



## Americas Asia: Racial Form and American Literature, 1893-1945

By Colleen Lye

Princeton University Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 368 pages. Dimensions: 9.1in. x 6.1in. x 0.8in. What explains the perception of Asians both as economic exemplars and as threats? *Americas Asia* explores a discursive tradition that affiliates the East with modern efficiency, in contrast to more familiar primitivist forms of Orientalism. Colleen Lye traces the American stereotype of Asians as a model minority or a yellow peril—two aspects of what she calls Asiatic racial form—to emergent responses to globalization beginning in California in the late nineteenth century, when industrialization proceeded in tandem with the nation's neocolonial expansion beyond its continental frontier. From Progressive efforts to regulate corporate monopoly to New Deal contentions with the crisis of the Great Depression, a particular racial mode of social redress explains why turn-of-the-century radicals and reformers united around Asian exclusion and why Japanese American internment during World War II was a liberal initiative. In Lye's reconstructed archive of Asian American racialization, literary naturalism and its conventions of representing capitalist abstraction provide key historiographical evidence. Arguing for the profound influence of literature on policymaking, *Americas Asia* examines the relationship between Jack London and leading Progressive George Kennan on U. S. -Japan relations, Frank Norris and AFL leader...



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