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Fall 2020

Introduction to Asian American Studies: Final Zine Project (4)

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Hendrickson, Lauren; Kufta, Kelli; Earnshaw, Madi; and Lee, Hayley, "Introduction to Asian American Studies: Final Zine Project (4)" (2020). *Ethnic Studies Student Zines*. 16.
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ETHN250: Introduction to Asian American Studies

Final Zine Project

Group 6: Lauren Hendrickson, Kelli Kufta, Madi Earnshaw & Hayley Lee

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ABOUT US...

We are a group of USD students studying the Asian American history & politics. Over the course of the semester, we have studied a number of different histories of labor, migration, war, incarceration, and displacement. This course has allowed us to better understand the ways in which Asian American racial formation has emerged from an exploration of U.S. colonialism and imperialism.

This course has given us the tools necessary to explore Asian American history & contextualize what we have learned & be able to apply it to contemporary issues both within & outside of the United States.

ABOUT OUR ZINE...

In each of our weekly zines, we really focused on emphasizing the significance of each text while intertwining it with the idea of racial inequality. One of our main focuses throughout all weeks was how Asian Americans made their way into the United States & assimilated with it. Being able to read & reflect on personal stories of Asian American refugees that have faced a number of different ethical issues and struggles gave us, as students, the opportunity to think outside of the box and it really opened our eyes to some of the harder, unwritten challenges that a lot of individuals faced.

In each individual zine, there are approximately 3 main sections. The first is the "Key Points of the Text." In this section, we highlight what exactly the author is talking about and how they go about making these points. The next section is "Why Does It Matter?" This section assesses the text's social, political and intellectual significance that the author presents & why exactly that is important. Finally, the last section is the "Connection to Today." This section relates what we read & analyzed to the happenings in our communities & societies now. In this section, we analyze political contexts that help us better understand the texts.

Lastly, in all Zine's we emphasize the importance of visuals in helping us understand the deeper meaning. We included images & other important types of visuals to analyze all of the texts & give OUR readers a better understanding of what exactly we learned!

Overall, our goal of this Zine was to portray the inequalities & struggles that Asian Americans faced in the process of migrating into the United States. Norms & ways of life were disrupted in the process, but individuals were forced to face the challenges presented & adapt in order to give themselves better opportunity. The similarities seen in some of today's societal issues compared to those of Asian Americans were eye-opening & our hope is that you are able to make those connections in reading, as well!

Enjoy!



Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)

The Chinese Exclusion Act was the first legislation passed that prohibited Chinese laborers from entering the country & prevented those laborers that had left the US from reentry. This act set the precedent for later restrictions against immigration of other nationalities. This placed intense restrictions on Chinese, including only allowing teachers, students, diplomats, and tourists as well as limited access to bail bonds.



Poster from the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)

‘THE CHINESE MUST GO!’: THE ANTI CHINESE MOVEMENT

By: Erika Lee

Group 6: Lauren Hendrickson, Kelli Kufta, Hayley Lee & Madi Earnshaw

America was known as a country of immigrants or as a descendant of immigrants. Lee explains the journey of the Chinese migrating to the U.S. and all the obstacles they had to overcome. Chinese were questioned because the U.S. didn't know if they should be welcomed or expelled as they were seen as a threat to American society. Chinese immigrants were treated as a source of cheap, available labor instead of actual human beings.

Why Does it Matter?

The restrictive laws against immigrants that were first introduced in America were then spread to Canada and Mexico as well. Canadian head tax for Chinese immigrants was implemented & backfired, this boosted demand for cheap labor.

Many different political cartoons in North America portrayed Chinese as filthy, greedy animals which severely affected their social perception. Many of these similar scenarios are happening today.

Connection to Today

- ▶ **The Anti-Chinese Movement started to turn violent from the 1850s through the end of the 19 century. Chinese were harassed, and driven out of cities. There was a massive lynching in the 1870s where a mob of 500 people dragged Chinese out of their homes and hung victims. During this time, police did little to stop or prevent these mobs.**
 - ▶ This relates to what is going on right now with the Black Lives Matter movement. BLM is a movement that advocates for protests and lifting others voices against incidents dealing with police brutality or any racially motivated violence against black people.
- ▶ **The Chinese were not considered citizens & not able to testify in cases involving white people.**
 - ▶ In the U.S today, the prison labor is cheap & often used by big corporations. Felons are not allowed to vote, this takes away their voice in today's society. Criminalization of minorities makes it difficult for them to immigrate into America because they usually have small infractions of the law
- ▶ **Chinese immigrants were shoveled through Immigration Stations such as Ellis Island (NY) and Angel Island (SF). Once they arrived, they were interrogated & predicted to be coming into the U.S. illegally.**
 - ▶ Similar to the fight against illegal immigration from Mexico, a cheap labor force which is being denied citizenship as well as being discriminated against. Detention camps at the border are overcrowded, suspected of being illegal & with no right to any attorney. Immigrants are granted permission to stay if they are not considered a threat to national security.



Angel Island Interrogation

Detention Center at the U.S. Mexico Border



“Filipino Bodies, Lynching, & the Language of Empire”

By: Nerissa Balce

Group 6: Lauren Hendrickson, Kelli Kufta, Hayley Lee, & Madi Earnshaw

Timeline

- **1896:** Filipinos defeat Spaniards in Kuwait
- **1897:** Provisional Government is established by Gen. Francisco Macabulos
- **1898:** U.S. became involved in the Philippines & took over the city of Manila in a battle with the Spaniards
- **1898:** Spain & U.S. sign a peace treaty in Paris that ceded the Philippines for \$20 million
- **1899:** Manila correspondents make letter of protest complaining about hospital reports & altered number of killings
- **1889-1902:** Philippine- American War
- **1900:** Black soldier's unsigned letter is published showing the mistreatment of Filipinos by white soldiers
- **1930s:** Filipinos worked as migrant farmworkers
- **1950s:** Writings of DuBois shares the similar acts of racial violence & economic oppression of black Americans & colonized people in

Key Points of Text:

The Philippines were considered an important geopolitical site for colonization. Economic & imperialist motives ultimately drove the decision to go through with occupation and colonization.

The increase in the Filipino immigrant population started the anti-Filipino sentiment & contributed to the racial violence/discrimination against Filipinos. They were seen as an economic threat & not even classified as humans, but rather 'monkeys.' "Filipino Degeneracy" was the American viewing of Filipinos as 'dark' savages, 'children' & feminized people. Americans argued that Filipinos lacked the manly character needed to self-govern, thus justifying the war & the colonial occupation of the Philippines.

Black American soldiers empathized with Filipinos & the ways they were being treated. Filipinos were treated similarly to the ways in which racism existed in the anti-Black & anti-Asian movements. Mistreatments included lynching and negative connotations that continued for years on end.

Balce places so much emphasis on the similarities of the discrimination against Filipinos and that of African Americans. She notes that in 1989, "critical voices in the Negro press suggested that for many African Americans, the Philippine-American War was an effort to enforce Jim Crow laws on another dark race." The idea of control over a 'dark race' continued through the annexation of the Philippines and contributes to the idea that colonization was primarily founded on the ideas of white supremacy and white control.

