

## Preface

Even in the last few days of his life, as he was fighting cancer, Yuji Ichioka was thinking about how he might complete this volume, an anthology of previously published and unpublished essays that examine the experiences of Japanese Americans between the two world wars. It had been a project that had absorbed his attention intermittently for several years. But his passing in 2002 came suddenly, and the task of completing the compilation fell to others. Before you is substantially what Yuji intended to publish. His unfinished introduction, which he had wanted to complete and expand, is included essentially as he left it; we have labeled it Chapter 1. He included Chapters 3–10 in his working manuscript. Added posthumously are Chapters 2, 11, 12, and 13. Yuji published Chapter 2 in Japanese in 1991, but it has never appeared in English. Chapter 11 was first published in the *Pacific Citizen*. Yuji's working bibliography is also included as an appendix. The editors located this item in his office after his death and included it because of its scholarly importance. Yuji may have been reserving it for a future publication of his own, or he might have been using it as a research guide for a projected study of the war years, but we hope that he would approve of its inclusion here. Sources that are listed in the bibliography appear in the notes in their short citation form. We would like to mention that because of the way the material for this volume was compiled, occasionally some text is repeated in the essays. The editors, wanting to limit tampering with Yuji's own composition, chose not to eliminate such redundancies and ask the reader for indulgence. Eiichiro Azuma's introductory essay, completed after Yuji's passing, provides

an expanded historiographic and biographical context for the anthology. The essay gives an overview of Yuji's scholarship and the immense contributions he made to the study of history, Japanese American history in particular. The volume ends with a personal reflection by Gordon Chang about Yuji as historian and friend.

We are also including one of Yuji's last published works, "A Historian by Happenstance," as Chapter 13, which *Amerasia Journal* published in 2000. In this essay Yuji tells us in his own characteristically lively and occasionally acerbic language how he came to the craft of history; he also presents his own vision of the present state and future of Japanese American history. He included little biographical information, however, so we provide a few bits here: Yuji was born in San Francisco in 1936 to modest circumstances. He and his family were interned in Topaz during the war, settling in Berkeley afterward. Yuji's record at Berkeley High was a mix of application and indifference, depending on whether he thought his teacher merited his attention. After graduation he entered the United States Army and was stationed for a time in Germany. After his discharge he entered the University of California, Los Angeles, and graduated in 1962. He briefly attended graduate school at Columbia, intending to study Chinese history. After working as a youth parole worker in New York for a short while, he made a fateful trip to Japan in 1966. The trip inspired him to take up the study of Japanese history and language. He moved back to Berkeley and participated in the civil rights and anti-war movements. He attended the University of California, where he earned a master's degree in Asian Studies in 1968. He coined the term "Asian American" in graduate school. The next year he helped found the Asian American Studies Center at UCLA, where he spent the rest of his professional life. His best-known book, *The Issei: The World of the First Generation Japanese Immigrant, 1885-1924* (1988), was nominated for the 1988 *Los Angeles Times* book prize for history and was awarded the 1989 Book Award from the Association for Asian American Studies. In 1999-2000, he was a visiting professor at Tokyo University. At the time of his death he was adjunct associate professor of history at UCLA. He never pursued a doctoral degree.

If Yuji was living, he would have wanted to acknowledge the help, collaboration, and support of colleagues, institutions, archives, friends, family members, and funders in Japan and in North and South America over the years, but he is not here to identify them. Regretfully, we, the editors, are

unable to reconstruct such a list. We trust that those who would constitute it will understand. The following journals kindly allowed the editors to reprint Yuji's previously published articles in this volume: *Amerasia Journal* (Chapters 5, 7, and 13); *California History* (Chapters 3 and 8); *Pacific Citizen* (Chapter 11); and *Pacific Historical Review* (Chapter 10). In the production of this volume the editors wish to acknowledge the help of Russell Leong, Don Nakanishi, and the staff of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, especially Mary Uyematsu Kao and Tam Nguyen. We also thank Muriel Bell, senior editor at Stanford University Press, who had been in conversation with Yuji for many years about this project, and the staff of Stanford University Press, especially Mariana Raykov and Joe Abbott, who supported this complicated posthumous effort with understanding and patience. Most of all, we thank Emma Gee, Yuji's lifelong companion and comrade. She provided essential help and direction for the completion of this volume. Emma herself has been an important figure in the inception and development of Asian American Studies, and it was Yuji's intention to dedicate this volume to her. And so it is.

Gordon H. Chang  
Eiichiro Azuma