
This volume examines the triangular relationship of the United States, Peru, and Japan, as it affected the Peruvian-Japanese, after the outbreak of war in the Pacific in December 1941. Emphasis is placed on the coordinated Peruvian-American program of forced deportation of Peruvian-Japanese, their internment in the United States, and their ultimate disposition at war's end.

Research was carried out in the United States, Peru, and Japan, where public and private documentary sources were consulted; interviews were also used. The focus is on United States policies, however, and little use was made of Japanese or Peruvian printed materials.

While this book is obviously the product of extensive and painstaking research, clearly demonstrated by the bibliography and footnotes, it fails to integrate in a coherent fashion the three elements suggested by the title, and some of the material is repetitious. The author poses questions and leaves the answers to conjecture, one of which is fundamental to interpreting the attitude of the Peruvian-Japanese toward the deportation process: why did many Peruvian-Japanese volunteer for deportation to the United States?

In general, the answer may be found in the history of Japanese emigration to the Western Hemisphere, where the United States was the immigration country of primary interest. Latin American destinations were selected only when the United States option was foreclosed. Even the uncertainty and stress of wartime conditions failed to lessen the attraction of the United States, vis-à-vis Peru (or other Latin American countries), when the opportunity was presented.

Although reflecting problems of focus and structure, the intrinsic value of this work is considerable. It provides insight on a significant, but neglected, episode in inter-American relations, and the lessons to be learned about infringements on human rights in wartime.

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Campesinado y nación: Las guerrillas indígenas en la guerra con Chile.