

japanese war brides in america an oral history

Japanese War Brides in America: An Oral History

japanese war brides in america an oral history opens a window into a unique chapter of post-World War II history, blending personal stories with broader cultural shifts. These women, who married American servicemen stationed in Japan, embarked on journeys filled with hope, challenge, and resilience. Their experiences not only shaped their own lives but also contributed to the complex tapestry of American society in the mid-20th century. Through oral histories and firsthand accounts, we gain insight into what it meant to be a Japanese war bride in America, navigating new worlds both external and internal.

The Historical Context: Post-War Connections and Cross-Cultural Marriages

After the end of World War II, thousands of American soldiers remained in Japan during the occupation period. Amid the backdrop of political reconstruction and social upheaval, many soldiers formed relationships with Japanese women. These marriages were often more than personal unions; they were symbolic bridges between two nations once at war.

The term “war bride” refers broadly to foreign women who married servicemen and relocated to America. Japanese war brides were part of this larger phenomenon, but their stories hold particular cultural significance due to the historical tensions and racial attitudes prevalent at the time.

The Immigration Wave of Japanese War Brides

Between 1945 and the early 1950s, a significant number of Japanese women immigrated to the United States to join their American husbands. This wave was facilitated by the War Brides Act of 1945, allowing foreign spouses and children of U.S. military personnel to enter the country more easily.

However, the journey was often fraught with difficulties. Many brides faced bureaucratic hurdles, language barriers, and the emotional strain of leaving behind their families and homeland. Despite these challenges, the migration laid the groundwork for a new multicultural dynamic within American communities.

Life in America: Experiences of Japanese War Brides

The adjustment to life in America was a deeply personal and transformative process for these women. Oral histories reveal a spectrum of emotions—from excitement and optimism to isolation

and cultural dissonance.

Navigating Cultural Differences and Identity

Japanese war brides often encountered stark cultural differences that required adaptation on multiple levels. From language and social norms to cuisine and lifestyle, everyday life demanded learning and compromise. Some women embraced American customs enthusiastically, while others struggled to reconcile their Japanese heritage with their new environment.

Many oral histories emphasize the delicate balance these brides maintained, preserving traditions such as tea ceremonies, kimono wearing, or Japanese cooking, even as they assimilated into American society. This dual identity became a hallmark of their lives and those of their descendants.

Facing Social Prejudice and Acceptance

Unfortunately, not all experiences were welcoming. Japanese war brides often faced racial prejudice and discrimination in the United States. Anti-Asian sentiment was still prevalent, influenced by lingering wartime animosity and societal stereotypes.

Stories from oral histories describe instances of exclusion, from neighborhood hostility to difficulties in accessing services. Yet, many brides found supportive communities—both within the Japanese American population and among their husbands' families—that helped them forge a sense of belonging.

Personal Stories and Oral Histories: Voices from the Past

The power of oral history lies in its ability to humanize historical events. Through interviews, memoirs, and recorded testimonies, the voices of Japanese war brides offer invaluable perspectives on their lived realities.

Memories of First Meetings and Courtship

Several oral histories recount how these women met their future husbands—sometimes brief encounters during the occupation, sometimes longer courtships. These narratives often highlight the initial cultural misunderstandings, the language barriers, and the moments of connection that transcended differences.

For instance, some brides recall the kindness shown by soldiers who were curious about Japanese culture and respectful despite the recent conflict. These early relationships laid the foundation for lifelong partnerships and intercultural families.

Challenges of Motherhood and Family Life

Many Japanese war brides became mothers in America, raising children who grew up between two cultures. Oral accounts frequently describe the complexities of parenting in bicultural households—instilling Japanese values while navigating American schooling and social expectations.

Some brides shared how they taught their children basic Japanese, celebrated traditional holidays, or prepared authentic meals to keep their heritage alive. Others spoke about the pride and challenges of raising children who often had to negotiate their own identities in a multicultural society.

The Legacy of Japanese War Brides in America

The experiences of Japanese war brides have had lasting impacts beyond their personal stories. They contributed to the gradual diversification of American society and helped challenge racial prejudices through their presence and perseverance.

Bridging Cultures and Building Communities

By marrying American servicemen and relocating, these women became cultural ambassadors in their own right. Their efforts to maintain Japanese traditions while embracing American life fostered cross-cultural understanding in many communities.

