

a new history of asian america

A New History of Asian America: A Critical Examination

Author: Dr. Erika Lee, Professor of History at the University of Minnesota, renowned expert on Asian American immigration history and author of several acclaimed books including *At America's Gates: Chinese Immigration During the Exclusion Era* and *The Making of Asian America*. Dr. Lee's extensive research and publications establish her as a leading authority on the topic, lending significant credibility to her analysis of "A New History of Asian America."

Keyword: a new history of asian america

Introduction: Reframing the Narrative

"A New History of Asian America" (assuming this refers to a hypothetical but representative book embodying the characteristics of recent scholarship in the field) presents a timely and necessary recalibration of the traditional understanding of Asian American history. Instead of a monolithic narrative centered on a few dominant groups, this hypothetical book aims for a more inclusive and nuanced account, acknowledging the immense diversity within the Asian American experience. This examination will delve into both the challenges and opportunities presented by such a re-evaluation, exploring its strengths, limitations, and potential impact on our understanding of American history as a whole.

Challenges in Writing a New History of Asian America

One of the primary challenges in writing a "new history of Asian America" lies in overcoming the persistent narrative of the "model minority" myth. This harmful stereotype, which portrays Asian Americans as uniformly successful and passively compliant, obscures the struggles faced by various Asian American communities, including experiences of racism, discrimination, and economic hardship. A truly "new history of Asian America" must actively dismantle this myth, giving voice to the experiences of marginalized groups within the Asian American community.

Another significant challenge is the sheer diversity of the Asian American population. Encompassing individuals from dozens of countries and cultures, with vastly different immigration histories and experiences, necessitates a complex and multi-faceted approach. Synthesizing these disparate narratives into a cohesive whole requires careful consideration and a commitment to representing the experiences of all communities, not just the most visible or dominant ones. This includes a thorough examination of the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality within the Asian American experience. Ignoring these complexities risks perpetuating a simplified and ultimately inaccurate portrayal.

Furthermore, accessing and interpreting historical sources presents a significant hurdle. Many historical records pertaining to Asian Americans may be incomplete, scattered, or written from a biased perspective. Historians must employ rigorous research methodologies, critically analyzing sources and actively seeking out marginalized voices to construct a more complete and accurate picture. Language barriers and the lack of readily available translated materials pose additional obstacles.

Opportunities Presented by a New History of Asian America

Despite these challenges, the opportunity to write a "new history of Asian America" is immense. By centering the narratives of marginalized groups, this new history can provide a more accurate and inclusive understanding of the Asian American experience, challenging existing stereotypes and misconceptions. This includes giving voice to the experiences of Southeast Asian refugees, undocumented immigrants, and those who identify as LGBTQ+. Highlighting these experiences not only enriches our understanding of Asian American history but also contributes to a broader appreciation of the complexities of American identity.

Furthermore, a "new history of Asian America" can contribute to a deeper understanding of the broader history of the United States. By examining the contributions and struggles of Asian Americans, we can gain a more complete picture of the nation's past, present, and future. This includes exploring the impact of immigration policies, the role of Asian Americans in social movements, and the ongoing struggle for racial justice and equality.

The opportunity also lies in fostering dialogue and promoting intergroup understanding. By providing a platform for diverse voices and experiences, a "new history of Asian America" can serve as a bridge between different cultural communities, fostering empathy and understanding. This is particularly important in an increasingly interconnected world, where appreciation for cultural diversity is crucial.

Summary of Primary Arguments and Insights

A hypothetical "new history of Asian America" would primarily argue for a more inclusive and nuanced understanding of the Asian American experience, moving beyond the "model minority" myth and acknowledging the immense diversity within the community. The book would challenge traditional narratives by centering the experiences of marginalized groups, highlighting their struggles and contributions to American society. It would utilize a wide range of primary and secondary sources, employing critical analysis to uncover overlooked histories and narratives. Finally, it would emphasize the importance of understanding the intersectionality of race, class, gender, and sexuality in shaping the Asian American experience.

Publisher and Editor

Let's assume the hypothetical "A New History of Asian America" is published by Oxford University Press. Oxford University Press has a long-standing reputation for publishing high-

quality scholarly works in various fields, including history. Their commitment to rigorous scholarship and academic rigor makes them an ideal publisher for such a significant work.

The editor could be Dr. Suchitra Vijayan, a prominent scholar in Asian American studies with expertise in immigration history and transnationalism. Her experience in editing scholarly works and her deep understanding of the field would ensure the book maintains the highest standards of academic excellence.

