

the making of asian america a history

The Making of Asian America: A History

the making of asian america a history is a fascinating journey that traces the diverse and complex experiences of Asian immigrants and their descendants in the United States. From the earliest arrivals seeking opportunity and refuge to the present-day contributions of Asian Americans across all facets of society, this history is rich with stories of resilience, struggle, and triumph. Understanding this narrative not only sheds light on the challenges faced by Asian communities but also highlights their integral role in shaping modern America.

Early Beginnings: The Foundations of Asian America

The story of Asian America begins long before the term “Asian American” was coined. The first significant groups of Asian immigrants arrived in the 19th century, primarily from China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and later India and Southeast Asia. These early migrants were often driven by economic hardship, political unrest, or the lure of new opportunities in the burgeoning American West.

The Chinese Experience: Labor and Legislation

Chinese immigrants were among the earliest Asian groups to arrive in the mid-1800s, attracted by the California Gold Rush and the promise of work on the transcontinental railroad. Despite their critical role in building the nation’s infrastructure, they faced widespread discrimination and violence. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the first significant law restricting immigration based on nationality, exemplifies the institutional barriers they encountered. This act not only halted Chinese immigration but also legitimized anti-Asian sentiment in the United States.

Japanese and Filipino Migration Waves

Following the Chinese, Japanese immigrants began arriving in larger numbers around the turn of the 20th century, many working in agriculture and fishing. The Philippines, a U.S. colony after the Spanish-American War, also saw a wave of migration as Filipinos sought work in agriculture, service industries, and the military. Both groups faced their own unique challenges, including exclusionary laws and segregation, but they laid the groundwork for vibrant communities on the West Coast and beyond.

The Evolution of Asian American Identity

One of the most compelling aspects of the making of Asian America is the evolving sense of identity among its diverse populations. Initially categorized simply as “foreign” or “alien,” Asian immigrants

and their descendants gradually forged a collective identity under the banner of “Asian American” during the civil rights era of the 1960s and 1970s.

The Role of the Civil Rights Movement

The civil rights movement provided a crucial platform for Asian Americans to challenge systemic racism and assert their rights. Activists from various Asian backgrounds united to combat stereotypes, fight for immigration reform, and advocate for political representation. This period saw the rise of influential organizations and leaders who emphasized solidarity among Asian ethnic groups while also addressing the specific needs of their communities.

Immigration Reforms and Demographic Shifts

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 was a turning point in the making of Asian America. By abolishing quotas that had severely limited Asian immigration, this legislation opened the doors to a new wave of immigrants from countries across Asia. This shift not only diversified the Asian American population but also introduced a broader range of languages, cultures, and experiences, further enriching the American mosaic.

Contributions and Challenges in Contemporary Society

Today, Asian Americans are a dynamic and influential part of the United States, contributing significantly to fields such as technology, education, politics, and the arts. However, the making of Asian America remains a story of ongoing challenges alongside achievements.

Economic and Cultural Contributions

Asian Americans have been instrumental in Silicon Valley’s rise as a global tech hub, with many entrepreneurs and innovators driving technological advancements. In education, they often serve as role models in academic achievement, while in politics, figures like Kamala Harris and other Asian American leaders have broken barriers and inspired new generations. Cultural contributions, from cuisine to film and literature, have also enriched American life, reflecting the diverse heritage within Asian communities.

Addressing Stereotypes and Discrimination

Despite these successes, Asian Americans continue to confront stereotypes such as the “model minority” myth, which oversimplifies their experiences and masks inequalities within the community. The rise in hate crimes and xenophobia, especially during times of political tension or public health crises, highlights the persistence of racial prejudice. Understanding the making of Asian America means acknowledging these complexities and promoting inclusive narratives that honor both

struggles and triumphs.

Preserving History Through Education and Media

One of the most effective ways to appreciate the making of Asian America is through education and media representation. Increasingly, schools, museums, and cultural institutions are integrating Asian American history into their curricula and exhibits, helping to fill gaps in mainstream historical narratives.