Connection to Today:

Throughout the Black Lives Matter protests, there is a video of the crowd chanting "I am black and I am proud". The line of US Army soldiers is meant to discourage the violent riots but in that line, there is a black soldier mouthing the words 'I am black and I am proud'. This directly relates to American Philippine war because there were black American soldiers who did not agree with the treatment of the Filipinos but were on the 'side' of the Americans.

The US is very focused on its image abroad. There are so many different efforts to help underprivileged countries including military involvement in the Middle East, as well as aiding certain foreign elections in the name of democracy. Yet within our own soil there are people living without access to fresh water (Flint, Michigan as well as some indigenous communities), internet (low income families), food security (homeless population) and job security (non-essential workers who have no jobs due to COVID). There are lots of personal problems that the United States should investigate & focus their time on rather than critiquing other countries. Similar to this, instead of dealing with the lynching in the South during the American Philippine war, the United States were more concerned about issues on the other side of the world, not relevant to them.

During the time of mass social media, the influence that the media has on people & society, has only continued to gain power within the past century. Evolving from political cartoons that were spread through newspapers to today's instantaneous twitter or instagram posts that spread to millions in a matter seconds. These different forms of media persuade the perspective of the masses consciously and subconsciously just as the image of Filipinos as savage children influenced the mental image of Filipinos in America.



Black soldier chanting with protesters while holding violence line during Black Lives Matter protests.

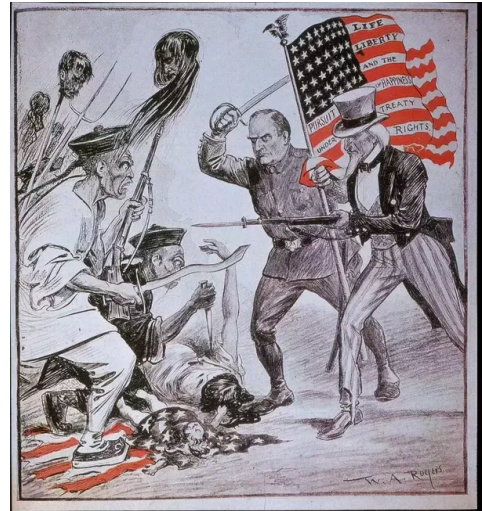


Significance of Text:

The Philippine American War (1899-1902) was a war between the US & Filipinos that was seen to be a continuation of Philippine Revolution against Spanish rule. Lynching of men, women & children was the type of violence that occurred against the Filipinos during the war. This violence & mistreatment was similar to the lynching of African American men, women & children in the South. African Americans & Filipinos were facing the same kind of discrimination and harm during this time. During the war, cartoons & news articles were published portraying the Filipinos as 'black bodies' with radicalized images and notes. Many people were against the Philippine American War, some actively spoke out against it in newspaper articles, books & letters. However, these activists were drowned out by propaganda & strong negative media portrayal of Filipinos.

By representing the Filipinos 'savagery' to the nation, the savage conduct of the Philippine American War was justified. This relates to the ways in which the mistreatment (lynching) was justified as a solution to the 'Negro' problem in the south. Black American soldiers who wished to join the Filipino army felt conflicted & feared that mistreatment & violence would only worsen as a result of civil unrest. This ethical dilemma put Blacks in a situation socially as it trapped them between two evils – supporting lynching by association or contributing to the lynching as a result of joining. DuBois linked the racism in the United States with an imperial expansion in alternative nations. He argued that the racial hatred, radical history & colonial expansion ultimately replaced any functioning democracy that existed.

Balce's text highlights the importance of the Philippines as a geopolitical site but also an important site for colonization. By making the connection with the discrimination against African Americans, readers are able to get a better understanding of the disadvantages Filipinos & other minorities faced during the times of the war & colonization unrest.



INTRODUCTION: DUBOIS'S CHALLENGE

BY: Yuichiro Onishi | Group 6: Lauren Hendrickson, Kelli Kufta, Hayley Lee & Madi Earnshaw

TIMELINE:

1854: Black Sailors on Commodore Matthew Perry's Expedition

1905: Japan's victory over Russia

1930s-40s: Growing strength of the imperialist Japanese state within the global white polity

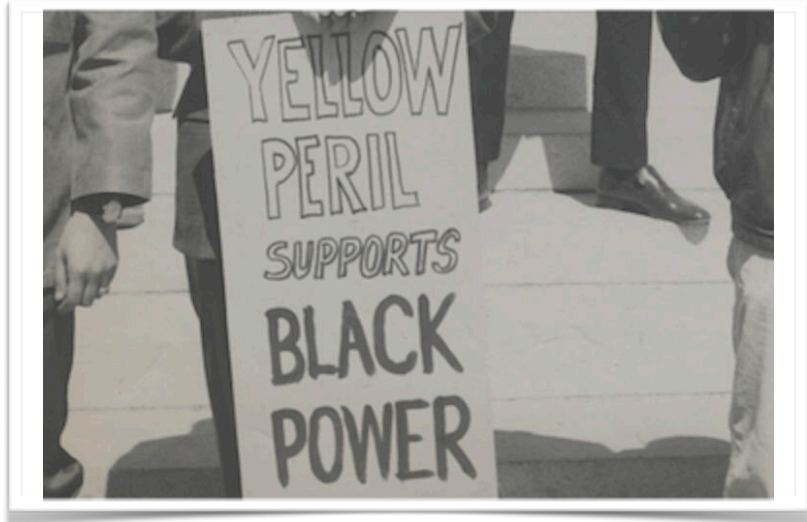
1940: Stimson writes letter to DuBois

1945: Hiroshima & Nagasaki are bombed

COVID-19 Reflection

After the emergence of COVID-19 in China, many Asian-Americans were wrongfully associated with the pandemic in America. Many Americans assumed the inability of China to contain the spread of COVID-19 into other countries was a reflection of poor sanitation or lack of control. These assumptions may be associated with the helplessness and inferiority of Asian-Americans, leading to prejudice and oppression during this time for this community. There has been increasing recognition and efforts against this stereotype in America. The efforts to address the similar prejudice and discrimination towards the Asian population of other countries can be seen.

The quick emergence of the stereotype against Asians living outside of Asia during the pandemic illustrates how racial discrimination and prejudice are exacerbated in the face of fear and social pressure in global crisis.



Key Points of the Text

Onishi emphasizes DuBois's concern for the race contact across the Pacific Ocean & how it communicated a lot about the global dynamics of racial struggles. She later names this transpacific race contact DuBois's Challenge. These racial struggles appeared most explicitly at the intersection of Japan's emergence on the World Stage of colonization & domination. The ongoing violence & continuous atrocities resulted from the aggressive Japanese imperialism, militarism as well as colonial rule.

DuBois, a leading black intellectual, highlighted his concerns for civil & human rights while connecting them most intently with pan-Africanism & decolonization. DuBois grappled with the pedagogy of human liberation. His focus was making racial struggles known while presenting a paradigm for the darker nations struggling. He promised that Japan could become the nation that would alter politics of race & power while also challenging globalized inequality on the basis of race.



Connection to Today

The Black Lives Matter Movement continues to spread across the globe. Through this movement, a number of different races & communities from around the world come together in solidarity against the racial injustices still being faced today.

Citizens from other countries saw the Black Lives Matter Movement in the United States & were inspired to pay closer attention to the racism in their own countries. This ultimately triggered a global revolution as the Black Lives Matter Movement continues to shed light that racism still exists and causes many struggles to date.