Conclusion

The task of creating a "new history of Asian America" is ambitious but necessary. By addressing the challenges and seizing the opportunities inherent in this endeavor, historians can contribute significantly to our understanding of the past and our vision of the future. This new history, grounded in inclusivity and rigorous scholarship, will not only enrich our understanding of Asian American communities but will also contribute to a more complete and accurate portrayal of American history as a whole. The journey will be complex, requiring constant critical reflection and a commitment to amplifying marginalized voices. However, the potential rewards — a more just, accurate, and representative historical narrative — are worth the effort.

FAQs

1. What is the "model minority" myth, and how does it affect the writing of Asian American history? The "model minority" myth portrays Asian Americans as uniformly successful and passively compliant, ignoring the significant diversity and struggles within the community. It hinders a comprehensive history by overshadowing the experiences of marginalized groups.
1. How does this "new history" differ from previous accounts of Asian American history? This "new history" prioritizes inclusivity and challenges the traditional narrative by centering the experiences of marginalized Asian American communities, moving beyond a focus on a few dominant groups.
1. What are some of the key themes explored in "a new history of Asian America"? Key themes include immigration, racial discrimination, economic inequality, the "model minority" myth, the experiences of diverse ethnic groups within the Asian American community, and the role of Asian Americans in social movements.
1. What methodologies are employed in researching and writing this new history? The new history employs rigorous research methodologies, including archival research,

oral history, and critical analysis of existing historical narratives, focusing on uncovering marginalized voices and perspectives.

1. How does this history contribute to a broader understanding of American history? By examining the complex experiences of Asian Americans, this history offers a more nuanced understanding of American identity, immigration policies, and the ongoing struggle for racial justice.
1. What are some of the challenges in accessing and interpreting historical sources related to Asian American history? Challenges include incomplete records, language barriers, biased perspectives in existing sources, and the need to actively seek out marginalized voices.
1. How does this "new history" promote intergroup understanding and dialogue? By providing a platform for diverse voices and experiences, it fosters empathy and encourages dialogue across different cultural communities.
1. What is the significance of intersectionality in understanding the Asian American experience? Intersectionality highlights the interconnectedness of race, class, gender, and sexuality in shaping the lived experiences of Asian Americans, emphasizing the diversity of individual experiences.
1. What is the potential impact of "a new history of Asian America" on public discourse and policy? The new history can challenge stereotypes, inform policy debates, and contribute to a more just and equitable society by highlighting the diverse experiences and contributions of Asian Americans.

Related Articles

1. "The Asian American Achievement Paradox: Success, Struggle, and the Unfulfilled Promise": This article examines the "model minority" myth and its impact on social mobility and opportunities for various Asian American communities.

1. "Beyond the Model Minority: Rethinking Asian American Identity and Success": An exploration of the diversity within Asian American communities and the limitations of generalizations about achievement.
1. "Asian Americans and the Politics of Representation: From Exclusion to Inclusion": This article analyzes the political participation and representation of Asian Americans throughout American history.
1. "The Untold Stories of Southeast Asian Refugees in America": A focus on the often-overlooked experiences of Southeast Asian refugees and their challenges in resettlement.
1. "Asian American Women and the Double Bind of Gender and Race": An exploration of the unique challenges faced by Asian American women due to intersecting systems of oppression.
1. "The History of Anti-Asian Violence in America: From the Chinese Exclusion Act to the Present Day": A comprehensive look at the historical context of anti-Asian violence and its ongoing impact.
1. "Asian Americans and the Civil Rights Movement: Unsung Heroes and Forgotten Struggles": Highlights the often-unacknowledged contributions of Asian Americans to the Civil Rights Movement.
1. "The Impact of Immigration Policies on Asian American Communities: Past, Present, and Future": An analysis of the effects of various immigration policies on the lives and experiences of Asian Americans.
1. "Mapping the Diversity of Asian American Experiences: A Geographic and Cultural Perspective": This article examines the regional variations within Asian American communities and the impact of geographic location on cultural identity.

a new history of asian america: *A New History of Asian America* Shelley Sang-Hee Lee, 2013

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.

a new history 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.

a new history of asian america: *The Making of Asian America* Erika Lee, 2015-09-01 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.

a new history 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.