The Importance of Asian American Studies

Asian American studies programs at universities across the country offer students a deeper understanding of the community's history and contemporary issues. These programs empower students to explore identity, social justice, and cultural heritage, fostering a more nuanced appreciation of Asian American experiences.

Media Representation and Storytelling

The rise of Asian American voices in film, television, and literature has played a crucial role in reshaping public perceptions. Stories that center on authentic Asian American experiences challenge stereotypes and provide a platform for diverse narratives. This cultural shift not only educates wider audiences but also strengthens community pride and solidarity.

Looking Ahead: The Future of Asian America

The making of Asian America is an ongoing process, shaped by new generations, shifting demographics, and evolving social landscapes. As younger Asian Americans continue to advocate for equity, representation, and cultural preservation, the community's story grows richer and more complex.

Understanding this history encourages empathy and awareness, reminding us that Asian America is not a monolithic identity but a vibrant tapestry of cultures, languages, and experiences. Whether through activism, education, or everyday interactions, the legacy of Asian Americans continues to influence the broader American story in profound ways.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Making of Asian America: A History' about?

It is a comprehensive book that explores the history, experiences, and contributions of Asian

Americans from the earliest migrations to contemporary times.

Who is the author of 'The Making of Asian America: A History'?

The book is authored by Erika Lee, a renowned historian specializing in Asian American history.

Why is 'The Making of Asian America' considered important?

The book provides an in-depth and nuanced understanding of Asian American experiences, challenging stereotypes and highlighting their integral role in American history.

What themes does 'The Making of Asian America' explore?

It explores themes such as immigration, labor, racism, identity, activism, and the diversity within Asian American communities.

How does the book address the diversity among Asian American groups?

The book examines the varied origins, cultures, and experiences of different Asian ethnic groups, including Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, South Asian, and Southeast Asian Americans.

Does 'The Making of Asian America' cover contemporary issues faced by Asian Americans?

Yes, it addresses modern challenges such as the model minority myth, anti-Asian violence, and political mobilization.

What sources does Erika Lee use in 'The Making of Asian America'?

Erika Lee utilizes a wide range of primary sources, including archival documents, personal narratives, government records, and oral histories.

Has 'The Making of Asian America' received any awards or recognition?

Yes, the book has received critical acclaim and has won awards for its contribution to Asian American studies and American history.

Is 'The Making of Asian America' suitable for academic study?

Absolutely, it is widely used in college courses on Asian American history, ethnic studies, and American history due to its thorough research and accessible writing.

Where can readers find 'The Making of Asian America' for purchase or borrowing?

The book is available for purchase in bookstores and online retailers, and can also be found in many public and university libraries.

Additional Resources

The Making of Asian America: A History

the making of asian america a history unfolds as a complex narrative that challenges conventional perspectives on American identity and multiculturalism. This comprehensive exploration reveals how Asian Americans have shaped and been shaped by the socio-political, cultural, and economic forces in the United States over centuries. Tracing this history is essential not only for understanding the Asian American experience but also for grasping the broader contours of American history itself.

Tracing the Origins: Early Asian Migration and Settlement

The making of Asian America a history begins with the initial waves of Asian migration in the 19th century, primarily driven by economic opportunities and geopolitical upheavals. Chinese laborers, for example, were among the earliest Asian groups to arrive in significant numbers during the California Gold Rush of the 1850s and the construction of the transcontinental railroad. These early settlers faced systemic discrimination and legal barriers that reflected broader anti-immigrant sentiments of the era.

Japanese, Filipino, Korean, South Asian, and Southeast Asian migration followed, each contributing unique cultural and labor dynamics to the American social fabric. The Immigration Act of 1924, which effectively barred Asian immigration, marks a critical juncture in this narrative, illustrating how U.S. immigration policy has historically oscillated between inclusion and exclusion based on racial and economic considerations.