The Black Lives Matter Movement has sparked inspiration in many different communities. The #ScholarStrike, for example, is a nationwide call for scholars to stand in solidarity with the movement for Black Lives. This is just another example of the many ways this movement has connected different communities with one another.

DuBois wanted to form an alliance across the nations that would highlight the struggles of racism. Through this alliance, he attempted to reform the way the world thinks & bring together communities that would be stronger and thrive with the help of one another. This alliance was formed on the basis of the ‘Racial Groove.’ The Racial Groove describes the connections across a number of different efforts of expanding black radicalism.

Why Does it Matter?

Throughout the Chinese & Russian War, Japan continued to rise to national status. This created another equal status that was quickly recognized by the United States.

Through the ‘racial groove,’ connections to revise Black radicalism were created. This presented a new meaning of human liberation without national or political boundaries. By coming together with other communities & expanding beyond the United States, new linkages between different minority groups that faced similar struggles pertaining to white culture were opened and expanded upon.

The Afro-Asian Philosophy is best defined as the racial philosophy of human emancipation. This highlighted the topics of race, the nation’s political & moral authority as well as the transformation of the world in effort to take action on issues including racism, imperialism & colonialism. This philosophy was an attempt at exposing the realities of injustices while emerging cultures together. The Afro-Asian Philosophy united scholars from both African Studies & Asian Studies to discuss similar experiences of racism, imperialism & colonialism faced in the past, present & future despite major geographical differences. This philosophy is one that is still in discussion today and has even established a conference that meets to stand in solidarity with the African & Asian communities.



Concentration Camps & A Growing Awareness of Race

By: Diane Fujino

Key Points of the Text

Japanese American fears became known when the U.S. government ordered their removal from the West Coast. In an effort to remove the Japanese, the U.S. government would freeze bank accounts while being heavily restricted by local law enforcement officers.

Yuri, Art & Mrs. Nakahara were relocated to assembly centers in Santa Anita in 1942. These assembly centers later became known as concentration camps. Japanese were asked to only bring as many items as they could carry. They were treated like prisoners & thrown into poor conditions in terms of housing & work.

More often than not, the Japanese American loyalty was questioned at the concentration camps. Yuri responded to suspicions about her American loyalty by clinging onto a symbol of U.S patriotism, a WADCA uniform. She held onto this uniform as a symbol of hope for the future of American society. During confiscation of objects upon entrance into the camp, Yuri was primarily concerned with keeping her WADCA uniform. By including this anecdote in the text, Fujino is paralleling the hopes and fears of many Nisei during this experience.

Yuri remained positive during her time in the Santa Anita Assembly Center dealt with racism through her American loyalty. The Japanese culture, as a whole, did their best to remain loyal to America. They practiced “shikataganai, which promoted adjusting to circumstances rather than working for change”. It was a coping mechanism that helped them remain

1

MARCH 21, 1942

Public Law 503 was implemented: Penalties for anyone violating Exec. Order 9066

2

APRIL 3, 1942

Yuri, Art and Mrs. Nakahara relocated to Santa Anita Assembly Center

3

OCTOBER 1942

Yuri, Art and Mrs. Nakahara were relocated to a more permanent concentration camp in Jerome, Arkansas.

Timeline of Events:

1941: Bombing of Pearl Harbor

1942: Japanese removal from West Coast (approx. 120,000 Japanese Americans)

1942: Police raid at Yuri's concentration camp

1942-1944: Governor Homer Adkins refuses Japanese to work, relocate, or attend college outside of concentration camps.

1944: Nisei soldiers liberated Bruyeres and France from German control

1945: Liberation of 30,000 prisoners at Nazi death camp at Dachau

strong and ignore personal struggles. Yuri brought positivity to many in the the camp and was a source of encouragement for those she came into contact with. During her time in Santa Anita Assembly center, the racism Yuri faced constantly challenged her “color-blind” world view. This experience forced her to identify with the “targeted group” and to no longer deny discrimination.

Even after her realization of discrimination present in her community, the “few bad apples” argument caused Yuri to still believe that American institutions held values of fairness and democracy for every American. She continued to minimize racism she faced in order to protect her idea of America as the “land of justice and liberty for all”.

The people and experiences Yuri remembers reflect her core values. She developed a strong admiration for fortitude through adversity, humility, and the well-being of others. These qualities became the foundation of her humanitarian ethics, community service, and political activism later in life. Yuri also believes the Nisei soldiers played an instrumental role in changing the typical view of Japanese Americans.

Why Does It Matter?

In a time when Japanese Americans were being racially discriminated against, they still practiced their loyalties and patriotism to America.

It is very difficult to understand how Nisei, a person born in the US or Canada whose parents were immigrants from Japan, could show such loyalty to a country that discriminated against their people. Japanese Americans were unconstitutionally imprisoned. However, Fujino’s text exemplifies how many minority groups responded to racism by attempting to assimilate into U.S society. While some Japanese American protested and resisted the orders of the U.S government, the majority complied with the evacuation orders in hopes they would be treated differently.

More often than not, Japanese were categorized similarly to the way Blacks were in the racial hierarchy. In this time, Yuri’s eyes were opened even more to the prevalence of white supremacy. This motivated her to help bring justice to her fellow Japanese Americans as well as all of those facing racial inequalities.

By inspiring others to write to soldiers through the Crusaders, Yuri found a way to lead others & create a positive impact on the world. She found her voice and a way to connect to others in her most difficult time. She inspired girls, of all ages, to write letters to soldiers and make a deeper connection. By intellectually stimulating girls of all ages, she socially integrated them into society & introducing them to the realities of their time. These girls were able to connect with the soldiers fighting for justice in their community.



CONNECTION TO TODAY:

Functionality of Police: During her time in the concentration camps, Yuri was detained for posting Alumni flyers in San Pedro. This detainment introduced her to the concept of 'bad apples.' By being introduced to this concept, Yuri was able to maintain the belief that American institutions upheld the professed values of democracy and fairness & also allowed her to support the US Military/police force that support & protect in specific, the ruling class.

This idea/realization is similar to recent protests of Police functionality/brutality. A lot of what is happening is being attributed to the concept of a 'few bad apples' but many question whether or not 'a few bad apples' take over the functionality of the police, which then led to the increased presence of the defund the police movements.

Relation: USD March Evacuation COVID-19

While the circumstances of USD's COVID-19 Evacuation in March are completely different than those that Yuri & her family faced in the time of concentration camps, there are some similarities in terms of the stressfulness and abruptness that students faced this past March.

When the decision was made to send students home due to the outbreak of COVID-19, students were told they had a week to move out. Not long after that date was made public, students were then informed they had 24 hours to relocate. By changing this deadline without much more information a lot more stress & anxiety was added to students already frightful of the situation.

Knowing how stressful the inconvenience of leaving campus in the middle of the semester was, we can only imagine the stress & fear that the Japanese being relocated went through. Because there are so many different logistics to packing up & moving, we assume that the Japanese families faced a number of unprecedented challenges that they were forced to overcome in a very scary & unnerving time.

MILITARIZED MIGRATION

| Reencounters: On the Korean War and Diasporic Memory Critique | Crystal Baik |

TIMELINE

1945: Marking the precipice significant changes in U.S. immigration policy // Arrival of seventy thousand American troops in southern half of Korea

1945-1946: U.S. state passed emergency orders and "non-quota" amendments

1947: War Brides Act

1948: South Korean State established

1950-1953: Korean War

1951: UN Convention established related to the status of refugees

1953: Signing of the Korean Armistice

1964: Year preceding significant changes in U.S. immigration policy (Civil Rights Act)

1965: Immigration and Nationality Act

1967: Loving v. Virginia



US Camp in Korea & legalized prostitution.

