despised minority, Asian Americans are now held up as America's model minorities in ways that reveal the complicated role that race still plays in the United States. Published to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the passage of the United States' Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 that has remade our nation of immigrants, this is a new and definitive history of Asian Americans. But more than that, it is a new way of understanding America itself, its complicated histories of race and immigration, and its place in the world today--Jacket.

the making of asian america: Asian American Dreams Helen Zia, 2000-03-09 The fascinating story of the rise of Asian Americans as a politically and socially influential racial group. This groundbreaking book is about the transformation of Asian Americans from a few small, disconnected, and largely invisible ethnic groups into a self-identified racial group that is influencing every aspect of American society. It explores the junctures that shocked Asian Americans into motion and shaped a new consciousness, including the murder of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American,

by two white autoworkers who believed he was Japanese; the apartheid-like working conditions of Filipinos in the Alaska canneries; the boycott of Korean American greengrocers in Brooklyn; the Los Angeles riots; and the casting of non-Asians in the Broadway musical Miss Saigon. The book also examines the rampant stereotypes of Asian Americans. Helen Zia, the daughter of Chinese immigrants, was born in the 1950s when there were only 150,000 Chinese Americans in the entire country, and she writes as a personal witness to the dramatic changes involving Asian Americans. Written for both Asian Americans -- the fastest-growing population in the United States -- and non-Asians, *Asian American Dreams* argues that America can no longer afford to ignore these emergent, vital, and singular American people.

the making of asian america: *Strangers from a Different Shore* Ronald T. Takaki, 2012-11 In an extraordinary blend of narrative history, personal recollection, & oral testimony, the author presents a sweeping history of Asian Americans. He writes of the Chinese who laid tracks for the transcontinental railroad, of plantation laborers in the canefields of Hawaii, of picture brides marrying strangers in the hope of becoming part of the American dream. He tells stories of Japanese Americans behind the barbed wire of U.S. internment camps during World War II, Hmong refugees tragically unable to adjust to Wisconsin's alien climate & culture, & Asian American students stigmatized by the stereotype of the model minority. This is a powerful & moving work that will resonate for all Americans, who together make up a nation of immigrants from other shores.

the making of asian america: *A New History of Asian America* Shelley Sang-Hee Lee, 2013-10-01 *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.

the making of asian america: *The Asian American Achievement Paradox* Jennifer Lee, Min Zhou, 2015-06-30 Asian Americans are often stereotyped as the "model minority." Their sizeable presence at elite universities and high household incomes have helped construct the narrative of Asian American "exceptionalism." While many scholars and activists characterize this as a myth, pundits claim that Asian Americans' educational attainment is the result of unique cultural values. In *The Asian American Achievement Paradox*, sociologists Jennifer Lee and Min Zhou offer a compelling account of the academic achievement of the children of Asian immigrants. Drawing on in-depth interviews with the adult children of Chinese immigrants and Vietnamese refugees and survey data, Lee and Zhou bridge sociology and social psychology to explain how immigration laws, institutions, and culture interact to foster high achievement among certain Asian American groups. For the Chinese and Vietnamese in Los Angeles, Lee and Zhou find that the educational attainment of the second generation is strikingly similar, despite the vastly different socioeconomic profiles of their immigrant parents. Because immigration policies after 1965 favor individuals with higher levels of education and professional skills, many Asian immigrants are highly educated when they arrive in the United States. They bring a specific "success frame," which is strictly defined as earning a degree from an elite university and working in a high-status field. This success frame is reinforced in many local Asian communities, which make resources such as college preparation courses and tutoring available to group members, including their low-income members. While the success frame accounts for part of Asian Americans' high rates of achievement, Lee and Zhou also find that institutions, such as public schools, are crucial in supporting the cycle of Asian American

achievement. Teachers and guidance counselors, for example, who presume that Asian American students are smart, disciplined, and studious, provide them with extra help and steer them toward competitive academic programs. These institutional advantages, in turn, lead to better academic performance and outcomes among Asian American students. Yet the expectations of high achievement come with a cost: the notion of Asian American success creates an “achievement paradox” in which Asian Americans who do not fit the success frame feel like failures or racial outliers. While pundits ascribe Asian American success to the assumed superior traits intrinsic to Asian culture, Lee and Zhou show how historical, cultural, and institutional elements work together to confer advantages to specific populations. An insightful counter to notions of culture based on stereotypes, *The Asian American Achievement Paradox* offers a deft and nuanced understanding how and why certain immigrant groups succeed.

