



Book Review

**Black and Asian Solidarity:
Exploring 150+ Years of Black and Asian Unity**

Reviewed by Nakia Edmond

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Journey, L., & Bacdi, R. (2023). Black and Asian solidarity: Exploring 150+ years of Black and Asian unity (pp.27-129) AMBW Press.

Fiction author Love Journey and journalist Randi Bacdi celebrate over 150 years of Black and Asian solidarity. Their book *Black and Asian Solidarity* explores documented social and political alliances between the two groups of Black and Asian Americans and centers on the impact of social movements to improve their unity. Through narrative analysis, the authors argue that the fight for social justice has been a primary factor that created the racial alliance as "their histories have always been intertwined, and their collective liberation is dependent upon their solidarity" (p. 27). The book explains how the relationship can positively impact future social movements. Overall, through a solid framework and multiple chapters, the book presents various topics, such as racism, false narratives, and the creation of contemporary and future social movements, supported by over thirty historical references and rich secondary sources in the form of online articles and commentaries.

Chapter 1 illustrates the common themes of oppression, prejudice, and violence historically experienced by Black and Asian groups. The author cites events of white aggression through the 1871 Chinese Massacre and the 1921 Tulsa Massacre. The former is a violent affair between two local Chinese groups that resulted in the wounding of a local white farmer and the death of a local police officer, triggering violence and lynchings from white mobs in retaliation. The latter event featured a white mob attacking residents of Tulsa, Oklahoma, after a false rumor of a white woman's sexual assault by a Black man. By understanding these themes and the influence of racism, the reader can analyze the shared experience between Black and Asian groups in America and its ability to create a foundation of racial solidarity. Journey and Bacdi define solidarity as "a sense of unity or friendship between two or more individuals for a common purpose" (p. 32).

Chapter 2 analyzes the origin of settlements or towns (i.e., Black Towns and Chinatowns) that initially served as a haven for fugitive slaves, immigrants, and migrants to escape oppressive laws and practices. These settlements also assisted in creating both the Black nationalist movement and the Asian American movement to combat political and social inequality under immigration, civil rights, and fundamental human rights.

Chapter 3 aligns with informative support, contemporary social movements, and their organizational initiatives toward racial solidarity, equality, and social justice against primary issues of racial violence and police brutality. The chapter situates the current collaborative projects of Black and Asian social groups as the goal of oppressed individuals to achieve allies in the fight for equality through political reform.

Chapter 4 situates the issue of false narratives by interpreting racial stereotypes that have influenced the belief of a racial divide between Black and Asian Americans. This chapter speaks directly to popular stereotypes of the Model Minority and the Superhuman. Journey emphasizes the need to avoid public opinion as it "perpetuates a culture of segregation and exclusion while erasing the common struggles that unite people of all backgrounds" (p. 129).

Chapter 5 and the conclusion celebrate over thirty historical and modern-day alliances noted throughout the book while calling for a recommitment to racial solidarity. The historical accounts provided shared moments of historical partnerships, cultural connections, and social strives that have built toward more extraordinary efforts in the name of social change. Journey and Bacdi provided a helpful overview of how Black and Asian Americans can promote a message of solidarity.

Critics may argue that the authors failed to analyze the theory of social movement learning to justify the events noted throughout the reading and how modern-day social movements can improve collaboration efforts. However, this read may benefit academia through its address to race relations, adult learning, and community development through social organization.

This book is an essential reference guide to understanding the complex relationship between two racial groups that have made media headlines through current social movements. Overall, it helps readers understand how minority groups have utilized their voices to combat oppressive labels and false narratives while reestablishing historical partnerships that have contributed to community development.



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To Cite this article:

Edmond, Nakia. (2024) Book Review: Black and Asian Solidarity. *Dialogues in Social Justice*. 9:2. Article 1852.