Key Points of Text:

Baik writes about her blissful marriage & the materialization of an American nuclear family. She discusses the radicalized and gendered transformation of Korean migrants into naturalized American immigrants. In her text, she highlights how 2 populations helped paved the way for Korean migration: Korean women who married US Servicemen in South Korea and the mixed-race children of US soldiers & Korean women adopted by families in the US.

The American military occupation facilitated many intimate relationships between US soldiers & Korean women. Many Korean women married US soldiers as a gateway into the United States. Because of this, the US passed legislative exceptions to facilitate the migration of Asian war brides and other Korean adoptees. This then led to thousands of mixed-race children being conceived. These children challenged the idea of the 'pure blood' & were treated as obstacles/potential threats to Americans.

Baik defines 'Militarized Migrations' as the idea that covers racialized, gendered & sexualized conditions underlying Korean



Connection to Today

George Floyd's death has not only exposed prejudice and discrimination towards the African American community but this event has also prompted hateful discussions within the Asian American community on interracial relationships & stereotypes. Kelli Chauvin is a beauty queen and the ex-wife of Derek Chauvin, the police officer charged with George Floyd's death. Her explanation of their marriage painted a very public picture of herself as a submissive Asian woman that attempted to capitalize on the white supremacy of her husband. Their interracial marriage has led to much anger within the Asian American community for a multitude of reasons. Asian Americans are outraged that Kelli Chauvin appeared to live her life in a manner that reinforced the submissive and fetishized stereotype of Asian women. Additionally, many Asian American men used this public event to explain how interracial relationships between Asian American women and white men make them feel emasculated and unwanted in American society. A member of the Asian American community stated that the belief that Asian women were "the spoils of the war, and Asian Men were seen as threats" this created enduring stereotypes for both Asian American women and men. This story exemplifies that the stereotypes against the Asian American community from the war are still prevalent and continue to place a detrimental role in society.

diaspora trajectories. Military interventions & migrations were linked to the liberal domestic discourse of racial acceptance, assimilation & cultural plurality.

Why Does it Matter?

Socially, Korean women were portrayed as good American housewives. This was a part of the chrononormativity that portrayed Koreans in these roles expected of Americans in order to better fit into the American notion of what should be.

Politically & socially, the U.S. framed the occupation of Korea as saving and protecting Koreans from communism. This aided the American vision of 'savior' or protector of the free world. Socially, the citizens of America were proud that they were saving another country & this politically justified the militarization.

The camptowns in Korea socially altered the environment Koreans lived in as it offered an American bubble in which the military filled with local businesses & entertainment. By transplanting an American camptown, the Korean communities surrounding were introduced to American culture, much of which still exists today.

While Korean war brides were coming back from Korea with American soldiers, there were many sentiments that interracial marriage should not exist that still lingered. This is something that was seen & emphasized in *Loving v. Virginia*, the Supreme Court ruling in 1967 that declared laws banning interracial marriage violated the 14th amendment to the Constitution.



Richard & Mildred Loving — *Loving v. Virginia* (1967)

Korean War Brides.



American Quarterly:

Aloha, Vietnam: Race and Empire in Hawai'i's Vietnam War

Group 6: Lauren Hendrickson, Madi Earnshaw, Kelli Kufta, Hayley Lee

TIMELINE

- 1898:** Annexation of Hawaii
- 1959:** Hawaii state legislature voted & passed the statehood bill
- 1964:** US Naval destroyer Maddox came under siege in the Gulf of Tonkin by North Vietnamese patrol boats
- 1965:** American soldiers deployed from Schofield Barracks
- 1966:** Soldiers of National Liberation Front embark on a 'civic action' campaign to cultivate habits of self government
- 1967:** First Battalion, Twentieth Infantry of the Eleventh Infantry Brigade commenced training at Kara Village
- 1968:** President Lyndon Johnson announced activation of Army Reserve & National Guard for duty in Vietnam
- 1960-70s:** Insurgent movements for decolonization proliferating around Pacific

Key Points of the Text

During the Vietnam War, Hawaii served as a staging area for the US Military. Hawaii came with the promise of liberal inclusion for its own natives. This obscured the history of US Imperialism in the islands & renewed the forms of colonial state violence. During this time, military spending was a path to Modernization.

Man emphasizes that the fortunes of American commercialism depended on a strong military presence on/around the Hawaiian Islands. The permanent military presence in Hawaii was later known as the key to US defense. This presence also secured the territory economy as the Vietnam War reaffirmed Hawaii's national purpose as a bastion of US military power throughout the Pacific.

The Cold War in Asia boosted an economy around war making in Hawaii. This war also created a military-tourism complex in which 2 industries grew dependent on one other. This movement changed radicalized & gendered relations of power that often provided 'natives' to be the objects of white American masculine desire. This led the people of Hawaii not to seek 'independence,' but to fight for equality.

Connection to Today...

The current economic issue in Hawaii demonstrates the lasting impact of American colonization and military usage.

The Global COVID-19 Pandemic illustrates the true magnitude of many small pacific island's dependency on tourism. The popularization as a vacation destination has forced Hawaii to have. strong economic dependency on tourism. Currently, it is estimated that tourism accounts for 20% of the state's economy and has been the largest industry since 1959. Therefore, the huge reduction of tourism because of COVID-19 has left Hawaii with the highest unemployment rate in the United States as well as with great economic troubles. Although other natural disasters have affected Hawaii's economy, they have never been of this magnitude. The collapse of Hawaii's economy has opened the eyes of many of Hawaii's government officials to the unhealthy dependency on tourism. Although some may find this upsetting, Hawaii has begun to use this opportunity to decrease its dependence on tourism moving forward.



The impact of COVID-19 seen all throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

Why Does It Matter?

American soldiers were determined to change hearts & minds about the racial indifference. The soldiers of the Twenty-Fifth Division sought to overcome racial difference by engaging in humanitarian projects. They would participate in tasks that included building schools, roads, clinics & training programs for public health. This was essential for the transformation of South Vietnam into a modern nation-state & transition to statehood. The people of Hawaii played an important role in the overall efforts that took place in Vietnam because of their humanitarian efforts/involvement.

The antiwar policies that occurred towards the end of the 1960s gave activists a new language to make sense of the violence of US colonialism in Hawaii. This colonialism was connected to US militarism in Asia & it gave activists power on addressing concrete issues faced by Hawaiis people. This was all done through their involvement with local & indigenous struggle for land rights.

Black Lives Matter

During the Black Lives Matter movement, there has been police brutality that has not been made public due to the controversy. Similarly, the My Lai massacre was swept under the rug and hidden from the public for more than a year. The massacre brought to light, the racial injustices faced. The Hawaii senator questioned the racially charged vocabulary that the military used throughout their training, words such as 'gooks', 'dinks' & 'slopes.' Today, these same principles apply to politicians sung 'thugs' or 'illegal immigrant.' By using. these value names to imply a certain group of people, people in power influence the public perception to further their own political agenda. In the case of My Lai, the racial slurs justified the war however, the Black Lives Matter Movement has become too strong to ignore & just 'sweep under the rug'.

