



Pacific Crossing: California Gold, Chinese Migration, and the Making of Hong Kong

Elizabeth Sinn

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During the nineteenth century, tens of thousands of Chinese men and women crossed the Pacific to work, trade, and settle in California. Making use of extensive research in archives around the world, *Pacific Crossing* charts the rise of Chinese Gold Mountain firms engaged in all kinds of transpacific trade, especially the lucrative export of prepared opium and other luxury goods. Challenging the traditional view that the migration was primarily a "coolie trade," Elizabeth Sinn uncovers leadership and agency among the many Chinese who made the crossing. In presenting Hong Kong as an "in-between place" of repeated journeys and continuous movement, Sinn also offers a fresh view of the British colony and a new paradigm for migration studies.

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