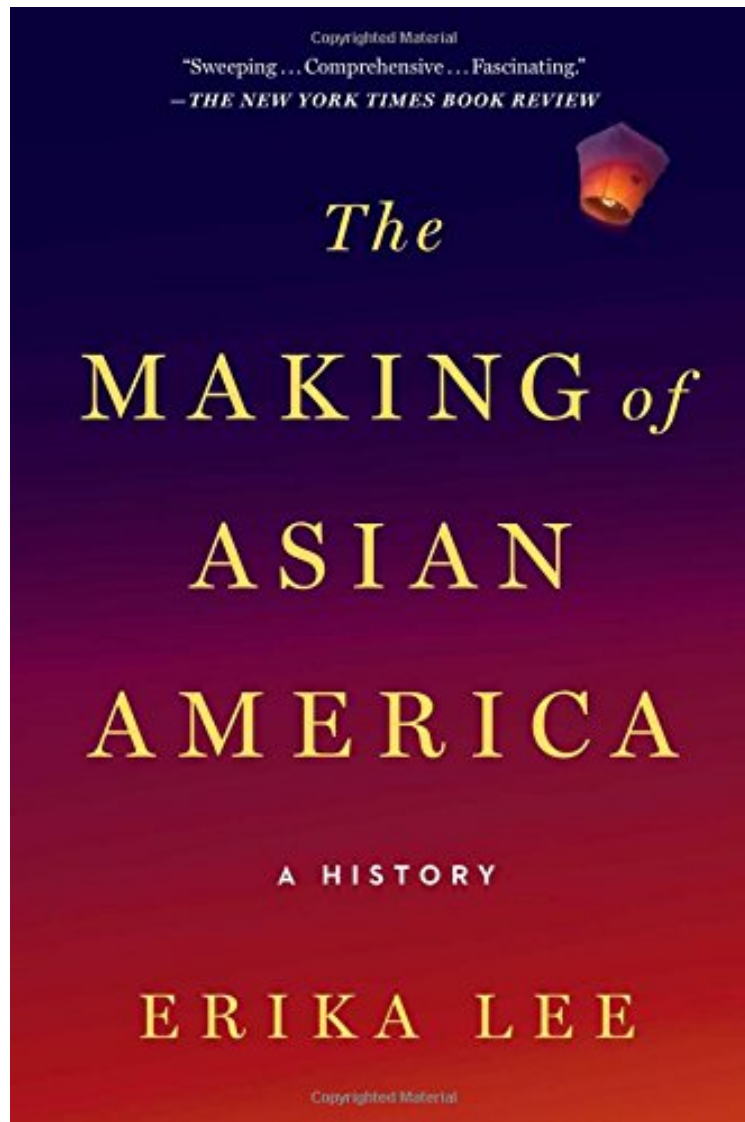


[Free read ebook] The Making of Asian America: A History

## The Making of Asian America: A History

*Erika Lee*

*ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#148786 in Books Erika Lee 2016-08-16 2016-08-16 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.20 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 1476739412528 pages The Making of Asian America A History | File size: 71.Mb

**Erika Lee : The Making of Asian America: A History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Making of Asian America: A History:

22 of 23 people found the following review helpful. Curious about your Own or the Other Lees work is Relentless DramaticBy wsmreri never knew that this happened Erika Lees America is the continent itself revealing Asian impact on South America and the Caribbean well before the formation of the USA but the bulk of the story is Americas treatment of what were viewed as the oriental the other and it is not a happy tale. That said, it is a beautifully written scholarly inquire into how Asians have been rejected, accepted, and have developed their own identities in a