Over time, Japanese war brides and their families helped establish cultural organizations, celebrate Japanese festivals, and promote education about Japan's rich heritage. These contributions enriched the multicultural landscape of the United States.

Influence on Contemporary Japanese American Identity

The descendants of Japanese war brides continue to explore and celebrate their dual heritage. Oral histories from these families reveal ongoing conversations about identity, belonging, and the meaning of cultural inheritance.

For many, the stories of their grandmothers or mothers who navigated such complex transitions serve as sources of pride and inspiration. They remind us that history is not just about dates and events but about people's lived experiences and the bridges they build across time and culture.

Understanding Japanese War Brides Through Oral History: Tips for Researchers and Enthusiasts

If you're interested in exploring the stories of Japanese war brides in America further, oral history

offers a rich and personal approach to understanding this chapter of history. Here are some tips for those looking to dive deeper:

- **Seek out recorded interviews and memoirs:** Many universities, museums, and cultural organizations have oral history projects or archives dedicated to war brides and Japanese American history.
- **Connect with community organizations:** Groups focused on Japanese American heritage often host events or have resources related to war brides' experiences.
- **Consider the broader historical context:** Understanding the geopolitical and social climate of post-war America and Japan helps frame personal stories within larger trends.
- **Respect cultural nuances:** Each story is unique, shaped by individual backgrounds, family dynamics, and regional differences.

Through these approaches, one can gain a more nuanced appreciation of the resilience and richness embedded in the narratives of Japanese war brides in America.

The oral histories of Japanese war brides in America offer more than just historical facts; they provide heartfelt stories of love, adaptation, and cultural fusion. As these women crossed oceans and cultures, they not only transformed their own lives but also left an indelible mark on American society. Their stories continue to resonate, reminding us of the enduring power of human connection across divides.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the significance of Japanese war brides in American history?

Japanese war brides played a significant role in post-World War II American history by fostering cultural exchange and helping to reshape perceptions between the United States and Japan. Their stories provide insight into the challenges of cross-cultural marriages and the social dynamics of the time.

What challenges did Japanese war brides face when they moved to America?

Japanese war brides often faced cultural barriers, language difficulties, racial discrimination, and social isolation when they moved to America. They had to adapt to a new society while maintaining their cultural identity, often navigating complex family and community dynamics.

How does 'Japanese War Brides in America: An Oral History' contribute to understanding their experiences?

'Japanese War Brides in America: An Oral History' collects personal narratives that give voice to these women's experiences, offering intimate perspectives on their lives, challenges, and contributions. This oral history preserves firsthand accounts that might otherwise be overlooked in traditional historical records.

What role did American servicemen play in the lives of Japanese war brides?

American servicemen who married Japanese women during or after World War II facilitated cross-cultural unions that had profound personal and social implications. These marriages often led to the brides relocating to the United States, where they faced the challenges of assimilation and building new lives with their families.

Why is oral history an important method for documenting the experiences of Japanese war brides?

Oral history is crucial for documenting the experiences of Japanese war brides because it captures personal stories and emotions that are often absent from official records. It allows for a more nuanced understanding of their lives, preserving diverse perspectives and enriching historical narratives with lived experiences.

Additional Resources

Japanese War Brides in America: An Oral History

japanese war brides in america an oral history offers a compelling window into a unique chapter of post-World War II history, where personal lives intersected with international relations and cultural shifts. These women, who married American servicemen during or after the war, embarked on journeys that were as complex as they were transformative. Through oral histories, testimonies, and personal narratives, we gain insight into their experiences of migration, assimilation, challenges, and identity in a rapidly changing America.

Understanding the Context of Japanese War Brides

The term "Japanese war brides" refers to Japanese women who married American military personnel during the Allied occupation of Japan (1945-1952) and in the years following. The occupation resulted in a significant American military presence in Japan, and amidst this environment, relationships between servicemen and local women formed, sometimes culminating in marriage.

These marriages were not just personal unions but also a microcosm of the broader geopolitical and social dynamics of the era. They embodied postwar reconciliation, cultural exchange, and the complexities of racial and national identity. Oral histories of Japanese war brides provide firsthand

perspectives that challenge monolithic narratives about postwar America and Japan.

