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completely sane, and the reader can almost assume that they are not far from their own breakdowns. In addition, Espinosa's reliance on sexual desire as the cause for much of the family's repression eventually becomes tedious.

While Espinosa makes bold attempts to introduce erotic, controversial topics into middle class drama, she is unable to achieve the delicate balance between desire and reality. Also, her flat language and two-dimensional characters too often leave the reader unsatisfied. For better examples of erotic women's writing that also address issues of ethnicity, readers should seek out works by Gloria Anzaldúa, Cherríe Moraga, Sandra Cisneros, and Ana Castillo.

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Philip S. Foner and Daniel Rosenberg, eds. *Racism, Dissent, and Asian Americans from 1850 to the Present: A Documentary History.* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1993) 311 pp., \$55.00 cloth.

Numerous historical studies discuss racism against Asian Americans as well as their resistance to racist policies, practices, and thought. While this scholarship correctly stresses the predominance of racism, it contains passing references to non-Asian individuals and organizations who supported better treatment and the rights of Asians. Foner and Rosenberg argue that these small numbers of supporters were dissenters from prevailing anti-Asian racism and that they deserve greater attention because they represent the existence of more than one perspective of Asian Americans.

Foner and Rosenberg's book consists of documents, including excerpts from pamphlets, reports, books, articles, editorials, letters, speeches, lectures, debates, sermons, laws, and testimony before government committees. These are organized into six sections that deal with laws against Chinese and Japanese immigrants and opposition to these laws; statements sympathetic to the Chinese and Japanese by public figures and organizations; demands by clergymen for justice and humane treatment of the Chinese and Japanese; support for the rights and organization of Chinese and Japanese workers by labor leaders; African American views of Chinese immigrants; and the legal rationale for the removal and interment of Japanese Americans, challenges to the latter, and the movement for redress.

The editors have compiled an impressive array of information regarding the varied supporters of Asian Americans and their activities, which range from expressing sympathy to acts of protest and interracial

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solidarity. The book contains materials from lesser-known sources and others more widely recognizable such as Mark Twain, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Carey McWilliams, and the Industrial Workers of the World. Especially noteworthy is the portion of the book on the labor movement, given its usually strong hostility toward Asians, and the section on African Americans, which provides observations by members of one racially oppressed group about another.

This book has two primary shortcomings. Despite its title, it only contains (with a few exceptions) documents pertaining to early Chinese and Japanese immigration and settlement or Japanese Americans during World War II. It should have included materials on other Asian American groups, and from 1945-present—a period that encompasses the postwar civil rights struggles—increasing levels of political activity, and dramatic growth and greater diversity of the Asian American population.

A more serious shortcoming is the relative lack of historical analysis. Foner and Rosenberg do describe the content and context of the book's documents in a short general introduction and brief section introductions and headnotes. However, these only begin to deal with the underlying question of why various non-Asians supported Asian Americans. Many clergymen, for example, seemed to be imbued with humanitarian or democratic ideals. Certain labor leaders and unions were interested in promoting worker unity. African Americans often opposed the white supremacist emphasis of anti-Asian discrimination. Any systematic analysis needs to consider the forms of support and their explanatory cultural, social, political, ideological, and economic factors. Any analysis will be complicated by the fact that some advocates were at least partly affected by the pervasive racism of their eras. One indication of this are statements that have a paternalistic or condescending tone or that affirm common stereotypes and misperceptions of Asians.

Overall, Foner and Rosenberg present good documentary evidence for the significance of non-Asian Americans. What is needed now is a more extensive investigation of this topic so that it can better contribute to an understanding of the complexities of racism and interracial relations in American society.

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George M. Fredrickson. *Black Liberation: A Comparative History of Black Ideologies in the United States and South Africa.* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995) 390 pp., \$35.00 cloth.

George M. Fredrickson, Edgar E. Robinson Professor of United States History at Stanford University, has written a magisterial volume