

quotes is questionable. For example, some quotes offer the perspective of a 20th century resident, which may not be the reality of a 19th century resident. However, this is a dilemma common to many oral histories and is difficult to avoid. But apart from these few misplaced photos and quotes, this book should serve as the seminal work on Kalaupapa. There are no other books that I know of about Kalaupapa that come close to its depth and humanity. Future students, scholars and authors will be referencing it for years to come.

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*From Race to Ethnicity: Interpreting Japanese American Experiences in Hawai'i.* By Jonathan Y. Okamura. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Press, 2014. xii + 255 pp. Notes. Bibliography. Index. \$42.00 cloth

This insightful book makes an important contribution to the study of Japanese American experiences in Hawai'i. *From Race to Ethnicity* asserts that "race was the dominating organizing principle that structured social relations in Hawai'i" during the first century of Japanese American history in Hawai'i until "ethnicity" replaced race as the factor that shaped the relations of power in Hawaiian society by the 1970s, when Japanese Americans emerged to rival the haoles (whites) as one of the most dominant groups (p. 2). Organized into two parts, the overall structure of the book hinges upon this transition "from historical race to contemporary ethnicity" (p. 1). Part I uses the analytical framework of race to chart the historical experiences of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i from the 1880s to the early 1970s as one of the marginalized racial groups. From the early years of Japanese American history on the islands, the haoles manifested their dominance through various legal, political, economic, and cultural oppressions to crush Japanese American resistance to institutional racism and the anti-Japanese movement. In a poignant and gripping reconstruction of the Myles Yutaka Fukunaga case, Okamura takes readers back to 1928 when the twenty-year-old Fukunaga was tried and executed for kidnapping and murdering Gill Jamieson, a young boy from a prominent haole family. The prevailing anti-Japanese sentiment in Hawai'i helped mobilize the citizens of Honolulu to arrest and punish Fukunaga for killing a white boy. Through Okamura's exhaustive research of legal papers and other primary documents, we learn that the hasty murder trial and execu-

tion that denied Fukunaga due process served as a microcosm of the “dual system of justice” in the white man’s world that rendered Japanese Americans defenseless (p. 78).

However, the book also demonstrates that from the days of the early plantation society, Japanese American men and women resisted racial oppression through labor organizing and movements to revitalize their cultural identity. In this way, Okamura’s work demonstrates the complex interplay between race, class, and gender in shaping the emergent Japanese American ethnic identity. These collective experiences of struggle and resistance laid the foundation for the Japanese American community’s transition from a racialized minority to a powerful ethnic group during the quarter century after World War II. The driving force behind the Japanese American community’s political and economic prominence by 1970 was the activism of Japanese American labor organizers and the rising Japanese American political actors in the Democratic Party on behalf of other marginalized groups in Hawai‘i during the 1950s and 1960s.

By the 1970s, Japanese Americans in Hawai‘i wielded the powerful economic and political influence that challenged haole supremacy, making race no longer the dominant organizing principle in Hawaiian society. Part II examines how ethnicity has enabled Japanese Americans in contemporary Hawai‘i to retain their political representation and economic privilege. Once Japanese Americans achieved the status as one of the most dominant groups in Hawai‘i, ethnicity continued to serve their access to political and economic power, culminating in the election of the three-term governor George Ariyoshi from 1974 to 1986. Meanwhile, the same access to economic, education, and political resources has remained difficult to achieve for other ethnic groups, such as Filipino Americans and Native Hawaiians, who “continued to occupy a subjugated status in Hawai‘i” (p. 109). In this context, the anti-Japanese movement in the haole-dominated past has been transformed into the “anti-Japanese backlash” from these marginalized groups, who had been allies of Japanese American labor movement and political campaigns (p. 105).

