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Fall 2020

## Peril, Pandemic, and Crisis: Asian American Studies

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Intro to Asian American Studies  
Dr. Josen M. Diaz

# Peril, Pandemic & Crisis

## Asian American Studies

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By Alexis Desany, Carter Lawton, David Wiley



Hello and Welcome to our Zine!! We are so happy you stopped by! :)

We were presented the opportunity to create a zine on Asian American studies through Josen Diaz's ETHN course. Although this started out as a project, it became so much more to our group. We had the opportunity to explore different Asian American cultures, their history, and their influence on American culture and politics. This project allowed us to relate all of the historical readings from the Chinese Exclusion Act and the world wars to events that occur today. Over the semester we developed our overall knowledge on ethnic studies and expanded worldviews; we hope that reading this zine will allow you to do the same. In this document we attempted to construct a creative medium which conveys all of our thoughts and ideas on the subject matter at hand. The three of us are juniors at the University of San Diego studying under varying disciplines. We all come from different parts of California and brought different perspectives to the table when brainstorming and working on the zine each week.

Before reading this Zine we want all readers to understand that the opinions and viewpoints shared here are our subjective views relating to academic texts. We are by no means authorities on these topics; and encourage you to do your own research to expand your personal knowledge. This is a great place to begin or continue one's academic journey of Asian American studies, but it is not intended to be used as a basis of knowledge or foundational source. We hope that you all enjoy reading this zine and find its contents interesting and informative.



*Our extraordinary group!*

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# Golden Times

## Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island

*"America has power, but not justice.  
In prison, we were victimized  
as if we were guilty.  
Given no opportunity to  
explain, it was really brutal.  
I bow my head in reflection  
but there is nothing I can do."* -  
- Poem on the wall of Angel Island

Immigrating into the United States from China has been a challenging process since the 60s when coolie labor was banned. It became more challenging when the Page law of 1875 was passed which excluded so-called undesirables from immigrating. But, the greatest challenge to date for Chinese immigrants and the biggest victory for the American Nationalists was the Chinese Exclusion Act passed 10 years ago in 1882. This act banned all Chinese immigration for 10 years with the exception of students, teachers, merchants, diplomats, travelers, and a few other limited groups.

**The longest amount of time spent on Angel Island was 756 days**

The restrictions were renewed through the Geary act passed earlier this year added additional restrictions on immigrants. As a result of these laws, all immigrants hoping to enter the beautiful San Francisco must first pass through Angel Island, where Chinese people hoping to enter are put through some of the most rigorous examinations before being granted access. The screening process usually lasts a couple of days but is capable of lasting months.

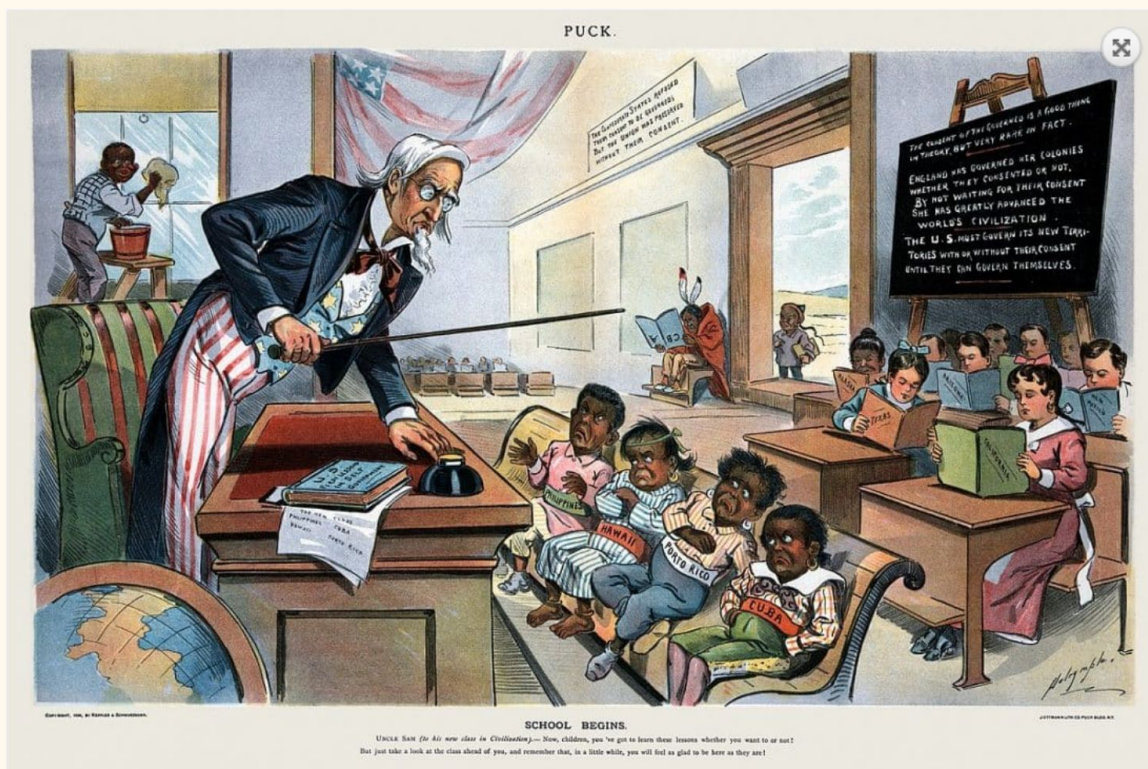


**11 November 1881 by George Frederick Keller for the San Francisco Illustrated Wasp**

This illustration depicts an Asian man in the harbor of Angel Island holding a light and what is beaming from that light are stereotypes and beliefs about the Chinese. Disease, filth, immortality, etc. This illustration mirrors the Statue of Liberty in New York, a universal symbol of freedom, yet this illustration depicts the exact opposite. Images like above are catalysts for anti-Chinese sentiment fueled by stereotypes making these immigrants appear as less than. This image was illustrated right before the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, accurately describing the way the US feels towards these immigrants

