

believe that this genuinely rich text would have been even more so had more perspectives by women on the subject of race been included. Of the sixteen chapters, only one is authored by a woman, Patricia J. Williams. Perhaps the editors were unsuccessful in attempts to solicit manuscripts from more women. This I do not know. I do know that the plethora of scholarship by the likes of, for example, Mary Frances Berry, Diane Pinderhughes, and bell hooks would have contributed much insight and perspective to the continuing discourse on the subject.

All things considered, this is an important book for those of us interested in and committed to doing the necessary work of obliterating the color line.

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Bill Ong Hing. *Making and Remaking Asian America Through Immigration Policy, 1850-1990*. (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1993) 340 pp., \$45.00.

Bill Ong Hing's book has fulfilled a long-felt need in Asian American studies. Since the publication of Milton R. Konvitz's *The Alien and Asiatic in American Law* (1946), no comprehensive overview of how American immigration policy influenced Asian immigration has been published. The subject, however, represents one of the most important aspects of Asian American experience. Historically, the anti-Asiatic Exclusion Laws played a defining role in the evolution of Asian America. Today, the legacy of racist immigration policies continue to limit Asian Americans, and the current debate over immigration remains an issue of great importance for the communities.

More a social than a legal history, the study focuses on how United States immigration policies have shaped and reshaped the six largest Asian American communities: Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Asian Indian. Chapter one lays the foundation for the book, tracing policy changes before and after the 1965 immigration law reforms. In a symmetrical manner, Chapters two and three examine the demographic and social characteristics of the pre- and post-1965 immigrant communities, looking at each of the five major groups (except the Vietnamese) through population size, residential patterns, gender ratios, and socioeconomic profiles. Chapter four offers a separate treatment of the refugee policies and their implications for the Vietnamese community. The last chapter analyzes the impact of immigration policies through three major areas of

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Asian American life—academic performance, political participation, and personal identity.

The study, thorough in its documentation, benefits from Hing's long-time career as an immigration attorney and professor of law. The relatively short book of 191 pages is supported by 45 pages of appendixes and a reference section. However, the major merit of the book does not lie in the detailed demographic data which are readily available elsewhere (e.g. Stanley Karnow and Nancy Yoshihara's *Asian Americans in Transition*), but in its usefulness as a community study. Immigration scholars have rarely investigated the questions of community life in their research, while the work of legal historians often focuses on how laws were formulated and executed in individual cases, falling short of explaining how they affected community life as a whole. Hing's inquiry offers illuminating insights into some of the most debated community issues. For example, he has made a powerful critique of the cultural paradigm for the model minority image. By questioning the precise meaning of Asian American educational achievement, he has fundamentally shifted the frame of reference for the debate. His call for "a more systematic, empirically based framework for understanding Asian American political life" broadens the visions of a people's political culture. The author's shrewd observation that Asian Americans switch identities from situation to situation and "Asian American" is not an identity for all times and all purposes debunks the notion of a unified essentialist ethnic identity.

The study's inadequacy lies in its analysis of the relationship between people and policy. Policy control through exclusion and numbers stands out as a significant theme. But there is little discussion of how the early and recent immigrants reacted to and fought against the laws and policies. Although Chapter two is entitled "The Communities' Responses: Asian America Prior to 1965," the book gives the reader little sense of the court battles, the international maneuvers, and individual strategies employed by Asian immigrants. In addition, examples need to be chosen more carefully. Since the book focuses on the six major Asian immigrant groups, the citation of non-immigrant Pacific Islanders (Native Hawaiians, Samoans, and Guamanians) on page 145, for instance, undercuts the author's argument. Finally, the production standards of this book fall below those customarily set by Stanford University Press. Note, for example, the glaring typographical mishaps on pages 26 and 145.

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