

Colorado's Japanese Americans: From 1886 to the Present.

By Bill Hosokawa. Boulder: University of Colorado Press, 2005. xviii + 270 pp. Maps, photographs, illustrations, index. \$45.00 (cloth); \$19.95 (paper).

Colorado's Japanese Americans opens cleverly by posing the question: ~~"what have the Japanese... done~~ in the century they have been in Colorado to make it a better state, a better place? What have they done for themselves, and for America?~~"~~ ~~The answer~~ Hosokawa's ~~answer provides~~ is ~~"much'—much"~~ (p. 245). This richly detailed history of the Japanese American experience in Colorado is a welcome addition to the ~~trend toward local and regional historical trend~~ studies in Japanese American history ~~in . As such it provides~~ ing a ~~very detailed,~~ predominantly narrative, ~~7~~ account of those of Japanese ancestry who have called Colorado home for more than ~~100~~ one hundred years.

Hosokawa, a ~~well-known and idely~~ respected journalist and writer, ~~digs up~~ uses new and revealing historical sources ~~using such as documents,~~ letters, ~~unseen~~ journals, and stories, ~~7~~ which provide ~~rich,~~ original ~~historical insights~~ additions to better understanding ing —the lives of Colorado's Japanese Americans ~~in Colorado~~. Hosokawa's ~~"folksy'—folksy"~~ style and clear

writing make the book an accessible and enjoyable read. However, scholarly historians may ~~be come away from the book~~ a bit disappointed because ~~—~~ Hosokawa ~~addresses this head on when he explains that he~~ has not used footnotes in the text because ~~he feels that~~ they break up the flow of the story. ~~The~~ One drawback ~~to this~~ is that ~~the~~ this book could be interpreted as existing in an ~~historical~~ scholarly vacuum when ~~it is clear that~~ Hosokawa actually draws on a deep legacy of Japanese American ~~h~~Historians such as Brian ~~(Hayashi, Ron Takaki, Lane Hirabayashi, Lon Kurashige, Brian Niiya, and Evelyn Nakano-Glenn)~~ without crediting them. In this sense, the book is ~~a bit~~ dated and does not ~~n't take advantage of the~~ reference newer Japanese American histories ~~y books~~ with broader analytical and theoretical contributions.

~~The book~~ Hosokawa begins by looking both forward and back at prominent Japanese American ~~figures in~~ Colorado an's ~~past and present and then to~~ moves chronologically through the ~~Japanese American~~ ir experiences s in the railroad, coal, and steel industries ~~in Colorado~~ thereby diverging from the predominance of ~~the~~ agricultural ~~storye~~ in Japanese American stories sete communities elsewhere. He then delves more deeply into the experiences of Shingo Nakamura drawing upon ~~, which is based on~~ recently translated journals dating from 1906 ~~forward~~ onward. Nakamura's story is ~~a~~ quintessentially

Japanese American ~~one~~ in his farming experiences of ~~r~~ renting but ~~(not owning~~ a farm because of the Alien land Land Law) ~~a farm~~ and then arranging ed marriage to a woman from Japanese American (Kichi). ~~Perhaps m~~More unusual was his ability to see how attending church and tithing with *hakujins* (whites) might serve to further integrate Japanese Americans in Colorado. Perhaps ~~due to~~ the small size of the ir population community contributed to ~~, there seems to have been more~~ friendliery relations with ~~the larger~~ hakujins community in Colorado before, during, and after ~~the war~~ World War II ~~—~~ than ~~might be true~~ in other ~~'inland'~~ inland Japanese American communities. Hosokawa details the adoption of Christianity, and the importance of the Simpson United Methodist Church, and the establishment of the Buddhist Temple and the low-rent Tamai Towers ~~(low-rent housing)~~, and ~~as well as~~ the importance of associations in assistance ing to Japanese American s in Colorado ans ~~perhaps when others wouldn't~~. Although Japanese Coloradoans did not share ~~He then chronicles~~ the experience ~~during the~~ of the west coast evacuation, ~~which Japanese American Coloradoans didn't experience, but~~ they were crucial in providing safe haven for those who did. ~~He also discusses the establishment of the 'relocation center'~~ Amache in Granada on the Eastern border with Kansas.

The post-war Japanese American community grew along with ~~, as did~~ many others in the Mniidwest such as Chicago, Illinois and St. Paul, Minnesota. ~~He discusses how the growing community and one which was spreading its~~They sank roots deep into Colorado's soil by ~~7~~ establishing inged newspapers ~~(Rocky Shimpo)~~, Japanese American Citizens League ~~ACL~~ chapters ~~(the Mile hi JACL)~~, geographic landmarks ~~(Sakura Square)~~, and Japanese American business interestes ~~(Sumitomo)~~.

~~The book covers contemporary issues such as the spread of interest in Japanese food, sushi and the like, the visit of the Imperials to Colorado, quilting, farming, and DOR (Day of Remembrance) and Veteran ceremonies which remind us of Japanese American sacrifices of the past. Overall, the book covers a large span of historical time and a wide diversity of the Japanese American experience in Colorado.~~Academic readers will appreciate Hosokawa's chapters on ~~The chapters on why and how all this happened (26), the associations (9) and chapters on the war (9, 10, 11) will be interesting to a wider academic audience as they provide interesting new~~ historical first ~~hand~~ data. ~~The discovery of the Nakamura journals (Ch. 6) would also be a mine of new data for some enterprising scholar to perhaps explore further. The o~~Other chapters will ~~no doubt be of~~appeal more interest to the local Japanese American community

~~seeking in order~~ to contextualize their present experiences and see the names of their forefathers and mothers.

Hosokawa's snappily--~~st~~yled chapters are short and ~~it is it is~~ easy to skip around ~~in the book~~ to find the ~~bits parts~~ that interest you most. The downside is that ~~on many topics you are left~~ leave you ~~“wanting more.”~~ The book does ~~offer much new information and~~ points to ~~the new~~ ways ~~(although never takes it up in full)~~ to see understanding the uniqueness of ~~how~~ the Colorado Japanese American community ~~was unique~~ in that ~~its~~ was more greater ~~isolated~~ from other Japanese American ~~communities groups~~, its existence was ~~“beyond the pale”~~ pale of World War II ~~“prohibited zones,”~~ and its often ~~had~~ good relations with *hakujin* neighbors ~~and~~ colleagues, and even politicians like Governor Ralph Carr. I would have liked more to have seen discussion of issues ~~around~~ such as the future where of the Japanese American community in Colorado ~~is going in the future~~, ~~how the~~ handling of ~~issues of~~ interracial marriage and multiracial Japanese Americans ~~are being dealt with~~, and how women contributed to the community's larger history and success ~~of Japanese Americans in Colorado~~.

~~All~~ In all sum, Hosokawa's book ~~is~~ makes a valuable contribution to the diversification of Japanese American history in ~~It~~ combines local reporting with a

broader ~~history~~perspective that should appeal to scholars and the general public alike.

Rebecca Chiyoko King-O'Riain
National University of Ireland, Maynooth

Dr. Rebecca Chiyoko King-O'Riain is a lecturer in the department of Sociology at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. Her research interests are in race/ethnicity, multiraciality, qualitative methods, children, and gender. She is completing an ethnographic manuscript entitled *Pure Beauty: Judging Race in Japanese American Beauty Pageants* which examines the use of blood quantum rules in Japanese American pageants which is forthcoming in 2006.