ethnic diversity and unity as people exhibit their heritage through cultural iconographies and togetherness in sharing an historical past.

_Pau Hana_ brings to mind the need for further research in the area of continued discrimination against the native Hawaiian population. Although Takaki points out that ethnic diversity extended beyond “class” even though the various groups were unified over labor disputes, topics left unexplored were what cultural and economic changes were experienced by the laborers once termination of the plantation system was complete or how a dismantling of the plantation lifestyle changed political and economic control on the islands.

—Barbara Hiura
Sacramento City Unified School District


This is Clifford Trafzer’s eighth book, the fourth that deals with some aspect of Navajo history. It begins with a brief summary of Navajo history prior to the mid-nineteenth century, covers in some detail the military conflict that culminated in the invasions of the Navajo country in 1863-64 by troops under the command of Colonel Christopher Carson, and concludes with a recounting of the “Long Walk” to the Bosque Redondo, the Navajos’ life there, and their return to their homeland in 1868. Trafzer depended on the invaluable federal military and Indian Office records, a number of Navajo accounts and reminiscences, and surveyed the rich secondary literature.

This period of Navajo history is fairly well known. The raids for livestock and captives that New Mexicans and Navajos launched against one another had been going on for two centuries before 1862 when General James H. Carleton was appointed to command the New Mexico Military District. A man dedicated to “civilizing” the “most savage Indians” in the United States, Carleton was a brilliantly successful counter-guerilla tactician. With Carson available to loyally follow his directions, Carleton planned and launched the fall and winter 1863-64 campaign against the Navajos. Carleton was the architect of Carson’s war on the Navajo grain fields, fruit orchards, flocks and herds, and it was Carleton who insisted that Carson send his troops through the snow of January 1864 to “clean out” Canyon de Chelly. Hungry and cold
and with a sanctuary no longer available, Navajos surrendered to the promise of food, clothing, and protection at the Bosque Redondo reservation. Their “Long Walk” across New Mexico led the Navajos to a life on the reservation marked by hunger, illness, and federal “constipation.” The failure of the reservation experiment was so patently obvious that in 1868 the United States agreed to permit the Navajos to return to their homeland, circumscribed now by boundaries determined in a treaty negotiated that year between Navajo band leaders and the United States Peace Commission. Thus ended what is widely recognized as the most traumatic experience in Navajo history.

Trafzer’s book does not contribute much that is new to this story. Its focus shifts back and forth between the army and the Navajos, it is more anecdotal than analytical, and it is conceptually and stylistically pedestrian. Trafzer constantly foreshadows with the future tense, he calls Carson Kit about half the time, and he is too liberal in his use of adjectives like “noble” and “brave” when discussing the Navajos and “ruthless” when describing the New Mexicans. And who cares how much homosexuality occurred among the troopers at Fort Canby?

This is yesterday’s book. Like so many of the recent offerings from the University of Oklahoma Press, it represents the “good guy/bad guy” approach to the history of Indian-white relations that the best of current scholarship has passed by.

Michael D. Green
Dartmouth College


Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand are the five Asean nations represented in this volume of short stories. Yeo chose four authors from each country for the collection.

Asean short stories are similar in subject matter to prose fiction the world over. They are about getting-even, vice, morality, maintaining traditions, getting ahead, identity, laziness, and ideology. Some are better than others.

At least one seems pointless. “Dama de Noche” by F. Sionil Jose (100-129), the longest in the collection, has no meaning. “The Short Happy Life of Conat” (1-5) is easily the best. The shortest story in the book, it tells the story of a young man who gave his life for the regime and would