the making of asian america: Making Of Asian America Pei-Te Lien, 2001 Asian Americans are widely believed to be passive and compliant participants in the U.S. political process—if they participate at all. In this ground-breaking book, Pei-te Lien maps the actions and strategies of Asian Americans as they negotiate a space in the American political arena. Professor Lien looks at political participation by Asian Americans prior to 1965 and then examines, at both organizational and mass politics levels, how race, ethnicity, and transnationalism help to construct a complex American electorate. She looks not only at rates of participation among Asian Americans as compared with blacks, Latinos, American Indians, and non-Hispanic whites, but also among specific groups of Asian Americans—Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos, Koreans, Asian Indians, and Vietnamese. She also discusses how gender, socioeconomic class, and place of birth affect political participation. With documentation ranging from historical narrative to opinion survey data, Professor Lien creates a picture of a diverse group of politically active people who are intent on carving out a place for themselves in American political life.

the making of asian america: Asian America Cathy J. Schlund-Vials, K. Scott Wong, Jason Oliver Chang, 2017-01-10 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.

the making of asian america: Serve the People Karen L. Ishizuka, 2016-03-01 The political ferment of the 1960s produced not only the Civil Rights Movement but others in its wake: women's liberation, gay rights, Chicano power, and the Asian American Movement. Here is a definitive history of the social and cultural movement that knit a hugely disparate and isolated set of communities into a political identity--and along the way created a racial group out of marginalized people who had been uncomfortably lumped together as Orientals. The Asian American Movement was an unabashedly radical social movement, sprung from campuses and city ghettos and allied with Third World freedom struggles and the anti-Vietnam War movement, seen as a racist intervention in Asia. It also introduced to mainstream America a generation of now internationally famous artists, writers, and musicians, like novelist Maxine Hong Kingston. Karen Ishizuka's definitive history is based on years of research and more than 120 extensive interviews with movement leaders and participants. It's written in a vivid narrative style and illustrated with many striking images from guerrilla movement publications. *Serve the People* is a book that fills out the full story of the Long Sixties.

the making of asian america: Unbound Feet Judy Yung, 1995-11-15 The crippling custom of footbinding is the thematic touchstone for this engrossing study of Chinese women in San Francisco. Judy Yung, a second-generation Chinese American born and raised in San Francisco, shows the stages of unbinding that occurred in the decades between the turn of the century and the end of the World War II, revealing that these women - rather than being passive victims of oppression - were

active agents in the making of their own history.

the making of asian america: The Color of Success Ellen D. Wu, 2015-12-29 *The Color of Success* tells of the astonishing transformation of Asians in the United States from the yellow peril to model minorities—peoples distinct from the white majority but lauded as well-assimilated, upwardly mobile, and exemplars of traditional family values—in the middle decades of the twentieth century. As Ellen Wu shows, liberals argued for the acceptance of these immigrant communities into the national fold, charging that the failure of America to live in accordance with its democratic ideals endangered the country's aspirations to world leadership. Weaving together myriad perspectives, Wu provides an unprecedented view of racial reform and the contradictions of national belonging in the civil rights era. She highlights the contests for power and authority within Japanese and Chinese America alongside the designs of those external to these populations, including government officials, social scientists, journalists, and others. And she demonstrates that the invention of the model minority took place in multiple arenas, such as battles over zoot suiters leaving wartime internment camps, the juvenile delinquency panic of the 1950s, Hawaii statehood, and the African American freedom movement. Together, these illuminate the impact of foreign relations on the domestic racial order and how the nation accepted Asians as legitimate citizens while continuing to perceive them as indelible outsiders. By charting the emergence of the model minority stereotype, *The Color of Success* reveals that this far-reaching, politically charged process continues to have profound implications for how Americans understand race, opportunity, and nationhood.

the making of asian america: Contemporary Asian America (second Edition) Min Zhou, J. V. Gatewood, 2007-10 When *Contemporary Asian America* was first published, it exposed its readers to developments within the discipline, from its inception as part of the ethnic consciousness movement of the 1960s to the more contemporary theoretical and practical issues facing Asian America at the century's end. This new edition features a number of fresh entries and updated material. It covers such topics as Asian American activism, immigration, community formation, family relations, gender roles, sexuality, identity, struggle for social justice, interethnic conflict/coalition, and political participation. As in the first edition, *Contemporary Asian America* provides an expansive introduction to the central readings in Asian American Studies, presenting a grounded theoretical orientation to the discipline and framing key historical, cultural, economic, and social themes with a social science focus. This critical text offers a broad overview of Asian American studies and the current state of Asian America.

