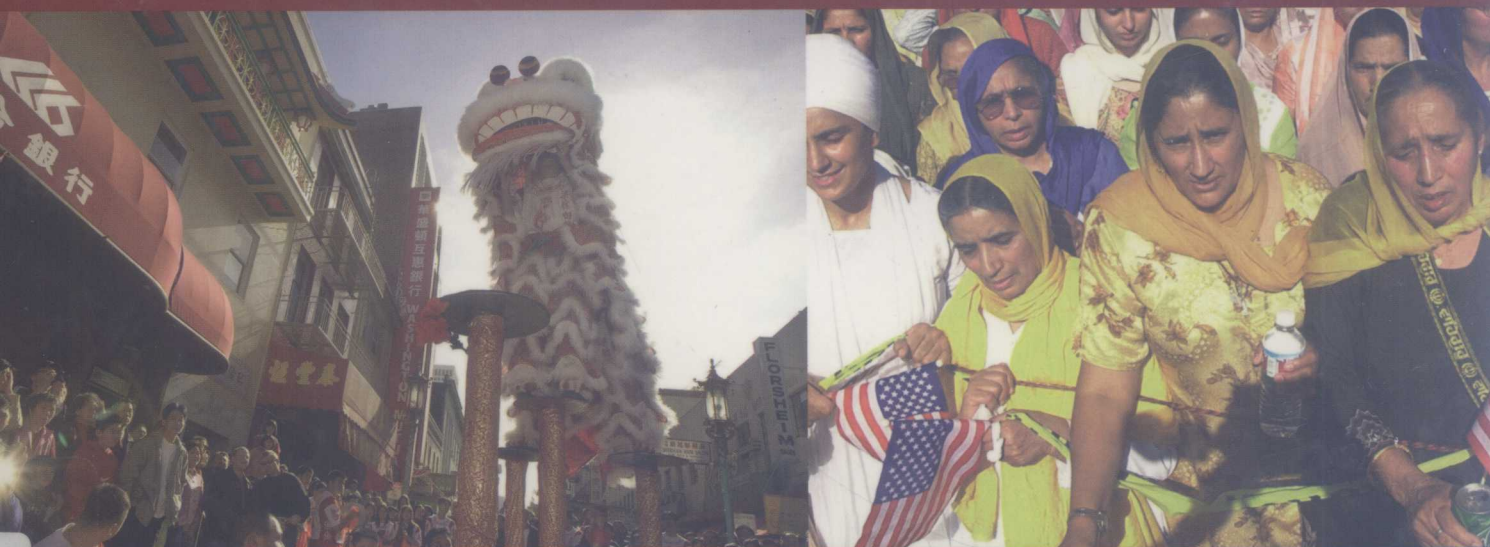




# ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

AN ENCYCLOPEDIA



EDITED BY HUPING LING AND ALLAN AUSTIN

# ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

AN ENCYCLOPEDIA

VOLUME ONE

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SHARPE REFERENCE

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# Preface

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Given the complicated reality and complex subject of this book, we, as editors, had to make difficult choices about what topics to include. As we anticipate that most users of this work will be looking for information on a specific Asian American group, the encyclopedia is organized along national lines. Since some national groups are larger and more established than others, we have provided coverage commensurate with their relative populations and immigration history. For larger groups, or those with longer histories in the United States, sections include a narrative history followed by alphabetically arranged thematic essays (on education, business, politics, and the like) and shorter entries on notable persons, events, and organizations. Medium-sized groups likewise include a narrative history, followed by a shorter series of thematic essays and topical entries. Smaller national groups are covered in a single overview essay that summarizes immigration history, cultural heritage, and contemporary social status. Articles range from as long as several thousand words for overview and thematic essays, to several hundred words for shorter entries.