constantly changing political universe. Packed full of detail the reader may wish to skim and skip ahead but the delightful human tales along the way will likely suppress that urge. You will want to know how the forces being described can be resolved or blunted. Ignorance, hate, animosity and fear; pride, intelligence, compassion and resolve battle in our nations history to find their way; Lee doesnt miss a beat. As she indicates at the end, the story is very much still in process as America becomes more Asian in composition and more global in direction. A good read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Clear overview. Highly recommended. By S. Lee Despite attempts to lump them together or tell their through a simplistic and monolithic model minority lens, Asian Americans and their histories are in fact exceedingly diverse and complicated. To be Asian American in the twenty-first century is an exercise in coming to terms with a contradiction: benefiting from new positions of power and privilege while still being victims of hate crimes and microaggressions that dismiss Asian American issues and treat Asian Americans as outsiders in their own country (Lee, 391). There seems to be an existential crisis every time an Asian American, like myself, attempts to answer am I American (enough)? If yes, then what do we mean by American (enough)? If no, then what prevents us? What has infected our imagination of who belongs and who does not in this so-called Land of the Free? America, seems to me, has a unique ability to remember things differently and selectively. Reading *The Making of Asian America* was a speechless experience how have I never heard of these stories before? Truly, the phantasm of Asian American histories attests and perpetuates the non-visibility of Asian Americans. The reading was also heart-wrenchingly painful oh, how much we, as a collected lump of diverse Asian Americans, suffered so much and so silently! One does not need to understand much of politics or policy making to see the one thing American history has made clear: things get done fast when not if people discriminate. Many preposterous laws, such as you have to be born in the states and be of white skin tone (many early petitions and appeals have been shut down because Chinese or Japanese Americans born in the States do not shimmer white tones; there was even one Middle Eastern who argued on the grounds that he is actually a caucasian but was still denied), have passed and lasted because of unbated fear and hatred. Of course, Asian Americans are not without faults and blame. I cannot blame all of America, where my citizenship is tethered to, for my own ignorance of our checkered histories. This is not to say reading and learning history solve moral corruption far be it! Rather, history provides both a window and mirror: a window to our expansive past, enriched with valuable resources for virility and grace, and a mirror to match and differentiate how our current situations, personal and public, relate to prior ones. Matching and differentiating are crucial for understanding the complicated nature of diagnosing personal and social ills and implementing prescribed healing. In short, learning history must be paired with both constructive-critical lens and untiring hands and feet. *The Making of Asian America* is a must read. Do not be stumped by its length (402 pages). By the time you finish, youll wish she wrote more. sooholee.wordpress 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read! By Chloe I loved this book! It gives a frank view of history, and how the Asian Americans in the country helped shape it. This isn't very mainstream history, and the modern times part of the book I was less enamored with, with the author seemingly glossing over but implying innocence of many criminals, some of which I knew the cases very well and was disturbed at what she left out, but overall it is a quick and easy read, and as long as you do your research and don't take this book as 1000% unbiased truth, you should learn some amazing things about history!

A comprehensive fascinating (The New York Times Book Review) history of Asian Americans and their role in American life, by one of the nations preeminent scholars on the subject. 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. No longer a despised minority, Asian Americans are now held up as Americas model minorities in ways that reveal the complicated role that race still plays in the United States. 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.

**\*\*Winner of the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature\*\*** **\*\*A Kirkus s Best Book of 2015\*\*** **\*\*New York Times Book Editors' Choice\*\*** "Sweeping . . . Lee's comprehensive history traces the experiences of myriad Asian-American communities, from Chinese laborers in 1850s California to Hmong refugees in 1980s Minnesota. . . . *The Making of Asian America* shares strong similarities with other broad inclusive Asian-American histories, most obviously Ronald Takaki's *Strangers From a Different Shore*, first published in 1989. Lee's book doesn't radically depart from its predecessors so much as provide a useful and important upgrade by broadening the scope and, at times,

