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CROSSING EAST

The first Asian American history documentary series from PRI®.

Eight one-hour documentaries hosted by George Takei and Margaret Cho.

Executive Producer: Dmae Roberts, Peabody award-winning producer.



George Takei



Margaret Cho

Though the fastest growing minority, Asian Americans are viewed as perpetual foreigners and their history has largely been untold. Crossing East is the first comprehensive series on radio or television on Asian American history. It will be broadcast beginning May 2006 (Asian Pacific American Heritage Month) on public radio stations.

More info at: CrossingEast.org



"Japanese Plantation Workers" Courtesy of A&B Sugar Museum



"Lung On of John Day" Courtesy of the Kam Wah Chung Museum



"Family Portrait Before Leaving Saigon" Courtesy of Trang Ho



Kehar Singh and Family Courtesy of Valarie Kaur



"Commemorating Victims" Courtesy of Korean American Museum



Courtesy of Japanese Historical Society

an Eight-Hour Radio Documentary on Asian American History

coming May 2006

produced by



from



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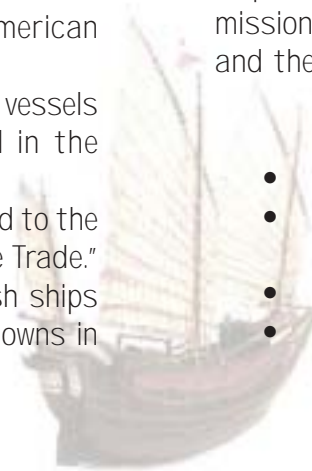
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The eight one-hour programs are:

1. First Contacts

International trade brought early Asian travelers and adventurers to the Americas.

- Chinese sailors lived in American ports in the 1700s.
- Hawaiians joined fur trading vessels in the 1700s and settled in the Americas.
- Trade conflicts with China led to the Opium Wars and the "Coolie Trade."
- Filipinos jumped off Spanish ships in the 1700s and formed towns in Louisiana.



2. Frontier Asians

Many frontier towns, farms, and ranches were settled by Asian Americans, the early West's miners, buckaroos, farmers, and doctors.

- Chinese laborers came to America to work mines and railroads.
- A Chinese herbalist in a frontier town became a well-respected doctor.
- Women were forced to work as prostitutes but some escaped.
- Japanese farmers brought critical techniques to California's farms.

3. Raising Cane

Hawaii was a self-contained society when Captain Cook arrived. Settlers and missionaries turned Hawaiians into workers and the islands into sugar plantations.

- Hawaii imported workers from Asia.
- Picture brides came from Japan and Korea.
- Unions organized multi-ethnic strikes.
- Hawaiian workers created their own language, still spoken today.

4. Exclusion & Resistance

Asians were the only ethnicity to be targeted for exclusionary immigration laws.

- Asian immigrants were interrogated on Angel Island in San Francisco Bay.
- Sikh and Japanese challenged the rule that only 'whites' could be citizens.
- Filipinos were enticed into returning to the Philippines.
- Cambodians convicted of non-violent crimes are being deported.

5. Brides & Children

Because of U.S. involvement abroad, many Asian women married American servicemen, and many Asian children were sent to the U.S. and adopted.

- Military brides from Japan, Okinawa and Vietnam describe their lives.
- A Korean War bride returned to Korea after 32 years.
- Multiracial Americans have found it difficult to define themselves.
- Korean, Vietnamese and Chinese adoptees learned to speak out.

6. The Post '65 Generation

The Immigration Act of 1965 allowed Asian family members, entrepreneurs, and skilled workers to immigrate to the U.S.

- Korean grocers and Chinese restaurant owners built communities.
- South Asian hotel owners helped new immigrants as they were helped.
- In the 1970s thousands of Filipina nurses filled staffing shortages.
- Fujianese immigrants without connections still enter the US in poor conditions.

7. Refuge From War

The U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War caused devastation throughout Southeast Asia. Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Laotian families became refugees.

- Vietnamese left on crowded boats, braved pirates, and went to refugee camps.
- Mien and Hmong from Laos learned a new language and skills.
- Thirty years later, refugees still adjust.
- In Minneapolis and other cities, Hmong from Laos still arrive today.

8. New Waves, New Storms

Economic downturns and tragic events spawned violence toward Asian Americans, who fought back with grassroots organization and ask what we can learn from past mistakes.

- The Vincent Chin and Wen Ho Lee cases exposed racism.
- South Asian Taxi drivers crossed ethnic lines to organize a strike.
- HIB Visas made South Asian immigrants into global temp workers.
- Japanese Americans stood with South Asians who were racially profiled.