Legal Barriers and Social Challenges

One of the defining features in the making of Asian America a history is the persistent struggle against exclusionary laws and racial prejudice. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 stands as a landmark example, codifying racial discrimination into federal law for the first time by prohibiting Chinese laborers from entering the United States. This act was followed by other restrictive policies, such as the Asiatic Barred Zone Act and alien land laws that prevented Asian immigrants from owning property.

These legal constraints were accompanied by widespread social hostility, including violence and segregation. Despite these challenges, Asian communities established enclaves, such as Chinatowns

and Japantowns, which became centers for cultural preservation and political mobilization. This resilience underscores the dynamic interplay between marginalization and community-building that defines much of Asian American history.

Post-1965: Immigration Reform and Demographic Shifts

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 represents a watershed moment in the making of Asian America a history. By abolishing national origins quotas, this legislation opened the doors for a diverse influx of Asian immigrants, fundamentally altering the demographic landscape of the United States. The Act facilitated migration from countries like China, India, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Korea, each bringing distinct cultural traditions and professional skills.

This period also saw significant changes in Asian American identity and political engagement. The civil rights movement inspired Asian Americans to organize for social justice, challenging stereotypes and advocating for representation. The new immigrant cohorts included highly educated professionals alongside refugees fleeing war and persecution, broadening the socioeconomic profile of the community.

Economic Contributions and Cultural Influence

Asian Americans have made substantial contributions to the U.S. economy, particularly in technology, healthcare, education, and entrepreneurship. Silicon Valley's rise, for instance, owes much to the influx of Asian engineers and innovators. Moreover, Asian-owned businesses have become vital components of local and national economies.

Culturally, Asian Americans have enriched the American tapestry through arts, cuisine, literature, and film. The increasing visibility of Asian American narratives in mainstream media challenges monolithic portrayals and highlights the community's diversity. This cultural influence plays a crucial role in reshaping American perceptions and fostering cross-cultural understanding.

Addressing Contemporary Issues: Identity, Representation, and Challenges

The making of Asian America a history is ongoing, with contemporary issues reflecting both progress and persistent challenges. Despite educational and economic successes, Asian Americans face the model minority stereotype, which can obscure disparities within the community and mask experiences of discrimination.

The rise in anti-Asian violence, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, has brought renewed attention to issues of racial profiling and xenophobia. Movements advocating for Asian American rights emphasize the importance of intersectionality, recognizing the diversity within the community in terms of ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and immigration history.

Political Mobilization and Future Directions

Asian American political engagement has surged in recent years, evidenced by increased voter turnout and representation in public office. Organizations focused on civic participation and advocacy are tackling issues ranging from immigration reform to hate crime legislation.

Looking forward, the making of Asian America a history will continue to evolve as younger generations navigate their identities in a multifaceted society. Education, media representation, and policy will play pivotal roles in shaping this trajectory.

Key Themes in the Making of Asian America

- **Migration and Settlement Patterns:** Varied waves of immigration influenced by global events and U.S. policy.
- **Legal and Social Exclusion:** Historical laws and societal attitudes that shaped Asian American experiences.
- **Community Formation:** The development of ethnic enclaves and institutions as centers of cultural preservation.
- **Economic Integration:** Contributions to various sectors and entrepreneurship.
- **Cultural Representation:** The evolving portrayal of Asian Americans in arts and media.
- **Political Activism:** Efforts to combat discrimination and enhance civic participation.

The making of Asian America a history is not merely a chronicle of immigration or cultural milestones; it is an ongoing dialogue about identity, belonging, and justice within the American narrative. As the community continues to grow and diversify, understanding this history remains vital to appreciating the complexities and contributions of Asian Americans in shaping the United States.