## Filippino-American War

At the end of the Spanish American war in 1898, the United States took control over the Philippines. This acquisition was a result of the Treaty of Paris which ended the war. The United States assured that the Philippines would be given independence once the United States believed they were ready and stable enough to rule themselves. This, however, did not happen until years after the treaty was signed. The United States sent soldiers and educators to bring down the native efforts for freedom and reeducate Filipinos in American language and culture. The United States focused its efforts on invading the Philippines and other colonies (such as Puerto Rico), under the pretext of prosperity, peace, and justice while in the South, lynchings of Black Americans were commonplace, and Jim Crow Laws adversely affected the lives of law-abiding Black citizens. African American soldiers fighting in this war faced the harsh reality of fighting and often dying for a country that did not care about them. These soldiers put their lives on the line in the name of expanding justice for a country that was far from just in their treatment of African American's and other minorities.





## Black Filipino Solidarity

At the home front, this war faced a wide array of scrutiny and support from the American people. As one could probably imagine, some of the harshest criticism came from the Black community, which spoke passionately against sending their young men to die in what they considered an unjust war. Filipino soldiers also acknowledged this irony and left letters for Black soldiers criticizing the American government and encouraging them to defect. This solidarity between the Black community and Filipino communities in America can still be seen today. As white America still struggle with xenophobia, Black Americans are some of the most supportive of foreign people as they face racism in the states.





# Letters Sent Home

Real letters sent from American Soldiers back to their families



They will never surrender until their whole race is exterminated. They are fighting for a good cause, and the Americans should be the last of all nations to transgress upon such rights. Their independence is dearer to them than life, as ours was in years gone by, and is today.

...and am always ready to ... I would like some one to ... are fighting for.

...ny I had taken a few prisoners, ...ped. The colonel ordered ... in to line time after time, and ... sent Captain Bishop back to start them. There occurred the hardest sight I ever saw. They had four prisoners, and didn't know what to do with them. They asked Captain Bishop what to do, and he said: "You know the orders," and four natives fell dead.

I don't know ... women, and ch ... Tennessee boys did kill. They would not take any prisoners. One company of the Tennessee boys was sent into headquarters with thirty prisoners, and got there with about a hundred chickens and no prisoners.

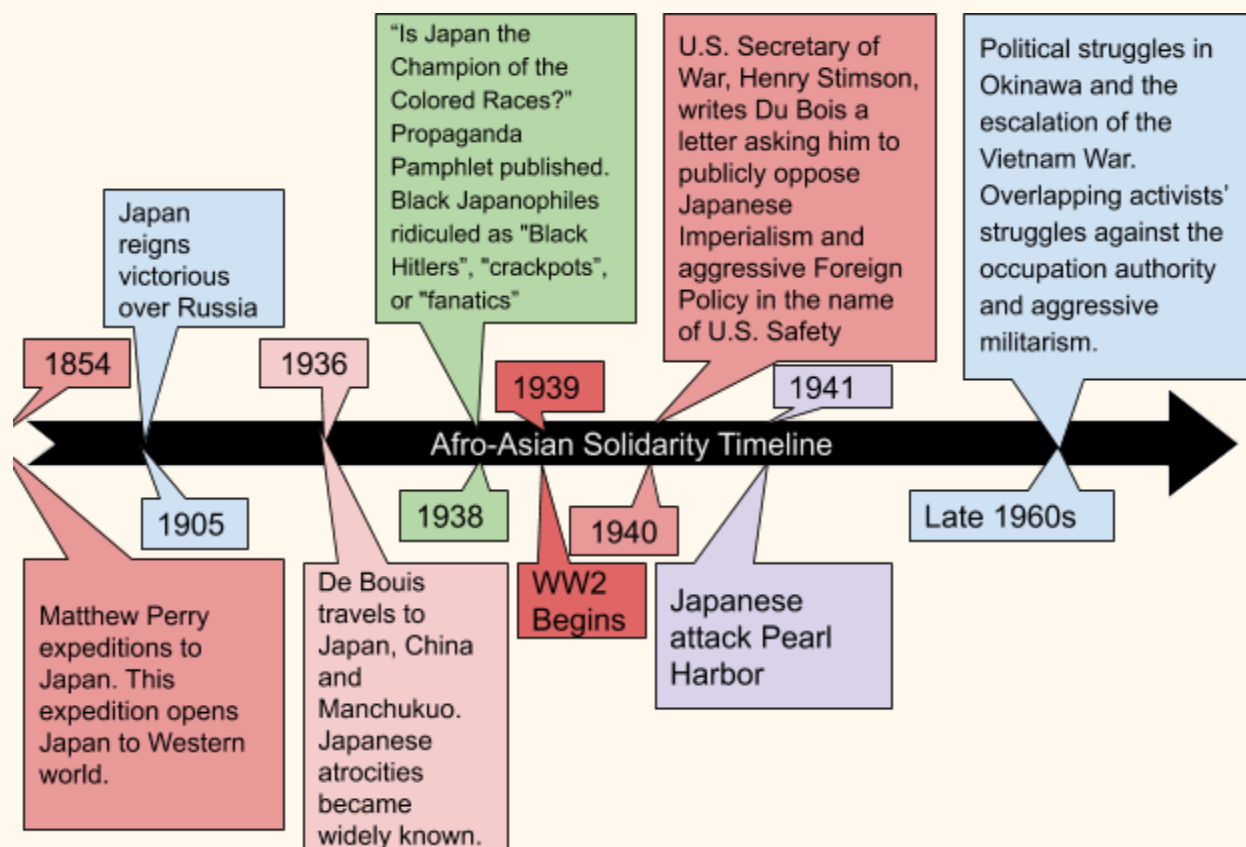
...ny, they are lying everywhere ... More harrowing still: think of ... n who were willing to sacrifice their ... dying in battle and from disease, in a war ... conquering people who are fighting as the ... panish tyranny and misrule. There is not a ... verable business that a patriotic American ... feature of the ... citizen, one who loves to read of the brave deeds of the American ... colonists in the splendid struggle for American independence, can ... look upon with complacency, much less with pride. This war is ... reversing history. It places the American people and the government ... of the United States in the position occupied by Great Britain in ... 1776. It is an utterly causeless and defenseless war, and it should be ... abandoned by this government without delay. The longer it is ... continued, the greater crime it becomes—a crime against human ... liberty as well as against Christianity and civilization.....Those not ... killed in the trenches were killed when they tried to come out.....No ... wonder they can't shoot, with that light thrown on them; shells ... bursting and infantry pouring in lead all the time. Honest to God, I ... feel sorry for them.