the making of asian america: The Latinos of Asia Anthony Christian Ocampo, 2016-03-02 This “groundbreaking book . . . is essential reading not only for the Filipino diaspora but for anyone who cares about the mysteries of racial identity” (Jose Antonio Vargas, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist). Is race only about the color of your skin? In *The Latinos of Asia*, Anthony Christian Ocampo shows that what “color” you are depends largely on your social context. Filipino Americans, for example, helped establish the Asian American movement and are classified by the US Census as Asian. But the legacy of Spanish colonialism in the Philippines means that they share many cultural characteristics with Latinos, such as last names, religion, and language. Thus, Filipinos’ “color”—their sense of connection with other racial groups—changes depending on their social context. The Filipino story demonstrates how immigration is changing the way people negotiate race, particularly in cities like Los Angeles where Latinos and Asians now constitute a collective majority. Amplifying their voices, Ocampo illustrates how second-generation Filipino Americans’ racial identities change depending on the communities they grow up in, the schools they attend, and the people they befriend. Ultimately, *The Latinos of Asia* offers a window into both the racial consciousness of everyday people and the changing racial landscape of American society.

the making of asian america: Rise Jeff Yang, Phil Yu, Philip Wang, 2022-03-01 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.

the making of asian america: *Asian American Studies Now* Jean Yu-Wen Shen Wu, Thomas Chen, 2010-03-08 *Asian American Studies Now* truly represents the enormous changes occurring in Asian American communities and the world, changes that require a reconsideration of how the interdisciplinary field of Asian American studies is defined and taught. This comprehensive anthology, arranged in four parts and featuring a stellar group of contributors, summarizes and defines the current shape of this rapidly changing field, addressing topics such as transnationalism, U.S. imperialism, multiracial identity, racism, immigration, citizenship, social justice, and pedagogy. Jean Yu-wen Shen Wu and Thomas C. Chen have selected essays for the significance of their contribution to the field and their clarity, brevity, and accessibility to readers with little to no prior knowledge of Asian American studies. Featuring both reprints of seminal articles and groundbreaking texts, as well as bold new scholarship, *Asian American Studies Now* addresses the new circumstances, new communities, and new concerns that are reconstituting Asian America.

the making of asian america: *The Transnational Politics of Asian Americans* Christian Collet, Pei-Te Lien, 2009-07-28 *Asian Americans as a force for political change on both sides of the Pacific*.

the making of asian america: *The Oxford Handbook of Asian American History* David Yoo, Eiichiro Azuma, 2016 Introduction / David K. Yoo and Eiichiro Azuma -- Part I. Migration flows -- Filipinos, Pacific Islanders, and the American empire / Keith L. Camacho -- Towards a hemispheric Asian American history / Jason Oliver Chang -- South Asian America: histories, cultures, politics / Sunaina Maira -- Asians, native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in Hawai'i: people, place, culture / John P. Rosa -- Southeast Asian Americans / Chia Youyee Vang -- East Asian immigrants / K. Scott Wong -- Asian Canadian history / Henry Yu -- Part II. Time passages -- Internment and World War II history / Eiichiro Azuma -- Reconsidering Asian exclusion in the United States / Kornel S. Chang -- The Cold War / Madeline Y. Hsu -- The Asian American movement / Daryl Joji Maeda -- Part III. Variations on themes -- A history of Asian international adoption in the United States / Catherine Ceniza Choy -- Confronting the racial state of violence: how Asian American history can reorient the study of race / Moon-Ho Jung -- Theory and history / Lon Kurashige -- Empire and war in Asian American history / Simeon Man -- Queer Asian American historiography / Amy Sueyoshi -- The study

of Asian American families / Xiaojian Zhao -- Part IV. Engaging historical fields -- Asian American economic and labor history / Sucheng Chan -- Asian Americans, politics, and history / Gordon H. Chang -- Asian American intellectual history / Augusto Espiritu -- Asian American religious history / Helen Jin Kim, Timothy Tseng, and David K. Yoo -- Race, space, and place in Asian American urban history / Scott Kurashige -- From Asia to the United States, around the world, and back again: new directions in Asian American immigration history / Erika Lee -- Public history and Asian Americans / Franklin Odo -- Asian American legal history / Greg Robinson -- Asian American education history / Eileen H. Tamura -- Not adding and stirring: women's, gender, and sexuality history and the transformation of Asian America / Adrienne Ann Winans and Judy Tzu-Chun Wu