[The Making Of Asian America A History](#)

the making of asian america a history: 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 a history: The Oxford Handbook of Asian American History David K. Yoo, Eiichiro Azuma, 2016-01-04 After emerging from the tumult of social movements of the 1960s and 1970s, the field of Asian American studies has enjoyed rapid and extraordinary growth. Nonetheless, many aspects of Asian American history still remain open to debate. The Oxford Handbook of Asian American History offers the first comprehensive commentary on the state of the field, simultaneously assessing where Asian American studies came from and what the future holds. In this volume, thirty leading scholars offer original essays on a wide range of topics. The chapters trace Asian American history from the beginning of the migration flows toward the Pacific Islands and the American continent to Japanese American incarceration and Asian American participation in World War II, from the experience of exclusion, violence, and racism to the social and political activism of the late twentieth century. The authors explore many of the key aspects of the Asian American experience, including politics, economy, intellectual life, the arts, education, religion, labor, gender, family, urban development, and legal history. The Oxford Handbook of Asian American History demonstrates how the roots of Asian American history are linked to visions of a nation marked by justice and equity and to a deep effort to participate in a global project aimed at liberation. The contributors to this volume attest to the ongoing importance of these ideals, showing how the mass politics, creative expressions, and the imagination that emerged during the 1960s are still relevant today. It is an unprecedentedly detailed portrait of Asian Americans and how they have helped change the face of the United States.

the making of asian america a history: Exclusion and the Chinese American Story Sarah-SoonLing Blackburn, 2024-03-26 Until now, you've only heard one side of the story, but Chinese American history extends far beyond the railroads. Here's the true story of America, from the Chinese American perspective. A Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection If you've learned about the history of Chinese people in America, it was probably about their work on the railroads in the 1800s. But more likely, you may not have learned about it at all. This may make it feel like Chinese immigration is a newer part of this country, but some scholars believe the first immigrant arrived from China 499 CE--one thousand years before Columbus did! When immigration picked up in the mid-1800s, efforts to ban immigrants from China began swiftly. But hope, strength, and community allowed the Chinese population in America to flourish. From the gold rush and railroads to entrepreneurs, animators, and movie stars, this is the true story of the Chinese American experience.

the making of asian america a history: *Asian American Literature in Transition, 1965-1996: Volume 3* Asha Nadkarni, Cathy J. Schlund-Vials, 2021-06-17 This volume traces the formation of the Asian American literary canon and the field of Asian American Studies from 1965-1996. It is intended for an academic audience, ranging from advanced undergraduate students to scholars from a variety of disciplines, interested in the formation of Asian American literary studies from 1965-1996.

the making of asian america a history: *Documents of the Asian American Experience* Noriko Matsumoto, 2025-02-06 This curated and contextualized primary source collection examines the history of Asian Americans from precolonial times to the present day. From their integral role in the expansion of transcontinental railroads in the 1800s to Japanese internment during World War II to being lauded as the "model minority" in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, Asian American

history is inextricable from the larger history of the United States. Yet the contributions, struggles, and lived experiences of this diverse minority group have often gone unacknowledged. Documents of the Asian American Experience features more than 80 documents across 17 time periods, including newspaper articles, personal accounts, federal legislation, propaganda pieces, and more. Readers will discover the multifaceted experiences of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Indian, and Filipino Americans, among others. Essays at the beginning of each section provide an overview of the time period and the political, economic, and sociocultural factors influencing race relations at the time. Concise introductions to each document provide necessary background information about the source and its significance.

the making of asian america a history: Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Congress, 1900-2017 Albin Kowalewski, 2017

the making of asian america a history: Asian American Literature in Transition, 1930-1965: Volume 2 Victor Bascara, Josephine Nock-Hee Park, 2021-06-17 Leading scholars provide illuminating and engaging perspectives on a long neglected, yet incredibly eventful, period (1930-1965) of Asian American literature.

the making of asian america a history: Asian American Literature in Transition, 1996-2020: Volume 4 Betsy Huang, Victor Román Mendoza, 2021-06-17 This volume examines the concerns - political, literary, and identity-based - of contemporary Asian American literatures in neoliberal times.

