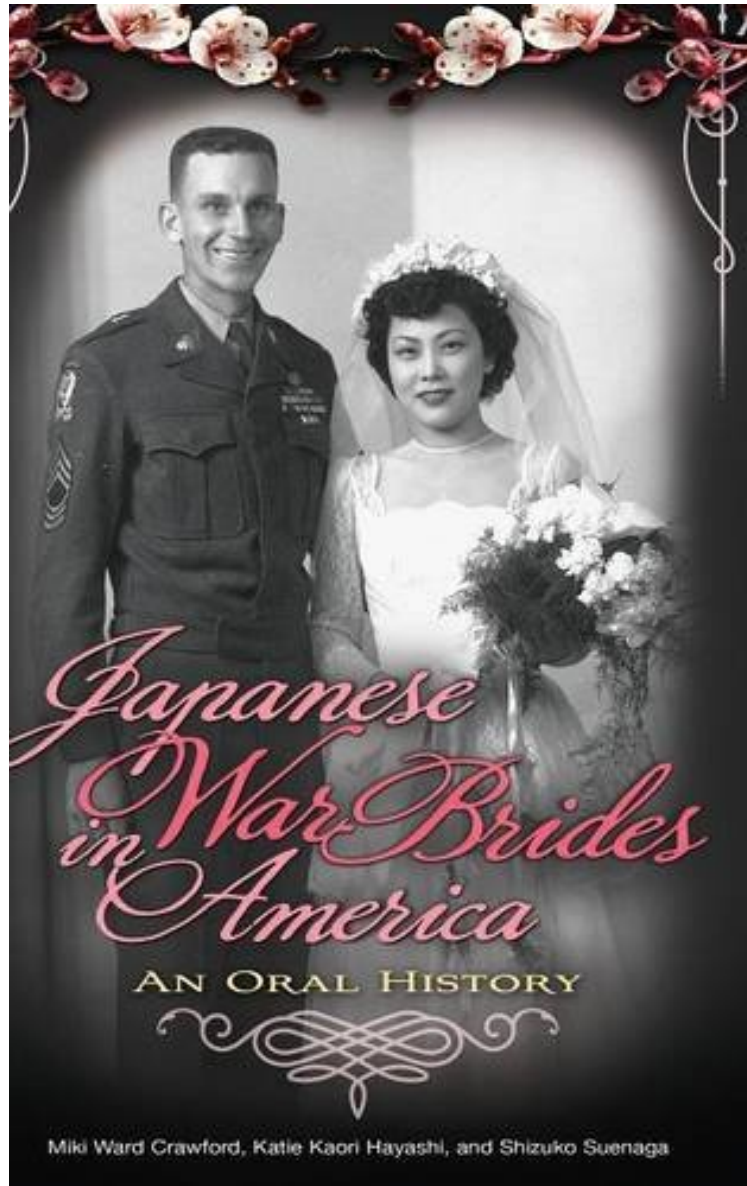


## Japanese War Brides in America: An Oral History

*Miki Ward Crawford, Katie Kaori Hayashi, Shizuko Suenaga*

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**Miki Ward Crawford, Katie Kaori Hayashi, Shizuko Suenaga : Japanese War Brides in America: An Oral History** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Japanese War Brides in America: An Oral History:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Yamato DamashiiBy C E Voigtsberger JrI wouldn't say "I love it." It was very interesting and the reason that this book had special interest for me was that 54 years ago my wife and I

joined the ranks of the subjects of this book. It is a very special interest book and probably has very limited sales. As a sociological study of a very small group of immigrants to this country, it is invaluable. Immigrants to this country generally congregate in communities of fellow immigrants, so at least they have the support of fellow immigrants. In most cases, the Japanese War Brides not only were transplanted into a foreign country but into a totally foreign culture too without the support of others similar to them. That they survived and thrived speaks to the inner strength of their personality. On the other hand, for some the culture shock was too much. One Japanese bride my wife and I know found the transition too difficult and although her husband lovingly supported her and stayed with her, she had frequent relapses into bouts of mental illness until the end of her life. I would suspect that this book will only be of interest to people who have a Japanese War Bride in their family or who have an interest in the sociology of how war brides were treated following WWII. If you are interested in Japan and its culture, it will certainly give some insights to Japanese thinking immediately after WWII.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Book  
By Anonymous  
An informative book about the lives of Japanese war brides and their happiness and struggle. All 19 Japanese War Brides have an interesting tale that expresses the extreme cultural differences between Japan and America.

