Synopsis

Race for Empire offers a profound and challenging reinterpretation of nationalism, racism, and wartime mobilization during the Asia-Pacific war. In parallel case studies of Japanese Americans mobilized to serve in the United States Army and of Koreans recruited or drafted into the Japanese military; T. Fujitani examines the U.S. and Japanese empires as they struggled to manage racialized populations while waging total war. Fujitani probes governmental policies and analyzes representations of these soldiers; on film, in literature, and in archival documents; to reveal how characteristics of racism, nationalism, capitalism, gender politics, and the family changed on both sides. He demonstrates that the United States and Japan became increasingly alike over the course of the war, perhaps most tellingly in their common attempts to disavow racism even as they reproduced it in new ways and forms.

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Customer Reviews

This book breaks the mold of the generally accepted historiography of World War II. Be prepared for serious and honest discussion of racism in both America and Japan.

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