the making of asian america a history: Asian American Identities, Relationships, and Post-Migration Legacies Jessica ChenFeng, Lana Kim, 2024-10-04 Bringing together the personal and professional narratives of Asian American family therapists, this book offers insight into the Asian American experience through systemic theory and frameworks, individual and community stories, and clinical considerations. The Asian American experience is still a largely invisible and unknown one, especially in the field of marriage and family therapy. With a contextual lens, this book highlights how understanding family migration legacies and individual generational status relative to time, place, and context is critical to doing meaningful work with Asian Americans. Filled with thought-provoking case studies and reflective questions, chapters discuss the impact of stereotyping on mental health; the historical and present ways that Asian American racialization invisibilizes individual and collective experiences; shame associated with bicultural identity, gender, generational trauma, media representations; and more. Each chapter bridges these ideas to clinical practice while concurrently centering the voices and experiences of Asian American therapists. This book is essential reading for marriage and family therapists and other mental health clinicians who want to deepen their understanding of, relationship with, and clinical support for the Asian Americans in their lives, whether friends, colleagues, supervisees, or clients.

the making of asian america a history: Milestones in Asian American Theatre Josephine Lee, 2022-09-30 This introduction to Asian American theatre charts ten of the most pivotal moments in the history of the Asian diaspora in the USA and how those moments have been reflected in theatre. Designed for weekly use on Asian American theatre courses, ten chosen milestones move chronologically from the earliest contact between Japan and the West through the impact of the Vietnam War and the resurgent yellow peril hysteria of COVID-19. Each chapter emphasizes common questions of how racial identities and relationships are understood in everyday life as well as represented on the theatrical stage and in popular culture. Milestones are a range of accessible textbooks, breaking down the need-to-know moments in the social, cultural, political, and artistic development of foundational subject areas.

the making of asian america a history: Made in Asian America: A History for Young People Erika Lee, Christina Soontornvat, 2024-04-30 "Powerful. . . . Made in Asian America isn't just about the past. It's about the history being made right now by young people, inspired by the Asian Americans who came before them to ensure that our stories are not only heard, but also remembered." —Paula Yoo, The New York Times Book Review From three-time Newbery Honoree Christina Soontornvat and award-winning historian Erika Lee comes a middle grade nonfiction that

shines a light on the generations of Asian Americans who have transformed the United States and who continue to shape what it means to be American. Asian American history is not made up of one single story. It's many. And it's a story that too often goes untold. It begins centuries before America even exists as a nation. It is connected to the histories of Western conquest and colonialism. It's a story of migration; of people and families crossing the Pacific Ocean in search of escape, opportunity, and new beginnings. It is also the story of race and racism. Of being labeled an immigrant invasion, unfit to become citizens, and being banned, deported, and incarcerated. Of being blamed for bringing diseases into the country. And it is a story of bravery and hope. It is the story of heroes who fought for equality in the courts, on the streets, and in the schools, and who continue to fight in solidarity with others doing the same. This book is a stirring account of the ordinary people and extraordinary acts that made Asian America and the young people who are remaking America today.

the making of asian america a history: Making Asian American Film and Video Jun Okada, 2015-03-06 The words "Asian American film" might evoke a painfully earnest, low-budget documentary or family drama, destined to be seen only in small film festivals or on PBS (Public Broadcasting Service). In her groundbreaking study of the past fifty years of Asian American film and video, Jun Okada demonstrates that although this stereotype is not entirely unfounded, a remarkably diverse range of Asian American filmmaking has emerged. Yet Okada also reveals how the legacy of institutional funding and the "PBS style" unites these filmmakers, whether they are working within that system or setting themselves in opposition to its conventions. *Making Asian American Film and Video* explores how the genre has served as a flashpoint for debates about what constitutes Asian American identity. Tracing a history of how Asian American film was initially conceived as a form of public-interest media, part of a broader effort to give voice to underrepresented American minorities, Okada shows why this seemingly well-intentioned project inspired deeply ambivalent responses. In addition, she considers a number of Asian American filmmakers who have opted out of producing state-funded films, from Wayne Wang to Gregg Araki to Justin Lin. Okada gives us a unique behind-the-scenes look at the various institutions that have bankrolled and distributed Asian American films, revealing the dynamic interplay between commercial and state-run media. More than just a history of Asian Americans in film, *Making Asian American Film and Video* is an insightful meditation on both the achievements and the limitations of institutionalized multiculturalism.