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These letters and others can be found [here](#).

# *Black, Japanese Solidarity*

"Japan could become the nation that could alter the politics of race and power and challenge the global system of racialized inequality and exploitation that Western imperialism and colonialism created and perpetuated." (Onishi 6)





# *Afro-Asian Solidarity Today*



Even today, after years of white supremacy trying to pin Black and Asian people against each other, these two communities stand strong in support of one another in the fight to end systemic racism and specifically the killing of innocent Black lives and the persecution of Chinese and Asian people in general in the times of the CoronaVirus.



Image of [Simran Jeet Singh](#)





Examples of Afro-Asian solidarity could be seen across the country during Black Lives Matter protests and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic as Black and Asian people were (and continue to be) active targets of hate crimes and discriminatory acts.

The Black Lives Matter Movement has not only been a matter of importance to African Americans but all minorities in the United States. This movement is bringing awareness to the systemic racism established at the birth of this country and much earlier. Like African Americans, Asians have been vilified. At the same time as the Vietnam war, while the Vietnamese were being vilified, African-Americans were fighting their own war for their basic civil rights.

Today we can see minority groups come together as they shed light on the racist past of the United States. This unification among minority groups has not always been present and there have been conflicts in the past as seen in the Rodney King riots of 1992, where Korean-Americans were protecting their storefronts from looters and protesters. But this conflict has dissipated as the nation unites behind the injustices seen in the death of George Floyd and many others. Just like the vision Du Bois saw when Japan was expanding and challenging white superiority in the South Pacific; again Afro-Asian communities are drawn together.

*For more information about Afro-Asian Solidarity click [HERE](#)*

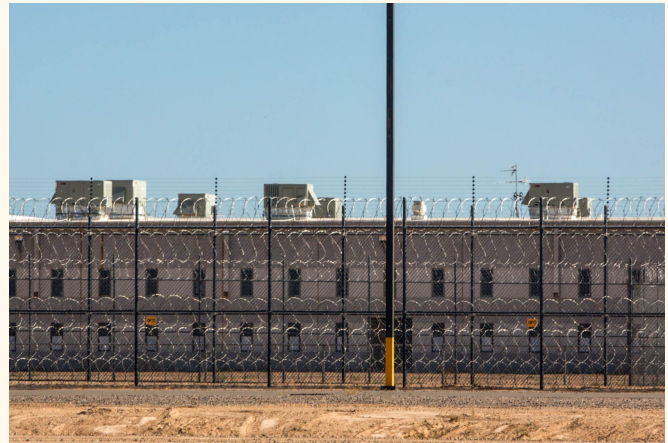
# *Japanese Internment Camps*



Order 9066, an executive order by President Franklin Roosevelt issued February 19th, 1942 was in direct response to the Pearl Harbor attack in December 1941. This order was executed out of fear of Japanese spies relaying information back to Japan. This order authorized the evacuation of anybody deemed as a threat to national security. But the people deemed as a threat to national security were Asian Americans, predominantly the Japanese, as Yellow Peril was back, alive and well in the United States. When they arrived at these internment camps, people were only allowed to bring items they could carry and were forced to sell their property/possessions at a discounted rate. There were rumors that these camps were “luxurious and a holiday for the Japanese”, which was far from the truth. Dillion Myer, war relocation authority director, noted the internee’s food ration was equivalent to the army’s B ration costing 45cents or less per day. There were around 120,000 Japanese Americans in these internment camps throughout the United States. The camps closed in 1945 as the Supreme Court ruled in *Endo vs. the United States* it was not their authority to subject these citizens to this type of treatment. It was thought that this could never happen in the United States again, this was sadly incorrect.