Body Counts:

The Vietnam War & Militarized Refugees

By: Yen Le Espiritu



Key Points of the Text

The story of the “good refugee” was essential in enabling the United States to turn the Vietnam War into a “good war” and a moral war. The Vietnam war profoundly shaped U.S. politics and treatment of Vietnamese refugees.

Two main arguments were being made in Espiritu’s text. The first is **Military Colonialism**. This was the region’s colonial dependence on the U.S. that eventually turned the Philippines & Guam into the ‘ideal’ receiving centers of the U.S. rescuing project. This idea was essential in order for the United States to be successful. The second argument was the idea of **Militarized Refugees**. This idea shows that refugees are mutually constituted & emerge out of support for U.S. militarism. This made the U.S. turn from a violent aggressor in Vietnam to a charitable rescuer of its people.

As a consequence of the U.S. colonial occupation of the Philippines, Clark Air Force Base was initially a U.S. Army Cavalry post until the creation of the Air Force in 1947. The Most frequently used route for airlifted refugees

TIMELINE

1898: Spanish American War

1946: Philippines’ formal Independence

1947: Creation of the Clark Air Force Base – Military Bases Agreement

1950: Organic Act

1951: U.S. & Philippines sign the Mutual Treaty Defense

1962: Guam’s involvement in the Vietnam War begins

1966: Operations Hastings

1975: Making of ‘Good Refugee’ was launched – first wave of Vietnamese refugees who fled to the U.S., Initiated Baby-lift Operation

was from Vietnam to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines to the Anderson Air Force Base in Guam and then to Camp Pendleton in the U.S. (San Diego). The largest Vietnamese population outside of Vietnam originated from the Camp Pendleton Vietnamese refugees. Camp Pendleton served as a desired territory as it was an ideal location for combat training. This site, similar to Guam, was critical for U.S. efforts to recuperate after the loss they faced in Vietnam.

Why Does It Matter?

Espiritu's narrative provides a better understanding of the connection between Asian migration into the U.S. & crises.

Throughout narratives of different Asian groups, we have seen that the direct reason for migration stems from war & political turmoil. Therefore, Espiritu's experience as a Vietnamese refugee provides examples of the conditions & events faced through the Vietnam War that profoundly shaped Vietnamese migration into the United States during this time period. Some refugees opted to go to France, Canada, England or Australia after being rescued by American troops. They saw America as part of a war & reasoned that they did not want to go somewhere that bombed their own villages. This increased the immigrant/refugee population of many other countries.

Espiritu's narrative explains how migration transitioned into the U.S. through militarization.

Espiritu's discussion of the Baby-lift Operation & migration process helps his readers understand more of what was really going on. Through the Baby-lift Operation, Vietnamese infants & children were airlifted from orphanages to new homes located inside the U.S. This act embraced the change of violence into recovery. This helped demonstrate the radicalized belief in the fact that the U.S. was ultimately a safer & better home than Vietnam for the children. This act also presented a lot of controversy as the idea of taking these infant orphans out of their home country & depriving them of their birth culture was considered to be American Culture Imperialism. While this act did present controversy, it also goes down in history as something that impacted the lives of many both Vietnamese & Americans in a positive way. By saving these infants from the Vietnam, it is obvious that the migration of many Vietnamese into America was solely because of militarization & the war.

Espiritu explains the term militarized refugee & the jarring intermingling of refugees & violence .

The picture of a small child, a product of the Baby-lift Operation, wearing an oversized military jacket symbolized the innocent refugees surrounded by violence. With little documentation, 10% of the children were ineligible for adoption which only continued their uncertain journey in a new country. Politically, these children were used by President Ford to promote the picture of him & the United States as the perfect humanitarian.

CONNECTION TO TODAY:

With the upcoming election, a main topic of debate is the immigration & refugee policy. The stark difference between the 2 presidential candidates's approaches are hard to miss. In addition to President Trump's refugee ceiling of 15,000 refugees, his history of islamophobia & hostility towards immigrants clearly illustrates his anti-refugee stance. On the other hand, Biden wants to raise the refugee ceiling to 125,000 & end a number of the anti-refugee protections that President Trump has implemented. Biden's running mate, Kamala Harris, is the daughter of immigrants. The two of them together, have also made clear their stance on the current & future refugee policies.

In analyzing the Spanish-American War refugee situation, it would be interesting to see the comparison on how the current presidential candidates would handle the situation faced during the time of the refugee crisis compared to how well it was handled at the time.

CONNECTION TO TODAY (PART 2):

Although the South American refugee crisis in the United States is portrayed as a recent socio-political issue, restrictive U.S. migrant policies & law date back to World War II. Migration is strongly driven by a country's quality of opportunities, security, & liberties. However, not all of these factors are sufficient qualification for asylum & 'refugee' status in the U.S.

At the conclusion of World War II, millions of Europeans were displaced which led to the Geneva Convention in 1951. This convention defined the conditions & restrictions needed by refugees in order to be granted asylum in various nations. The U.S. still uses these guidelines to determine which refugees are granted asylum.

From the stories of many different immigrants, Espiritu included, we are able to see that these refugee guidelines favor certain refugee groups. In Espiritu's narrative, he displays the idea of a 'good refugee' that is used to turn Vietnam into a 'good war.' The U.S.'s agenda from the Vietnam War & the desire to be portrayed as a global savior of Communism provided the Vietnamese refugees with asylum in the United States. Similarly, in the 1980s, when Cuban refugees wanted to migrate to the U.S. to escape Communism, they were granted nearly automatic asylum. While many other refugee groups in the 1980s were not granted asylum because they did not fit into the U.S.'s political agenda.

These migration narratives reveal that the U.S. refugee & migration policies continue to be deeply influenced by the current political agenda & desired image of the U.S. Espiritu's narrative displays how Vietnamese migration was handled by the U.S. in an effort to promote anti-communism & show itself as transitionally humanitarian. Today, issues of extreme violence, political corruption, & drug trafficking lead many South Americans to seek asylum in the U.S. Although many of these factors can be traced back to U.S. involvement, they don't necessarily promote the current U.S. political agenda as a democratic world power. With this being said, the guidelines for

South American refugee migration has contributed massively to the magnitude of the current migration crisis in the United States.



On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous

By: Ocean Vuong

Group 6: Lauren Hendrickson, Kelli Kufta, Hayley Lee, & Madi Earnshaw

KEY POINTS OF THE TEXT...

In this novel, Little Dog is writing a letter to his mother as a way to go back in time. He makes multiple attempts to write his letter, indicating to the reader that he struggles to express his message to his mother. Specifically, Little Dog writes that he wishes to return to a time when his mother was "shocked to see a taxidermy head of a deer hanging near the bathroom of a rest stop." This example introduces the struggles to understand American culture & society being an immigrant. Although he finds it difficult to express his words, Little Dog sees the value in writing & the power that it has to bring people together & build stronger connections to encounter the truth. He writes this letter as almost a confession to his mother that she will never read because of her illiteracy.

Little Dog alludes that his mother is an immigrant by discussing butterflies, a common motif throughout the novel. He discusses the migration patterns of monarch butterflies, & emphasizes the importance of migration as means for survival. The reference to the butterfly migration is used throughout the novel to tell how his mother migrated to Vietnam & introduces us to her experiences as an immigrant.