the making of asian america: At America's Gates Erika Lee, 2004-01-21 With the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, Chinese laborers became the first group in American history to be excluded from the United States on the basis of their race and class. This landmark law changed the course of U.S. immigration history, but we know little about its consequences for the Chinese in America or for the United States as a nation of immigrants. *At America's Gates* is the first book devoted entirely to both Chinese immigrants and the American immigration officials who sought to keep them out. Erika Lee explores how Chinese exclusion laws not only transformed Chinese American lives, immigration patterns, identities, and families but also recast the United States into a gatekeeping nation. Immigrant identification, border enforcement, surveillance, and deportation policies were extended far beyond any controls that had existed in the United States before. Drawing on a rich trove of historical sources—including recently released immigration records, oral histories, interviews, and letters—Lee brings alive the forgotten journeys, secrets, hardships, and triumphs of Chinese immigrants. Her timely book exposes the legacy of Chinese exclusion in current American immigration control and race relations.

the making of asian america: Race & Resistance Viet Thanh Nguyen, 2002 Viet Nguyen argues that Asian American intellectuals need to examine their own assumptions about race, culture and politics, and makes his case through the example of literature.

the making of asian america: The Loneliest Americans Jay Caspian Kang, 2021-10-12 A “provocative and sweeping” (Time) blend of family history and original reportage that explores—and reimagines—Asian American identity in a Black and white world “[Kang’s] exploration of class and identity among Asian Americans will be talked about for years to come.”—Jennifer Szalai, *The New York Times Book Review* (Editors’ Choice) ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: Time, NPR, Mother Jones In 1965, a new immigration law lifted a century of restrictions against Asian immigrants to the United States. Nobody, including the lawmakers who passed the bill, expected it to transform the country’s demographics. But over the next four decades, millions arrived, including Jay Caspian Kang’s parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. They came with almost no understanding of their new home, much less the history of “Asian America” that was supposed to define them. *The Loneliest Americans* is the unforgettable story of Kang and his family as they move from a housing project in Cambridge to an idyllic college town in the South and eventually to the West Coast. Their story unfolds against the backdrop of a rapidly expanding Asian America, as millions more immigrants, many of them working-class or undocumented, stream into the country. At the same time, upwardly mobile urban professionals have struggled to reconcile their parents’ assimilationist goals with membership in a multicultural elite—all while trying to carve out a new kind of belonging for their own children, who are neither white nor truly “people of color.” Kang recognizes this existential loneliness in himself and in other Asian Americans who try to locate themselves in the country’s racial binary. There are the businessmen turning Flushing into a center of immigrant wealth; the casualties of the Los Angeles riots; the impoverished parents in New York City who believe that admission to the city’s exam schools is the only way out; the men’s right’s activists on Reddit ranting about intermarriage; and the handful of protesters who show up at Black Lives Matter rallies holding “Yellow Peril Supports Black Power” signs. Kang’s exquisitely crafted book brings these lonely parallel climbers together and calls for a new immigrant solidarity—one rooted not in bubble tea and elite college admissions but in the struggles of refugees and the

working class.

the making of asian america: Asian Americans in Michigan Victor Jew, Sook Wilkinson, 2015-03-16 Readers interested in Michigan history, sociology, and Asian American studies will enjoy this volume.

the making of asian america: Angel Island Erika Lee, Judy Yung, 2010-08-30 From 1910 to 1940, over half a million people sailed through the Golden Gate, hoping to start a new life in America. But they did not all disembark in San Francisco; instead, most were ferried across the bay to the Angel Island Immigration Station. For many, this was the real gateway to the United States. For others, it was a prison and their final destination, before being sent home. In this landmark book, historians Erika Lee and Judy Yung (both descendants of immigrants detained on the island) provide the first comprehensive history of the Angel Island Immigration Station. Drawing on extensive new research, including immigration records, oral histories, and inscriptions on the barrack walls, the authors produce a sweeping yet intensely personal history of Chinese paper sons, Japanese picture brides, Korean students, South Asian political activists, Russian and Jewish refugees, Mexican families, Filipino repatriates, and many others from around the world. Their experiences on Angel Island reveal how America's discriminatory immigration policies changed the lives of immigrants and transformed the nation. A place of heartrending history and breathtaking beauty, the Angel Island Immigration Station is a National Historic Landmark, and like Ellis Island, it is recognized as one of the most important sites where America's immigration history was made. This fascinating history is ultimately about America itself and its complicated relationship to immigration, a story that continues today.