**"History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes."-- Mark Twain**

# *ICE Detention Centers Today*



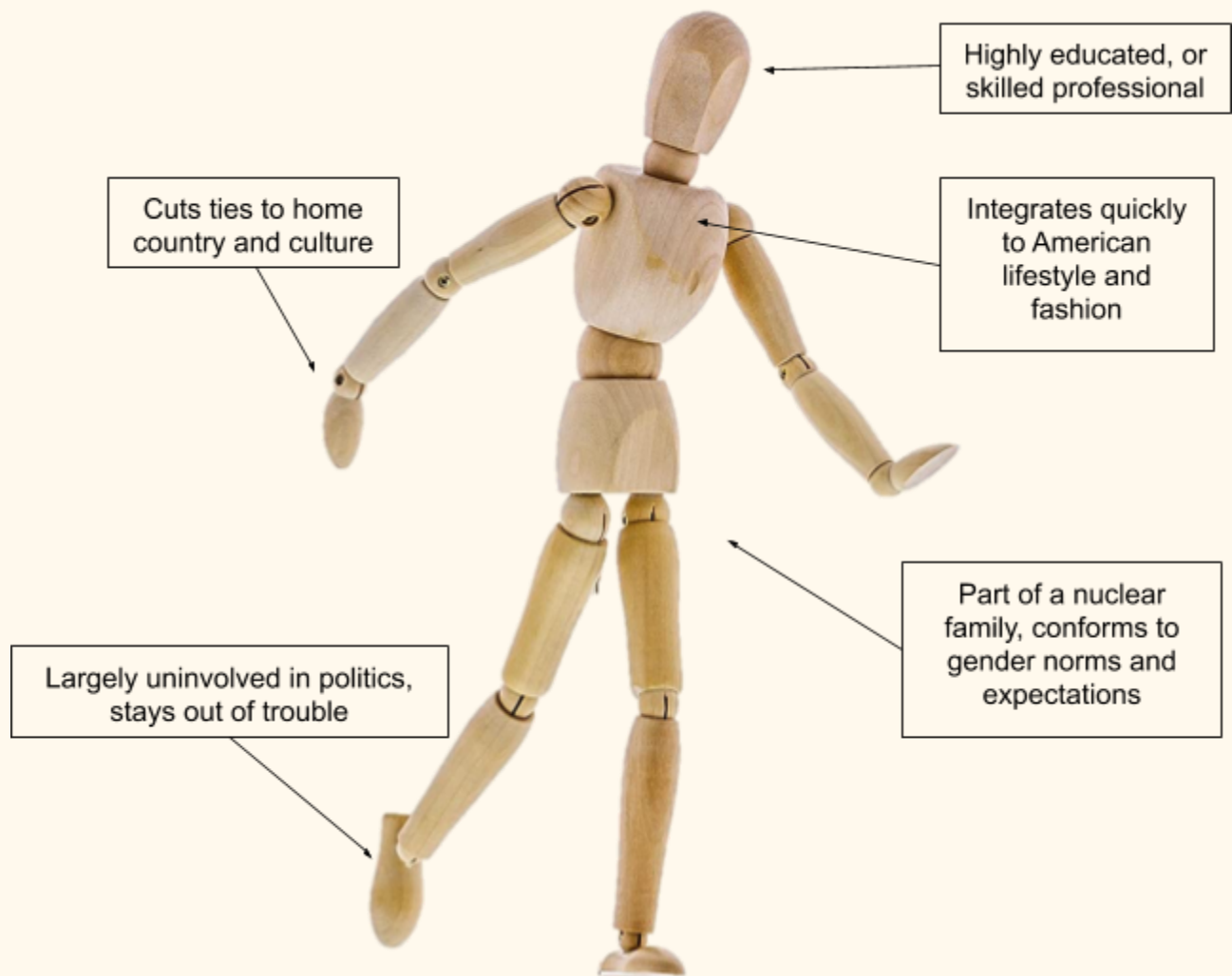
The Homeland Security Act, passed by Congress and signed into law by George Bush issued March 5th, 2005 was in direct response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. This law was passed to better protect the national security of the United States and it is what founded the U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement also known as ICE. This organization is authorized to “remove aliens from the United States who are subject to a final order of removal” ([ICE.Gov](https://www.ice.dhs.gov)) and facilitate all immigration enforcement.

With the growing movement of “Abolish ICE” or “Defund ICE” being circulated by the media, more and more information has been leaked, putting light on the conditions that immigrants in the United States are facing. People are sleeping on concrete floors, without the proper supplies to keep basic hygiene, like soap and toothpaste, and are stuck in rooms that are made for 125 people yet have over 900 people. Recently an article came out about the mass hysterectomies that are being performed on the female immigrants in the detention centers. Japanese activists have protested the ICE detention center on Fort Sill, a place where Japanese internment took place, have stated that “never again is now” (La Resistencia) and that these mass detention centers are mimicking the internment of the Japanese during World War II.

“I believe that’s what happened to Japanese Americans during World War II, and I believe that’s what is happening today, we can today be the allies that the Japanese Americans didn’t have.” --Ikeda



# *The Model Minority*



## *What is a Model Minority?*

The term model minority is used in reference to Asian immigrants and their integration into American society. The term was created as a result of U.S. involvement in Japan, the Philippines, Korea and other asiain countries as a way to create a positive view of immigrants from the United State's new allies. This term is still used today and has had far reaching effects on how Americans view immigrants and even how these immigrants view themselves.

### *What's Wrong with the "Model Minority"*

There are a lot of issues with the idea of a "model minority". Origins of this stereotype can be traced back to the 1950s and the Korean war. During this time the United States and the Soviet Union had split Korea in half, with Capitalist control of the South and Communist control of the North. Now that people from South Korea were contributing to American society, racist stereotypes became a problem, especially since most Korean immigrants were coming as the spouses of homebound soldiers. In order to combat and even turn around these racist stereotypes of the past, the idea of a model minority was created. Women moving in with their new American husbands were able to integrate into society quickly. And other Koreans migrating to the U.S. were allowed to come largely due to their education level, skills as a professional and member of a nuclear family. Because of this, most Korean immigrants quickly became a part of American society and cut ties with their Korean roots. Quick integration is what started the model minority stereotype and it is continued by white America to encourage absolute assimilation and pin minorities against each other.

### *Impact today*

The Model Minority has been an unattainable ideal presented to all new immigrants coming to this country to begin a new life. Assimilating into American culture and pursuing the American dream is seen as incompatible with the retention of familial norms and the preservation of cultural languages, customs and traditions. That is the effect which a model minority has on today. But one could ask, what is the problem with that? This lack of diversity threatens the existence of language, native norms and cultural activities. The model minority stereotype portrays Asian Americans as people who stay out of trouble and are good in school, specifically math and sciences. This creates a lot of issues pinned onto a very large and diverse group, putting extremely high standards that, if not achieved, have a negative impact on an individual's self-esteem. Additionally, it implies that minorities who do not fall under the model minority umbrella are not intelligent or good at school and struggle to integrate themselves into American society and become productive citizens.