3 of 13 people found the following review helpful. One-sided, missing passion  
By David  
I empathize with the hardships these young Japanese women had to endure and I admire their will and strength to overcome them. Because of the war, they were raised at a time when all young Japanese had to face great difficulties. These young women however, from fanciful notions of love that God plants in everyone, found a unique solution. For many it meant turning their backs on family, customs, and country, but they did so, in the name of love. For each it was a commendable, courageous action. I find no fault with them. The book by its nature is about the women and principally expresses their experiences. It is unfortunate there is no more from the male side than an occasional nod of approval. Talk about a one-sided story... My main objection is, I find the book too much a fluff piece which misses much of the reality of the circumstances. It's as if the authors and contributors were constricted by Victorian morality. I tired of reading such statements of courtship as "we fell in love." Where is the passion and sexual excitement? I served in the Occupation, in Tokyo, 1951-1952. As a twenty-year-old, healthy American male, I took a great interest in the Japanese girls. I found one described as the "most beautiful girl in Tokyo." I went bonkers over her and tried all my charm and resources to get her to the futon. Finally, after making a commitment, we "shacked-up" (a word of the common vernacular you'll not find in the subject book). Thus began many months of the most intense and satisfying loving sexual relationship imaginable. But, as it approached time for my return to the States, I could not conceive of getting married, it just wasn't in my thought pattern. In many ways I regret leaving my girl behind, but considering the wonderful life I've had, I've been well blessed. Another objection is the total lack of any recognition by these ladies in their narratives of Japan as an aggressor that committed horrible atrocities. Anyone unfamiliar with history reading their accounts would wonder why we wreaked such destruction on their country. If anyone wishes to respond: dvalley1@san.rr.com

Following the end of World War II, Congress passed the War Brides Act of 1945, which allowed foreign wives of U.S. military personnel to immigrate to the United States. However, with the ban of Asian immigration after World War II, the sudden influx of thousands of women created social tension while opening up one of the country's largest cross-cultural integrations. This book reveals the stories of nineteen Japanese war brides whose assimilation into American culture forever influenced future generations, depicting love, strength, and perseverance in the face of incredible odds. With an estimated 50,000 women who migrated from Japan to the U.S. during 1946-1965, they all hold a unique place in American history and have been called ambassadors to the U.S. For the first time in English these women share their triumphs, sorrows, successes, and identity in a time when their own future was tainted by social segregation. This oral history focuses mainly on women's lives during World War II and the occupation of Japan. It illuminates the cultural expectations, the situations brought about by the war, and effects of the occupation, and also includes quotes from various war brides regarding this time. Chapter interviews are set up in chronological fashion and laid out in the following format: introduction of the war bride, how she met her husband, her initial travels to America, and life thereafter. Where needed, explanations, translations, and background history with references are provided.

"Crawford (communication studies, Ohio U.) et al. compile the stories of 19 Japanese war brides who came to America after World War II from 1946 to 1965. The stories, which are drawn from personal interviews, describe their lives following the war, the occupation of Japan and its effects, their cultural expectations, how they met their husbands, the dynamics of their relationships, and their initial travels to America." - Reference Research Book News

About the Author  
Miki Ward Crawford is an associate professor of communications at Ohio University.  
Katie Kaori Hayashi is a Japanese journalist and author whose articles have appeared in the Los Angeles Times, the Yomiuri Shimbun, and Asahi Shimbun.  
Shizuko Suenaga is a coordinator and lecturer of Japanese studies at Seattle University.