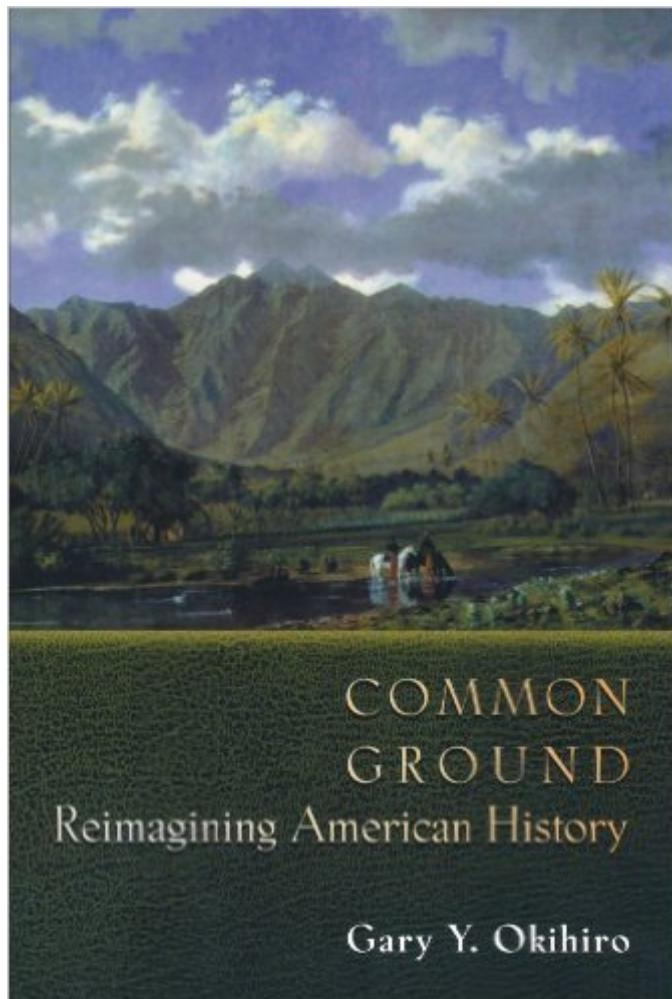


The book was found

# Common Ground: Reimagining American History.



## Synopsis

In *Common Ground*, Gary Okihiro uses the experiences of Asian Americans to reconfigure the ways in which American history can be understood. He examines a set of binaries--East and West, black and white, man and woman, heterosexual and homosexual--that have structured the telling of our nation's history and shaped our ideas of citizenship since the late nineteenth century. Okihiro not only exposes the artifice of these binaries but also offers a less rigid and more embracing set of stories on which to ground a national history. Influenced by European hierarchical thinking in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Anglo Americans increasingly categorized other newcomers to the United States. Binaries formed in the American imagination, creating a sense of coherence among white citizens during times of rapid and far-reaching social change. Within each binary, however, Asian Americans have proven disruptive: they cannot be fully described as either Eastern or Western; they challenge the racial categories of black and white; and within the gender and sexual binaries of man and woman, straight and gay, they have been repeatedly positioned as neither nor. Okihiro analyzes how groups of people and numerous major events in American history have generally been depicted, and then offers alternative representations from an Asian-American viewpoint--one that reveals the ways in which binaries have contributed toward simplifying, excluding, and denying differences and convergences. Drawing on a rich variety of sources, from the Chicago Exposition of 1893 to *The Wizard of Oz*, this book is a provocative response to current debates over immigration and race, multiculturalism and globalization, and questions concerning the nature of America and its peoples. The ideal foil to conventional surveys of American history, *Common Ground* asks its readers to reimagine our past free of binaries and open to diversity and social justice.

## Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press (May 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0691070075

ISBN-13: 978-0691070070

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.4 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #133,297 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 inÂ  Books > History >

## Customer Reviews

Usually I find it very hard to find a captivating history textbook, especially one on American History. When my U.S. History professor required us to read from this text, I definitely had my doubts on being able to sit and focus on reading it. I quickly came to the realization that this book was by far more engaging and imaginative in terms of painting social inequalities than any of the other books I was required to read for the same course. Even though we weren't required to read the entire book, it was written so well that I actually could not put it down! I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the connections between assumed dichotomies for 20th Century American History. Even all you non-fiction wary readers should take a look at this book!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Common Ground: Reimagining American History. Reimagining Indian Country: Native American Migration and Identity in Twentieth-Century Los Angeles (First Peoples: New Directions in Indigenous Studies) Standing on Common Ground: The Making of a Sunbelt Borderland Common Ground: What All Christians Believe and Why It Matters Reimagining Church: Pursuing the Dream of Organic Christianity Reimagining Church Top Down: Reimagining Set-In Sleeve Design Reimagining Global Health: An Introduction (California Series in Public Anthropology) The Three Marriages: Reimagining Work, Self and Relationship Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors The Retail Revival: Reimagining Business for the New Age of Consumerism Difference: The one-page method for reimagining your business and reinventing your marketing Dreaming the Future: Reimagining Civilization in the Age of Nature Reimagining the Ignatian Examen: Fresh Ways to Pray from Your Day The Common Cause: Creating Race and Nation in the American Revolution (Published for the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Virginia) Home Ground: A Guide to the American Landscape Losing Ground: American Social Policy, 1950 - 1980 Proving Ground: A History of Dodge, Chrysler, and Plymouth Racing Pyramid Fractions - Fraction Basics Math Workbook: Least Common Denominator, Greatest Common Factor, Improper, Mixed, Reducing, Comparing & Reciprocals Common Worship: Daily Prayer hardback (Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England)

[Dmca](#)