

chinese american memoirs

chinese american memoirs open a vital window into the complexities of cultural identity, immigration, family, and the pursuit of the American dream. These memoirs, written by Chinese Americans from diverse backgrounds, offer personal narratives that reveal the struggles and triumphs of adapting to life in the United States while maintaining connections to ancestral roots. This article explores the history and evolution of Chinese American memoirs, highlights influential works and authors, discusses major themes, and examines the impact these stories have on literature and society. Readers interested in cultural heritage, literary diversity, and understanding the nuanced experiences of Chinese Americans will find valuable insights in the following sections. The article also features a curated list of essential Chinese American memoirs, and answers trending questions about this unique literary genre. Delve into the world of Chinese American memoirs for a richer perspective on identity, memory, and the power of storytelling.

- History and Evolution of Chinese American Memoirs
- Major Themes in Chinese American Memoirs
- Influential Authors and Notable Works
- Impact of Chinese American Memoirs on Literature and Society
- Recommended Chinese American Memoirs
- Frequently Asked Questions about Chinese American Memoirs

History and Evolution of Chinese American Memoirs

Early Beginnings and Context

The emergence of Chinese American memoirs can be traced back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when Chinese immigrants first began documenting their experiences in America. These early narratives were often shaped by the harsh realities of exclusionary policies, such as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, and the struggle to build new lives in an unfamiliar land. Early memoirs were rare and sometimes written in the form of letters, diaries, or oral histories passed down through generations. They provide invaluable historical context for the challenges Chinese immigrants faced, including discrimination, labor exploitation, and the longing for home.

Growth in the 20th Century

The mid-20th century saw significant growth in the publication of Chinese American memoirs, as

writers began to explore their dual identities more openly. The repeal of exclusionary laws, the Civil Rights movement, and the rise of Asian American studies contributed to a literary environment where Chinese Americans could share their stories with broader audiences. Memoirs from this period often address themes of assimilation, generational conflict, and the search for belonging, reflecting the evolving landscape of American society.

Contemporary Memoirs and New Voices

In recent decades, Chinese American memoirs have expanded in both number and diversity. Contemporary writers explore a wide range of topics, from intergenerational trauma and diaspora to intersectionality and queer identity. These memoirs often blend traditional storytelling with experimental forms, offering fresh perspectives on what it means to be Chinese American in a globalized world. The genre continues to evolve, with new voices challenging stereotypes and amplifying the complexity of Chinese American experiences.

Major Themes in Chinese American Memoirs

Identity and Belonging

A central theme in Chinese American memoirs is the exploration of identity and the sense of belonging. Authors often grapple with questions of who they are and where they fit in, straddling the line between Chinese heritage and American culture. This theme resonates in stories about growing up in immigrant families, negotiating cultural expectations, and forging unique identities that transcend rigid categories.

Family and Generational Dynamics

Family relationships play a pivotal role in many Chinese American memoirs. Authors frequently recount their connections to parents, grandparents, and siblings, highlighting the complexities of generational divides and cultural transmission. These memoirs explore the tension between traditional values and modern aspirations, as well as the sacrifices made by immigrant parents for their children's futures.

Immigration and Adaptation

The immigrant journey is a foundational element of Chinese American memoirs. Writers share personal accounts of leaving China, navigating the challenges of resettlement, and adapting to life in America. Memoirs often delve into themes of homesickness, language barriers, and the struggle to achieve economic stability, while also celebrating resilience and the pursuit of opportunity.

Resilience in the Face of Discrimination

Memoirs frequently address the realities of racism, exclusion, and social marginalization. Authors confront both overt and subtle forms of discrimination, reflecting on how these experiences shape their identities and worldviews. By sharing these stories, Chinese American memoirists contribute to a broader understanding of prejudice and the ongoing fight for equality in the United States.

Influential Authors and Notable Works

Pioneering Voices

Several pioneering authors have shaped the landscape of Chinese American memoirs. Their works are recognized for their literary merit and for breaking new ground in representing the Chinese American experience. Among these trailblazers are writers who drew from personal family histories, illuminating the broader social and political forces impacting their lives.

- Maxine Hong Kingston: "The Woman Warrior" (1976) is a seminal memoir blending autobiography with folklore, examining the intersections of gender, culture, and identity.
- Ying Chang Compestine: "Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party" (2007) is a memoir-inspired novel recounting a childhood during the Chinese Cultural Revolution and eventual emigration to the United States.
- Lisa See: Known for weaving family history into her works, such as "On Gold Mountain," chronicling her family's immigration story.