the making of asian america: Immigrant Acts Lisa Lowe, 1996 In *Immigrant Acts*, Lisa Lowe argues that understanding Asian immigration to the United States is fundamental to understanding the racialized economic and political foundations of the nation. Lowe discusses the contradictions whereby Asians have been included in the workplaces and markets of the U.S. nation-state, yet, through exclusion laws and bars from citizenship, have been distanced from the terrain of national culture. Lowe argues that a national memory haunts the conception of Asian American, persisting beyond the repeal of individual laws and sustained by U.S. wars in Asia, in which the Asian is seen as the perpetual immigrant, as the foreigner-within. In *Immigrant Acts*, she argues that rather than attesting to the absorption of cultural difference into the universality of the national political sphere, the Asian immigrant--at odds with the cultural, racial, and linguistic forms of the nation--displaces the temporality of assimilation. Distance from the American national culture constitutes Asian American culture as an alternative site that produces cultural forms materially and aesthetically in contradiction with the institutions of citizenship and national identity. Rather than a sign of a failed integration of Asians into the American cultural sphere, this critique preserves and opens up different possibilities for political practice and coalition across racial and national borders. In this uniquely interdisciplinary study, Lowe examines the historical, political, cultural, and aesthetic meanings of immigration in relation to Asian Americans. Extending the range of Asian American critique, *Immigrant Acts* will interest readers concerned with race and ethnicity in the United States, American cultures, immigration, and transnationalism.

the making of asian america: Making and Remaking Asian America Through Immigration Policy, 1850-1990 Bill Ong Hing, 1993 This is the first comprehensive study of how U. S. immigration policies have shaped--demographically, economically, and socially--the six largest Asian American communities.

the making of asian america: Asian Americans [3 volumes] Xiaojian Zhao, Edward J.W. Park Ph.D., 2013-11-26 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.

the making of asian america: Asian America Through the Lens Jun Xing, 1998 In *Asian America Through the Lens*, Jun Xing surveys Asian American cinema, allowing its aesthetic, cultural, and political diversity and continuities to emerge.

the making of asian america: Asian American Art Gordon H. Chang, 2008 *Asian American Art: A History, 1850-1970* is a first-ever survey exploring the lives and artistic production of artists of Asian Ancestry active in the United States before 1970, and features ten essays by leading scholars, biographies of more than 150 artists, and more than 400 reproductions of artwork and photographs of artists, together creating compelling narratives of this heretofore forgotten American art history.

the making of asian america: America for Americans Erika Lee, 2021-06-15 This definitive history of American xenophobia is essential reading for anyone who wants to build a more inclusive society. (Ibram X. Kendi, New York Times-bestselling author of *How to Be an Antiracist*) The United States is known as a nation of immigrants. But it is also a nation of xenophobia. In *America for Americans*, Erika Lee shows that an irrational fear, hatred, and hostility toward immigrants has been a defining feature of our nation from the colonial era to the Trump era. Benjamin Franklin ridiculed Germans for their strange and foreign ways. Americans' anxiety over Irish Catholics turned xenophobia into a national political movement. Chinese immigrants were excluded, Japanese incarcerated, and Mexicans deported. Today, Americans fear Muslims, Latinos, and the so-called browning of America. Forcing us to confront this history, Lee explains how xenophobia works, why it has endured, and how it threatens America. Now updated with an afterword reflecting on how the coronavirus pandemic turbocharged xenophobia, *America for Americans* is an urgent spur to action for any concerned citizen.

the making of asian america: Choreographing Asian America Yutian Wong, 2011-07-21 Poised at the intersection of Asian American studies and dance studies, *Choreographing Asian America* is the first book-length examination of the role of Orientalist discourse in shaping Asian Americanist entanglements with U.S. modern dance history. Moving beyond the acknowledgement that modern dance has its roots in Orientalist appropriation, Yutian Wong considers the effect that invisible Orientalism has on the reception of work by Asian American choreographers and the conceptualization of Asian American performance as a category. Drawing on ethnographic and choreographic research methods, the author follows the work of Club O' Noodles—a Vietnamese American performance ensemble—to understand how Asian American artists respond to competing narratives of representation, aesthetics, and social activism that often frame the production of Asian American performance.

the making of asian america: Asian/American David Palumbo-Liu, 1999 This book argues that the invention of Asian American identities serves as an index to the historical formation of modern America. By tracing constructions of Asian American to an interpenetrating dynamic between Asia and America, the author obtains a deeper understanding of key issues in American culture, history, and society. The formation of America in the twentieth century has had everything to do with westward expansion across the Pacific frontier and the movement of Asians onto American soil. After the passage of the last piece of anti-Asian legislation in the 1930's, the United States found it had to grapple with both the presence of Asians already in America and the imperative to develop its neocolonial interests in East Asia. The author argues that, under these double imperatives, a great wall between Asian and American is constructed precisely when the two threatened to merge. Yet the very incompleteness of American identity has allowed specific and contingent fusion of Asian and American at particular historical junctures. From the importation of Asian labor in the mid-nineteenth century, the territorialization of Hawaii and the Philippines in the late-nineteenth century, through wars with Japan, Korea, and Vietnam and the Cold War with China, to today's Asian