# *Hawaii and The Vietnam War*

Prior to the Vietnam war, the US ambassador to South Vietnam warned the State Department against war as the American soldiers are too white faced and they would not be able to distinguish between the Viet Cong and civilians. Because of this warning, the 25th division of the US Army which is based in Hawaii, became extremely important to the government. This division was known for its diversity during the 1950s because of its high number of Asian American and native Hawaiian soldiers. The 25th was originally devoted to humanitarian work and to win over the hearts and minds of the South Vietnamese, while laying the foundations for a democratic state in South Vietnam. An example of this was Operation Helping Hand which, executed by the 25th, was a drive to help support the Vietnamese villages and give them supplies they may need to live a better life. Newspapers across the US would see pictures of these white US soldiers handing out all different types of goods to the smiling faces of Vietnamese children. These goods, in total, were worth about \$800,000 and all collected from people on the Hawaii Islands to show their support and patriotism. They worked off of the ideals that Vietnam needed to be liberated and saved from the destructive characteristics of communism. It was the thought that since the US had secured “freedom” and statehood for Hawaii, the same ideals could be used to secure Vietnam. In order to properly indoctrinate the Vietnamese people with westernized values, the American government believed it necessary to destroy native culture. Later in the war, Hawaii and the 25th division were instrumental in training the soldiers for Vietnam and it’s jungle terrain because of their similarity. This training involved Asian American soldiers acting as Viet Cong which caused racial tensions as there was already high tensions due to the attack on Pearl Harbor just 20 years earlier. Additionally, the 25th division was one of the only anti-guerrilla trained units in the army, so maintaining this division’s strength was vital. Understanding this relationship between Hawaii, the US government, and Vietnam is important to understand how the US government has their strategic placement of military bases around the world. Hawaii is one of many places that has a high concentration of US military off of the mainland. The use of Asian Americans and Hawaiians to pose as the Viet Cong in training helped build systematic racialized profiling and stereotypes across the United States, as seen in TSA or border control profiling or random searches. Both of these topics will both be expanded on later in the Zine.



## *Vietnam Era Army Recruitment Posters*



Above are examples of what US army recruitment posters may have looked like in the Vietnam War Era. As you can see the beauty of Hawaii was used as an incentive to increase army recruitment due to the tropical and jungle-like environment that is different from any place in the United States. This tells us that the US saw Hawaii as an asset to be used for the pleasure and gain of American citizens with no disregard to the Native Peoples of Hawaii.

## *Vietnam Refugees Journey to the US*



The militarized efforts of transporting refugees fleeing from Vietnam to the United States, Operation New Life, involved refugees making multiple stops in prominent US bases such as in Guam, Wake Island, and Philippines. As many as 2,000 refugees were staged to temporarily live in “tent cities”. After the Philippines refused to accept any more refugees the United States quickly made Guam the premier territory to place refugees. The Philippines had sovereignty over the US bases so they used that power to refuse to care for any more refugees. However, Guam did not have any control over the land the bases were held on and therefore had no say over how many refugees came from Vietnam. This move to Guam was a logistical and militaristic move. By using the military to move an immense amount of refugees they solidified their presence on the island, and therefore that part of the pacific, and made a prominent impact on Guam’s economy. These refugees housed on Guam overwhelmed the tiny island and its inhabitants. The US military estimated around 13,000 refugees could live on Guam, the number exceeded 20,000 refugees. Evacuees were living in Guam until 1976 when the last one left for Pendelton. Many states in the US refused to take in refugees as they were not prepared but also had an adverse reaction to the influx of refugees. The constant moving and uncertainty these refugees had to face is nothing new in today's time as there are mass amounts of refugees all throughout the world. The militarized organization and transportation of refugees has adversely affected people seeking shelter in the US since Vietnam.

## *Syrian Refugee Crisis*

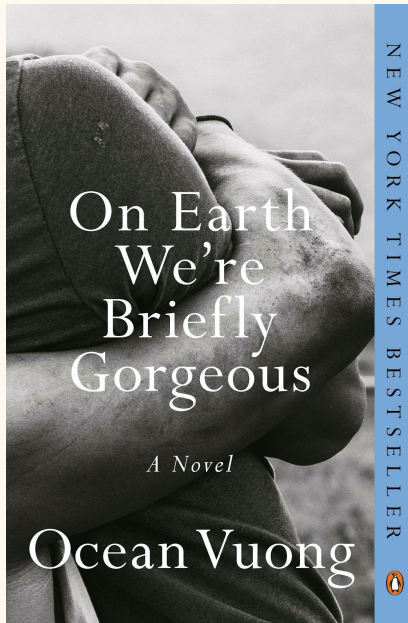
Many American Citizens in the 1950s did not look kindly toward refugees and opposed the US taking them in. Similar views were present during the 2015 Syrian refugee crisis. This crisis was a result of the civil war which broke out in Syria leading to the death toll of over 250,000 people, resulting in a mass exodus. Many of these refugees were denied asylum into America. The United State's failure to accept refugees from Syria resulted in a massive influx of people seeking shelter in Europe and other middle eastern countries. This influx overwhelmed many smaller countries in the region and caused lots of political and economic challenges. Further parallels can be drawn from America's involvement in Vietnam and their influence in the Syrian war. The United States has provided military support and funding to the rebels attempting to overthrow the current Syrian government led by Bashar al- Assad and backed by the Russian government. The influx of foreign money and weapons has resulted in huge amounts of destruction and a greater number of people being killed, wounded and displaced. All the while, the american people continue to fight against the acceptance of Syrian refugees running for their lives just as they fought against allowing Vietnamese asylum in the 1950s.



Above images taken from [GPI](#) and article about [Vietnam Refugee camp](#).



## Book Review



## Analysis & Rating



Originally published in 2019, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*, by Ocean Vuong, was an instant bestseller. This book is written in the form of a letter from a son to his mother. The son, referred to as Little Dog, is the child of Vietnamese refugees who moved to the United States following the Vietnam war. The beauty and paradoxical nature of this letter becomes present upon learning that Rose, Little Dog's mother, is illiterate and will never be able to read it. Rose's illiteracy conveys the importance of Vuong's story which can be seen as not just a letter to his mother, but also a recollection of his life experiences as a queer Asian-American. We rated this book 4.5 out of 5 stars for reasons which will be discussed fully later in the review. Overall this was an amazing read, which highlights the challenges that both Vietnamese immigrants and LGBTQ individuals face in the United States.



