



A Different Mirror for Young People: A History of Multicultural America

Ronald Takaki

Download now

Read Online →

A Different Mirror for Young People: A History of Multicultural America

Ronald Takaki

A Different Mirror for Young People: A History of Multicultural America Ronald Takaki

A longtime professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of California at Berkeley, Ronald Takaki was recognized as one of the foremost scholars of American ethnic history and diversity. When the first edition of *A Different Mirror* was published in 1993, *Publishers Weekly* called it "a brilliant revisionist history of America that is likely to become a classic of multicultural studies" and named it one of the ten best books of the year. Now Rebecca Steffoff, who adapted Howard Zinn's best-selling *A People's History of the United States* for younger readers, turns the updated 2008 edition of Takaki's multicultural masterwork into *A Different Mirror for Young People*.

Drawing on Takaki's vast array of primary sources, and staying true to his own words whenever possible, *A Different Mirror for Young People* brings ethnic history alive through the words of people, including teenagers, who recorded their experiences in letters, diaries, and poems. Like Zinn's *A People's History*, Takaki's *A Different Mirror* offers a rich and rewarding "people's view" perspective on the American story.

A Different Mirror for Young People: A History of Multicultural America Details

Date : Published October 30th 2012 by Seven Stories Press (first published January 1st 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Ronald Takaki

Format : Kindle Edition 384 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Race, History, Teaching, Cultural, Education

 [Download A Different Mirror for Young People: A History of Multi ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Different Mirror for Young People: A History of Mul ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online A Different Mirror for Young People: A History of Multicultural America Ronald Takaki

From Reader Review A Different Mirror for Young People: A History of Multicultural America for online ebook

Abby says

Very readable, a good supplement to the "master narrative" presented in so many textbooks, and chock full of primary sources. Still manages a pretty patriotic sweep of its own. It feels a bit rushed at the end so a current affairs follow-up is a great idea. Although many of the primary sources were women, I found it odd that nowhere was it mentioned that for the majority of the book's timeline women were not allowed to vote--pretty major omission for an otherwise very inclusive book!

Deborah says

This adaptation for young people of Takaki's "A Different Mirror" should be required reading in school. I would have loved to have taken one of Takaki's courses in multicultural studies. I learned so much about the struggles of Native Americans and the many immigrants who have made their homes in America. Much of the content in his book would not have been found in the textbooks I read as a child. Eye-opening!

Don says

Basically a flyover of U.S. history of racial discrimination, with a soft touch. Some of it is just a little too soft, IMHO, providing sort of moral cover along the way. Not that the book is soft on racism, but soft on the general population and its general acceptance of discrimination in many forms.

Still, there are lots of facts here — good for intermediate-level reading (say, 4th-5th graders) — and should be on any teacher's shelf thru 8th grade as a resource.

Kristin says

“As the time approaches when all Americans will be minorities, we face a challenge: not just to understand the world, but to make it better. *A Different Mirror* studies the past for the sake of the future” writes Ronald Takaki. His book challenges the Master Narrative, the idea that our country was settled by European immigrants and that Americans are white, by telling the stories of multicultural Americans. He is a gifted storyteller who introduces his reader to fascinating historical figures such as Ingacio Piña, a 6 year old Mexican American boy wrongly deported in 1931 who successfully proved his U.S. citizenship years later and Mary Harris, the namesake of Mother Jones magazine. I liked how Takaki weaves primary sources throughout the narrative so we can hear from historical figures in their own words.

I really enjoyed reading this book. I learned so many facts I didn't know before and that I wish were taught in school to give us a more complete picture of American history. For example Fort Winfield Scott in the Presidio is named after an army general who rounded up Cherokee people as part of the Trail of Tears. Americans illegally crossed the border into Texas and California when those regions were part of Mexico in the 1830s. And it wasn't until 1952 that immigrants of color could become U.S. citizens. I read the young

people's version of this book because I wasn't sure I would ever get around to reading the 500 page original version, but now I want to. I liked this text better than *A People's History of the United States* (where I also read the young people's version ;), as I thought it was more readable and I appreciated that Takaki doesn't tell his readers what to think and writes from his perspective as a person of color. His work reminds us that Trump is not an anomaly but rather continues many themes of our racist past. I encourage people to read this book or others like it as an act of resistance.

Marissa says

Excellent, must read. An easy to read book on the multi cultural perspective we rarely get from other history books. Whole and complete, this book brings the story-less-told perspectives of immigrants, refugees, people of colour and the outsider and how they have made what America is today. If you like history, particularly of America, this is a must read.