deepening the investigations. . . . Fascinating. . . . I suspect Erika Lee will soon join [the canon of key Asian-American histories]." (Oliver Wang *The New York Times Book* )"In this fascinating retelling of the American creation story, Lee uses incisive scholarship, a wide historic lens and rich detail to fill in the long missing Asian-American pieces. Starting with ancient Greece and the Age of Exploration, from enslavement to modern day challenges, Lee tracks the epic Asian-American journey to North and South Americas, East Indies to West Indies, and in doing so, she breaks new ground and inverts the master narrative." (Helen Zia, author of *Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People*)"The Making of Asian America is a path-breaking approach to Asian American history. Professor Lee will challenge and surprise most of her readers. . . . She is clearly now a distinct and important voice in a debate of growing complexity." (Roger Daniels, author of *Coming to America* and Charles Phelps Taft Professor Emeritus of History, University of Cincinnati)"A stunning achievement, *The Making of Asian America* establishes the centrality of Asians to American history, and poses alternatives to US national and immigration histories. Asians, this remarkable text reveals, transformed the face of America, and they locate the US firmly within a hemispheric and global order." (Gary Y. Okihiro, Professor of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University)"Building on the best and newest scholarship, Erika Lee has written a sweeping yet personal and critical history of Asian Americans across centuries, continents, and diverse cultures without losing sight of the global, racial, and historical contexts of Asian migration, exclusion, and resettlement. A definitive and ideal text for college classes and the general public, *The Making of Asian America* is truly an enjoyable, informative, and insightful read." (Judy Yung, Professor Emerita of American Studies, UC Santa Cruz, and author of *Unbound Feet*)A fascinating narrative. . . . Deftly weaving together a masterful synthesis of the existing literature with new information culled from hitherto untapped archival sources and with analytical insights on the global currents that have shaped the last five centuries, Erika Lee has created a richly textured tapestry enlivened by vivid stories of hundreds of individuals and groups who played significant, though often unsung, roles in the making of Asian America. (Sucheng Chan, Professor Emerita of Asian American Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara)Monumental. . . . Lee handles her scholarly materials with grace, never overwhelming the reader with too many facts or incidents. She tells an American story familiar to anyone who has read Walt Whitman, seeking to capture America in all its diversity and difference, while at the same time pleading for America to realize its democratic potential. . . . Powerful Asian American stories . . . are inspiring, and Lee herself does them justice in a book that is long overdue. (*LA Times*)"A well-written, panoramic view of Asian America from the colonial era to the present that sheds light on how Asian immigrants have sought to make their place in American society and, at the same time, continually changed it." (Nancy Foner, coauthor of *Strangers No More* and Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Hunter College and Graduate Center, CUNY)"A sweeping study of the fastest growing group in the United States that underscores the shameful racist regard white Americans have long held for Asian immigrants. A historian of immigration whose ancestors hailed from China, Lee (*History/Univ. of Minnesota*) delineates the specific history of Asians in America—Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Hmong, and others—while also lending a general sense of what immigrants have endured: discrimination in work, wages, education, and housing, and even incarceration during World War II. . . . A powerful, timely story told with method and dignity." (Kirkus (starred review))Accessibly written for a wide readership, *The Making of Asian America* opens important, new perspectives on the relationship of the U.S. and the world. (Donna Gabaccia, Professor of History, University of Toronto Scarborough)"Pokes holes in the 'model minority' myth by pointing out that Asians in the United States are overrepresented at both ends of the socioeconomic spectrum, and that before World War II, the group was frequently portrayed as being incompatible with American society. An impressive work that details how this diverse population has both swayed and been affected by the United States. Highly recommended for readers interested in this important topic." (*Library Journal* (starred review))"Erika Lee's new narrative of Asian American history deserves consideration to complement, if not supplant, celebrated earlier syntheses. Incorporating compelling revisionist approaches, Lee peels back several centuries of time to locate the origins of Chinese in America to the founding of the Spanish empire in America in the sixteenth century. . . . She further insists on the mainstreaming of Asian American history in the United States." (Evelyn Hu-DeHart, Professor of History and American Studies, Brown University)In her sweeping, powerful new book, Lee considers the rich, complicated, and sometimes invisible histories of Asians in the United States. (*Huffington Post*)Comprehensive, informative, and engaging. . . . *The Making of Asian America* is full of fascinating stories about immigrants who left a mark on their adopted country. (*The Oregonian*)"Epic and eye-opening." (*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*)"An ambitious, sweeping, and insightful survey." (*Publishers Weekly*)"The Making of Asian America chronicles the past and connects it to the present. . . . an important document of history." (*Minneapolis Post*)"Racism, as Lee shows, was the unifying factor in the Asian-American experience, bringing together twenty-three distinct immigrant groups, from very different parts of the world. . . . In the eyes of some, Asians in America are, Lee writes, 'perpetual foreigners at worst, or probationary Americans at best.' If Asians sometimes remain silent in the face of racism, and if some seem to work unusually hard in the face of this difficult history, it is not because they want to be part of a 'model minority,' but because they have often had no other choice." (*The New Yorker*)Accessible yet sweeping. . . . Synthesizing many of the exciting discoveries and arguments that have emerged in the field of Asian American history in the past few decades, *The Making of Asian America* is a must-read for

anyone curious about the U.S. and its history. (Book Riot) About the Author Erika Lee is the granddaughter of Chinese immigrants who entered the United States through both Angel Island and Ellis Island. She grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and received her PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. She teaches history at the University of Minnesota, where she is also the Rudolph J. Vecoli Chair in Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History Research Center. She is the author of *The Making of Asian America*, *Angel Island* (with Judy Yung), and *At Americas Gates*. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

