

U·X·L
*A*SIAN AMERICAN
ALMANAC 2nd Edition



Irene Natividad and Susan B. Gall, Editors

U·X·L
A **SIAN AMERICAN**
ALMANAC 2ND EDITION

**Edited by Irene Natividad
and Susan B. Gall**

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U•X•L ASIAN AMERICAN ALMANAC, 2ND EDITION

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READER'S GUIDE

U•X•L Asian American Almanac, 2nd Edition, explores the history and culture of the major ethnic groups comprising Asian America, the fastest growing minority population in the United States. Like the first edition, this second edition of the *Almanac* is organized into 17 subject chapters, including landmarks, significant documents, literature, religion, immigration, civil rights, law, sports, employment, and the family. The volume contains more than 90 black-and-white photographs and maps and concludes with a subject index. The volume begins with a glossary of terms; words are also defined in a Words to Know box within the chapter in which they appear. Charts, graphs, sidebars, and Fact Focus boxes provide complementary and engaging information, and a list of sources is provided at the end of each chapter for the student who wishes to pursue further readings or research.

Related Reference Sources:

U•X•L Asian American Biography, 2nd Edition, profiles more than 150 Americans who trace their ancestry to Asia and the Pacific Islands. Included are prominent men and women of Asian Indian, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Native Hawaiian, Hmong, Japanese, Pacific Island, Pakistani, Taiwanese, and Vietnamese descent, both living and deceased. Profilees are notable for their achievements in fields ranging from civil rights to sports, politics to academia, entertainment to science, religion to the military. Early leaders in Asian America as well as contemporary figures are included. A black-and-white photograph accompanies most entries, and a list of sources for further reading or research is provided at the end of each entry. Cross-references to other profiles in these volumes are noted in bold letters within the text. The volumes are arranged alphabetically and conclude with an index listing all individuals by field of endeavor and a subject index.

U•X•L Asian American Chronology, 2nd Edition, explores significant social, political, economic, cultural, and professional milestones in Asian American history. Arranged by year and then by month and day where applicable, the chronology spans from prehistory to modern times. Entries range from a few lines to one page in length and describe topics such as immigration, discriminatory legislation, the world wars, the formation of activist organizations, and the contributions Asian

Americans have made to all aspects of American society. The *Chronology* contains more than 100 illustrations and maps as well as charts and boxes that highlight important information. The extensively cross-referenced volume concludes with a list of sources for further reading or research and a subject index.

U•X•L Asian American Voices, 2nd Edition, presents 20 full or excerpted speeches, orations, testimony, and other notable spoken works of Asian Americans. Each entry is accompanied by an introduction and a glossary explaining some of the terms and events to which the speech refers. The volume is illustrated with 100 black-and-white photographs and drawings and features a subject index.

Comments and Suggestions

We welcome your comments on *U•X•L Asian American Almanac*, 2nd Edition, as well as your suggestions for topics to be featured in future editions. Please write: Editors, *U•X•L Asian American Almanac*, U•X•L, 27500 Drake Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48331-3535; call toll-free: 800-877-4253; fax: 248-699-8097; or send e-mail via <http://www.gale.com>.

Advisors

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WORDS TO KNOW

A

acculturation: adjusting to or acquiring the culture of a society

activist: a person who takes action supporting or opposing a political issue

adherents: followers of a leader, an idea, a church, or political party

affirmative action: programs designed to remedy the effects of past discrimination and to end such discrimination

alien: foreign-born resident of a country

annex: to incorporate, or add, territory to an already existing state or nation

appurtenance: a secondary right, or something added on

assembly center: a temporary holding facility, such as a race track, where West Coast families of Japanese descent were taken when the U.S. military forced them to leave their homes at the start of American involvement in World War II; after a short stay at an assembly center, prisoners were moved to internment camps

assimilate: to become like or similar to; to join

asylum: shelter, protection

audit: methodical examination or review

B

bachelor society: community comprised primarily of men; usually refers to an immigrant community where only men have immigrated

backlash: a strong negative public or group reaction to a recent social or political event

bilingual: able to speak, read, and write two languages with equal skill

C

canon: accepted rules and standards

cede: to transfer property or rights to territory by treaty

Chinatown: neighborhood in a city where people of Chinese descent live and often operate businesses and restaurants