the making of asian america a history: Approaches to Teaching the Works of Karen Tei Yamashita Ruth Y. Hsu, Pamela Thoma, 2021-10-01 Offers pedagogical techniques for teaching Karen Tei Yamashita's works, such as *I-Hotel*, *Tropic of Orange*, and *Brazil-Marú*, including considerations of immigration, transnationalism, environmental concerns, magical realism, and postmodern narrative techniques. Gives syllabus suggestions for undergraduate and graduate courses in American, ethnic American, and Asian American literature and cultural studies.

the making of asian america a history: Christianity and Migration Peter C. Phan, Oxford Editor, 2025-10-07 This book essays a (not the) Christian theology of migration. The phenomenon of human migration, that is, the movement of people to and settlement-temporary or permanent-in a new area or country, its causes and reasons, and its historical, anthropological, social, political, legal, and cultural dimensions have been widely studied and reasonably well understood, and the next chapter will discuss them in detail. By contrast, theology as an academic discipline seems least capable of illuminating this human phenomenon. It appears to most people outside the church and its educational institutions to be at best an esoteric subject and at worst a convoluted and useless mumbo-jumbo, especially when liberally sprinkled with Greek and Latin phrases. Why not leave the study of migration to scholars in history, sociology, anthropology, economics, politics, and law, who, albeit no less infected with highfalutin language than theologians, do at least try to offer practical policies and effective strategies, either for or against immigration?-- Provided by publisher.

the making of asian america a history: 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 a history: A Companion to Korean American Studies

Rachael Miyung Joo, Shelley Sang-Hee Lee, 2018-06-12 A Companion to Korean American Studies presents interdisciplinary works from a number of authors who have contributed to the field of Korean American Studies. This collection ranges from chapters detailing the histories of Korean migration to the United States to contemporary flows of popular culture between South Korea and the United States. The authors present on Korean American history, gender relations, cultural formations, social relations, and politics. Contributors are: Sohyun An, Chinbo Chong, Angie Y. Chung, Rhoanne Esteban, Sue-Je Lee Gage, Hahrie Han, Jane Hong, Michael Hurt, Rachael Miyung Joo, Jane Junn, Miliann Kang, Ann H. Kim, Anthony Yooshin Kim, Eleana Kim, Jinwon Kim, Ju Yon Kim, Kevin Y. Kim, Nadia Y. Kim, Soo Mee Kim, Robert Ji-Song Ku, EunSook Lee, Se Hwa Lee, S. Heijin Lee, Shelley Sang-Hee Lee, John Lie, Pei-te Lien, Kimberly McKee, Pyong Gap Min, Arissa H. Oh, Edward J.W. Park, Jerry Z. Park, Josephine Nock-Hee Park, Margaret Rhee and Kenneth Vaughan.

the making of asian america a history: Asian American Basketball Joel S. Franks,

2016-04-27 When Jeremy Lin began to knock down shots for the New York Knicks in 2012, many Americans became aware for the first time that Asian Americans actually play basketball. Indeed, long before Lin shook up the NBA, Asian Americans played the game with passion and skill, and many excelled at high school, college and professional hoops. This comprehensive history of Asian American basketball discusses how these players first found a sense of community in the game, and competed despite an atmosphere of anti-Asian bigotry in historical and contemporary America.

the making of asian america a history: Asian American Culture Lan Dong, 2016-03-14