Pacific Economic Cooperation group, the United States in the modern age has seen its national identity as strongly attached to the Pacific. As this has taken place, so has the formation of a variety of Asian American identities. Each contains a specific notion of America and reveals a particular conception of Asian and American. Complicating the usual notion of identity politics and drawing on a wide range of writings—sociological, historical, cultural, medical, anthropological, geographic, economic, journalistic, and political—the author studies both how the formation of these identifications discloses the response of America to the presence of Asians and how Asian Americans themselves have inhabited these roles and resisted such categorizations, inventing their own particular subjectivities as Americans.

the making of asian america: *Asian American Histories of the United States* Catherine Ceniza Choy, 2022-08-02 An inclusive and landmark history, emphasizing how essential Asian American experiences are to any understanding of US history Original and expansive, *Asian American Histories of the United States* is a nearly 200-year history of Asian migration, labor, and community formation in the US. Reckoning with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the surge in anti-Asian hate and violence, award-winning historian Catherine Ceniza Choy presents an urgent social history of the fastest growing group of Americans. The book features the lived experiences and diverse voices of immigrants, refugees, US-born Asian Americans, multiracial Americans, and workers from industries spanning agriculture to healthcare. Despite significant Asian American breakthroughs in American politics, arts, and popular culture in the twenty-first century, a profound lack of understanding of Asian American history permeates American culture. Choy traces how anti-Asian violence and its intersection with misogyny and other forms of hatred, the erasure of Asian American experiences and contributions, and Asian American resistance to what has been omitted are prominent themes in Asian American history. This ambitious book is fundamental to understanding the American experience and its existential crises of the early twenty-first century.

the making of asian america: Keywords for Asian American Studies Cathy J. Schlund-Vials, Linda Trinh Võ, K. Scott Wong, 2015-05-08 Introduces key terms, research frameworks, debates, and histories for Asian American Studies Born out of the Civil Rights and Third World Liberation movements of the 1960s and 1970s, Asian American Studies has grown significantly over the past four decades, both as a distinct field of inquiry and as a potent site of critique. Characterized by transnational, trans-Pacific, and trans-hemispheric considerations of race, ethnicity, migration, immigration, gender, sexuality, and class, this multidisciplinary field engages with a set of concepts profoundly shaped by past and present histories of racialization and social formation. The keywords included in this collection are central to social sciences, humanities, and cultural studies and reflect the ways in which Asian American Studies has transformed scholarly discourses, research agendas, and pedagogical frameworks. Spanning multiple histories, numerous migrations, and diverse populations, *Keywords for Asian American Studies* reconsiders and recalibrates the ever-shifting borders of Asian American studies as a distinctly interdisciplinary field. Visit keywords.nyupress.org for online essays, teaching resources, and more.

the making of asian america: *Soundtracks of Asian America* Grace Wang, 2015-02-15 In *Soundtracks of Asian America*, Grace Wang explores how Asian Americans use music to construct narratives of self, race, class, and belonging in national and transnational spaces. She highlights how they navigate racialization in different genres by considering the experiences of Asians and Asian Americans in Western classical music, U.S. popular music, and Mandopop (Mandarin-language popular music). Her study encompasses the perceptions and motivations of middle-class Chinese and Korean immigrant parents intensely involved in their children's classical music training, and of Asian and Asian American classical musicians whose prominence in their chosen profession is celebrated by some and undermined by others. Wang interviews young Asian American singer-songwriters who use YouTube to contest the limitations of a racialized U.S. media landscape, and she investigates the transnational modes of belonging forged by Asian American pop stars pursuing recording contracts and fame in East Asia. Foregrounding musical spaces where Asian Americans are particularly visible, Wang examines how race matters and operates in the practices and institutions of music

making.

the making of asian america: *East Main Street* Shilpa Dave, LeiLani Nishime, Tasha Oren, 2005-05 From henna tattoo kits available at your local mall to ofaux Asiano fashions, housewares and fusion cuisine; from the new visibility of Asian film, music, video games and anime to the current popularity of martial arts motifs in hip hop, Asian influences have thoroughly saturated the U.S. cultural landscape and have now become an integral part of the vernacular of popular culture.

