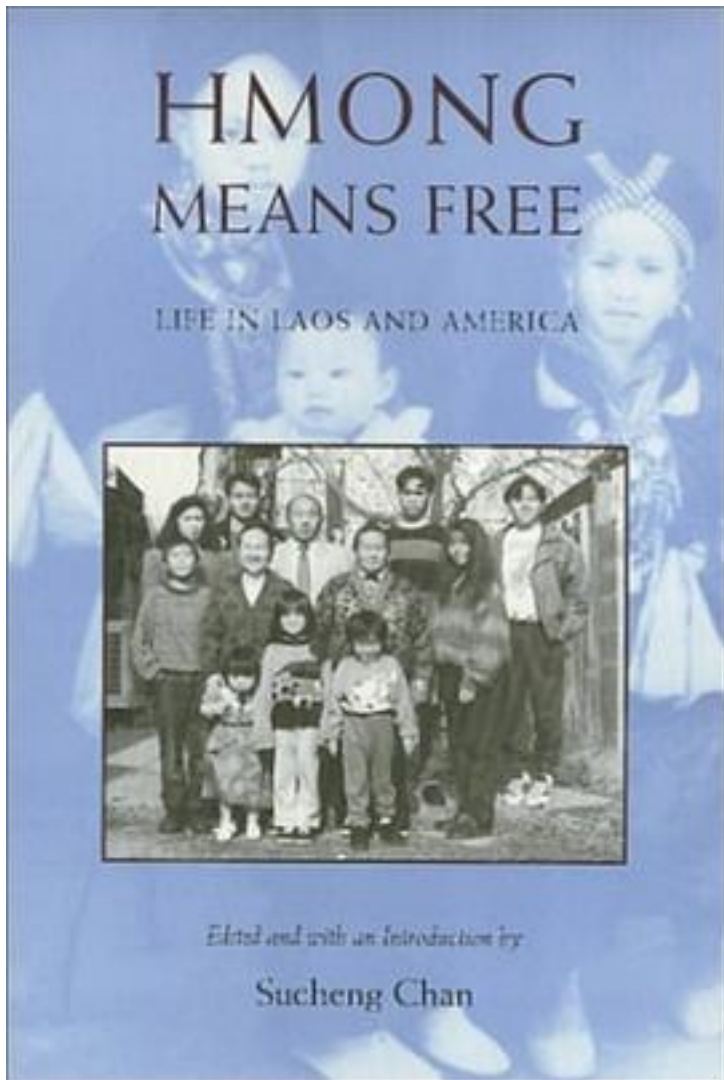


# Hmong Means Free (Asian American History & Cultu)



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This collection of evocative personal testimonies by three generations of Hmong refugees is the first to describe their lives in Laos as slash-and-burn farmers, as refugees after a Communist government came to power in 1975, and as immigrants in the United States. Reflecting on the homes left behind, their narratives chronicle the difficulties of forging a new identity. From Jou Yee Xiong's Life Story: "I stopped teaching my sons many of the Hmong ways because I felt my ancestors and I had suffered enough already. I thought that teaching my children the old ways would only place a burden on them." From Ka Pao Xiong's (Jou Yee Xiong's son) Life Story: "It has been very difficult for us to adapt because we had no professions or trades and we suffered from culture shock. Here in America, both the husband and wife must work simultaneously to earn enough money to live on. Many of our children are ignorant of the Hmong way of life. Even the old people are forgetting about their life in Laos, as they enjoy the prosperity and good life in America." From Xang Mao Xiong's Life Story: "When the Communists took over Laos and General Vang Pao fled with his family, we, too, decided to leave. Not only my family, but thousands of Hmong tried to flee. I rented a car for thirty thousand Laotian dollars, and it took us to Nasu. We felt compelled to leave because many of us had been connected to the CIA. Thousands of Hmong were traveling on foot. Along the way, many of them were shot and killed by Communist soldiers. We witnessed a bloody massacre of civilians." From Vue Vang's Life Story: "Life was so hard in the (Thai refugee) camp that when we found out we could go to the United States, we did not hesitate to grasp the chance. We knew that were we to remain in the camp, there would be no hope for a better future. We would not be able to offer our children anything better than a life of perpetual poverty and anguish." Author note: Sucheng Chan, Professor and Chair of Asian American Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, is general editor of Temple's Asian American History and Culture Series.

作者介绍:

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评论

FCN课我想做Diabetes among Hmong community in the US, 于是从Dr. Gittelsohn的图书馆里借来了这本加州大学陈素贞老师编的关于苗族的书。最早知道Hmong还是本科时候在刘耳朵的课上，他说苗族自古是多灾多难的民族。老挝的部分苗族人在印度支那战争期间受雇于CIA参与战争，战争结束后苗族军队领导人Vang Pao出走泰国，参与战争的苗族人也大多逃亡泰国，其中一部分苗族陆续迁往美国；到1990年前后，估计有十万苗族最终落脚美国。本书通过口述史的方式记录了五个不同苗族家庭从老挝到美国的生活经历。

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## 书评

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