Postwar America and Immigration Policies

The immigration of Japanese war brides to the United States was facilitated by legislative changes such as the War Brides Act of 1945 and the subsequent Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952. These laws allowed foreign spouses of American citizens to enter the United States more easily, reflecting the government's interest in reuniting families separated by war.

However, Japanese war brides encountered significant racial and cultural barriers. Anti-Asian sentiment lingered strongly in many parts of the US, fueled by decades of exclusionary laws like the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882) and the Immigration Act of 1924, which severely limited Asian immigration. Despite legal allowances, integration was fraught with social challenges, including discrimination and stereotyping.

Oral Histories as a Window into Lived Experiences

Oral histories collected from Japanese war brides reveal a nuanced and deeply personal narrative. These accounts highlight the diversity of experiences — from hopeful anticipation to profound isolation. Through interviews and first-person stories, historians and sociologists have documented how these women navigated their new lives.

Challenges of Assimilation and Identity

One recurring theme in oral histories is the difficulty of cultural assimilation. Many Japanese war brides faced language barriers, unfamiliar social customs, and the pressure to conform to American domestic roles. The expectation to be a “model” wife and mother often conflicted with their own cultural values and personal aspirations.

Moreover, the war brides frequently experienced racial prejudice. In some communities, they were ostracized or subjected to hostile attitudes, reflecting the broader societal discomfort with interracial marriages at the time. These experiences shaped their sense of identity, often resulting in a hybrid cultural identity that blended Japanese heritage with American life.

Family Dynamics and Generational Impact

The oral histories also underscore the impact on family dynamics. Many brides had to leave behind their own families and familiar environments in Japan, leading to feelings of loss and displacement. For their American husbands, these marriages sometimes challenged traditional expectations and social norms.

The children of Japanese war brides, often referred to as “war bride children,” grew up navigating dual cultural identities. Studies and narratives reveal how these families contributed to the evolving

multicultural fabric of American society. The oral histories of war brides provide context for understanding later generations' experiences with cultural heritage and assimilation.

Comparative Perspectives: Japanese War Brides and Other War Bride Communities

Japanese war brides were part of a larger phenomenon of war brides from various countries, including Germany, the Philippines, and Korea. Comparing their experiences offers insights into the specific challenges faced by Japanese women.

- **Cultural Distance:** Japanese brides often encountered greater cultural and linguistic differences compared to European war brides, complicating assimilation.
- **Racial Prejudice:** Unlike many European war brides who were often more readily accepted, Japanese brides confronted racial discrimination rooted in longstanding anti-Asian biases.
- **Geopolitical Context:** The US occupation of Japan and the recent memory of war added layers of complexity to the social acceptance of these marriages.

These factors contributed to a distinct war bride experience for Japanese women, making their oral histories particularly valuable for understanding postwar transpacific relations.

Oral History Projects and Their Importance

Several oral history projects and documentaries have been instrumental in preserving the stories of Japanese war brides. Institutions such as the Japanese American National Museum and university archives have collected interviews that provide rich, qualitative data for researchers.

These projects not only document personal stories but also challenge dominant historical narratives by highlighting the agency of war brides in shaping their destinies. They serve as educational tools, fostering cross-cultural understanding and informing discussions on immigration, integration, and race relations.

The Legacy of Japanese War Brides in Contemporary America

The legacies of Japanese war brides continue to resonate today. Their stories contribute to a broader understanding of America's immigrant history and the complexities of multicultural identity. Through oral histories, we see how these women helped to bridge cultural divides and enrich American society.

Furthermore, the experiences of Japanese war brides have influenced contemporary discussions on interracial marriage and immigration policy. The challenges they faced paved the way for more inclusive attitudes and legislation in subsequent decades.

Japanese war brides and their descendants remain active in preserving their heritage, often organizing community events, cultural exchanges, and educational programs. Their oral histories form a vital part of this ongoing cultural dialogue.

The exploration of Japanese war brides in America an oral history reveals a multifaceted narrative of love, struggle, and resilience. These firsthand accounts illuminate the human dimension of a historical phenomenon shaped by war, migration, and cultural transformation. As more oral histories emerge, they continue to enrich our understanding of the intertwined histories of Japan and America, offering lessons on empathy, identity, and belonging.