The author suggests that the firmly entrenched socioeconomic power of Japanese Americans in Hawai‘i since the 1980s has made the participation and representation in electoral politics no longer a primary mode of retaining political power. To Okamura, this also represents a moment when less Japanese American political representation can allow other ethnic groups in Hawai‘i to gain greater political and economic advancement. Okamura reminds us that this potential for greater equality is predicated on the Japanese American community’s continued commitment to social justice and responsibility as one of the most dominant ethnic groups. The last chap-

ter features four yonsei activists whose work of advocacy in political, scholarly, and cultural arenas defy the perceptions about Japanese Americans as a group that care more about maintaining its socioeconomic privilege than about social changes for the benefit of marginalized ethnic minorities. The Japanese American community may no longer see the kind of collective community advocacy led by sansei activists of the past, but the chapter demonstrates that in their own creative ways, the yonsei are reasserting and redefining the Japanese American ethnic identity beyond economic and political privilege. Their stories serve as signs that the political and social power of Japanese Americans has far from turned the community into a dominant oppressive group like the haoles of the past. While race as an organizing principle in Hawai'i had placed whites above all of the racialized minorities prior to the 1970s, the experiences of Japanese American activists have demonstrated that ethnicity can and should be a more egalitarian organizing principle of social relations in Hawai'i.

At first glance, the focus on race and ethnicity as the dominant interpretive frameworks in *From Race to Ethnicity* may seem like a somewhat dichotomous formulation to readers that are unfamiliar with the history and social fabric of Hawai'i's society. However, a careful reading of Okamura's book will help a reader appreciate how this approach illuminates the broader context of Hawaiian social relations that differ significantly from the continental U.S. Also, from the role of working women in early Japanese American resistance to the work of nisei union leaders to sansei and yonsei activism, the book lets its sources speak for themselves about the critical gendered, class, cultural, and generational implications of Japanese American ethnicization. Moreover, through his rigorous analysis and his advocacy for social justice and equality, the author has once again shown us that he is one of our foremost scholar-activists and experts in race and ethnic relations in Hawai'i.

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*The Heathen School: A Story of Hope and Betrayal in the Age of the Early Republic.* By John Demos. New York: Knopf, 2014. x + 337 pp. Illustrated. Notes. Index. \$30.00 cloth

Writer-historian John Demos has added another intriguing episode of American history to his impressive list of works, this time one touching on Hawai'i.

From Race to Ethnicity: Interpreting Japanese American Experiences in Hawai'i (Race and Ethnicity in Hawai'i). Jonathan Y. Okamura. 5.0 out of 5 stars 1. He is professor and former Chair at the Department of American Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Dr. Ogawa's books (a number of which are best sellers for University of Hawai'i Press) include Jan Ken Po: The World of Hawai'i's Japanese Americans, Kodomo No Tame Ni: For the Sake of the Children, and The First Nisei. From Race to Ethnicity book. Read reviews from world's largest community for readers. This is the first book in more than thirty years to discuss critically... Start by marking "From Race to Ethnicity: Interpreting Japanese American Experiences in Hawai'i" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving... | Want to Read. Currently Reading. Read. Other editions. Enlarge cover. The Asian American Experience. Asian American Studies History, Am.: 20th C. Law See all Subjects. Jonathan Y. Okamura is a professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i. He is the author of several books, most recently From Race to Ethnicity: Interpreting Japanese American Experiences in Hawai'i. To order online: [//www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/56dda3xz9780252042607.html](http://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/56dda3xz9780252042607.html). To order by phone: (800) 621-2736 (USA/Canada) (773) 702-7000 (International). Related Titles. Download Citation | From race to ethnicity: Interpreting Japanese American experiences in Hawai'i | This is the first book in more than thirty years to discuss critically both the historical and contemporary experiences of Hawai'i's Japanese | Find, read and cite all the research you need on ResearchGate. Given that race was the foremost organizing principle of social relations in Hawai'i and was followed by ethnicity beginning in the 1970s, the book interprets these experiences from racial and ethnic perspectives. The transition from race to ethnicity is cogently demonstrated in the transformation of Japanese Americans from a highly racialized minority of immigrant laborers to one of the most politically and socioeconomically powerful ethnic groups in the islands.