

Radicals on the Road



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Traveling to Hanoi during the U.S. war in Vietnam was a long and dangerous undertaking. Even though a neutral commission operated the flights, the possibility of being shot down by bombers in the air and antiaircraft guns on the ground was very real. American travelers recalled landing in blackout conditions, without lights even for the runway, and upon their arrival seeking refuge immediately in bomb shelters. Despite these dangers, they felt compelled to journey to a land at war with their own country, believing that these efforts could change the political imaginaries of other members of the American citizenry and even alter U.S. policies in Southeast Asia.

In *Radicals on the Road*, Judy Tzu-Chun Wu tells the story of international journeys made by significant yet underrecognized historical figures such as African American leaders Robert Browne, Eldridge Cleaver, and Elaine Brown; Asian American radicals Alex Hing and Pat Sumi; Chicana activist Betita Martinez; as well as women's peace and liberation advocates Cora Weiss and Charlotte Bunch. These men and women of

varying ages, races, sexual identities, class backgrounds, and religious faiths held diverse political views. Nevertheless, they all believed that the U.S. war in Vietnam was immoral and unjustified.

In times of military conflict, heightened nationalism is the norm. Powerful institutions, like the government and the media, work together to promote a culture of hyperpatriotism. Some Americans, though, questioned their expected obligations and instead imagined themselves as "internationalists," as members of communities that transcended national boundaries. Their Asian political collaborators, who included Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh, Foreign Minister of the Provisional Revolutionary Government Nguyen Thi Binh and the Vietnam Women's Union, cultivated relationships with U.S. travelers. These partners from the East and the West worked together to foster what Wu describes as a politically radical orientalist sensibility. By focusing on the travels of individuals who saw themselves as part of an international community of antiwar activists, Wu analyzes how actual interactions among people from several nations inspired transnational identities and multiracial coalitions and challenged the political commitments and personal relationships of individual activists.

作者介绍:

Judy Tzu-Chun Wu is Associate Professor of History and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the Ohio State University.

目录: Introduction

Part I: Journeys for Peace

Chapter 1. An African American Abroad

Chapter 2. Afro-Asian Alliances

Chapter 3. Searching for Home and Peace

Part II: Journeys for Liberation

Chapter 4. Anticitizens, Red Diaper Babies, and Model Minorities

Chapter 5. A Revolutionary Pilgrimage

Chapter 6. The Belly of the Beast

Part III: Journeys for Global Sisterhood

Chapter 7. "We Met the 'Enemy'— and They Are Our Sisters"

Chapter 8. War at a Peace Conference

Chapter 9. Woman Warriors

Legacies: Journeys of Reconciliation

Acknowledgments

Notes

Bibliography

Index

• • • • • ([收起](#))

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标签

越战

美国

民权运动

评论

作者找了一个很妙的角度，从人物进去，选择三个被忽略的个案，一个人，一个代表团，一个会议。从反帝、反战，加上种族、性别议题，归结出三条不同的线索，和平抗议，诉诸解放革命，诉诸女性团结。的确有种补足某块空缺的感觉。整体来说，非常好读，故事性强，细碎线索比较多，作者的阐释能力也非常厉害，尤其是这个标题，挺妙的。另外，我个人倒是觉得有意无意之间这本书的三个部分从时间先后进去是否合适呢？

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书评

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