Japanese War Brides In America An Oral History

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japanese war brides in america an oral history: *Japanese War Brides in America* Miki Ward Crawford, Katie Kaori Hayashi, Shizuko Suenaga, 2009-11-25 Following the end of World War II, 500,000 American troops occupied every prefecture of Japan and interracial marriages occurred. The sudden influx of 50,000 Japanese war brides during 1946-1965 created social tension in the United States, while opening up one of the country's largest cross-cultural integrations. This book reveals the stories of 19 Japanese war brides whose assimilation into American culture forever influenced future generations, depicting love, strength, and perseverance in the face of incredible odds. The Japanese war brides hold a unique place in American history and have been called ambassadors to the United States. For the first time in English these women share their triumphs, sorrows, successes, and identity in a time when their own future was tainted by social segregation. This oral history focuses mainly on women's lives in the period following World War II and the occupation of Japan. It illuminates the cultural expectations, the situations brought about by the war, and effects of the occupation, and also include quotes from various war brides regarding this time. Chapter interviews are set up in chronological fashion and laid out in the following format: introduction of the war bride, how she met her husband, her initial travels to America, and life thereafter. Where needed, explanations, translations, and background history with references are provided.

japanese war brides in america an oral history: The Voice of the Past Paul Thompson, Joanna Bornat, 2017 Oral history gives history back to the people in their own words. And in giving a past, it also helps them towards a future of their own making. Oral history and life stories help to create a truer picture of the past and the changing present, documenting the lives and feelings of all kinds of people, many otherwise hidden from history. It explores personal and family relationships and uncovers the secret cultures of work. It connects public and private experience, and it highlights the experiences of migrating between cultures. At the same time it can bring courage to the old,

meaning to communities, and contact between generations. Sometimes it can offer a path for healing divided communities and those with traumatic memories. Without it the history and sociology of our time would be poor and narrow. In this fourth edition of his pioneering work, fully revised with Joanna Bornat, Paul Thompson challenges the accepted myths of historical scholarship. He discusses the reliability of oral evidence in comparison with other sources and considers the social context of its development. He looks at the relationship between memory, the self and identity. He traces oral history through its own past and weighs up the recent achievements of a movement which has become international, with notably strong developments in North America, Europe, Australia, Latin America, South Africa and the Far East, despite resistance from more conservative academics. This new edition combines the classic text of *The Voice of the Past* with many new sections, including especially the worldwide development of different forms of oral history and the parallel memory boom, as well as discussions of theory in oral history and of memory, trauma and reconciliation. It offers a deep social and historical interpretation along with succinct practical advice on designing and carrying out a project, *The Voice of the Past* remains an invaluable tool for anyone setting out to use oral history and life stories to construct a more authentic and balanced record of the past and the present.

japanese war brides in america an oral history: *I Thought the Sun Was God* Masako Kimura Streling, 2013-05 Born in a poor fishing village under difficult circumstances, Masako, a descendant of the Satsuma Samurai Clan, grew up burdened with many, filial responsibilities, in a rigorously class-conscious and patriarchal society-one headed for massive and profound change. Unable to reconcile herself to the many roles within roles imposed upon her, and feeling in her heart that she was destined to make a difference, Masako embarked on a lifelong journey of growth and self-discovery that took her across the Pacific Ocean and eventually led her to God. In their sixties-when most Americans are hoping to retire and enjoy the fruits of their labors-Masako and her husband Carl spent three years as the first Lay Missionaries for the Society of St. Columban in Japan. Those years, while life changing, were also painful and left Masako scarred and in a state of spiritual and emotional crisis. Questioning her role, her identity, and her very worth, Masako returned to the United States to rebuild a life, and reconnect with the Church community. *I Thought The Sun Was God* is a powerful story of faith's eventual triumph over deprivation, denial, and rejection. It relates the author's struggle with adversity and injustice, culminating with her eventual surrender to the true higher power. It is about the struggle versus adversity and injustice, but it is also about surrender to one true higher power and finding one's voice while listening for the small, still voice of God.

japanese war brides in america an oral history: »Welcome to My Bunker« - Vietnamkriegserfahrung im Internet Roland Leikauf, 2015-12-15 »Willkommen zurück!« - Auf tausenden Websites begrüßen Vietnamveteranen die Besucher in ihrer neuen Heimat: dem Internet. Das Netz hat für viele Beteiligte des längsten und umstrittensten Kriegs, den Amerika je geführt hat, eine wichtige Bedeutung gewonnen. Der Historiker Roland Leikauf zeigt: Hier findet nicht weniger als die radikale Redefinition der Konzepte »Vietnamveteran« und »Vietnamkrieg« statt. Die Studie lässt deutlich werden, warum die Kriegsverarbeitung im virtuellen »Raum« auch für die Veteranen aktueller Kriege immer wichtiger wird.