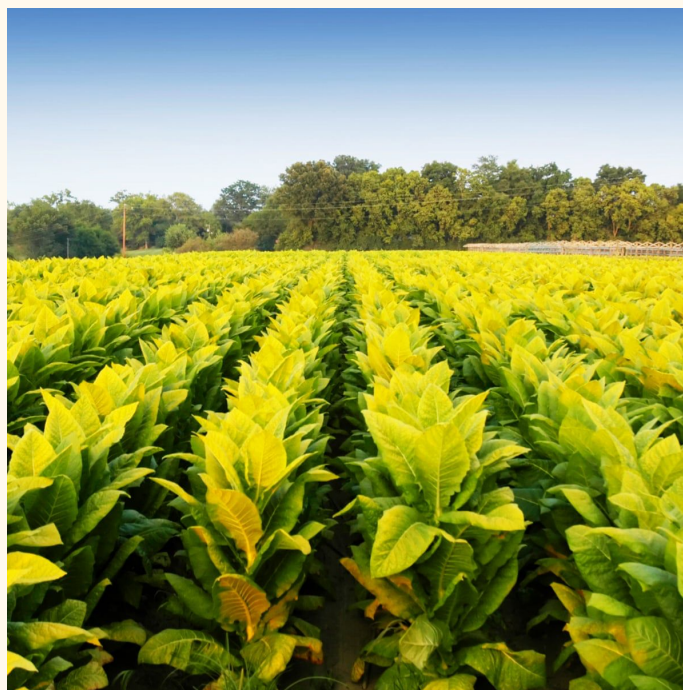
In the novel, Ocean Vuong details his life experiences and displays the effects that the Vietnam War had on his mother Rose and grandma Nan. This letter chronicles Little Dog's memories exposing cultural differences in the family, and residual effects of living through a war, such as Rose inquiring if a dress for sale is fire-proof, birthed from the fear of napalm. These moments portray the psychological trauma inflicted upon Rose and Nan which becomes a common theme throughout the novel.

Another major theme throughout the novel is the family dynamic and how the war has affected the relationships between different generations. Little Dog shares his relationships with his mother and grandmother through stories and traditions they have as a small family. What makes Ocean's writing in this novel so great is that this isn't only applicable to people that have been through this type of war trauma. People from all walks of life can read this book and see themselves in Little Dog, whether it is in all the relationships he has or just one, there is some connection that you form with this story. In the beginning of the novel, the complicated relationship between Rose and Little dog become apparent. Little Dog lists all the different times that she hit or abused him, yet his love for her never faltered. As the story progresses I believe that Little Dog grows to understand his mother, her pain caused by the war and the pressure to keep the traditions of their home land alive. There is also a recurring theme of participating in little activities with his grandmother. This is another place that Ocean connects with his readers. Displaying that when it comes to the relationships with people like our grandparents, the little things you do together make all the difference.



Societal issues such as racism, homophobia and the opioid crisis are all discussed in Little Dog's letter. And, even though much of the book takes place in the late 1900s, the relevance of these topics in today's world is evident. The book's perspective on middle America and the challenges that minorities like Little Dog and his family face, shed light on just how important it is for our country to address these problems. Overprescription of painkillers such as oxycontin has created an epidemic in many American cities, such as Hartford Connecticut, where the story is based. In these cities, overdose is a fear many face daily while access to the resources necessary to get clean are sparse. This book's ability to make often challenging topics relatable, is perhaps its greatest strength. As Ocean's audience connects to the characters of the book, they begin to see the flaws in our system.

In conclusion, we recommend this novel to anyone who wants an insight into the daily life and struggles of immigrants and gay youth in America. Why we rated this novel 4.5/5 is due to the poetic style of text scattered throughout the book. The reader couldn't help but be distracted by the unnatural breaks in the text that we feel took away from the gusto and message of the novel. These sections of text break up the smooth flow and immersive nature of the letter and can also be challenging to understand. While these poems do add liturgical value in terms of seemingly experimental dialogs and exemplifying the fractured state of mind that Little Dog deals with, these positive aspects fail to make up for the choppy feel they create.



# *1950's Post War Culture*

## **Nuclear family**

The 1950's was a time of great economic growth and cultural influence in America. During this period, a huge emphasis was placed on the nuclear family and its importance. As military men returned from overseas, with money in their pockets and the need to get back to work, a huge shift in the working class demographics took place. During both the Vietnam war and WW2, women and people of color joined the workforce and filled the jobs of deployed soldiers. As soldiers came home, many wanted their previous jobs. As a result, women were encouraged and occasionally forced to leave the workplace and go back to performing the role of a stay at home mom. This shift was justified by Americans by idealizing the idea of a nuclear family and stressing its role in society. This idealization placed nuclear families as a model for a capitalist and successful household.

## **War brides**

After World War II many servicemen had found wives in the countries they were fighting in, and the War Brides Act of 1945 made it acceptable for servicemen to bring their spouses from Asian countries such as Japan, China, and later Korea, the same countries demonized during war. As a result of this demonization, these brides had to be “ethnically cleansed” to be accepted in American culture. “In this tale of Americanization, the Oriental woman was transformed from a dangerously transgressive into a symbol of domesticity and a stalwart of a restored postwar patriarchy”. Women made up the majority of immigrants from Asia in the United States during this era, and the abundance of Asian brides was a way to dismantle the systemic racism built against Asians, such as the Chinese exclusion act of 1882. The way war brides were integrated into American society had huge implications on the model minority myth and how Asian Americans as a whole have been viewed.