civil rights: the rights of an individual to equal treatment and equal access to the benefits of society, such as housing, free speech, employment, and education

coalition: two or more groups working together toward a common goal

D

decennial: occurring every ten years

deity: a god or goddess

demographics: statistical data, such as age or income, to describe the characteristics of a group

dialect: a regional variety of a language

discrimination: treatment or judgment of a person based on something other than merit

draft: in the military, to select for compulsory, or involuntary, service

E

emigration: to leave the country of one's birth with the intention of living somewhere else

enclave: a distinct territorial or cultural unit, such as a Chinatown

enlightenment: achievement of spiritual insight; complete understanding

entrepreneurship: organizing, starting, and running a business

evacuation: the removal of people from a zone of danger or military activity

exclusion: barring from participation in an activity or group

extended family: family unit consisting of parents and their children, as well as aunts, uncles, cousins, or grandparents

G

Great Depression: the severe downturn in the U.S. economy from 1929 to about 1939, marked by heavy unemployment

H

hate crime: illegal acts committed against a person because of the victim's characteristics, such as race, religion, or sexual orientation

Hispanic: one who traces his or her ancestry to Spain, or to Spanish-speaking countries such as Mexico and the countries of South and Central America; Hispanics may be of any race

homogeneous: similar; the same

humanitarian: promoting human welfare

I

immigration: to move to a country where one was not born for the purpose of living there

immortality: a state of eternal life without vulnerability to death

indigenous: original or native to an area

inflection: changes in the form of words that make distinctions pertaining to case, gender, number, tense, person, mood, or voice

internment: holding and confining a group of people, against their will, away from society

internment camp: remote, primitive camp where Americans of Japanese descent were held as prisoners during World War II, on the theory that they were risks to U.S. military security

interracial: combining two or more races

interrogate: ask questions in a formal and systematic way

issei: first-generation Japanese Americans; those who emigrated from Japan

M

mainstream society: the majority or dominant group in a culture, which shares certain customs, assumptions, and ways of interacting

manong: immigrant to the United States from the Philippines

meditate: to focus thoughts; to enter a state of deep contemplation

miscegenation: marriage between two races, especially between a white person and a person of another race

monarchy: government headed by a king or queen

multiethnic: reflecting two or more ethnic groups

multilingual: speaking three or more languages with fluency

N

nationals: people who receive the protection of a country and owe allegiance to that country, but are not formally citizens

naturalization: admission as a citizen

naturalize: to admit as a citizen

nisei: second-generation Japanese Americans; those whose parents emigrated from Japan

nuclear family: family unit consisting of parents and their children

O

Oriental: belonging to the countries of Asia. This term was used until the 1950s, when it was replaced by the term “Asian”; many Asian Americans consider “Oriental” an offensive term

ostracized: kept from participating in a group by agreement among the members of the group

outmarriage: marriage to a spouse outside one’s own ethnic group

P

pantheon: official gods of a group of people; supreme beings

phoneme: a single, distinct speech sound; one of the smallest units of speech that distinguish

one utterance from another; for example, the *g* sound or *h* sound

phonetic spelling: using the alphabet of one language to represent the sounds of another

picture bride: a woman whose marriage is arranged through the exchange of letters and photographs

playwright: the author of a work for performance on stage

postdoctoral: study after completing the requirements for a doctorate

Q

queue: a braid of hair usually worn hanging down from the back of the head

quota: numerical limit; the number of people from a particular country allowed to immigrate to another country

R

redress: act of compensating for a loss

refugee: one who leaves his or her homeland to escape a dangerous or unlivable condition

reincarnation: rebirth of a soul in a new body

repatriation: the returning of an individual to the country of his or her origin or birth

repertory: several different plays produced over the course of a season, usually by a performing group or theatre

resettlement: establishing a home in a new location

resolution: formal expression of opinion by the U.S. Congress

revelations: teachings revealed by a god or supreme being to humans

ritual: ceremony or pattern of behavior, often used in religious worship

S

sansei: third-generation Japanese Americans

scripture: sacred writings

sect: a group within a larger religious body that follows specific teachings or rules

segregation: the enforced separation of a race, ethnic group, or social class in education, housing, and other social arenas