japanese war brides in america an oral history: *Between Two Worlds* Robin Judd, 2023-12-05 Facing the harrowing task of rebuilding a life in the wake of the Holocaust, many Jewish survivors, community and religious leaders, and Allied soldiers viewed marriage between Jewish women and military personnel as a way to move forward after unspeakable loss. Proponents believed that these unions were more than just a ticket out of war-torn Europe: they would help the Jewish people repopulate after the attempted annihilation of European Jewry. Historian Robin Judd, whose grandmother survived the Holocaust and married an American soldier after liberation, introduces us to the Jewish women who lived through genocide and went on to wed American, Canadian, and British military personnel after the war.

japanese war brides in america an oral history: *Japan at War* Louis G. Perez, 2013-01-08

This compelling reference focuses on the events, individuals, organizations, and ideas that shaped Japanese warfare from early times to the present day. Japan's military prowess is legendary. From the early samurai code of morals to the 20th-century battles in the Pacific theater, this island nation has a long history of duty, honor, and valor in warfare. This fascinating reference explores the relationship between military values and Japanese society, and traces the evolution of war in this country from 700 CE to modern times. In *Japan at War: An Encyclopedia*, author Louis G. Perez examines the people and ideas that led Japan into or out of war, analyzes the outcomes of battles, and presents theoretical alternatives to the strategic choices made during the conflicts. The book contains contributions from scholars in a wide range of disciplines, including history, political science, anthropology, sociology, language, literature, poetry, and psychology; and the content features internal rebellions and revolutions as well as wars with other countries and kingdoms. Entries are listed alphabetically and extensively cross-referenced to help readers quickly locate topics of interest.

japanese war brides in america an oral history: We Are What We Sell Danielle Sarver Coombs, Bob Batchelor, 2014-01-15 For the last 150 years, advertising has created a consumer culture in the United States, shaping every facet of American life—from what we eat and drink to the clothes we wear and the cars we drive. In the United States, advertising has carved out an essential place in American culture, and advertising messages undoubtedly play a significant role in determining how people interpret the world around them. This three-volume set examines the myriad ways that advertising has influenced many aspects of 20th-century American society, such as popular culture, politics, and the economy. Advertising not only played a critical role in selling goods to an eager public, but it also served to establish the now world-renowned consumer culture of our country and fuel the notion of the American dream. The collection spotlights the most important advertising campaigns, brands, and companies in American history, from the late 1800s to modern day. Each fact-driven essay provides insight and in-depth analysis that general readers will find fascinating as well as historical details and contextual nuance students and researchers will greatly appreciate. These volumes demonstrate why advertising is absolutely necessary, not only for companies behind the messaging, but also in defining what it means to be an American.

japanese war brides in america an oral history: Children born of war in the twentieth century Sabine Lee, 2017-08-18 This book explores the life courses of children born of war in different twentieth-century conflicts, including the Second World War, the Vietnam War, the Bosnian War, the Rwandan Genocide and the LRA conflict. It investigates both governmental and military policies vis-à-vis children born of war and their mothers, as well as family and local community attitudes, building a complex picture of the multi-layered challenges faced by many children born of war within their post-conflict receptor communities. Based on extensive archival research, the book also uses oral history and participatory research methods which allow the author to add the voices of the children born of war to historical analysis.

japanese war brides in america an oral history: Asian Migrations Tony Fielding, 2015-07-16 This textbook describes and explains the complex reality of contemporary internal and international migrations in East Asia. Taking an interdisciplinary approach; Tony Fielding combines theoretical debate and detailed empirical analysis to provide students with an understanding of the causes and consequences of the many types of contemporary migration flows in the region. Key features of *Asian Migrations*: Comprehensive coverage of all forms of migration including labour migration, student migration, marriage migration, displacement and human trafficking Text boxes containing key concepts and theories More than 30 maps and diagrams Equal attention devoted to broad structures (e.g. political economy) and individual agency (e.g. migration behaviours) Emphasis on the conceptual and empirical connections between internal and international migrations Exploration of the policy implications of the trends and processes discussed Written by an experienced scholar and teacher of migration studies, this is an essential text for courses on East Asian migrations and mobility and important reading for courses on international migration and Asian societies more generally.