## Sayonara



### A Portrayal of American Societal Views

The film *Sayonara*, directed by Joshua Logan in 1957, is an almost perfect depiction of the overarching American views on Asian brides. Throughout the movie, Gruver and other American servicemen stationed in Korea face opposition to the relationships they form with local women. Gruver, played by Marlon Brando, is instructed to dissuade his friend Kelly from marrying a Japanese woman. Gruver tries to dissuade Kelly from marrying Katsumi because she is a “slant-eyed runt” and shows Kelly a picture of his own wife, representing the blonde hair blue eyed American housewife. This interaction between the two portrays the racism and discrimination that has deeply held roots in the American world. Later in the movie however, Gruver accepts his friend’s marriage, an implication to America’s own changing views on Asian brides coming home with servicemen. In the end, Gruver falls in love with a Japanese woman whom he marries despite backlash from both his military superiors and friends. The emphasis placed on marrying an Asian woman, regardless of consequence, is one that shows a newly adapting view of Asian immigrants in the eyes of Americans.



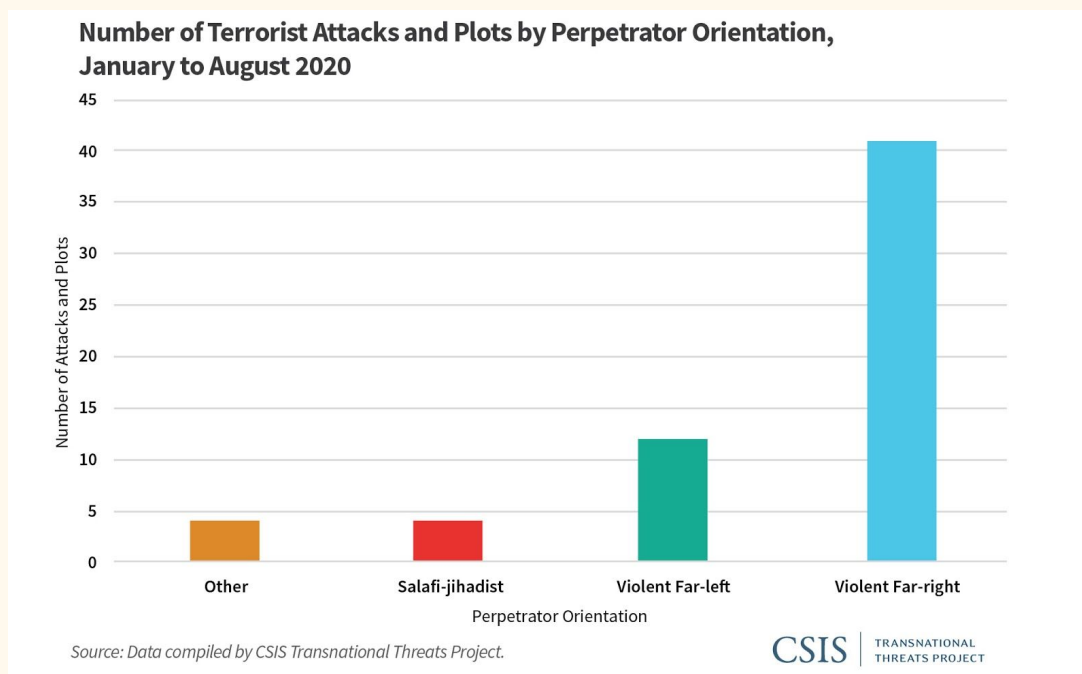
## Influence on today

We can see the influence of foreign brides on our immigration system with the creation of the K1- visa, which allows the entrance of foreigners to the US for 90 days to get married to their fiance and then stay in the United States with them. This has increased in popularity so much so that there is a reality show called “90 Day Fiance” which follows the stories of these couples in their journeys to living together in the United States. This show has created both a positive and negative effect on the country's views of people marrying someone from another country. While it is great that more people know how common this type of thing occurs, it has created some backlash on how people view new people coming into the United States and the idea of a “Green Card Marriage”. There will always be people that do use this system as an easier way to gain citizenship in the US, however, when this label is placed on all interracial or international couples, it creates a place for hate, judgment, and cruelty to breed when most people are leaving their country and home for love.



## Guilty by Association

Since September 11, 2001, the United States has waged a war against terrorism, creating agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security to prevent attacks such as 9/11 from happening again. But this war's other side effects such as racial profiling have become a huge dilemma in this country, which has led to wrongful arrests and police stops, resulting in the death and incarceration of many innocent minorities. The spike of racial profiling since 9/11 has caused a division among white Americans and "others" who often appear to be Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian. This was apparent when President Bush's secret service member, who was of Middle Eastern descent, was asked to leave the plane based on racial profiling. Most Americans in the United States would attribute terrorism in the US to the Muslim influence and the Middle Eastern population when in reality the majority of terrorist attacks in the United States are from domestic terrorism. Attached below is a graph from the Center for Strategic & International Studies showing the huge disparity between foreign and domestic terrorist attacks. Even though this year less than five attacks took place (compared to over 50 violent far left and right attacks combined), fear of foreign attacks and Islamic terrorism is as high as ever. This is an overlooked fact as the emphasis is on foreign terrorism especially in the Middle East.



The Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 did not center around the nationality or religious beliefs of the bomber, who was white, but rather just profiled him as a deviant of society. A very different approach is taken with attacks on the United States from Middle Eastern terrorists, who are profiled based on their ethnicity and religion. This is just one of the many examples of racial profiling evident in our society focused on foreign individuals. The immediate response from the United States after the September 11 attacks was a war in the middle east, including many countries, different ethnicities, and beliefs. This is an example of racial profiling at a global scale, attacking countries based on the actions of an individual organization/ religious sect.

Reasons for this US versus Them view are present in much of today's culture and leadership. One specific example is when Goerge Bush classified the war in the Middle East as a battle for "civilization". This war on terrorism was also described as a crusade, relating to the series of religious wars against Islam. The president's categorization of the Middle East as uncivilized, and comparison of the war in Iraq to a crusade, begins to explain why American views have become so radicalized against Muslims and people from the Middle East. The issues that come with comparing a current war in the Middle East to a crusade are so apparent and widespread, that an entire essay would be required to detail them.