Selective Service: U.S. government agency that oversees the military registration of men at age 18 and administers the draft

stereotype: oversimplified image based on a characteristic or trait of group members

stress: to place emphasis on; to accent

surveillance: watching someone or something closely

syllabary: a set of symbols or characters in written language, each representative of a syllable (rather than a single sound, as in the English language's alphabet)

T

tenet: a belief held to be true

theism: belief in the existence of a god or gods

theology: the study of religious faith and practice

tone: the pitch of a word, often used to express different meanings

W

war bride: a woman who meets and marries a soldier from another country serving in her country during wartime

CONTENTS

Reader's Guide	ix
Photo Credits	xi
Words to Know	xiii
1 Who Are the Asian Americans?	1
Asian Indian Americans	5
Cambodian Americans	9
Chinese Americans	14
Filipino Americans	18
Hmong Americans	21
Indonesian Americans	23
Japanese Americans	26
Korean Americans	30
Laotian Americans	36
Pacific Islanders	39
Pakistani Americans	43
Thai Americans	45
Vietnamese Americans	47
Suggestions for Further Reading	51
2 Significant Documents	53
Chinese Exclusion Act, 1882	53
Joint Resolution Annexing the Hawaiian Islands to the United States, 1898	54
Cable Act, 1922	56
Immigration Act, 1924	56
Presidential Proclamation, 1938	57
Executive Order 9066, 1942	58
Public Proclamation, 1942	59
Public Law 503, 1942	62
Repeal of Chinese Exclusion Acts, 1943	62
Immigration and Nationality Act, 1952	62
Immigration and Nationality Act Amendments, 1965	63
Refugee Relief Act, 1980	63
Commission On Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act, 1980	65
Civil Liberties Act, 1988 Public Law 100-383	67
Hate Crimes Statistics Act, 1990	68

Asian /Pacific American Heritage Month, 1991 and 1992	69
Joint Resolution on the 100th Anniversary of the Overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom, 1993 .71	
Executive Order 13216, 2001	74
A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America on the 100th Anniversary of Korean Immigration, 2003	77
3 Landmarks	79
Arizona	79
Arkansas	80
California	81
Colorado	89
Florida	89
Hawaii	89
Idaho	92
Illinois	93
Massachusetts	93
New York	93
Oregon	94
Pennsylvania	94
Utah	95
Washington	95
Washington, D.C.	96
Wyoming	97
Suggestions for Further Reading	97
4 Immigration	99
Beginnings: 1850 to 1920	100
Between the Wars: The Triumph of Exclusionism	102
Post-World War II Liberalization	104
After the Vietnam War: Refugees from Southeast Asia	106
Anti-Immigration Trends	108
Suggestions for Further Reading	109
5 Civil Rights	111
The Student Movement	111
The Labor Movement	113
Anti-Asian American Violence	116
Suggestions for Further Reading	118
6 The Legal System in the United States	119
Laws Against Asian Americans	119
Mobilization Against Anti-Asian Laws and Judicial Decisions	123
Lawmakers and Lawyers	125
The Criminal Justice System	128
Suggestions for Further Reading	133

7	Population	135
	Population Trends	135
	Asian Americans and the Census	136
	1790 to 1890	137
	1900 to 1960	137
	Post-1965 Immigration and Refugee Resettlement	140
	1980 Census	141
	1990 Census	142
	2000 Census	143
	Population Projections	144
	Suggestions for Further Reading	144
8	Jobs and Money	145
	Immigration and Entrepreneurship	146
	Entrepreneurs and Ethnic Firms	148
	Consequences of Entrepreneurship	151
	Suggestions for Further Reading	153
9	Women and Families	155
	Family Life Before World War II	156
	Family Life from World War II to 1965	159
	Family Life after 1965	160
	Marriage	161
	Family Size	161
	Children and Child-Rearing	161
	Women's Resource Groups	162
	Suggestions for Further Reading	162
10	Languages	163
	Bengali	163
	Chinese Languages	164
	Japanese	165
	Korean Language	167
	Pilipino	168
	Urdu and Hindi	168
	Suggestions for Further Reading	169
11	Education	171
	Asian Americans	171
	Elementary through High School	172
	Higher Education	173
	Teaching and Teacher Education	177
	Summary	177
	Suggestion for Further Reading	178