the making of asian america: *Asian American Youth* Jennifer Lee, Min Zhou, 2004 First Published in 2004. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

the making of asian america: Redefining Race Dina G. Okamoto, 2014-09-25 In 2012, the Pew Research Center issued a report that named Asian Americans as the “highest-income, best-educated, and fastest-growing racial group in the United States.” Despite this seemingly optimistic conclusion, over thirty Asian American advocacy groups challenged the findings. As many pointed out, the term “Asian American” itself is complicated. It currently denotes a wide range of ethnicities, national origins, and languages, and encompasses a number of significant economic and social disparities. In *Redefining Race*, sociologist Dina G. Okamoto traces the complex evolution of this racial designation to show how the use of “Asian American” as a panethnic label and identity has been a deliberate social achievement negotiated by members of this group themselves, rather than an organic and inevitable process. Drawing on original research and a series of interviews, Okamoto investigates how different Asian ethnic groups in the U.S. were able to create a collective identity in the wake of the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s. Okamoto argues that a variety of broad social forces created the conditions for this developing panethnic identity. Racial segregation, for example, shaped how Asian immigrants of different national origins were distributed in similar occupations and industries. This segregation of Asians within local labor markets produced a shared experience of racial discrimination, which encouraged Asian ethnic groups to develop shared interests and identities. By constructing a panethnic label and identity, ethnic group members took part in creating their own collective histories, and in the process challenged and redefined current notions of race. The emergence of a panethnic racial identity also depended, somewhat paradoxically, on different groups organizing along distinct ethnic lines in order to gain recognition and rights from the larger society. According to Okamoto, these ethnic organizations provided the foundation necessary to build solidarity within different Asian-origin communities. Leaders and community members who created inclusive narratives and advocated policies that benefited groups beyond their own were then able to move these discrete ethnic organizations toward a panethnic model. For example, a number of ethnic-specific organizations in San Francisco expanded their services and programs to include other ethnic group members after their original constituencies dwindled. A Laotian organization included refugees from different parts of Asia, a Japanese organization began to advocate for South Asian populations, and a Chinese organization opened its doors to Filipinos and Vietnamese. As Okamoto argues, the process of building ties between ethnic communities while also recognizing ethnic diversity is the hallmark of panethnicity. *Redefining Race* is a groundbreaking analysis of the processes through which group boundaries are drawn and contested. In mapping the genesis of a panethnic Asian American identity, Okamoto illustrates the ways in which concepts of race continue to shape how ethnic and immigrant groups view themselves and organize for representation in the public arena.

the making of asian america: Asian American History Madeline Yuan-yin Hsu, 2017 This title provides a narrative interpretation of key themes that emerge in the history of Asian migrations to North America, highlighting how Asian immigration has shaped the evolution of ideological and legal interpretations of America as a 'nation of immigrants'.

the making of asian america: Asian American Political Participation Janelle S. Wong, S. Karthick Ramakrishnan, Taeku Lee, Jane Junn, Janelle Wong, 2011-10-01 Asian Americans are a small percentage of the U.S. population, but their numbers are steadily rising—from less than a million in 1960 to more than 15 million today. They are also a remarkably diverse population—representing several ethnicities, religions, and languages—and they enjoy higher levels

of education and income than any other U.S. racial group. Historically, socioeconomic status has been a reliable predictor of political behavior. So why has this fast-growing American population, which is doing so well economically, been so little engaged in the U.S. political system? Asian American Political Participation is the most comprehensive study to date of Asian American political behavior, including such key measures as voting, political donations, community organizing, and political protests. The book examines why some groups participate while others do not, why certain civic activities are deemed preferable to others, and why Asian socioeconomic advantage has so far not led to increased political clout. Asian American Political Participation is based on data from the authors' groundbreaking 2008 National Asian American Survey of more than 5,000 Chinese, Indian, Vietnamese, Korean, Filipino, and Japanese Americans. The book shows that the motivations for and impediments to political participation are as diverse as the Asian American population. For example, native-born Asians have higher rates of political participation than their immigrant counterparts, particularly recent adult arrivals who were socialized outside of the United States. Protest activity is the exception, which tends to be higher among immigrants who maintain connections abroad and who engaged in such activity in their country of origin. Surprisingly, factors such as living in a new immigrant destination or in a city with an Asian American elected official do not seem to motivate political behavior—neither does ethnic group solidarity. Instead, hate crimes and racial victimization are the factors that most motivate Asian Americans to participate politically. Involvement in non-political activities such as civic and religious groups also bolsters political participation. Even among Asian groups, socioeconomic advantage does not necessarily translate into high levels of political participation. Chinese Americans, for example, have significantly higher levels of educational attainment than Japanese Americans, but Japanese Americans are far more likely to vote and make political contributions. And Vietnamese Americans, with the lowest levels of education and income, vote and engage in protest politics more than any other group. Lawmakers tend to favor the interests of groups who actively engage the political system, and groups who do not participate at high levels are likely to suffer political consequences in the future. Asian American Political Participation demonstrates that understanding Asian political behavior today can have significant repercussions for Asian American political influence tomorrow.

