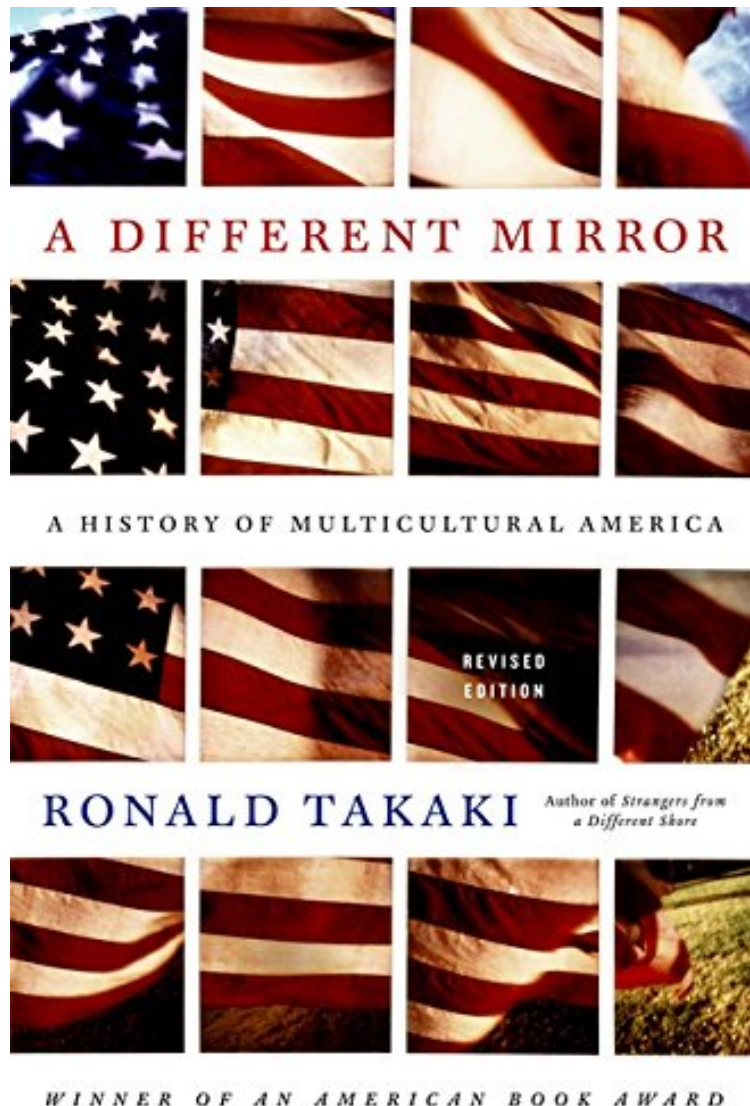


A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America

Ronald Takaki

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Ronald Takaki : A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Passionate Inquiry into Minority CulturesBy Stephen J. MendoncaRonald Takaki has given us a rare survey of American history through the lens of multicultural dynamics. Students get a well-documented narrative together with a passionate inquiry into the evolution of America's minority cultures. The overarching purpose of the book is to understand, appreciate, and celebrate the rich social fabric of a

nation that welcomed people from different shores unto itself. Good reading for anyone who wants an insight into the cultural layers that continue to define America, the haven of diversity and inclusiveness. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Informative Historical Look at the Roots of Modern Day Unconscious Biases in America By Joe Santana This book is an excellent source of information for people who want to round out their understanding of USA history with untold stories from the perspective of those who are seldom heard. Is it biased as other reviewers claim? Yes absolutely, but so is every other book written on American history since we and all these writers are humans and therefore inherently biased. This work essentially gives a third side to what is often presented as an equally biased two dimensional story with the Christian Anglo-European settlers as the completely untarnished heroes taking on savage natives and the paternalistic burden of caring for those so-called less civilized child-like people who are made to serve them. This book does not, in my opinion, take away from the bravery of these settlers and those among them who pushed west. It does provide, however, another important angle of insight into the human beings behind the caricatures. The only thing that I can think of that would have made this book even better is a more rounded presentation of all people characterized as the victims (They too certainly have more than one side). Overall, I believe the greatest value this book offers is a better understanding of the origins of certain unconscious biases held by all of us about race, religion, ethnicity and a host of other topics that still persist in our culture today. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The hardback is the old version while the paperback is the newer edition By Holly While I enjoyed the book greatly, beware of what format you are buying! This hardback version is an older version of the book and I needed the newest edition which is the paperback copy. That is why the hardback version is cheaper. The book is a great read, but I wish it was more clear indicating what version it was.

Upon its first publication, *A Different Mirror* was hailed by critics and academics everywhere as a dramatic new retelling of our nation's past. Beginning with the colonization of the New World, it recounted the history of America in the voice of the non-Anglo peoples of the United States--Native Americans, African Americans, Jews, Irish Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and others--groups who helped create this country's rich mosaic culture. Now, Ronald Takaki has revised his landmark work and made it even more relevant and important. Among the new additions to the book are:--The role of black soldiers in preserving the Union--The history of Chinese Americans from 1900-1941--An investigation into the hot-button issue of "illegal" immigrants from Mexico--A look at the sudden visibility of Muslim refugees from Afghanistan. This new edition of *A Different Mirror* is a remarkable achievement that grapples with the raw truth of American history and examines the ultimate question of what it means to be an American.

From Publishers Weekly This vibrant ethnographic history of America was on PW's "best books of 1993" list. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal YA-Takaki traces the economic and political history of Indians, African Americans, Mexicans, Japanese, Chinese, Irish, and Jewish people in America, with considerable attention given to instances and consequences of racism. The narrative is laced with short quotations, cameos of personal experiences, and excerpts from folk music and literature. Well-known occurrences, such as the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, the Trail of Tears, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Japanese internment are included. Students may be surprised by some of the revelations, but will recognize a constant thread of rampant racism. The author concludes with a summary of today's changing economic climate and offers Rodney King's challenge to all of us to try to get along. Students will find this overview to be an accessible, cogent jumping-off place for American history and political science assignments, plus a guide to the myriad other sources identified in the notes. Barbara Hawkins, Oakton High School, Fairfax, VA Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal In his new work, Takaki (*Strangers from a Different Shore*, LJ 7/89; *Iron Cages*, LJ 3/1/80) calls for "a more inclusive and accurate history of all the peoples of America." But the book is limited to accounts of Native Americans, Africans, Irish, Mexicans, Chinese, Japanese, and Eastern European Jews, prefaced with a discussion of English settlers in the 17th century. Even within these limits, this book is not the "story of multidimensional ethnic interaction" that the author desires. Beyond victimization, few common themes emerge. Still, the book is useful, notwithstanding the author's sometimes questionable generalizations, oversimplifications, and fuzzy chronology. Not even seasoned historians will be knowledgeable about all the groups included. Takaki fails to show us how to reunite American history, but he provides in one volume a very readable version of some lesser-known parts. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 2/15/93.- Robert W. Frizzell, Hendrix Coll. Lib., Conway, Ark. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.