## *Profiling Today*

9/11 and domestic terrorist attacks have had a lasting effect on how the United States deals with national security. Before 9/11 the US was against racialized profiling and even President Bush condemned it. However, that all changed after the hijacking of the four planes. Now people of color, especially those with Middle Eastern features will be pulled aside for a “random” search of their personal belongings and sometimes even full-body checks before being allowed to enter the airport. Now, almost 20 years later, there is still a major military presence in the Middle East with over 4,000 American soldiers in Iraq alone. Even though Islam is not a race, the US has categorized the Middle East as a breeding ground for Islamic terrorism that must be controlled and defused. Because of the United States’ status as a world power, they believe it’s their duty to protect civilization and end terrorism. However, the US government continues to look internationally when there continue to be terrorism problems on the home front by people that do not fit the Middle Eastern description. In addition to the racialized profiling that has perpetuated from the events on 9/11, there have been many attacks on Muslim or Middle Eastern Americans purely because of their physical appearance and religion being the same as the radical terrorists claim to be.

### **2015 TSA Guide for Looking for Terrorists**

#### **Signs You Might Be a Terrorist**

- Exaggerated yawning
- Excessive complaints about the screening process
- Excessive throat clearing
- Widely open staring eyes
- Wearing improper attire for location
- Whistling as the individual approaches the screening process
- Gazing down
- Exaggerated or repetitive grooming gestures
- Face pale from recent shaving of beard
- Rubbing or wringing of hands



## *The Filipino Labor Machine*



### **BOARD MEETING ON FILIPINO LABOR**

**TOPIC:** The Philippines as a source of international labor

**DATE:** 2001- Current

**AGENDA:** Business Plan, Stakeholders, Revenue, Liabilities & Externalities, Historical Context & Future Competition.

### **BUSINESS PLAN:**

After referring to herself as the “CEO of a global Philippine enterprise of 8 million Filipinos who live and work abroad and generate billions of dollars a year in revenue”, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, a previous president of the Philippines, positioned herself as a vital player in the negotiations over Filipino labor across the world. For decades, Filipino citizens have moved abroad for work, both temporarily and permanently; these workers often send money back to their families in letters known as remittances. By shaping public policy and employee contracts, the Philippines and other countries can position themselves to maximize profit and economic growth through remittances and the mobilization of workers who are encouraged to return home after a completed contract. The following business plan will outline the relevant stakeholders, revenue streams,

liabilities & externalities, and the historical context & future competition of this *Filipino Brokerage State*.

#### **REVENUE:**

The Filipino government has made it very clear that their major asset is its large workforce. Through this business plan, the government sends this labor force abroad. By sending this force abroad, they can boost their economy through the influx of remittance money without the hardships that come along with staying competitive in the business market. The country benefits from this system because they do not need to worry about taking care of their workers or supporting them in the country. By encouraging companies to use short term contracts, Filipino workers feel pressure to come home upon the contract's completion. Short term contracts keep the people of the Philippines working, but always connected to their home, which ensures continued cash flows into the country. Another thing that ties workers back to the Philippines is how they are viewed in Filipino culture. Workers who go abroad are viewed as exemplary citizens and national heroes. This government and familial induced pressure is another thing that ties workers back to their homeland, encouraging a continued stream of remittances from future jobs.

#### **STAKEHOLDERS:**

Relevant Stakeholders in this international plan are pictured at the table above and include the International Organization for Migration, the World Bank, the United States, Iraq, the World Trade Organization, and at the head, President Arroyo and the official seal of the Philippines. Other relevant stakeholders are the citizens of the Philippines, the workers going abroad for work, the other countries who receive Filipino laborers, and the companies who hire them. These stakeholders are affected largely by government policy that is put in place by the Philippines. For example, building infrastructure ensuring remittances sent to the Philippines from abroad are secure and efficient encourages workers to travel. Additionally, arrangements put in place by the Filipino government to guarantee that their workers are not exploited and require proper training also encourage the mobilization of workers. Increased revenue within the Filipino government allows them to pay off debts faster (debtors include the World Bank amongst others). International organizations support these programs and push them as a solution for discrepancies in demand for labor with increased restrictions on immigration. Both skilled and unskilled workers are given more opportunities and increased income. A few countries who currently receive large amounts of

labor from the Philippines include the United States, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain; all of whom benefit economically from the influx of workers.

#### **LIABILITIES & EXTERNALITIES:**

There are issues that come along with the exportation of labor which should be taken into consideration. With many of the skilled and unskilled workers leaving the country, the Philippines suffers from a drastically shrunken middle class. The middle-class is what drives economies, therefore the economic growth of the Philippines will be stunted. Another liability that comes with sending labor abroad is many Filipino workers are put into dangerous and inhumane conditions which are technically legal in the area, restricting the workers and the Filipino government's ability to fight injustice. Also, as a result of unofficial and undocumented money flowing into the country, is a decrease in tax revenue that would come as a result of workers staying in the country. This lack of government funding decreases social programs and further strains the already shrinking middle class.

#### **HISTORICAL CONTEXT & FUTURE COMPETITION:**

The Philippines was seen as a country that could not operate independently by American colonizers in 1898 and it was then decided, by American colonizers, that the Filipino people needed to be violently conquered and educated with western ideals. This type of education is not the typical education of today but of educating the Filipino people to be good colonial subjects. This history has a role in the Filipino government today, as Rodriguez would describe, the Labor Brokerage State. The Filipino government exploits its population as a worldwide labor force, prospering off of the monies and other resources these laborers send back to their families in need. Remnants of the former colonial state of the Philippines are quite evident today as the neoliberal ideas can be traced back to US colonization. The President of the Philippines, Arroyo, even suggests that the US colonization of the Philippines has positively affected the Filipino government and citizens. This labor brokerage state of sending laborers all across the world because of the cheap labor is a sign of the country being entirely fueled by the exploited labor of the Filipino people. This has then created competition as the Philippines is making billions from this labor brokerage model. The type of competition then created is influencing other countries to attempt to compete, shaping their own labor brokerage model. The type of global influence this would have would result in

hundreds of millions of people, possibly even billions, being exploited for cheap labor in the interest of higher-ranking members in government.