



A Different Mirror for Young People: A History of Multicultural America (For Young People Series)

By Ronald Takaki

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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 Stefoff, 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.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 6 Up-This established adult classic of multiculturalism has been pared down for a younger audience. Steffoff, who previously adapted Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States* (Longman, 1980), takes a crack at Takaki's look at America and its people. Focusing on a variety of groups-Jews, Chinese, Japanese, Africans, Irish, Mexicans, Afghans, Vietnamese, and more-this volume tells America's story through the millions of people who came here seeking the Land of Opportunity only to find low wages, pitiable living conditions, and bigotry at every turn. Yet Takaki keeps bitterness at bay, writing with hope and conviction about the many opportunities for young Americans to make change in a country where, soon enough, "we all will be minorities." Steffoff adds a few nice touches-the short stories of individuals ending each chapter definitely make the content more relatable-but many young people would be better off sticking with Takaki's original text.-Sam Bloom, Blue Ash Library, Cincinnati, OH(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

In 1993, Takaki wrote his seminal work, *A Different Mirror*. In the second edition (2008), he revised some chapters and added others that focus on newer immigrants, legal and illegal, presenting views from the perspectives of both minority and immigrant groups and white, Eurocentric populations. As he stated in the final chapter, "White Americans will not be a majority for much longer—America will truly be a nation of minorities." Here Steffoff takes Takaki's book and adapts it for middle-grade and younger high-school readers, reducing the original by about 150 pages and revising some vocabulary to make it more accessible for the intended audience. She has retained quotations from the original and maintained the carefully cited chapter notes. Sidebars toward the end of each chapter highlight a particular person or event discussed. This book, whether Takaki's original or Steffoff's adaptation, is important reading, and few other titles look at American immigration in such a thorough way. Grades 7-10. --J. B. Petty

Review

"This 375-page book would be an excellent way to include multi-ethnic materials in the classroom as a way to ensure that your students see their unique identities reflected in their coursework."

— *Skipping Stones*

"This is a great introduction to Takaki's path-breaking scholarship."

— *Good*

Users Review

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Dorothy Shuler:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love *A Different Mirror for Young People: A History of Multicultural America (For Young People Series)*, you could enjoy both. It is good combination

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Leon Fisher:

A Different Mirror for Young People: A History of Multicultural America (For Young People Series) can be one of your starter books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to place every word into pleasure arrangement in writing A Different Mirror for Young People: A History of Multicultural America (For Young People Series) however doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource info that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can certainly drawn you into brand new stage of crucial thinking.

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