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UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS:
Reports on Asian Pacific Americans
 Edited by Gabriel J. Chin



“It has been the Commission’s main function to state the facts as they are— not as some would like them to be— to allow no self-deceptions or comfortable rationalizations for inequality to intervene.”
 — Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, Commission Chair, 1971

Charged for nearly 50 years with investigating and reporting facts, and formulating policy recommendations to ensure the protection of citizen rights, the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights has had a unique opportunity to chronicle issues facing our nation and has done so with distinction. Created by an act of Congress in 1957, the Commission has investigated allegations of discrimination based on race, focusing on African Americans in the early decades of its existence, later broadening its investigations to include other racial groups. Engaging its State Advisory Committees, the Commission turned to concerns of discrimination in regions of the United States where non-white, non-African American populations were numerous. Thus emerged the studies of Asian Pacific Americans in the 1970s.

Gabriel J. Chin, Professor of Law at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, has compiled this significant 4-volume set that historically details the Commission’s investigations into discrimination. The author notes that Asian Pacific Americans—APAs—were often categorized as “Mongolians” or “Orientals,” even though the various people labeled in this way had descended from many different locations, including China, Japan, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands, the Philippines, Korea, India, Southeast Asia and elsewhere. The Commission recognized that these group differences were often meaningful, in that the groups had very different histories, experiences and circumstances of entry into the U. S., and therefore, different problems and challenges in living here. The commission’s knowledge of these groups put it in a position to challenge the “Model Minority” stereotype of the successful Oriental, which obscured the poverty, and educational challenges experienced by some groups, along with employment discrimination.

This invaluable work is an **easy-to-research** tome on Asian Pacific Americans and civil rights in America, that focuses on the Commission’s ability to ferret out wrongs and make them right. A clearly written introduction and several appendices tie the voluminous materials into a **fascinating civil rights package**.

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