

**THE JAPANESE INVASION;
A STUDY IN
THE PSYCHOLOGY OF
INTERRACIAL CONTACTS**

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The Japanese invasion; a study in the psychology of interracial contacts by Jesse Frederick Steiner

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JESSE FREDERICK STEINER

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THE JAPANESE INVASION

The University of Chicago

THE JAPANESE INVASION

*A Study in the Psychology
of Inter-Racial Contacts*

A DISSERTATION

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
ARTS AND LITERATURE IN CANDIDACY FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
(THE GRADUATE DIVINITY SCHOOL:
PRACTICAL THEOLOGY)

BY

JESSE FREDERICK STEINER

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PREFACE

THOUGHTFUL students of our immigration problem are more and more turning their attention to the immigrant invasion from the Orient, now small in volume but impelled by powerful forces that may some day be beyond our control. The overwhelming numbers of the Asiatics, the social and economic discontent of the people, and the aggressive nationalism of the Japanese are danger signals that are arousing us from our complacent feelings of security. Vast possibilities for both good and evil are bound up in the rapidly developing Orient. It is of the highest importance that our Government work out an Oriental policy based upon a thorough understanding of the Far Eastern situation and designed to conserve the best interests of all concerned.

This book is an attempt to study one phase of this Oriental problem—the racial aspects of the Japanese immigration. Its interest is psychological rather than historical or economic. Emphasis is laid on the changing mental attitudes of the Japanese immigrants and on their reaction to the race prejudice they are compelled to face.

The writer tries to show that the problem is deeper than that of social assimilation. The fundamental difficulty is a difference of color and physical character-

istics so marked that the Japanese cannot merge themselves unnoticed into American life. This makes inevitable the establishment of a color line between the East and the West, no less real than that between the White and the Black.

Nothing is gained by ignoring the racial aspects of the question as is now the tendency in some quarters. A frank statement of facts is one step toward a better mutual understanding and lays the basis for a more satisfactory solution of the Oriental immigration problem.

The author's first interest in this problem arose during his seven years' residence in Japan as a teacher in a mission college in Sendai. Without the background gained by this long contact with the Japanese people, this study could not have been carried out.

Among the many friends, both Japanese and American, who have furnished data of various kinds, special mention should be made of Dr. William G. Seiple, of Sendai, Japan, who has been at great pains to keep the author in close touch with public opinion in Japan. The author wishes especially to acknowledge his great indebtedness to Dr. Robert E. Park, of the University of Chicago, under whose patient and stimulating supervision this book was written.

J. F. STEINER

Chicago, *January, 1917*

INTRODUCTION

THERE is a conviction, widespread in America at the present time, that one of the most fruitful sources of international wars are racial prejudice and national egotism. This conviction is the nerve of much present day pacifism. It has been the inspiration of such unofficial diplomacy, for example, as that of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in its effort to bring about a better understanding between the Japanese and America. This book is an attempt to study this phenomenon of race prejudice and national egotism, so far as it reveals itself in the relations of the Japanese and the Americans in this country, and to estimate the rôle it is likely to play in the future relations of the two countries.

So far as I know, an investigation of precisely this nature has not hitherto been made. One reason for this is, perhaps, that not until very recent times did the problem present itself in precisely this form. So long as the nations lived in practical isolation, carrying on their intercourse through the medium of professional diplomats, and knowing each other mainly through the products they exchanged, census reports, and the discreet observations of polite travellers, racial prejudice did not disturb international relations. With the extension of international commerce, the increase of

immigration, and the interpenetration of peoples, the scene changes. The railway, the steamship, and the telegraph are rapidly mobilizing the peoples of the earth. The nations are coming out of their isolation, and distances which separated the different races are rapidly giving way before the extension of communication.

The same human motives, which have led men to spread a network of trade-communication over the whole earth, in order to bring about an exchange of commodities, are now bringing about a new distribution of populations. When these populations become as mobile as the commodities of commerce there will be practically no limits—except those artificial barriers, like the customs and immigration restrictions, maintained by individual states—to a world wide economic and personal competition. Furthermore, when the natural barriers are broken down, artificial barriers will be maintained with increasing difficulty.

Some conception of the extent of the changes which are taking place in the world under the influence of these forces may be gathered from the fact that in 1870 the cost of transporting a bushel of grain in Europe was so great as to prohibit its sale beyond a radius of two hundred miles from a primary market. By 1883 the importation of grains from the virgin soil of the Western prairies in the United States had brought about an agricultural crisis in every country in Western Europe.

One may illustrate, but it is scarcely possible to esti-