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# The Issei: The world of the first generation Japanese immigrants, 1885-1924

*Yuji Ichioka*

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A portrait of the first Japanese immigrants, known as the Issei. Leaving behind a still-traditional, feudal society for the wide-open world of America, the Japanese were long barred from holding citizenship and regarded for many years as unassimilable. Their story is one of suffering and struggle that has produced a record of courage and perseverance.

From Library JournalSubject to everything from obstacles imposed by their native government to legal attacks here, the Issei and Nisei receive a fair hearing in this detailed historyone of the best books on the subject. Ichioka tells of the complexities of the labor market, labor organizing (especially of miners), and the ever-increasing laws against American citizenship, land ownership, and even land leasing. Legal actions, particularly in California, culminated in a string of anti-Japanese court decisions and the 1924 Immigration Act. The author has skillfully used Japanese and American primary sources, thoroughly documenting his carefully constructed narrative. A welcome addition, the book belongs in every U.S. and East Asian history collection. Kenneth W. Berger, Duke Univ. Library, Durham,