Recent and Contemporary Authors

The new generation of Chinese American memoirists brings fresh perspectives and addresses current issues such as multicultural identity, LGBTQ+ experiences, and the impact of globalization. These authors continue to diversify the genre and reach new audiences.

- Qian Julie Wang: "Beautiful Country" (2021) details her experience as an undocumented child growing up in New York City.
- Lenora Chu: "Little Soldiers" (2017) explores cross-cultural parenting and education, as the author navigates the American and Chinese school systems.
- Grace Lin: "The Year of the Dog" and other memoir-inspired works bring the Chinese American childhood experience to younger readers.

Impact of Chinese American Memoirs on Literature and Society

Expanding Representation in Literature

Chinese American memoirs have played a significant role in expanding the representation of Asian Americans in American literature. By sharing authentic and diverse stories, these memoirs challenge stereotypes and provide nuanced depictions of Chinese American life. They foster empathy and understanding among readers from all backgrounds.

Shaping Cultural Discourse

These memoirs contribute to important conversations about race, immigration, and multiculturalism in American society. By documenting personal and collective histories, Chinese American memoirists help shape public narratives about what it means to be American. Their stories encourage dialogue around identity, acceptance, and the ongoing challenges faced by minority communities.

Educational and Social Influence

Chinese American memoirs are increasingly incorporated into educational curricula, offering students firsthand accounts of immigrant experiences and cultural heritage. These works provide valuable resources for educators seeking to promote diversity and inclusivity in the classroom. Beyond academia, memoirs inspire individuals to reflect on their own family histories and personal journeys.

Recommended Chinese American Memoirs

For readers seeking to explore the genre, the following Chinese American memoirs are highly recommended for their literary quality, historical significance, and compelling storytelling:

1. "The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts" by Maxine Hong Kingston
2. "Beautiful Country" by Qian Julie Wang
3. "Little Soldiers: An American Boy, a Chinese School, and the Global Race to Achieve" by Lenora Chu

4. "On Gold Mountain: The One-Hundred-Year Odyssey of a Chinese-American Family" by Lisa See
5. "Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution" by Ji-li Jiang
6. "Fifth Chinese Daughter" by Jade Snow Wong
7. "The Year of the Dog" by Grace Lin
8. "The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir" by Kao Kalia Yang (exploring Chinese heritage within the broader Asian American context)

Frequently Asked Questions about Chinese American Memoirs

Q: What defines a Chinese American memoir?

A: A Chinese American memoir is a nonfiction narrative written by a Chinese American author, typically recounting personal experiences, family history, and cultural identity. These memoirs explore themes such as immigration, assimilation, generational conflict, and the blending of Chinese and American cultures.

Q: Why are Chinese American memoirs important in literature?

A: Chinese American memoirs are important because they expand literary representation, challenge stereotypes, and offer insight into the unique experiences of Chinese Americans. They foster empathy, understanding, and contribute to broader conversations about identity and multiculturalism.

Q: Who are some influential Chinese American memoirists?

A: Influential Chinese American memoirists include Maxine Hong Kingston, Lisa See, Qian Julie Wang, Jade Snow Wong, and Lenora Chu. Their works are widely recognized for their literary impact and authentic portrayal of Chinese American experiences.

Q: What themes are commonly explored in Chinese American memoirs?

A: Common themes include identity and belonging, family and generational dynamics, immigration and adaptation, resilience in the face of discrimination, and cultural heritage. Many memoirs also address language, tradition, and the quest for acceptance.

Q: How have Chinese American memoirs evolved over time?

A: Chinese American memoirs have evolved from early narratives focused on survival and adaptation to contemporary works exploring complex identities, intersectionality, and global perspectives. The genre now includes a wider range of voices and storytelling styles.

Q: Are Chinese American memoirs suitable for younger readers?

A: Yes, several Chinese American memoirs and memoir-inspired books are written for young readers, such as Grace Lin's "The Year of the Dog" and Ji-li Jiang's "Red Scarf Girl," making the genre accessible and educational for children and teens.

Q: What impact do Chinese American memoirs have on society?

A: Chinese American memoirs raise awareness about the challenges and contributions of Chinese Americans, promote cultural understanding, and inspire discussions about diversity and inclusion in society and education.

Q: What is the difference between a memoir and an autobiography?