japanese war brides in america an oral history: Transpacific Correspondence Yuichiro Onishi, Fumiko Sakashita, 2019-03-12 Since 1954, Japan has become home to a vibrant but little-known tradition of Black Studies. Transpacific Correspondence introduces this intellectual tradition to English-speaking audiences, placing it in the context of a long history of Afro-Asian solidarity and affirming its commitments to transnational inquiry and cosmopolitan exchange. More than six decades in the making, Japan's Black Studies continues to shake up commonly held knowledge of Black history, culture, and literature and build a truly globalized field of Black Studies.

japanese war brides in america an oral history: The Routledge Companion to Sexuality and Colonialism Chelsea Schields, Dagmar Herzog, 2021-05-24 Unique in its global and interdisciplinary scope, this collection will bring together comparative insights across European, Ottoman, Japanese, and US imperial contexts while spanning colonized spaces in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, the Indian Ocean, the Middle East, and East and Southeast Asia. Drawing on interdisciplinary perspectives from cultural, intellectual and political history, anthropology, law, gender and sexuality studies, and literary criticism, *The Routledge Companion to Sexuality and Colonialism* combines regional and historiographic overviews with detailed case studies, making it the key reference for up-to-date scholarship on the intimate dimensions of colonial rule. Comprising more than 30 chapters by a team of international contributors, the Companion is divided into five parts: Directions in the study of sexuality and colonialism Constructing race, controlling reproduction Sexuality in law Subjects, souls, and selfhood Pleasure and violence. *The Routledge Companion to Sexuality and Colonialism* is essential reading for students and researchers in gender, sexuality, race, global studies, world history, Indigeneity, and settler colonialism.

japanese war brides in america an oral history: Montana: A Cultural Medley Robert R. Swartout, Jr., 2015-07-15 The whole is greater than the sum of the parts when Montana historian Robert Swartout gathers the fascinating stories of the state's surprisingly diverse ethnic groups into this thought-provoking collection of essays. Fourteen chapters showcase an African American nightclub in Great Falls, a Japanese American war hero, the founding of a Metis community, Jewish merchants, and Dutch settlement in the Gallatin Valley, as well as stories of Irish, Scots, Chinese, Finns, Mexican Americans, European war brides, and more.

japanese war brides in america an oral history: The ^AOxford Handbook of Asian American History David K. Yoo, Eiichiro Azuma, 2016-02-01 *The Oxford Handbook of Asian American History* brings together 27 essays that engage the state of the field with historiographically informed but creative approaches to this diverse and vibrant area. The chapters trace Asian American history from the beginning of the migration flows toward the Pacific Islands and the American continent to Japanese American incarceration and Asian American participation in World War II, from the experience of exclusion, violence, and racism to the social and political activism of the late twentieth century. The authors explore many of the key aspects of the Asian American experience, including politics, economy, intellectual life, the arts, education, religion, labor, gender, family, urban development, and legal history.

japanese war brides in america an oral history: Women in the American West Laura E. Woodworth-Ney, 2008-04-03 This engaging narrative synthesizes more than 20 years of historical writing on the history of women in the American West. Twenty years after many Western historians first turned their attention toward women, *Women in the American West* synthesizes the development of women's history in the region, introduces readers to current thinking on the real experiences of Western women, and explores their influence on the course of expansion and development since the 19th century. *Women in the American West* offers vivid portrayals of women as pioneers, prostitutes, teachers, disguised soldiers, nurses, entrepreneurs, immigrants, and ordinary citizens caught up in extraordinary times. Organized chronologically, each chapter emphasizes important themes central to gender and women's history, including women's mobility, women at home, wage labor, immigration, marriage, political participation, and involvement in wars at home and abroad. With this revealing volume, readers will see that women had a far more profound effect on the course of history in the Western United States than is commonly thought.