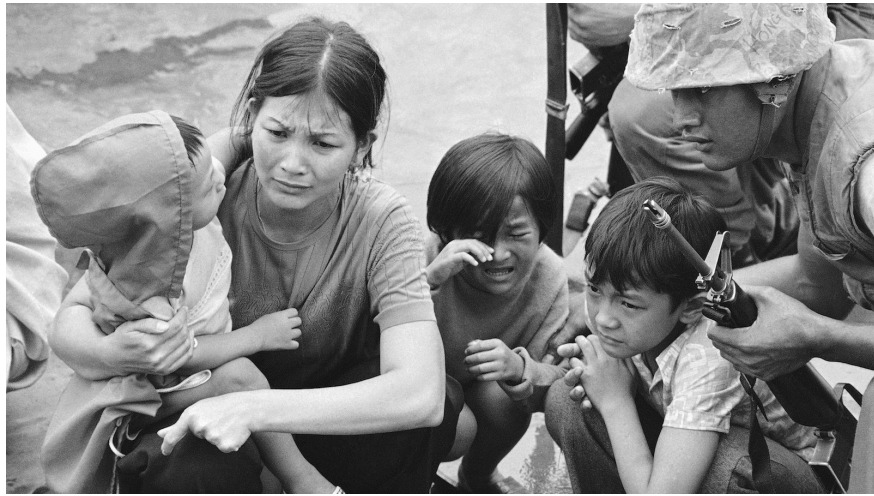
Little Dog's mother is abusive towards him throughout his life. He writes the letter as a way of fixing their mother-son relationship. Little Dog explains the trauma that war & abuse can cause & the lasting impact that it has. He believes that his mother's PTSD from living through the Vietnam War causes her to act out against him in an abusive way. Little Dog emphasizes that the trauma of war & the pain that comes with it never really goes away and remains part of one's identity throughout time.

Little Dog talks about the struggles of speaking English while navigating American society/culture. Although his mother abuses him, their shared struggles of adapting to a new culture & language barrier explain why they rely on one another. Additionally, they bond together as products of the Vietnam War and the resulting trauma.

The text points out many different areas of topics regarding gender & sexuality expectations. Little Dog is the opposite of what 'masculinity' portrays. He is small & petite, which opposes the idea of a big & strong All-American male. Rose tells Little Dog, "You have to find a way, Little Dog. You have to be a real boy & be strong." She expects him to drink at least a cup of milk a day to grow. Throughout the course of the novel, his superman underwear acts as a symbol of masculinity & encourages him to stay strong and be a man. He faces abuse both at home and school based on his identity. He isn't seen as a real man or tough which shows the stereotypical depictions of gender and masculinity. The story about Little Dog trying on his mother's dress suggests he does not conform to American gender stereotypes and is not heterosexual.

Trevor is used in the novel as a character that displays ideal masculinity. He likes guns, violence, drugs, and represents hegemonic masculinity. Although he is described sometimes in feminine terms by Little Dog later in the novel. Additionally, Little Dog and Trevor are sexually and romantically linked later in the story. For the first time, Little Dog begins to acknowledge the beauty of being not heterosexual and an immigrant. However, their relationship is placed under strain by the typical gender roles in a

heterosexual relationship. They both are confused by this relationship and how it pertains to their developing identity.



★ ***Throughout the novel, we see Little dogs' transformation through multiple lenses. He suffers from trauma, racism, and homophobia while trying to navigate a whole new culture and language. Although it was not always easy for him to accept the parts of his identity that differed from other people, he learns that these pieces make him beautiful in his own way. He not only finds the beauty within his own "ugliness", but he also finds beauty within troubled relationships and past moments. Although he writes his letter to his mother, it is clear that his letter is also intended for himself as a way to self-acceptance.***

SOCIAL, POLITICAL, & INTELLECTUAL SIGNIFICANCE...

This book puts the reader in Little Dog's position. Using the first person narrative, Vuong captures the emotions of being an outcast immigrant in America. In many texts about the Vietnamese War, there is a large historical portion that relies heavily on facts. *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* goes beyond the statistics and relativizes the mental, social and emotional impacts on a child immigrant who was a product of the Vietnam War.

Vuong also modernizes the effects of the Vietnam War, bringing up the timeline of Tiger Woods, a famous golfer also a product of the Vietnam War. Most college students and younger believe that these wars happened before they were born therefore it was a long time ago. However Vuong emphasizes the time period by mentioning details of recent history like the songs "Where Is The Love?" by Black Eyed Peas, the Mario Brothers Game and Goodwill. All of which are relatable aspects of life that readers can connect with.



WHY DOES IT MATTER?

- Little Dog reflects on his inability to speak English very well and how this causes him to have a hard time with some of the children he's around. Kyle, a boy who teases Little Dog for his inability to speak English very well, assumes a position of power over Little Dog because of his race. This reflects the racism that continues to plague the 21st-century American society
- Language and storytelling play an important role in the novel. Little Dog also illustrates the limitations of language and how it can very easily isolate others. The novel does a nice job at emphasizing the idea that one cannot truly understand a culture without understanding what gives the culture structure (the spoken language). Language leaves people feeling like outcasts, similar to the easy Rose and Little Dog felt like outcasts in their new country.

CONNECTION TO TODAY:

During COVID, many older parents and grandparents became reliant upon their sons or daughters to get groceries for them. This is very similar to the ways in which Rose and Lan were reliant upon Little Dog to translate for them in grocery stores.

Immigrants from all over the world whether they are political refugees or migrant workers or seeking asylum, each of them have their own unique story with different turning points. In a French class at USD, a movie about the illegal immigrants in France and the struggles of trying to gain citizenship was shown. This theme of immigrating and being an outcast has become more prevalent and thus the stories of immigrants are making their way to the public.

- Particular to San Diego and the Mexico-US border, there are families being separated. Similar to how Rose and her sister were separated due to the war. Because they are separated from family members, many immigrants suffer from PTSD. Family members provide a support system or a community, without a big or strong community it is hard to feel safe.

Orientalism: Asian American in Popular Culture

The Cold War Origins of the Model Minority Myth

By: Robert G Lee

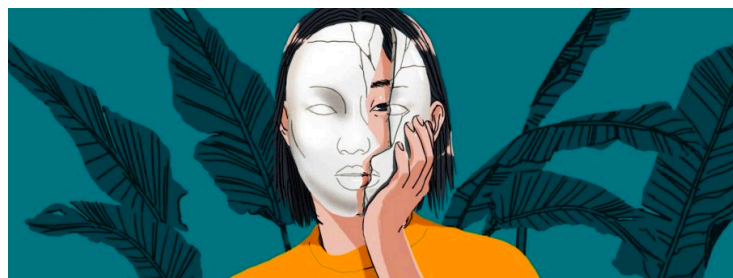
Group 6: Lauren Hendrickson, Hayley Lee, Kelli Kufta, Madi Earnshaw

Key Points of the Text:

Lee talks about how Asian Americans took rise to the position of 'model minority'. However, he did not regard their success. They became the model minority because of their refusal of African Americans by society. The Asian American political silence helped construct this idea of a model minority.

During the 1940s, there was an expansion of sexual freedom & experimentation through homosexuality. This was a time in which young people designed new patterns of relationships & a more relaxed attitude towards the idea of same sex relationships. However, homosexuality was viewed as a 'secret way of life' & weakened the nations standards. Dwight Eisenhower, President at the time, ordered too barre gay men & lesbians from federal employment. This emphasized the link between anticommunism & homophobia.

