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Reworking Race: The Making of Hawaii's Interracial Labor Movement

By Moon-Kie Jung



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In the middle decades of the twentieth century, Hawai'i changed rapidly from a conservative oligarchy firmly controlled by a Euro-American elite to arguably the most progressive part of the United States. Spearheading the shift were tens of thousands of sugar, pineapple, and dock workers who challenged their powerful employers by joining the left-led International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union. In this theoretically innovative study, Moon-Kie Jung explains how Filipinos, Japanese, Portuguese, and others overcame entrenched racial divisions and successfully mobilized a mass working-class movement. He overturns the unquestioned assumption that this interracial effort traded racial politics for class politics. Instead, the movement "reworked race" by incorporating and rearticulating racial meanings and practices into a new ideology of class. Through its groundbreaking historical analysis, *Reworking Race* radically rethinks interracial politics in theory and practice.



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Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

Reworking Race will be recognized eventually as one of the major works on the history of labor in Hawai'i.

(Jonathan Y. Okamura *The Journal of American History*)

Well written, impressively researched, and theoretically insightful, *Reworking Race* is an important contribution to the field.

(Francisca Oyogoa *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*)

A smart, well researched, and amply documented monograph on a fascinating and instructive case.

(Chris Rhomberg *Mobilization*)

Sound research, crisp narrative, and innovative reworking of the concept of 'interracialism'... an important contribution.

(Jose M Alamillo, Washington State University *American Historical Review*)

Theoretically and empirically rich, *Reworking Race* is necessary reading in the sociology of race/ethnicity and in labor and political sociology.

(Sharmila Rudrappa *American Journal of Sociology*)

Review

Interracialism, *Reworking Race* refreshingly contends, involves a rearticulation of race and class as mutually (re)constituting. The case of Hawai'i before and after World War II is exemplary because of the concentration of capital and power, the alienation of labor, and the hierarchy of color. The making of a working-class interracialism is intellectually and politically expansive and liberating.

(Gary Y. Okihiro, professor of international and public affairs, Columbia University, author of *The Columbia Guide to Asian American History*)

Well-written and meticulously researched, *Reworking Race* is the first to examine the historic formation of Hawaii's interracial working-class movement in the 1940s. A fascinating account of the mutual constitution of race and class, it will be pivotal in future debates in the fields of labor history, sociology of race, and ethnic studies.

(Yen Le Espiritu, professor and chair of ethnic studies, University of California, San Diego)

This astonishing study has the rare distinction of succeeding equally as both theoretically informed social science and rigorously documented labor history. It shows concretely the human actions that created interracial class unity and the structural factors that enabled it to be created. Jung brings the specificities of a multiracial, white-minority Hawaii to the fore in a way that amply and arrestingly demonstrates how its story can change the whole story of race in colonial and U.S. history.

(David Roediger, Babcock Professor of History at the University of Illinois and author of *Working Toward Whiteness: How America's Immigrants Became White: The Strange Journey from Ellis Island to the Suburbs*)

About the Author

Moon-Kie Jung teaches sociology and Asian American studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lisa Knight:

This book untitled *Reworking Race: The Making of Hawaii's Interracial Labor Movement* to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, that is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book shop or you can order it by means of online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, as you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this reserve from your list.

James Sanchez:

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Donna Eldridge:

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