*The Making of Asian America* 1  
Los Chinos in New Spain and Asians in Early America Long before Asians came to the United States, they went to Latin America. The earliest came as part of Spains Pacific empire stretching from Manila in the Philippines to Acapulco in New Spain (present-day Mexico) an empire that had been built on Christopher Columbus accidental discovery of America while searching for Asia. Europeans, dating as far back as ancient Greece, had long been fascinated with Asia including the Middle East and Far East its people, its civilizations, and its fabled riches.<sup>1</sup> In the European imagination, Asia was Europes polar opposite, its Other. Asia and Asians differed in every respect from Europe and Europeans, as the Greek physician and recognized father of medicine Hippocrates explained in the fourth or fifth century BCE.<sup>2</sup> For centuries this difference between East and West was the subject of endless speculation, informing a Western-held understanding of a masculine, conquering Europe and a feminized Asia ripe for conquest.<sup>3</sup> This worldview helped direct the Wests search for Asia and influenced its presence there. It was also a significant factor in propelling Asian peoples to the Americas. During the Roman Empire, trading networks were established that eventually stretched from the British Isles to the Indian subcontinent. European pilgrims, merchants, and others shared their first impressions of Asia through sporadic travel writings. Crusaders rediscovered Asia when they set off for the Middle East on their quest to reclaim Jerusalem from the Muslims in 1095. Lasting almost 200 years, the Crusades gave generations of western Europeans firsthand knowledge of the Middle East and some idea of the vastness and richness of the rest of Asia. European travelers described the bizarre creatures, alien plants, and strange customs of the East and helped to define Asia as an other world that stood in opposition to Europe.<sup>4</sup> Sustained long-distance travel and trade between Europe and Asia followed the establishment of the Mongol Empire that stretched across Asia to the eastern fringes of Europe in the early thirteenth century. The so-called Pax Mongolica of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries brought Asia and Europe closer together as both Asians and Europeans ventured far from their homelands. Asian goods and Asia itself came within reach of more and more Europeans. During this period travelers could journey eastward and back in relative safety and those who returned found ready audiences for their tales of exotic lands and abundant riches.<sup>5</sup> Among the most well known in western Europe was the story of Marco Polo, a young Italian merchant who journeyed 15,000 miles throughout the Middle East and Asia over a twenty-four-year period at the end of the thirteenth century. The *Travels of Marco Polo* contained accounts of fantastical unicorns, exotic sexual customs, and mountain streams flowing with diamonds. Marco described the court of the Mongol leader Kublai Khan as having so many vessels of gold and silver that none without seeing could possibly believe it.<sup>6</sup> Published in 1356, *The Travels of Sir John Mandeville* also told incredible tales of the East, becoming a highly popular and influential book among a large audience of Europeans interested in understanding the larger world and the place of both Asia and Europe in it. Written under a pseudonym and allegedly the autobiography of an English knight, it described the Holy Land, Egypt, Arabia, and China as a region filled with cannibals and headless beasts as well as tantalizing spices, gems, and abundant quantities of gold and silver.<sup>7</sup> By the dawn of the European age of exploration and conquest in the fifteenth century, wealthy Europeans had developed a growing taste for Asian imports such as spices, silks, and sugar, and they demanded more. Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama relied upon an Indian navigator to become the first European to sail directly to Asia from Europe in 1497. His route took him around the Cape of Good Hope along the Atlantic coast of present-day South Africa to the legendary spice routes of India. When he returned to Portugal two years later, his spice-laden cargo yielded a 600 percent profit, paved the way for Portugals colonial empire in Asia, and spurred further European exploration of Asia that would last through the twentieth century. Profit was far from the only motivation. As Englands Sir Walter Raleigh predicted in 1615, whosoever commands the sea commands the trade; whosoever commands the trade of the world commands the riches of the world, and consequently the world itself.<sup>8</sup> Technological advances in shipbuilding and navigation as well as breakthroughs in astronomy and geography made Europes oceangoing exploration possible. Spanish seafarers used the latest oceanic sailing ships to explore the Pacific and followed the Polynesian voyagers who preceded them. By the late fifteenth century, the ocean sea was no longer a barrier and soon became a passageway to the other side of the world.<sup>9</sup> Inspired by Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus dreamed of Asia. His well-worn copy of Marcos *Travels* contained numerous comments in the margins; it was through these adventures that Columbus formed his impressions of the Christian converts and fabulous riches that Asia promised. When he and his crew first spotted land in the Caribbean on October 12, 1492, Columbus imagined that he would soon be viewing Asias rich spice markets and gold-roofed houses. When he and his landing party rowed to the beach the next morning in the Santa Maras launch, however, nothing matched the mens expectations. Nevertheless, Columbus explored the surrounding islands over the next few months and returned to Spain in February of 1493 believing that he had accomplished his dream of reaching Asia. His accounts echoed the fantastical descriptions of exotic peoples and fabulous riches that numerous travelers to Asia had told before him. The new lands,

he claimed, were full of boundless wealth and populations ripe for conversion to Christianity. Columbus would make three more voyages across the Atlantic to the New World before his death in 1506, forever convinced it was Asia.<sup>10</sup> Columbus's voyages and subsequent discoveries by other explorers such as Amerigo Vespucci helped Spain dispossess the indigenous peoples of Mesoamerica and establish its huge land-based American empire, Nueva España.<sup>11</sup> Between 1520 and 1540, the Spanish added over three quarters of a million square miles to their empire in the Americas. In 1519, Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés founded the town of Veracruz on the Mexican Atlantic Coast. The Aztec Empire was defeated by 1521, and Francisco Pizarro conquered the Incas of Peru a decade later. The wars of conquest and dispossession were violent affairs that cost many human lives among the indigenous peoples. But this death toll paled in comparison to the untold millions who perished as a result of the introduction of European diseases like smallpox.