A: While both are nonfiction, a memoir typically focuses on specific themes or periods in the author's life, offering a personal perspective, whereas an autobiography usually covers the author's entire life in chronological order.

Q: How can I find more Chinese American memoirs to read?

A: Readers can explore library collections, bookstores, and academic reading lists focused on Asian American literature. Award lists and literary reviews also frequently highlight notable new and classic Chinese American memoirs.

Q: Why do many Chinese American memoirs include stories of family and ancestors?

A: Family and ancestral stories are central in Chinese American memoirs because they connect personal experiences to broader cultural and historical contexts, highlighting the importance of heritage, tradition, and collective memory in shaping identity.

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chinese american memoirs: *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Asian American Literature*

Guiyou Huang, 2008-12-30 Asian American literature dates back to the close of the 19th century, and during the years following World War II it significantly expanded in volume and diversity. Monumental in scope, this encyclopedia surveys Asian American literature from its origins through 2007. Included are more than 270 alphabetically arranged entries on writers, major works, significant historical events, and important terms and concepts. Thus the encyclopedia gives special attention to the historical, social, cultural, and legal contexts surrounding Asian American literature and central to the Asian American experience. Each entry is written by an expert contributor and cites works for further reading, and the encyclopedia closes with a selected, general bibliography of essential print and electronic resources. While literature students will value this encyclopedia as a guide to writings by Asian Americans, the encyclopedia also supports the social studies curriculum by helping students use literature to learn about Asian American history and culture, as it pertains to writers from a host of Asian ethnic and cultural backgrounds, including Afghans, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Filipinos, Iranians, Indians, Vietnamese, Hawaiians, and other Asian Pacific Islanders. The encyclopedia supports the literature curriculum by helping students learn more about Asian American literature. In addition, it supports the social studies curriculum by helping students learn about the Asian American historical and cultural experience.

chinese american memoirs: *Among the White Moon Faces* Shirley Geok-lin Lim, 1997-09-01

This "fascinating autobiography" from an award-winning Asian-American female author "reads like a novel" (The Washington Post Book World). With insight, candor, and grace, Shirley Geok-lin Lim recalls her path from her poverty-stricken childhood in war-torn Malaysia to her new and exciting yet uncertain womanhood in America. Grappling to secure a place for herself in the United States, she is often caught between the stifling traditions of the old world and the harsh challenges of the new. But throughout her journey, she is sustained by her "warrior" spirit, gradually overcoming her sense of alienation to find a new identity as an Asian American woman: professor, wife, mother, and, above all, an impassioned writer. In *Among the White Moon Faces*, Lim offers a memorable rendering of immigrant women's experience and a reflection upon the homelands we leave behind, the homelands we discover, and the homelands we hold within ourselves. "What sets *Among the White Moon Faces* apart is that Lim writes with such aching precision, revealing and insightfully analyzing her changing roles as woman, immigrant, scholar, and Other." —San Francisco Chronicle Book Review "Lim's descriptions are both lyrical and precise." —Publishers Weekly "Evocative writing bolstered by insights into colonialism, race relations, and the concept of the 'other'. . . . This is an entrancing memoir." —Kirkus Reviews

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Guiyou Huang, 2006-08-08 *The Columbia Guide to Asian American Literature Since 1945*

chinese american memoirs: *Chinese American Literature without Borders* King-Kok

Cheung, 2017-02-18 This book bridges comparative literature and American studies by using an intercultural and bilingual approach to Chinese American literature. King-Kok Cheung launches a new transnational exchange by examining both Chinese and Chinese American writers. Part 1 presents alternative forms of masculinity that transcend conventional associations of valor with aggression. It examines gender refashioning in light of the Chinese dyadic ideal of wen-wu (verbal arts and martial arts), while redefining both in the process. Part 2 highlights the writers' formal

innovations by presenting alternative autobiography, theory, metafiction, and translation. In doing so, Cheung puts in relief the literary experiments of the writers, who interweave hybrid poetics with two-pronged geopolitical critiques. The writers examined provide a reflexive lens through which transpacific audiences are beckoned to view the “other” country and to look homeward without blinders.