For nothing, just especially read chapter 16: the realities of today's America

Margaret says

I read this as the course text for a 7th grade cultural competency class. Obviously this is the younger edition of Takaki's actual book, but this made it very digestible for 12-13 year old students. This book challenges standard American history by focusing on the various cultural groups that enter America and their experiences with white America. While a difficult book to read it clearly sets out the procedures and policies that allowed for institutionalized slavery and racism to take hold in America. When faced with the questions of what is systemic racism in modern America this book gives a clear historical answer. Although this book is challenging it is also very hope filled. Takaki poses the idea that we can rise above our cultural differences if we first acknowledge their roots and move toward a true multicultural America. I am glad to have read this book and will continue to use it as a teaching tool in the future.

Ryan says

Interesting

Marypeitz says

The book was definitely written for young due to its basic format and simplicity, but it focuses on American history from the point of view of immigrants and native Americans and how they have been treated by those of the English background. An interesting read for one who only learned history written by the race in dominance.

Sophia Beaumont says

A must read

Essential reading, especially in today's political environment. America is not, never was, and never should be white. We must learn more about each other and our history.

Marla says

Read this to prepare to teach my 5th grader American history. I highly recommend it. It's meant for young people older than 5th I think, but I will be referencing it with her for sure.

Halka says

I want to buy a million copies of this and hand one to everyone I know.

Ever embarasses about how little history you know? Grow up with bs propaganda classes called 'history' in school? Want a quick rich read you can share with kids and adults?

Enjoy.

destiny ??? [howling libraries] says

Assigned reading for MLIS 7421: Multicultural Youth Literature.

I don't know if the problem is me, this book, or just my expectations. I went into it expecting a standard nonfiction book, but what I received was a textbook on the history of North America, slightly watered down to be child-appropriate. It's factual, it's informative, it's not poorly written, it's just **dreadfully** boring. I found myself trudging through no more than a chapter at a time because it literally read like a school textbook, and if I wasn't assigned to read this for a class, I would have DNFed it within the first 100 pages.

Not only is it boring, it had so much of what seemed like filler material to me; there was a fair amount of repetition, and the author constantly quoted people, though rather than quoting them in a citation-friendly manner, it was usually worded like, "As an Irish peasant woman once said..." or "As a Native American chief once wrote..." Maybe it's a weird pet peeve of mine, but it kept reminding me of when you're a student writing an essay and trying to meet your word minimum, so you throw in arbitrary quotes that offer no value to the work and simply repeat what you've already paraphrased.

Mad respect for the author and his successes in life, and I definitely appreciate the fact that this exists, but I never want to read it ever again.

Anna says

This book is essential reading for a more wholistic less white-washed view of American history. While it is structured chronologically, it is broken into racial groups ex: 1880s from the perspectives of Mexican

Americans, Chinese immigrants, Irish immigrants, and African Americans. I have used sections of it for my social science immigration and native peoples units.

Carolyn Fitzpatrick says

This is basically a Young Adult version of Zinn's "A People's History of the United States." Although there were a lot of things I liked about the book, the organization got a bit on my nerves. The purpose of the book is to tell the history of ethnic groups that are often overlooked in US History courses. The chapters are organized by ethnic group: Indians (1000-1776), African Americans (1619-1775), Indians (1814-1879), African Americans (1860-1890), Irish (1700-1900), Mexicans (1820-1903), Chinese (1848-1906), Indians (1863-1938), Japanese to both Hawaii and California (1885-1924), Russian Jews (1880s-1924), Mexicans (1900-1940), and African Americans (1910-1933). The dates within each chapter were a bit jumbled up, but everything still made sense. Personally though I don't like this "thematic" approach, organizing everything by ethnic group. I would have preferred the traditional eras in American history (colonial, antebellum, industrial, etc) with ethnic groups with the name experiences being addressed together. Likewise, after all these ethnic group chapters there is one on World War II, and each group is addressed in turn within that chapter. Because of this it gets a little repetitious: people joined up expecting to earn respect, got assigned shitty jobs to do, did them splendidly, came home to no money and no respect. The last chapters on civil rights movements and immigrants since 1960 (Chinese, Vietnamese, Afghans, Mexicans) are organized the same way. The final organizational detail that I didn't like was the lack of end notes. There are lots of quotes in the book, but no notations or citations in the body of the text. You have to think to yourself "I wonder what source that quote is from," page to the back, and since the end notes are not number you have to just find the one that starts with the first few words of the information from the text. It is very cumbersome and certainly very few YA students will be willing to do it.

Aside from the organization, I think the book is excellent. It would make a very good supplement to one of those new history textbooks from Texas. The stories that are included are humanized without being melodramatic. And they definitely are valuable stories that ought to be told.

Anne says

Read it. This might be the first nonfiction ebook I've ever read. It was eye-opening; I knew the US, as a country, had a horrible history of treating minorities badly, but I didn't realize quite how vile that treatment really was. It seemed like the country was a spoiled child who couldn't handle anyone different in any way. ugh... This was definitely a different take on the American history I had in K12. I hope it's changed now, but as I assume it's still glossing over many things, a book like this should be required reading for all middle/high school students.