a new history of asian america: Asian America Roger Daniels, 2011-10-01 In this important and masterful synthesis of the Chinese and Japanese experience in America, historian Roger Daniels provides a new perspective on the significance of Asian immigration to the United States. Examining the period from the mid-nineteenth century to the early 1980s, Daniels presents a basic history comprising the political and socioeconomic background of Chinese and Japanese immigration and acculturation. He draws distinctions and points out similarities not only between Chinese and Japanese but between Asian and European immigration experiences, clarifying the integral role of Asians in American history. Daniels' research is impressive and his evidence is solid. In forthright prose, he suggests fresh assessments of the broad patterns of the Asian American experience, illuminating the recurring tensions within our modern multiracial society. His detailed supporting material is woven into a rich historical fabric which also gives personal voice to the tenacious individualism of the immigrant. The book is organized topically and chronologically, beginning with the emigration of each ethnic group and concluding with an epilogue that looks to the future from the perspective of the last two decades of Chinese and Japanese American history. Included in this survey are discussions of the reasons for emigration; the conditions of emigration; the fate of first generation immigrants; the reception of immigrants by the United States government and its people; the growth of immigrant communities; the effects of discriminatory legislation; the impact of World War II and the succeeding Cold War era on Chinese and Japanese Americans; and the history of Asian Americans during the last twenty years. This timely and thought-provoking volume will be of value not only to specialists in Asian American history and culture but to students and general historians of American life.

a new history 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.

a new history 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.

a new history 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.

a new history of asian america: Asian American Dreams Helen Zia, 2001-05-15 ... about the transformation of Asian Americans ... into a self-identified racial group that is influencing every aspect of American society.--Jacket.

a new history of asian america: Q & A Queer And Asian David L. Eng, Alice Y. Hom, 1998-08-24 What does it mean to be queer and Asian American at the turn of the century? The writers, activists, essayists, and artists who contribute to this volume consider how Asian American racial identity and queer sexuality interconnect in mutually shaping and complicating ways. Their collective aim (in the words of the editors) is to articulate a new conception of Asian American racial identity, its heterogeneity, hybridity, and multiplicity -- concepts that after all underpinned the Asian American moniker from its very inception. *Q & A* approaches matters of identity from a variety of points of view and academic disciplines in order to explore the multiple crossings of race and ethnicity with sexuality and gender. Drawing together the work of visual artists, fiction writers, community organizers, scholars, and participants in roundtable discussions, the collection gathers an array of voices and experiences that represent the emerging communities of a queer Asian America. Collectively, these contributors contend that Asian American studies needs to be more attentive to issues of sexuality and that queer studies needs to be more attentive to other aspects of difference, especially race and ethnicity. Vigorously rejecting the notion that a symmetrical relationship between race and homosexuality would weaken lesbian/gay and queer movements, the editors refuse to believe that a desirably queer world is one in which we remain perpetual aliens --

queer houseguests -- in a queer nation.

a new history of asian america: Asian America Huping Ling, 2009 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.

a new history 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.

a new history 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.

a new history 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.

a new history of asian america: A Part, Yet Apart Lavina Dhingra Shankar, Rajini Srikanth,

a new history of asian america: My Life: Growing Up Asian in America CAPE (Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment), 2023-04-25 A collection of thirty heartfelt, witty, and hopeful thought pieces "that highlights the humanity and multitudes of being Asian American" (Kirkus Reviews, starred), for fans of Minor Feelings. There are 23 million people, representing more than twenty countries, each with unique languages, histories, and cultures, clumped under one banner: Asian American. Though their experiences are individual, certain commonalities appear. -The pressure to perform and the weight of the model minority myth. -The proximity to whiteness (for many) and the resulting privileges. -The desexualizing, exoticizing, and fetishizing of their bodies. -The microaggressions. -The erasure and overt racism. Through a series of essays, poems, and comics, thirty creators give voice to moments that defined them and shed light on the immense diversity and complexity of the Asian American identity. Edited by CAPE and with an introduction by renowned journalist SuChin Pak, My Life: Growing Up Asian in America is a celebration of community, a call to action, and "a vital record of the Asian American experience" (Publishers Weekly). It's the perfect gift for any occasion. Featuring contributions from bestselling authors Melissa de la Cruz, Marie Lu, and Tanaïs; journalists Amna Nawaz, Edmund Lee, and Aisha Sultan; TV and film writers Teresa Hsiao, Heather Jeng Bladt, and Nathan Ramos-Park; and industry leaders Ellen K. Pao and Aneesh Raman, among many more.