CONTENTS

12 Science and Engineering	179
Anti-Asian American Bias: Fear or Reality?	179
Success Factors	180
Asian American Milestones in Science	182
College Education in Science and Engineering	183
13 Religion	187
Hinduism	188
Buddhism	188
Islam	190
Confucianism	191
Taoism	192
Shintoism	192
The Unification Church	193
Suggestions for Further Reading	195
14 Literature	197
Asian American Literary History	198
Asian American Writers of Adult Literature	199
Children's Literature	207
Suggestions for Further Reading	211
15 Theatre	213
Early Asian American Theatre	213
New Generation of Theatres	217
Emerging Companies	218
Playwrights	220
Behind the Scenes in Theatre	224
Asian American Theatres	226
Suggestions for Further Reading	227
16 Sports and Athletics	229
Sumo	230
Japanese Athletic Leagues and Clubs	231
Surfing	234
Martial Arts	236
Suggestions for Further Reading	239
17 Military	241
Before World War II (Pre-1939)	241
World War II (1939-45)	243
Korean War (1950-53)	246
Asian/Pacific American Service Personnel	247
Asian Pacific Military Heroes	247
A Special Presentation	251
Suggestions for Further Reading	256
Index	257

I

Who Are the Asian Americans?

A Demographic Overview

FACT FOCUS

- *Asian Americans include 30 separate ethnic groups who trace their roots to Asia and the islands of the Pacific Ocean.*
- *The six largest Asian American ethnic groups are Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese.*
- *Asian Americans make up almost 4 percent of the total U.S. population.*
- *The five U.S. states with the largest Asian American populations are California, New York, Hawaii, Texas, and New Jersey.*
- *The number of Americans of Asian or Pacific Island descent grew by 63 percent between 1990 and 2000.*
- *By 2020, Asian Americans are projected to number 19.7 million, or 6 percent of the total U.S. population.*

Asian American is a term that describes over 30 ethnic groups from different parts of Asia. Asians include people from Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Palau, and Hawaii. This group had the highest rate of population growth of any in the United States during the 1990s. Between 1990 and 2000, the U. S. Census Bureau reported the

Asian/Pacific Islander population grew from 7.3 million to 11.9 million, an increase of 63 percent, and totaled 4.2 percent of the U.S. population in 2000. By the year 2020, it is estimated that Asian/Pacific Islanders will number over 19.7 million, or 6 percent of the total projected U.S. population. In 2000, the U.S. states with the largest Asian and Pacific Island populations were California (4,155,685), New York (1,169,200), Hawaii (703,232), Texas (644,193), and New Jersey (524,356).

POPULATION PROFILE: ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICANS

Feature	API	Total, U.S.
U.S. Population of Asian and Pacific Islander (API) descent (2000)	11.9 million	281 million
—as percent of U.S. total, 2000	4.2%	100%
—percent male	49%	49%
—percent female	51%	51%
—median age	30.4	33
Income, employment, and poverty (2000)		
—households with annual income of \$35,000 or more	47.8%	44.3%
—households with five or more members	16.7%	10.4%
—unemployment rate	3.9%	4.4%
—poverty rate	10.2%	11.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Asian and Pacific Islander Population in the United States: March 2000 Current Population Survey (Update)*.

Income

Income statistics for Asian and Pacific Island immigrants to the United States tend to be conflicting. While the median income of Asian and Pacific Island immigrants is higher than that of non-Hispanic whites, their poverty rate is the highest rate among all new immigrants. Both extremes in income are reflected by the fact that immigrants who are both skilled and unskilled, educated and uneducated are attracted to the United States from Asia. In some cases, family-run businesses and extended households produce higher incomes, but the number of people among whom the income is divided reduces its benefits.

Education

Asian and Pacific Islander cultures place an emphasis on education, hard work, and

striving for excellence. Forty-four percent of this population continue into higher education, compared with half that rate for non-Hispanic whites. While under 18 percent of Asian and Pacific Islanders in 2001 had less than a high school education, the average income of this group was slightly higher than that of non-Hispanic whites. Although more Asian and Pacific Islanders attend college than their non-Hispanic white counterparts, educated Asian Americans also earn less. This fact has been attributed to the “glass ceiling,” a barrier that seems to exist in many U.S. corporations that prevents this ethnic group from advancing within certain organizational structures.

Stereotype and Reality

One popular, seemingly positive, stereotype of Asian Americans is that of the