Providing comprehensive coverage of a variety of Asian American cultural forms, including folk tradition, literature, religion, education, politics, sports, and popular culture, this two-volume work is an ideal resource for students and general readers that reveals the historical, regional, and ethnic diversity within specific traditions. An invaluable reference for school and public libraries as well as academic libraries at colleges and universities, this two-volume encyclopedia provides comprehensive coverage of a variety of Asian American cultural forms that enables readers to understand the history, complexity, and contemporary practices in Asian American culture. The contributed entries address the diversity of a group comprising people with geographically discrete origins in the Far East, Southeast Asia, and the Indian subcontinent, identifying the rich variations across the category of Asian American culture that are key to understanding specific cultural expressions while also pointing out some commonalities. Entries are organized alphabetically and cover topics in the arts; education and politics; family and community; gender and sexuality; history and immigration; holidays, festivals, and folk tradition; literature and culture; media, sports, and popular culture; and religion, belief, and spirituality. Entries also broadly cover Asian American origins and history, regional practices and traditions, contemporary culture, and art and other forms of shared expression. Accompanying sidebars throughout serve to highlight key individuals, major events, and significant artifacts and allow readers to better appreciate the Asian American experience.

the making of asian america a history: Emerging from the Rubble: Asian/American Writings

on Disasters Yasuko Kase, Eliko Kosaka, 2025-08-12 With a focus on the transpacific and transnational relationship between North America and Asia, 'Emerging from the Rubble: Asian/American Writings on Disasters' explores Asian/Americans' complex and nuanced involvement in disastrous events. Included in this purview of disaster are not only the damages and threats of current ongoing climate change but also the long-lasting ruining effects inflicted by imperialism, neo/colonialism, wars, and these historical components' entanglement with global capitalism that have generated both spontaneous and slow and/or prolonged violent effects. Moreover, disasters can be acknowledged as manifestations of the Anthropocene — an epoch shaped by human activity — or what scholars like Jason W. Moore and Donna J. Harraway term the 'Capitalocene,' a paradigm where nature and capitalist society are deeply intertwined, co-creating an intricate web of life.

Asian/American involvement in such a web has never been simple but convoluted: some of them have experienced tremendous losses, whereas others have perpetuated obfuscation of the truth and/or induced violence, often contingently with or without acknowledging the facts. When considering Asian migrants including refugees from Southeast Asia who had little option but to seek asylum in the U.S., and Asian Americans who have pursued their “happiness” under the U.S.’s capitalist premise of constant progress, protection of “human rights,” and freedom of “choice,” it is important to note that Asian migrants and Asian ‘Americans’ have become simultaneously active players and exploited individuals within the context of U.S. racial capitalism. Acknowledging the impossibility of clearly differentiating natural and human-made disasters, scholars who contribute to this volume note the reciprocal influences between nature and civilization. They examine how the entanglements of natural and human-made disasters lead to the acceleration and expansion of damage. This volume explores how Asian Americans’ connections with their ancestral origins along with their particular racial positions, social classes, and socio-historical backgrounds in North American societies force them to experience and witness disastrous events differently from the mainstream discourse on eco-crises.

the making of asian america a history: *Asian American Chronology* Xiaojian Zhao, 2009-06-30 Key moments in Asian American history come alive in this concise and accessible chronology. Understanding the history of Asians in America is key to understanding the development of America itself. *Asian American Chronology: Chronologies of the American Mosaic* presents the most influential events in Asian American history—as well as key moments that have remained under the historical radar. This in-depth record covers events from the 18th century to the present day, including the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. Entries, organized chronologically by category, allow readers to trace the development of Asian peoples and culture in the United States over time, including the role of Chinese labor in building railroads, the importation of Filipino slaves, labor strikes and civil rights issues, Japanese-American internment, women's roles, literature, music, politics, and increased immigration in the mid-20th century. In addition to these broad topics, the book also treats individual events from the Rock Springs Massacre to the Gold Rush to the current prevalence of Japanese players in Major League Baseball.

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