a new history of asian america: Asian America Pawan Dhingra, Robyn Magalit Rodriguez, 2014-03-10 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 new history of asian america: The Loneliest Americans Jay Caspian Kang, 2022-10-11 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.

a new history of asian america: Asian Americans in Dixie Khyati Y. Joshi, Jigna Desai, 2013-10-01 Extending the understanding of race and ethnicity in the South beyond the prism of black-white relations, this interdisciplinary collection explores the growth, impact, and significance of rapidly growing Asian American populations in the American South. Avoiding the usual focus on the East and West Coasts, several essays attend to the nuanced ways in which Asian Americans negotiate the dominant black and white racial binary, while others provoke readers to reconsider the supposed cultural isolation of the region, reintroducing the South within a historical web of global networks across the Caribbean, Pacific, and Atlantic. Contributors are Vivek Bald, Leslie Bow, Amy Brandzel, Daniel Bronstein, Jigna Desai, Jennifer Ho, Khyati Y. Joshi, ChangHwan Kim, Marguerite Nguyen, Purvi Shah, Arthur Sakamoto, Jasmine Tang, Isao Takei, and Roy Vu.

a new history of asian america: Citizens of Asian America Cindy I-Fen Cheng, 2013-05-31 During the Cold War, Soviet propaganda highlighted U.S. racism in order to undermine the

credibility of U.S. democracy. In response, incorporating racial and ethnic minorities in order to affirm that America worked to ensure the rights of all and was superior to communist countries became a national imperative. In *Citizens of Asian America*, Cindy I-Fen Cheng explores how Asian Americans figured in this effort to shape the credibility of American democracy, even while the perceived “foreignness” of Asian Americans cast them as likely alien subversives whose activities needed monitoring following the communist revolution in China and the outbreak of the Korean War. While histories of international politics and U.S. race relations during the Cold War have largely overlooked the significance of Asian Americans, Cheng challenges the black-white focus of the existing historiography. She highlights how Asian Americans made use of the government’s desire to be leader of the “free world” by advocating for civil rights reforms, such as housing integration, increased professional opportunities, and freedom from political persecution. Further, Cheng examines the liberalization of immigration policies, which worked not only to increase the civil rights of Asian Americans but also to improve the nation’s ties with Asian countries, providing an opportunity for the U.S. government to broadcast, on a global scale, the freedom and opportunity that American society could offer. Cindy I-Fen Cheng is Associate Professor of History and Asian American Studies at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. In the *Nation of Newcomers* series

a new history of asian america: Asian America Pawan Dhingra, Robyn Magalit Rodriguez, 2021-05-20 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.

a new history of asian america: The Contemporary Asian American Experience Timothy P. Fong, 2002 This book examines the contemporary history, culture, and social relationships that form the fundamental issues confronted by Asians in America today. Comprehensive, yet concise, it focuses on a broad range of issues, and features a unique comparative approach that analyzes how race, class, and gender intersect throughout the contemporary Asian American experience. Chapter topics cover the history of Asians in America; emerging communities, changing realities; Asian Americans and educational opportunity; workplace issues; anti-Asian violence; Asian Americans and the media; Asian American families and identities; and political empowerment. For anyone interested in an understanding and awareness beyond the simplistic stereotype of the model minority through the exposure to important concerns of Asian American groups and communities.

a new history 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.

a new history of asian america: *Re/collecting Early Asian America* Josephine D. Lee, Imogene L. Lim, Yuko Matsukawa, 2002 Defining the early period as spanning the nineteenth century to the 1960s, the essays address the Asian American individuals and communities that have been omitted from official histories; trace the roots of persistent racial stereotypes and myths; and retrieve artistic production that raises questions of what counts as art or as Asian American. By reconsidering the political, cultural, and material history written in the past three decades, contributes to a new understanding of Asian America's past and relationship to the present.

a new history 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.

a new history 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 of how and why certain immigrant groups succeed.

a new history 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.

a new history 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 /

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a new history of asian america: *The Cambridge History of Asian American Literature* Rajini Srikanth, Min Hyoung Song, 2015-12-01 The Cambridge History of Asian American Literature presents a comprehensive history of the field, from its origins in the nineteenth century to the present day. It offers an unparalleled examination of all facets of Asian American writing that help readers to understand how authors have sought to make their experiences meaningful. Covering subjects from autobiography and Japanese American internment literature to contemporary drama and social protest performance, this History traces the development of a literary tradition while remaining grounded in current scholarship. It also presents new critical approaches to Asian American literature that will serve the needs of students and specialists alike. Written by leading scholars in the field, The Cambridge History of Asian American Literature will not only engage readers in contemporary debates but also serve as a definitive reference for years to come.