America's entry into the war against Nazi Germany & Imperial Japan made it difficult to sustain national policies based on theories of white racial supremacy. While the U.S. Government condemned the Nazi's doctrine of racial superiority & identified the defeat of racism as one of the reasons 'why they fight', Japanese Americans continued to be singled out on the basis of race. However, other Asian American ethnic groups began to receive special treatment from the federal government. This disconnect confused many different Asian American ethnic groups & made them question where the U.S. really stood or if they were just putting up a front for the sake of politics.



Why Does It Matter?

★ *Crisis & Conflict = Something Good*

Asian Americans as the new model of a successful 'ethnic assimilation' was created in the racial policy crisis that was brought to the Federal Governments Attention. After the Second World War, people demanded racial equality & it became a main focus of many activism groups. The dismantling of the Jim Crow Segregation in the South, riots, & other demands for racial equality changed the way society worked both socially & politically. The Cold War resulted in increased focus in liberalism & uniting groups through racial equality.

★ *Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act (1943)*

The repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act was pushed through Congress on the grounds that it would keep the wavering Nationalist Chinese Government in the war against Japan. This ideological statement implied by the dismantling of racially specific barriers signaled an erosion of white supremacy as a national doctrine.

★ *The Cold War & the 'Race Problem'*

The Cold War provided a national security dimension to the 'race problem' as the demands of the third world nations were primarily focused on people of color & their need for independence, self-determination, & economic development. This became the ideological arena in the contest between the Soviet Union & the United States. This opened the doors for a lot of different forms of activism & how far people were willing to go to fight for a cause that supposedly meant a lot to them.

★ *"I Enjoy Being a Girl": Flower Drum Song*

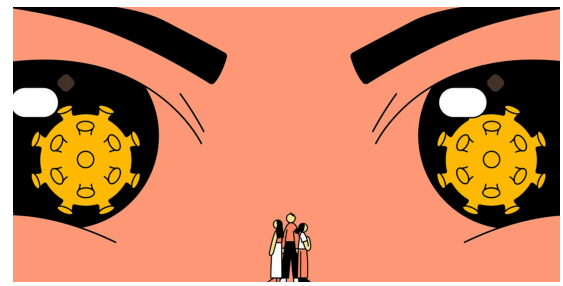
This flower drum song helped show Asian Americans ethnic assimilation in many different ways. It talks about the confrontations & conflicts that arise when not following traditional expectations in their culture. This brought up new ideas & growth on how to view ethnic assimilation as well as the importance of it.



Connection to Today: Coronavirus + Affirmative Action

In the past, America has seen East Asian immigrants as a foreign threat to core representative ideologies, including democracy, individualism & freedom. The United States labeled East Asian immigrants as either the "good asian" or the "bad asian" depending on how well they conformed to the current important American ideologies. Throughout history, we have seen America shift & reconstruct which Asian American groups constitute both categories of Asians. An important facet of American society in the 1950s was the 'typical American family.' Because the ways the Chinese culture holds family as a core value, they were accepted into American society as the 'model minority.' American society associated Chinese Americans with wealth & high level of academic success. Although these associations appear positive, they have fueled the 'model minority myth' & are rooted in anti-blackness. These ideals support the notion that Chinese Americans are successful because they work hard & deserve it, as many other minority populations do not. Additionally, it lumps all Asian American communities together & distracts from other issues within those communities.

With the emergence of the novel coronavirus SARS-COV-2, many Asian Americans have struggled as American society quickly switched its perception of Asian Americans from the 'model minority' to 'yellow peril.' 'Yellow peril' languages & attitudes have reemerged in American society, especially within the media. Many Chinese restaurants, businesses, & establishments are suffering from the misinformation & racism accentuated by the pandemic. The reemergence of a 'yellow peril' attitude during the coronavirus pandemic further illustrates how America sorts the Asian American community when core American ideologies are threatened.



Affirmative Action

Although affirmative action has granted many minority groups access to higher education; however, the Asian American community remains divided on the topic. Due to the 'model minority' stereotypes, many Asian Americans believe that affirmative actions is damaging for college admissions. By categorizing all Asian Americans as a single heterogenous group, certain groups (including Filipino & South Asian Americans) are permitted from achieving action aids the community & other minority groups. In 2019, an affirmative action suit pertained to the discriminatory actions towards Asian Americans by Harvard admission policies. Although these policiers were not seen as discriminatory, they brought awareness to American society of the harms of the 'model minority' myth & how positive stereotyped can be damaging/long lasting.



The Citizen & The Terrorist

By: Leti Volpp

Group 6: Lauren Hendrickson, Kelli Kufra, Madi Earnshaw, Hayley Lee

KEY POINTS OF THE TEXT:

Volpp highlights the emergence of hate violence following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Volpp emphasizes three areas that have emerged into racialization. These areas include the fact & legitimacy of racial profiling, the redeployment of Old Orientalist Tropes, & the relationship between citizenship, nation & identity.

On Racial Profiling: Following the events of September 11th, the public's perception of racial profiling sharply switched from 'inefficient, ineffective, & unfair' to the public safety necessity. Airport officials, airlines, & U.S. officials have all been subjected to racial profiling. Particularly after the events of 9/11, many "Middle Eastern" or "Islamic" males began being profiled very frequently. Many men of these ethnicity were attacked & abused throughout their daily life simply based on the fact that the government began racial profiling. This idea of racial profiling began because of the targets of the 'war on terrorism.' The specific stereotypes towards "Middle Easterners" that are commonly noticed in individual's minds automatically classified them as a terrorists or a threat to the United States. Other people of color have found a way to become more 'American' by endorsing racial profiling of these Middle Eastern groups. Volpp talks about Whites, African Americans, East Asian Americans, & Latinas to support racial profiling as a way to prove their allegiance & conform to American society.

On Orientalist Tropes: Orientalism is defined as the 'master discourse of European civilization that constructs & polarizes the East & West.' There becomes an increasingly predominant narrative that the East is 'primitive, barbaric, & despotic' as compared to the West which is 'modern, democratic & progressive.' American Orientalism, like European Orientalism, is gendered. In the past, many Afghanistan women were gendered & forced to face violence because of the regime & stereotypes of the Taliban. The hate violence in the United States caused the seclusion & harassment of "Middle Eastern" women. The status of women in need has been a common justification for Western Colonization. America has tried many times to portray themselves as the saviors for women - 'white men saving brown women from brown men.' After September 11, this ideology began to reemerge in American Society. During this time, comparisons of Japanese American treatment during WWII & treatment of the Middle Eastern population began to arise & become increasingly common. Members of these groups belonged to a community that was composed of impossibly distinguishable enemy allies.

The gendering of the colonial & Orientalist discourse was partly due to the collapse of non-Europeans as well as women into a single field. This bifurcation still explains the ways in which the United States genders its sites of intervention. This shapes the relationship of the U.S. national identity to race, gender, and sex.

