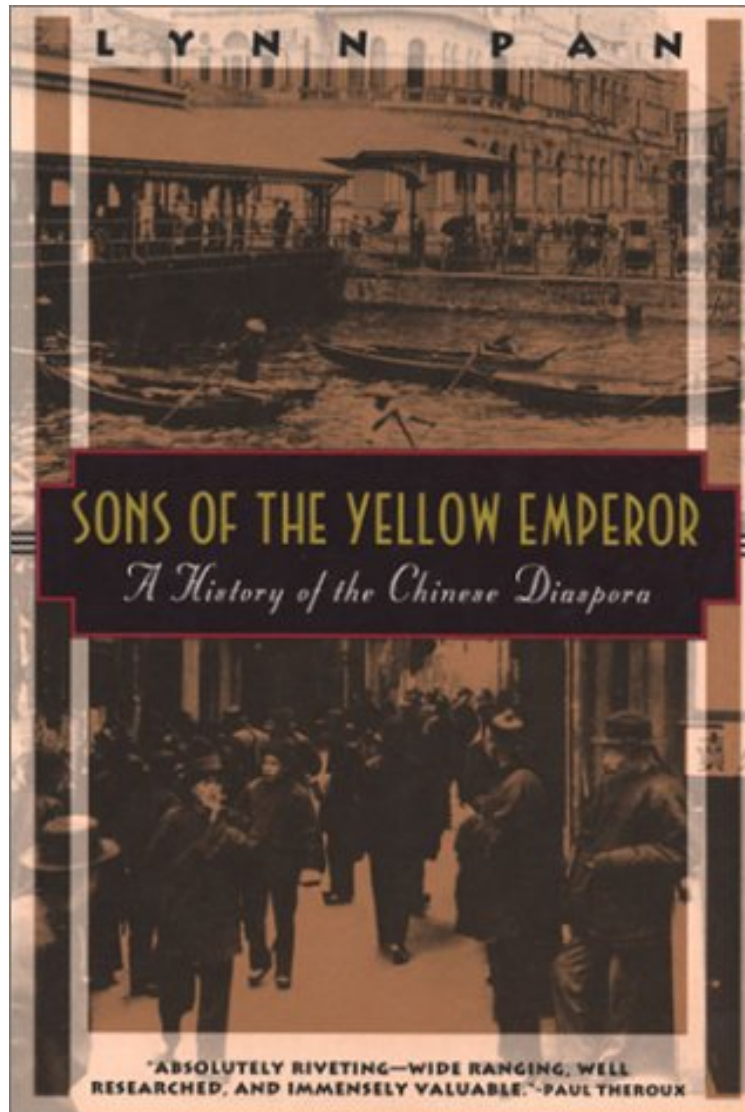


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Sons of the Yellow Emperor: A History of the Chinese Diaspora (Kodansha Globe)

Lynn Pan

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Lynn Pan : Sons of the Yellow Emperor: A History of the Chinese Diaspora (Kodansha Globe) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sons of the Yellow Emperor: A History of the Chinese Diaspora (Kodansha Globe):

6 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Over-patriotism?By NoellIn my quest to trace down the roots of my existence, I came across this book called, "Sons of the Yellow Emperor - A history of Chinese Diaspora". It is