chinese american memoirs: Chinese Americans Jonathan H. X. Lee, 2015-11-12 This in-depth historical analysis highlights the enormous contributions of Chinese Americans to the professions, politics, and popular culture of America, from the 19th century through the present day. While the number of Chinese Americans has grown very rapidly in the last decade, this group has long thrived in the United States in spite of racism, discrimination, and segregation. This comprehensive volume takes a global view of the Chinese experience in the Americas. While the focus is on Chinese Americans in the United States, author Jonathan H. X. Lee also explores the experiences of Chinese immigrants in Canada, Mexico, and South America. He considers why the Chinese chose to leave their home country, where they settled, and how the distinctive Chinese American identity was formed. This volume is organized into four sections: historical overview; political and economic life; cultural and religious life; and literature, the arts, and popular culture. Detailed essays capture the essence of everyday life for this immigrant group as they assimilated, established communities, and interacted with other ethnic groups. Alphabetically arranged entries describe the political, social, and religious institutions begun by Chinese Americans and explores their roles as business owners, activists, and philanthropic benefactors for their communities.

chinese american memoirs: Historical Dictionary of Asian American Literature and Theater Wenying Xu, 2022-08-15 A Library Journal Best Reference Book of 2022 This book represents the culmination of over 150 years of literary achievement by the most diverse ethnic group in the United States. Diverse because this group of ethnic Americans includes those whose ancestral roots branch out to East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Western Asia. Even within each of these regions, there exist vast differences in languages, cultures, religions, political systems, and colonial histories. From the earliest publication in 1887 to the latest in 2021, this dictionary celebrates the incredibly rich body of fiction, poetry, memoirs, plays, and children’s literature. Historical Dictionary of Asian American Literature and Theater, Second Edition contains a chronology, an introduction, and an extensive bibliography. The dictionary section has more than 700 cross-referenced entries on genres, major terms, and authors. This book is an excellent resource for students, researchers, and anyone wanting to know more about this topic.

chinese american memoirs: Encyclopedia of Asian-American Literature Seiwoong Oh, 2010-05-12 Traces American writers whose roots are in all parts of Asia, including China, Korea, Japan, Southeast Asia, the Philippines, the Indian subcontinent, and the Middle East.

chinese american memoirs: Asian American Autobiographers Guiyou Huang, 2001-05-30 Asian Americans have made many significant contributions to industry, science, politics, and the arts. At the same time, they have made great sacrifices and endured enormous hardships. This reference examines autobiographies and memoirs written by Asian Americans in the twentieth century. Included are alphabetically arranged entries on 60 major autobiographers of Asian descent. Some of these, such as Meena Alexander and Maxine Hong Kingston, are known primarily for their writings; others, such as Daniel K. Inouye, are known largely for other achievements, which they have chronicled in their autobiographies. Each entry is written by an expert contributor and provides a reliable account of the autobiographer's life; reviews major autobiographical works and themes, including fictionalized autobiographies and autobiographical novels; presents a meticulously researched account of the critical reception of these works; and closes with a bibliography of primary and secondary sources. An introductory essay considers the history and development of autobiography in American literature and culture and discusses issues and themes vital to Asian American autobiographies and memoirs, such as family, diaspora, nationhood, identity, cultural assimilation, racial dynamics, and the formation of the Asian American literary canon. The volume closes with a selected bibliography.

chinese american memoirs: The Routledge Companion to Asian American and Pacific Islander Literature Rachel Lee, 2014-06-05 The Routledge Companion to Asian American and Pacific Islander Literature offers a general introduction as well as a range of critical approaches to this important and expanding field. Divided into three sections, the volume: Introduces keywords connecting the theories, themes and methodologies distinctive to Asian American Literature Addresses historical periods, geographies and literary identities Looks at different genre, form and interdisciplinarity With 41 essays from scholars in the field this collection is a comprehensive guide to a significant area of literary study for students and teachers of Ethnic American, Asian diasporic and Pacific Islander Literature. Contributors: Christine Bacareza Balance, Victor Bascara, Leslie Bow, Joshua Takano Chambers-Letson, Tina Chen, Anne Anlin Cheng, Mark Chiang, Patricia P. Chu, Robert Diaz, Pin-chia Feng, Tara Fickle, Donald Goellnicht, Helena Grice, Eric Hayot, Tamara C. Ho, Hsuan L. Hsu, Mark C. Jerng, Laura Hyun Yi Kang, Daniel Y. Kim, Jodi Kim, James Kyung-Jin Lee, Rachel C. Lee, Jinqi Ling, Colleen Lye, Sean Metzger, Susette Min, Susan Y. Najita, Viet Thanh Nguyen, erin Khuê Ninh, Eve Oishi, Josephine Nock-Hee Park, Steven Salaita, Shu-mei Shi, Rajini Srikanth, Brian Kim Stefans, Erin Suzuki, Theresa Tensuan, Cynthia Tolentino, Thuy Linh Nguyen Tu, Eleanor Ty, Traise Yamamoto, Timothy Yu.