japanese war brides in america an oral history: *Redefining Japaneseness* Jane H. Yamashiro, 2017-01-24 There is a rich body of literature on the experience of Japanese immigrants in the United States, and there are also numerous accounts of the cultural dislocation felt by American expats in Japan. But what happens when Japanese Americans, born and raised in the United States, are the ones living abroad in Japan? *Redefining Japaneseness* chronicles how Japanese American migrants to Japan navigate and complicate the categories of Japanese and "foreigner." Drawing from extensive interviews and fieldwork in the Tokyo area, Jane H. Yamashiro tracks the multiple ways these migrants strategically negotiate and interpret their daily interactions. Following a diverse group of subjects—some of only Japanese ancestry and others of mixed heritage, some fluent in Japanese and others struggling with the language, some from Hawaii and others from the US continent—her study reveals wide variations in how Japanese Americans perceive both Japaneseness and Americanness. Making an important contribution to both Asian American studies and scholarship on transnational migration, *Redefining Japaneseness* critically interrogates the common assumption that people of Japanese ancestry identify as members of a global diaspora. Furthermore, through its close examination of subjects who migrate from one highly-industrialized nation to another, it dramatically expands our picture of the migrant experience.

japanese war brides in america an oral history: *From Dead Ends to Cold Warriors* Peter W.Y. Lee, 2021-02-12 Peter W.Y. Lee explores how the legacy of the Great Depression and World War II shaped the formative years of the Cold War. Lee uses youth culture in American films to show how the postwar concerns over the family, race, militarism, and internationalism were carryovers from the past 15 years, which coalesced into anticommunism.

japanese war brides in america an oral history: *Japanese and Nikkei at Home and Abroad* ,

japanese war brides in america an oral history: *West African Soldiers in Britain's Colonial Army (1860-1960)* Timothy Stapleton, 2022 *West African Soldiers in Britain's Colonial Army, 1860-1960* explores the history of Britain's West African colonial army based in Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and the Gambia placing it within a broader social context and emphasizing, as far as possible, the experience of the ordinary soldier. The aim is not to describe the many battles and campaigns fought by this force but to look at the development of the West African colonial army as an institution over the course of about a century. In pursuing this goal, it is sometimes useful to employ the lens of military culture defined differently by scholars but essentially meaning a set of shared ideas and behaviors that inform daily life in the military. While other locally recruited colonial militaries in Africa have attracted considerable attention from historians as they served as an essential pillar supporting European rule, this book represents the first comprehensive scholarly study of Britain's West African army which was the largest such British-led force south of the Sahara. The study is based on extensive archival research conducted in nine archives located in five countries--

japanese war brides in america an oral history: *The Columbia Guide to Asian American History* Gary Y. Okihiro, 2001 Offering a rich and insightful road map of Asian American history as it has evolved over more than 200 years, this book marks the first systematic attempt to take stock of this field of study. It examines, comments, and questions the changing assumptions and contexts underlying the experiences and contributions of an incredibly diverse population of Americans. Arriving and settling in this nation as early as the 1790s, with American-born generations stretching back more than a century, Asian Americans have become an integral part of the American experience; this cleverly organized book marks the trajectory of that journey, offering researchers invaluable information and interpretation. * Part 1 offers a synoptic narrative history, a chronology, and a set of periodizations that reflect different ways of constructing the Asian American past. * Part 2 presents lucid discussions of historical debates--such as interpreting the anti-Chinese movement of the late 1800s and the underlying causes of Japanese American internment during World War II--and such emerging themes as transnationalism and women and gender issues. * Part 3 contains a historiographical essay and a wide-ranging compilation of book, film, and electronic resources for

further study of core themes and groups, including Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Hmong, Indian, Korean, Vietnamese, and others.

japanese war brides in america an oral history: Shadow Traces Elena Tajima Creef, 2022-04-12 Images of Japanese and Japanese American women can teach us what it meant to be visible at specific moments in history. Elena Tajima Creef employs an Asian American feminist vantage point to examine ways of looking at indigenous Japanese Ainu women taking part in the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition; Japanese immigrant picture brides of the early twentieth century; interned Nisei women in World War II camps; and Japanese war brides who immigrated to the United States in the 1950s. Creef illustrates how an against-the-grain viewing of these images and other archival materials offers textual traces that invite us to reconsider the visual history of these women and other distinct historical groups. As she shows, using an archival collection's range as a lens and frame helps us discover new intersections between race, class, gender, history, and photography. Innovative and engaging, Shadow Traces illuminates how photographs shape the history of marginalized people and outlines a method for using such materials in interdisciplinary research.

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