the making of asian america: Global Asian American Popular Cultures Shilpa Dave, LeiLani Nishime, Tasha Oren, 2016-05-16 6. David Choe's KOREANS GONE BAD: The LA Riots, Comparative Racialization, and Branding a Politics of Deviance -- Part II. Making Community -- 7. From the Mekong to the Merrimack and Back: The Transnational Terrains of Cambodian American Rap -- 8. You'll Learn Much about Pakistanis from Listening to Radio: Pakistani Radio Programming in Houston, Texas -- 9. Online Asian American Popular Culture, Digitization, and Museums -- 10. Asian American Food Blogging as Racial Branding: Rewriting the Search for Authenticity

the making of asian america: Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America Vivek Bald, 2013-01-07 Winner of the Theodore Saloutos Memorial Book Award Winner of the Association for Asian American Studies Book Award for History A Times Literary Supplement Book of the Year A Saveur "Essential Food Books That Define New York City" Selection In the final years of the nineteenth century, small groups of Muslim peddlers arrived at Ellis Island every summer, bags heavy with embroidered silks from their home villages in Bengal. The American demand for "Oriental goods" took these migrants on a curious path, from New Jersey's beach boardwalks into the heart of the segregated South. Two decades later, hundreds of Indian Muslim seamen began jumping ship in New York and Baltimore, escaping the engine rooms of British steamers to find less brutal work onshore. As factory owners sought their labor and anti-Asian immigration laws closed in around them, these men built clandestine networks that stretched from the northeastern waterfront across the industrial Midwest. The stories of these early working-class migrants vividly contrast with our typical understanding of immigration. Vivek Bald's meticulous reconstruction reveals a lost history of South Asian sojourning and life-making in the United States. At a time when Asian immigrants were vilified and criminalized, Bengali Muslims quietly became part of some of America's most iconic neighborhoods of color, from Tremé in New Orleans to

Detroit's Black Bottom, from West Baltimore to Harlem. Many started families with Creole, Puerto Rican, and African American women. As steel and auto workers in the Midwest, as traders in the South, and as halal hot dog vendors on 125th Street, these immigrants created lives as remarkable as they are unknown. Their stories of ingenuity and intermixture challenge assumptions about assimilation and reveal cross-racial affinities beneath the surface of early twentieth-century America.

the making of asian america: Minor Feelings Cathy Park Hong, 2020-03-05 WINNER OF THE NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FOR AUTOBIOGRAPHY 2021 FINALIST FOR THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR GENERAL NON-FICTION 2021 A New York Times Top Book of 2020 Chosen as a Guardian Book of 2020 A BBC Culture Best Books of 2020 Nominated for Good Reads Books of 2020 One of Time's Must-Read Books of 2020 'Unputdownable ... Hong's razor-sharp, provocative prose will linger long after you put Minor Feelings down' - AnOther, Books You Should Read This Year 'A fearless work of creative non-fiction about racism in cultural pursuits by an award-winning poet and essayist' - Asia House 'Brilliant, penetrating and unforgettable, Minor Feelings is what was missing on our shelf of classics ... To read this book is to become more human' - Claudia Rankine author of Citizen 'Hong says the book was 'a dare to herself', and she makes good on it: by writing into the heart of her own discomfort, she emerges with a reckoning destined to be a classic' - Maggie Nelson, author of The Argonauts What happens when an immigrant believes the lies they're told about their own racial identity? For Cathy Park Hong, they experience the shame and difficulty of minor feelings. The daughter of Korean immigrants, Cathy Park Hong grew up in America steeped in shame, suspicion, and melancholy. She would later understand that these minor feelings occur when American optimism contradicts your own reality. With sly humour and a poet's searching mind, Hong uses her own story as a portal into a deeper examination of racial consciousness. This intimate and devastating book traces her relationship to the English language, to shame and depression, to poetry and artmaking, and to family and female friendship. A radically honest work of art, Minor Feelings forms a portrait of one Asian American psyche - and of a writer's search to both uncover and speak the truth.

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