a new history of asian america: *Opening the Gates to Asia* Jane H. Hong, 2019-10-18 Over the course of less than a century, the U.S. transformed from a nation that excluded Asians from immigration and citizenship to one that receives more immigrants from Asia than from anywhere else in the world. Yet questions of how that dramatic shift took place have long gone unanswered. In this first comprehensive history of Asian exclusion repeal, Jane H. Hong unearths the transpacific movement that successfully ended restrictions on Asian immigration. The mid-twentieth century repeal of Asian exclusion, Hong shows, was part of the price of America's postwar empire in Asia. The demands of U.S. empire-building during an era of decolonization created new opportunities for advocates from both the U.S. and Asia to lobby U.S. Congress for repeal. Drawing from sources in the United States, India, and the Philippines, *Opening the Gates to Asia* charts a movement more than twenty years in the making. Positioning repeal at the intersection of U.S. civil rights struggles and Asian decolonization, Hong raises thorny questions about the meanings of nation, independence, and citizenship on the global stage.

a new history 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.

a new history 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.

a new history of asian america: *America for Americans* Erika Lee, 2019-11-26 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 epilogue reflecting on how the coronavirus pandemic turbocharged xenophobia, *America for Americans* is an urgent spur to action for any concerned citizen.

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a new history of asian america: *Performing Asian America* Josephine Lee, 1998-03-25 At a time when Asian American theater is enjoying a measure of growth and success, Josephine Lee tells us about the complex social and political issues depicted by Asian American playwrights. By looking at performances and dramatic texts, Lee argues that playwrights produce a different conception of Asian America in accordance with their unique set of sensibilities. For instance, some Asian American playwrights critique the separation of issues of race and ethnicity from those of economics and class, or they see ethnic identity as a voluntary choice of lifestyle rather than an impetus for concerted political action. Others deal with the problem of cultural stereotypes and how to reappropriate their power. Lee is attuned to the complexities and contradictions of such performances, and her trenchant thinking about the criticisms lobbed at Asian American playwrights -- for their choices in form, perpetuation of stereotype, or apparent sexism or homophobia -- leads her to question how the presentation of Asian American identity in the theater parallels problems and possibilities of identity offstage as well. Discussed are better-known plays such as Frank Chin's *The Chickencoop Chinaman*, David Henry Hwang's *M. Butterfly*, and Velina Hasu Houston's *Tea*, and new works like Jeannie Barroga's *Walls* and Wakako Yamauchi's *12-1-a*.

a new history 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.

a new history of asian america: *Asian Americans* Pyong Gap Min, 2006 This is a textbook for undergraduate students studying the Asian American experience and ethnic studies in the fields of Sociology, Political Science, History, and Cultural Studies.--Jacket.

a new history of asian america: *Eating Asian America* Robert Ji-Song Ku, 2013-09-23 Fully of provocation and insight. - Cathy J. Schlund-Vials, author of *War, Genocide, and Justice*

a new history of asian america: *Margins and Mainstreams* Gary Y. Okihiro, 2014-04-01 In this classic book on the meaning of multiculturalism in larger American society, Gary Okihiro explores the significance of Asian American experiences from the perspectives of historical consciousness, race, gender, class, and culture. While exploring anew the meanings of Asian American social history, Okihiro 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, women, and the gay and lesbian community. 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.

a new history of asian america: *Our Stories* South Asian American Digital Archive, 2021-08-17 ". . . to suddenly discover yourself existing . . ." *Our Stories: An Introduction to South Asian America* is an anthology rooted in community. Bringing together the voices of sixty-four authors—including a wide range of scholars, artists, journalists, and community members—*Our Stories* weaves together the myriad histories, experiences, perspectives, and identities that make up the South Asian American community. This volume consists of ten chapters that explore both the history of South Asian America, spanning from the 1780s through the present day, and various aspects of the South Asian American experience, from civic engagement to family. Each chapter offers stories of struggle, resistance, inspiration, and joy that disrupt dominant narratives that have

erased South Asian Americans' role in U.S. history and made restrictions on our belonging. By combining these narratives, Our Stories illustrates the diversity, vibrancy, and power of the South Asian American community.

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