On Citizenship & Identity: Volpp describes citizenship through 4 distinct discourses — citizenship from formal legal status, citizenship as rights, citizenship as political activity, & citizenship as identity/solidarity. Citizenship, nation, & identity are all intertwined together. She talks about the importance of the distinctions between the different conceptualizations of this idea for different groups of people. Identity and where an individual is from ultimately depicts how you are treated. These things also contribute to your citizenship. Within certain ethnicities, specifically "Middle Easterners" & "Muslims," it is difficult to enjoy and embrace citizenship as well as the freedoms that come with it because of the constant attacks and harassment based on identity. The United States relied on the 'difference from the Middle Eastern terrorist to fuse its identity at a moment of crisis.' This fusion is described as necessary for the 'imagined community' of America. The U.S. also used the discourse of democracy to support United States War efforts & remove any norms that were antithetical to the western values of liberty & equality.

Volpp also emphasizes that citizenship does not always guarantee all the discourses of American citizenship. In fact, sometimes it has the opposite effect on different groups of people.

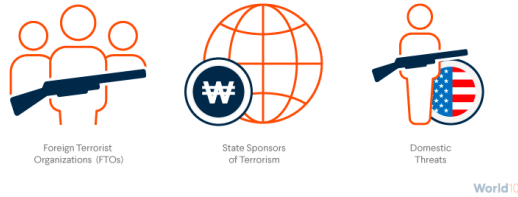
WHY DOES IT MATTER? SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND/OR INTELLECTUAL SIGNIFICANCE...

Volpp demonstrates how the United States solely portrays liberalism to certain identities. This determines how identity disrupts citizenship. Race has fundamentally changed the promise of liberal democracy and it plays a huge part in the rights & freedoms that stem from the minds of society. The Government also plays a big role in how society is structured as well as where the stereotypes come from.

Following the September 11 attacks, former citizens of the United States were thrust outside of the safe 'citizenship' identity. With the interviews, deportation & detainment of non-citizens, individuals were made even more vulnerable because of their status & power of immigration law. These individuals slowly became removed from the 'us' idea of America and the American people.



How the U.S. Government Categorizes Terrorism



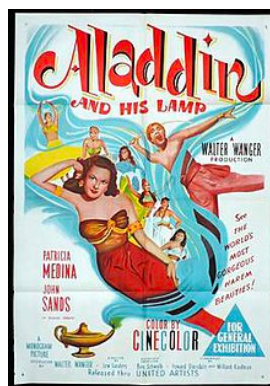
Connection to Today:

Disney's Aladdin Remake Controversy —

Disney's decision to remake the animated version of Aladdin in 2019 came with much community backlash. Although it was intended to provide a new take on the Disney story, many people were still upset by its high levels of Orientalism & inaccurate depictions of Arab culture. Many members of the Middle Eastern American community were upset that the film repeated mixing English stereotypes & misconceptions. Many orientalist stereotypes were included in the original film that they had hoped would be updated. These include the portrayal of Princess Jasmine, who struggles throughout the duration of the movie to escape her controlling & oppressive culture. Her character's oppression reinforces Volpp's notion that American Orientalism is gendered & Middle Eastern women need saving.

In the film, the citizens of Agrabah & guards are depicted as barbarous, dangerous men & the women are sexualized as belly dancers. Despite the barbaric portrayal of many characters in the film, Aladdin embodies many different aspects of American values. His character embodies ideal American masculinity as he saves the girl from an oppressive culture & lifestyle.

In addition, many were upset with the casting decisions, wishing that the actors/actresses did not have 'white-washed features.' Despite the movie's popularity, many members of the Middle Eastern American community saw this as a missed opportunity to accurately portray their culture to a younger generation.



Neoliberalism & the Philippine Labor Brokerage State

By: Robyn Rodriguez

Group 6: Lauren Hendrickson, Madi Earnshaw, Kelli Kufta, & Hayley Lee

Key Points of the Text:

Robyn Rodriguez highlights the transformation of the Philippines into a labor brokerage state. Individuals in the Philippines were relied upon to labor the United States, no matter what circumstances accompanied. Philippine workers were easily accessible but were not necessarily workers of good quality. Essentially, they were cheap.

This process was a neoliberalism strategy that consisted of tactics that sent Philippine individuals abroad to work for employers all across the globe. After generating profit, workers were sent back to their homelands at the conclusion of their contracts. This transformed the Philippines into a 'global enterprise' of labor.

The transformation of the Philippines in creating new institutional arrangements necessary to neoliberal globalization. The Philippines had a strategy of labor brokerage that mobilized & deployed labor for export in an effort to receive profits from migrants' remittances. In doing this, the Philippines were significantly helped in paying off their debts & strengthening the government's foreign exchange reserves.

'Labor Brokerage' is a way of addressing the failures of the Philippines development. However, it posed new kinds of rights & benefits to many of their citizens, specifically migrant citizenship. The Philippines was often held as a 'model of migration management.' They were the best example of labor brokerage & what it meant for people to live & work with dignity under the conditions without exploitation.

Why Does It Matter?

Neoliberalism globalization was giving rise to the restriction of labor markets which created structural demands for foreign market workers. This had a big impact on the economy & how well it was structured. During this time, employers were able to use this labor brokerage system to their advantage – they benefited from the labor of migrant workers without assuming liability for immigration violations. Employers also benefited because labor was temporary & cheap.

With an increased contradiction between global labor demands & immigrant restrictions, international organizations began championing guest worker programs, or labor brokerage systems, as a way to invoke 'win-win' outcomes. This meant that migrant workers earned higher wages abroad & migrant-receiving countries gained an increased workforce that expanded employment & economic output. These organizations included World Bank, World Trade Organizations & the International Organization for Migration.



Connection to Today...

COVID-19

Neoliberalism globalization is the dominant form of globalization. Rodriguez introduces this concept in a discussion on Filipino migration & workers. Filipino neoliberalism has resulted in massive currency devaluation, which in turn has reduced incomes & increased the cost of living. Therefore, neoliberalism has played a large role in the export of Filipino migrant workers to the countries like the United States, Western Europe, East Asia, & the Middle East. Many Filipino migrant workers are desirable by their cheap cost of labor & productive/efficient presentation. Rodriguez argues that the 'rights' of Filipino citizenship are declining under neoliberalism. In the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic, some feel that neoliberal globalism is unwinding. President Trump & many other politicians globally promoted intensifying nationalism through increasing border control, attempting to manufacture their own medical equipment, & overall shying away from dependence on the global supply chain. This disruption of globalization during the pandemic created many questions about countries that export many migrant workers to other countries & the global supply chain. Additionally, many essential medications & healthcare products are dependent non the global supply chain. Therefore, our response/ability to respond to COVID-19 has also been impacted by neoliberal globalism.



Connection to Today...

COVID-19 (Part 2)

The global COVID-19 Pandemic has also shed light non various groups of migrant workers. It is a well-known secret that the large majority of people that harvest America's food are undocumented immigrants. Throughout the pandemic, migrant field workers have been told to ignore stay at home orders & deemed essential workers. Some migrant field workers have felt like their essential worker letter provides them with a sense of security from deportation. Additionally, the effects of the pandemic have put many law & customs enforcement policies. Despite the lower risk of deportation, many migrant field workers worry about their safety & future. Many of these workers do not have access to healthcare & have reported unsafe work environments during the pandemic. Although undocumented immigrants are looked down upon by American society, the undocumented immigrants that comprise approximately almost half of the field workers in the United States are essential. The exploitation of these migrant field workers have emerged through the pandemic & allows people to further understand the structural demands/lack of rights for foreign market workers.