chinese american memoirs: Relative Histories Rocio G. Davis, 2010-11-10 Relative Histories focuses on the Asian American memoir that specifically recounts the story of at least three generations of the same family. This form of auto/biography concentrates as much on other members of one's family as on oneself, generally collapses the boundaries conventionally established between biography and autobiography, and in many cases—as Rocío G. Davis proposes for the auto/biographies of ethnic writers—crosses the frontier into history, promoting collective memory. Davis centers on how Asian American family memoirs expand the limits and function of life writing by reclaiming history and promoting community cohesion. She argues that identity is shaped by not only the stories we have been told, but also the stories we tell, making these narratives important examples of the ways we remember our family's past and tell our community's story. In the context of auto/biographical writing or filmmaking that explores specific ethnic experiences of diaspora, assimilation, and integration, this work considers two important aspects: These texts re-imagine the past by creating a work that exists both in history and as a historical document, making the creative process a form of re-enactment of the past itself. Each chapter centers on a thematic concern germane to the Asian American experience: the narrative of twentieth-century Asian wars and revolutions, which has become the subtext of a significant number of Asian American family memoirs (Pang-Mei Natasha Chang's *Bound Feet and Western Dress*, May-lee and Winberg Chai's *The Girl from Purple Mountain*, K. Connie Kang's *Home Was The Land of Morning Calm*, Doung Van Mai Elliott's *The Sacred Willow*); family experiences of travel and displacement within Asia in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, which unveil a history of multiple diasporas that are often elided after families immigrate to the United States (Helie Lee's *Still Life With Rice*, Jael Silliman's *Jewish Portraits*, *Indian Frames*, Mira Kamdar's *Motiba's Tattoos*); and the development of Chinatowns as family spaces (Maxine Hong Kingston's *China Men*, Lisa See's *On Gold Mountain*, Bruce Edward Hall's *Tea that Burns*). The final chapter analyzes the discursive possibilities of the filmed family memoir (family portrait documentary), examining Lise Yasui's *A Family Gathering*, Ruth Ozeki Lounsbury's *Halving the Bones*, and Ann Marie Fleming's *The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam*. Davis concludes the work with a metaliterary engagement with the history of her own Asian diasporic family as she demonstrates the profound interconnection between forms of life writing.

chinese american memoirs: Asian American Literature Keith Lawrence, 2021-08-25 Asian American Literature: An Encyclopedia for Students is an invaluable resource for students curious to know more about Asian North American writers, texts, and the issues and drives that motivate their writing. This volume collects, in one place, a breadth of information about Asian American literary and cultural history as well as the authors and texts that best define it. A dozen contextual essays introduce fundamental elements or subcategories of Asian American literature, expanding on social and literary concerns or tensions that are familiar and relevant. Essays include the origins and

development of the term Asian American; overviews of Asian American and Asian Canadian social and literary histories; essays on Asian American identity, gender issues, and sexuality; and discussions of Asian American rhetoric and children's literature. More than 120 alphabetical entries round out the volume and cover important Asian North American authors. Historical information is presented in clear and engaging ways, and author entries emphasize biographical or textual details that are significant to contemporary young adults. Special attention has been given to pioneering authors from the late 19th century through the early 1970s and to influential or well-known contemporary authors, especially those likely to be studied in high school or university classrooms.

chinese american memoirs: Asian-American Writers Harold Bloom, 2009 Presents critical perspectives on the works of Asian-American writers, including Gish Jen, Cheng-rae Lee, and Maxine Hong Kingston.

chinese american memoirs: Contemporary American Memoirs in Action Jane Danielewicz, 2017-11-14 This book analyzes a collection of literary memoirs to demonstrate how this genre is an avenue for participation in public life. Writers are repurposing the memoir, a genre known for its personal and expressive function, to engage in debate and serve political goals. The chapters provide case studies for memoir as social action that effects change by looking at the writing of Joan Didion, John Edgar Wideman, James McBride, M. Elaine Mar, Janisse Ray, Lucy Grealy, and Ann Patchett. Drawing on theories of genre and agency, Danielewicz asserts how these writers are acting pragmatically. Memoirs contribute to democratic society by offering solutions, creating new knowledge, revealing social trends, bringing issues to light, creating empathy and connection, and changing public opinion.

