

Herbert Hill and James E. Jones, Jr. (eds.). *Race in America: The Struggle for Equality*. (Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 1993). pp. 443.

The predicament of race shapes the social and cultural landscape of this society. That this has been long true prompted Dr. W.E.B. DuBois to insightfully remark that “the problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line,—the relation of the darker to the lighter races...in Asia and Africa, in America and the islands of the sea” (W.E.B. DuBois, *Souls of Black Folk*. New York: The Blue Heron Press, 1953, 13). DuBois was not offering a critique of race as an abstract sociological or cultural idea; he was critically commenting on how race as a social construct—as social practice was being used all over the world to penalize, subjugate, colonize, and dehumanize people. The people who were the objects of this foul treatment were deemed by their tormentors to be members of valued “races”. Race, racism, and the color line, all of which are products of the imagination of the racist, have been instrumental in producing lines of social demarcation in the United States.

This book is about the historical struggle by people of color to abolish the invidious color line. And in this regard and because of its particular treatment of the subject; this is a valuable and challenging compendium of recent scholarship on the subject of racism and racial progress in the nation. This book is valuable in that it is an interdisciplinary discourse on the subject. Its perspectives, ranging from those of distinguished legal scholars like Derrick Bell, Julius L. Chambers and Patricia J. Williams, to highly respected academicians represented by Kenneth B. Clark, Stanford Lyman and Ronald Takaki, provide us multiple lenses through which to assess the presence and placement of race in this nation’s social history. *Race in America* is challenging because we are presented with clear and persuasive arguments like those offered by Williams and Morris in their chapter, “Racism and Our Future”, for our continuing struggle against what some believe is the increasing significance of race in this post modern society.

This book brings both heat and light to bear on the subject of the continuing struggle to overcome the legacy of race discrimination. The sixteen essays contained in this book are formatted within the book’s four major parts: “The Past is Prologue: Historical Perspective”; “Brown and After: The Legal Struggle”; “The Persistence of Discrimination”; and “Perspectives: Past and Future”. This arrangement allows for a fairly smooth chronological flow of the essays/chapters. The reader is aware of the context of each discussion. I

believe that this genuinely rich text would have been even more so had more perspectives by women on the subject of race been included. Of the sixteen chapters, only one is authored by a woman, Patricia J. Williams. Perhaps the editors were unsuccessful in attempts to solicit manuscripts from more women. This I do not know. I do know that the plethora of scholarship by the likes of, for example, Mary Frances Berry, Diane Pinderhughes, and bell hooks would have contributed much insight and perspective to the continuing discourse on the subject.

All things considered, this is an important book for those of us interested in and committed to doing the necessary work of obliterating the color line.

Otis L. Scott  
California State University, Sacramento

**Bill Ong Hing. *Making and Remaking Asian America Through Immigration Policy, 1850-1990*. (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1993) 340 pp., \$45.00.**

Bill Ong Hing's book has fulfilled a long-felt need in Asian American studies. Since the publication of Milton R. Konvitz's *The Alien and Asiatic in American Law* (1946), no comprehensive overview of how American immigration policy influenced Asian immigration has been published. The subject, however, represents one of the most important aspects of Asian American experience. Historically, the anti-Asiatic Exclusion Laws played a defining role in the evolution of Asian America. Today, the legacy of racist immigration policies continue to limit Asian Americans, and the current debate over immigration remains an issue of great importance for the communities.

More a social than a legal history, the study focuses on how United States immigration policies have shaped and reshaped the six largest Asian American communities: Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Asian Indian. Chapter one lays the foundation for the book, tracing policy changes before and after the 1965 immigration law reforms. In a symmetrical manner, Chapters two and three examine the demographic and social characteristics of the pre- and post-1965 immigrant communities, looking at each of the five major groups (except the Vietnamese) through population size, residential patterns, gender ratios, and socioeconomic profiles. Chapter four offers a separate treatment of the refugee policies and their implications for the Vietnamese community. The last chapter analyzes the impact of immigration policies through three major areas of