supposed to be an account of the Chinese migration all over the world in the last six centuries. This book has 18 chapters and I could talk in length about each one of them. But I'll talk about only one and I think you'll get the gist. First of all, this book is not an easy read even for history fanatics such as my-self. There were times I wondered where the author was going and what was she trying to do. This book is all over the place. For example, there's a chapter in the book called hybrids. I think the author was trying to show or tell you the evolution of the Chinese overseas. In this particular chapter, she was trying to talk about the Chinese-mestizo class in Manila. The chapter turned out to be a biography collection of very successful Chinese families in the Philippines. She talked about the "Cojuangcos" in length. From the very first "Cojuangco" who migrated from China to the Philippines in 1841 to Corazon Aquino who became president of the Philippines. The Cojuangco, btw, are one of the richest families in the Philippines. I'm not denying the creativity, resiliency, intelligence, perseverance, and dedication that most Chinese seem to have. But c'mon! We can all smell when someone is stretching the truth right? I mean she conveniently does not tell the reader that the Chinese-mestizo class in the Philippines prospered not just because of their qualities but mostly because the "ruling class" in the 19th century, wanted and allowed them to prosper. The author wants the reader to believe that the Cojuangcos are where they are now because of pure hard work, dedication, and good business sense. I'm sorry but this is bull! While we're on this chapter, she also talked about the life of Jose Rizal, a Chinese-mestizo who happens to be the national hero of the Philippines. Jose Rizal wrote a couple of novels that theoretically ignited the Philippine revolution against Spain. Had the author not be so blinded by her own pride and over-patriotism, she would have done a lot more research and realized that a lot of other Filipino consider Andres Bonifacio, founder and leader of the rebellion against the Spaniards, to be the national hero. The author would have realized that Andres wasn't made the national hero because the Philippine government does not want to condone arms rebellion. The government doesn't want the people to idolize someone who would shoot them if they oppress the people for 400 years. They rather have you write about them in a novel. But I guess the truth wouldn't have made sense in the book because Andres Bonifacio doesn't have a single ounce of Chinese blood in him. Since race is necessarily a theme of the book, the author made a note on the preface about her ethnicity. She mentioned on this preface that she had better say something about herself so that the reader may judge for himself where her bigotries might be expected to lie. She was born in Shanghai and grew up in England. oops I almost forgot, in the preface section, she also talked about her cousin in Boston who made her first million before her thirty-third birthday. Well... Is she a bigot? Probably not. but sometimes there's a fine line between pride and prejudices. Now... I think I better say something about myself as well. I grew up in the Philippines. My ancestor's were Chinese mestizos, and I'm very proud of my lineage. Go to chingcuangco.com if you still doubt my lineage and possible agenda. The book turned out to be a mix of history, biography, the author's travel experiences, etc. All designed to make you feel good about having Chinese blood. and it works! This book is informative. I learned a lot that I didn't know before but I'm also experience enough to know when someone is blowing smoke in my face, selling black propaganda as a history book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Sons ogf the Yellow Emperor By Kim S. Lie Excellent and well researched book of the "Chinese Diaspora", however the subject of the diaspora to Indonesia was rather skimpy. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Peter Wilkinson Thorough, unbiased.

THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT OF THE WORLD'S GREATIEST CONTINUING MIGRATION The Chinese Diaspora stretches all over the world. It represents the most widespread and prolonged series of migrations by one nation ever. Chinese emigrants have been tycoons in Hong Kong and America, coolies in Peru and South Africa, underworld gangsters in San Francisco and Bangkok. Today, whether as near-slave laborers on illicit planes and freighters, or as bankers and traders from a world network of high finance, the Chinese are on the move as much as ever. In this rich blend of history, biography, and travel, noted author Lynn Pan recounts why emigrants have left China; how their dispersal has been shaped and stimulated by imperialist Western powers; and how the all-male frontier groups were transformed into complex communities organized by clan, dialect, and secret society. In the process, she takes us inside the supposedly closed world of the overseas Chinese and shows how, in a curious boomerang effect, these expatriates are currently changing the supposedly eternal face of China-perhaps forever. A new afterword by the author comments on the ironies that result when multiculturalism and emigrant culture meet head-on.

From Publishers Weekly Population explosion, poverty and corruption have driven millions of Chinese from their homeland. Emigration, persistent since the 1600s, reached a floodtide in the second half of the 19th century. Chinese cut sugar in Hawaii, worked mines in the Transvaal, built Madagascar's first roads and Manila's finest churches and hospitals. Pan, a Shanghai-born writer based in Hong Kong and England, writes with exceptional skill and clarity about a vast, complex subject. The wave of anti-Chinese hysteria in San Francisco after the boom days was not untypical of the discrimination and cruelties the Chinese faced. Pan explores Chinatowns from New York to Bangkok and discusses intermarriage, triads (secret societies), Chinese food. She paints the Chinese immigrant experience as a human drama in this moving, inspirational account of one group's survival and success. Photos. Copyright 1990 Reed

Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal A savvy journalist working out of Hong Kong has written a lively, well-researched history of emigrant Chinese communities: why and how they left China, their political and cultural adaptations in the face of almost universal hostility, and their roles in the contemporary world. Pan makes a major, eye-opening contribution in this text that ranges in time over four centuries and in place from the Philippines to Peru to France to North America. She clarifies her potentially confusing panorama with opinionated anecdotes and gossipy biographies, as well as wonderful chapters on the role of Chinese food and the comparative anatomy of Chinatowns. Highly recommended for general readers and scholars interested in Asia, cultural diversity, or in seeing Chinese-American experience in wide perspective.- Charles W. Hayford, Northwestern Univ., Evanston, Ill. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author LYNN PAN, raised in Shanghai, Borneo, and England, now lives in Hong Kong. She is also the author of *Tracing it Home* (Kodansha America, 1993)