All in all, *Asian American History and Culture: An Encyclopedia* offers coverage of the arts, culture, community, education, family, gender, marriage, occupation, and work of more than twenty national-origin groups, both historically and in contemporary American society. For a broader perspective, we have also included an extensive first section dedicated to Pan-Asian American issues, including longer thematic essays and narrower topical entries on identity, prejudice, and popular culture.

## Authority and Balance

In identifying and selecting entries and essay topics, we have consulted the existing literature on the subject and solicited the opinions of numerous experts in various fields, all for the purpose of compiling the most comprehensive, inclusive, and authoritative reference on Asian Americans to date. While the U.S. federal government historically and still today has lumped Asian and Pacific Americans into a single group for administrative purposes ranging from census taking to eligibility for

social entitlement programs, in reality Asian Americans are extraordinarily diverse in terms of ethnicity, culture, language, religion, and country or region of origin. In representing these wide-ranging histories and cultural experiences, we have taken pains to maintain a balance between sometimes competing perspectives: ethnic origin versus American reality; community life versus family life; individual achievement versus collective progress; older, more populous groups versus newer, smaller groups; and long-established institutions versus emerging ones.

From the outset, *Asian American History and Culture* was envisioned as a comprehensive reference work in terms of breadth, depth, and authority. The final outcome, we hope, presents the major perspectives, issues, and debates in the field as well as the most up-to-date findings, information, and interpretations. To reflect the most current and authoritative views, we have relied on the collective expertise of specialists in Asian American studies, ethnic studies, and U.S. immigration history. Many of the contributors are renowned and respected scholars in their fields, whose deep research, writing, and teaching experience all are brought to bear in the designation of subjects covered in this work and the details of individual essays and entries. Many articles reflect the most contemporary research and insights from professional journal articles, scholarly monographs, and doctoral dissertations.

## Acknowledgments

From conceptualization to completion of this ambitious project, the editors have received indispensable assistance from a vast number of individuals and agencies. The nearly half-million-word project would not have been possible without their enthusiastic and patient participation. Our heartfelt gratitude first goes to the many contributors who wrote their assigned entries with precision, accuracy, balance, and professional objectivity while providing constructive suggestions for improvements along the way.

Given the broad scale of the project, it would not have been possible to finish without the professionalism,

managerial skills, and efficiency of James Ciment, the managing editor, as well as Martha Whitt, Gina Terlinden, Irene Chow, and Eileen Chetti. Advisory board members Sue Fawn Chung, Yen Le Espiritu, Franklin Ng, Franklin Odo, and Gary Okihiro provided valuable general guidance and specific suggestions, ensuring the authority and comprehensiveness of the work. Catherine Turner, the associate director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Pennsylvania, edited sample entries and the introduction, providing an invaluable model for others to follow. Christie Doyle, Catherine Webster, and Devon Bireta, the student assistants for Huping Ling at Truman State University, have enthusiastically helped with the various administrative tasks of the editors. The editorial and production staffs at M.E. Sharpe have worked diligently to coordinate and complete the publication process.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the following organizations for placing our call for contributors in their newsletters and Web sites: the Association

for Asian American Studies, Chinese Historians in the United States, the International Society for the Studies of Chinese Overseas, H-Ethnic, H-Migration, H-Net, and the *History Channel Magazine*. The Asian American and ethnic studies programs and the departments of history at universities and colleges across the United States helped us identify qualified scholars as contributors. Individual members of the Association for Asian American Studies, the Organization of American Historians, the American Historical Association, and the International Society for the Studies of Chinese Overseas also provided support and useful input. Our colleagues and students at Truman State University and Misericordia University offered invaluable moral support and encouragement.

Most importantly, our families—Sami, William, and Isaac, and Vicki, Bobby, and Hope—whose lives were directly affected by our continuous and intensive involvement in the project at every stage of its production, have wholeheartedly and steadfastly supported us with love, understanding, and good humor.

ASIAN  
AMERICAN  
HISTORY AND CULTURE

AN ENCYCLOPEDIA

VOLUME ONE



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