chinese american memoirs: *Asian American Literature in Transition, 1965-1996: Volume 3* Asha Nadkarni, Cathy J. Schlund-Vials, 2021-06-17 This volume traces the formation of the Asian American literary canon and the field of Asian American Studies from 1965-1996. It is intended for an academic audience, ranging from advanced undergraduate students to scholars from a variety of disciplines, interested in the formation of Asian American literary studies from 1965-1996.

chinese american memoirs: *Asian American Literature in Transition, 1996-2020: Volume 4* Betsy Huang, Victor Román Mendoza, 2021-06-17 This volume examines the concerns - political, literary, and identity-based - of contemporary Asian American literatures in neoliberal times.

chinese american memoirs: **Begin Here** Rocio G. Davis, 2007-01-31 An analytically innovative work, *Begin Here* widens the current critical focus of Asian North American literary studies by proposing an integrated thematic and narratological approach to the practice of autobiography. It demonstrates how Asian North American memoirs of childhood challenge the construction and performative potential of national experiences. This understanding influences theoretical approaches to ethnic life writing, expanding the boundaries of traditional autobiography by negotiating narrative techniques and genre and raising complex questions about self-representation and the construction of cultural memory. By examining the artistic project of some fifty Asian North American writers who deploy their childhood narratives in the representation of the individual processes of self-identification and negotiation of cultural and national affiliation, this work provides a comprehensive overview of Asian North American autobiographies of childhood published over the last century. Importantly, it also attends to new ways of writing autobiographies, employing comics, blending verse, prose, diaries, and life writing for children, and using relational approaches to self-identification, among others.

chinese american memoirs: **Asian-American Writers** Allison Amend, 2010 Discusses the lives of some Asian Americans primarily known for their writing, including Amy Tan and Jhumpa Lahiri.

chinese american memoirs: Asian American Women Linda Trinh V?, Marian Sciacchitano, 2004-01-01 *Asian American Women* brings together landmark scholarship about Asian American women that has appeared in *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies* over the last twenty-five years. The essays, written by established and emerging scholars, made a significant impact in the fields of Asian American studies, ethnic studies, women's studies, American studies, history, and pedagogy.

The scholarship is still relevant today?broadening our critical understanding of Asian American women?s resistance to the forces of racism, patriarchy, militarism, cultural imperialism, neocolonialism, and narrow forms of nationalism. The essays in this collection reveal the experiences and struggles of Asian American women within a global political, economic, cultural, and historical context. The essays focus on diverse issues, including unconventional Asian American women of the early 1900s; the life of a Japanese war bride; possibilities for transnational Asian American feminism; the politics of Vietnamese American beauty pageants; mixed race identities and bisexual identities; Filipina healthcare providers; South Asian American representations; and a multiracial exchange on pedagogical interventions. The collection represents the rich diversity of Asian American women?s lives in hope of creating a new transnational space of critical dialogue, strategic resistance, and alliance building.

chinese american memoirs: Asian American Fiction, History and Life Writing Helena Grice, 2012-11-12 The last ten years have witnessed an enormous growth in American interest in Asia and Asian/American history. In particular, a set of key Asian historical moments have recently become the subject of intense American cultural scrutiny, namely China's Cultural Revolution and its aftermath; the Korean American war and its legacy; the era of Japanese geisha culture and its subsequent decline; and China's one-child policy and the rise of transracial, international adoption in its wake. Grice examines and accounts for this cultural and literary preoccupation, exploring the corresponding historical-political situations that have both circumscribed and enabled greater cultural and political contact between Asia and America.

chinese american memoirs: Diasporic Representations Pin-chia Feng, 2010 In *Diasporic Representations*, author Pin-chia Feng examines the stratification of various diasporic subjectivities through close reading fiction by Chinese American women writers of different social and class backgrounds. Deploying a strategy of attentive reading, Feng engages the intersecting issues of historicity, spatiality, and bodily imagination from diasporic and feminist perspectives to illuminate the dynamics of deterritorialization and reterritorialization in Chinese American novels in this transnational age. The authors studied include Diana Chang, Edith Eaton, Yan Geling, Nieh Hualing, Gish Jen, Shirley Geok-lin Lim, Aimee Liu, Fae Myenne Ng, Sigrid Nunez, Han Suyin, and Amy Tan.

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