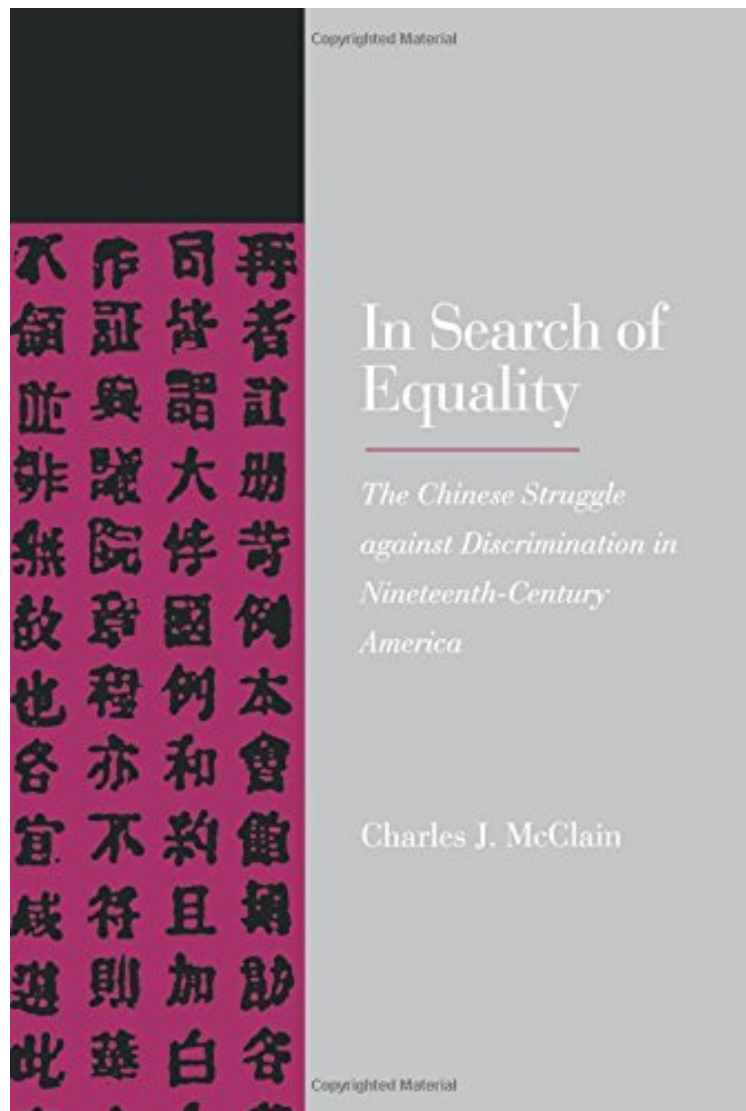


(Download) In Search of Equality: The Chinese Struggle against Discrimination in Nineteenth-Century America

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Charles J. McClain

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Charles J. McClain : In Search of Equality: The Chinese Struggle against Discrimination in Nineteenth-Century America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Search of Equality: The Chinese Struggle against Discrimination in Nineteenth-Century America:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Yesterday's Relevance to TodayBy Glinda the Almost GoodThis is a

powerful book, which shatters the illusion that pioneer Chinese didn't understand the American justice or court system. The book also does a good job of documenting the tax inequities that faced the Chinese until repeal of the Magnuson Act in the 60's. Taxation inequities are still with us- immigrants holding work or student visas pay disparate taxation rates, scheduled according to their country of origin. Immigrant exploitation is still prevalent. This book's themes still resonate today.

Charles McClain's illuminating new study probes Chinese efforts to battle manifold discrimination in housing, employment, and education in nineteenth-century America. Challenging the stereotypical image of a passive, insular group, McClain reveals a politically savvy population capable of mobilizing to fight mistreatment. He draws on English- and Chinese-language documents and rarely studied sources to chronicle the ways the Chinese sought redress and change in American courts. McClain focuses on the San Francisco Bay Area, the home of almost one-fifth of the fifty thousand Chinese working in California in 1870. He cites cases in which Chinese laundrymen challenged the city of San Francisco's discriminatory building restrictions, and lawsuits brought by parents to protest the exclusion of Chinese children from public schools. While vindication in the courtroom did not always bring immediate change (Chinese schoolchildren in San Francisco continued to be segregated well into the twentieth century), the Chinese community's efforts were instrumental in establishing several legal landmarks. In their battles for justice, the Chinese community helped to clarify many judicial issues, including the parameters of the Fourteenth Amendment and the legal meanings of nondiscrimination and equality. Discussing a wide range of court cases and gleaning their larger constitutional significance, *In Search of Equality* brings to light an important chapter of American cultural and ethnic history. It should attract attention from American and legal historians, ethnic studies scholars, and students of California culture.

From the Back Cover This illuminating study probes Chinese efforts to battle discrimination--in housing, employment, and education--in nineteenth-century America. Challenging the stereotypical image of a passive, insular group, Charles McClain reveals a politically savvy, mobilized community. Focusing on California, he chronicles the ways the Chinese sought redress and change in American courts. **About the Author** Charles J. McClain is Vice Chairman of the Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program and Lecturer at the Boalt School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley.