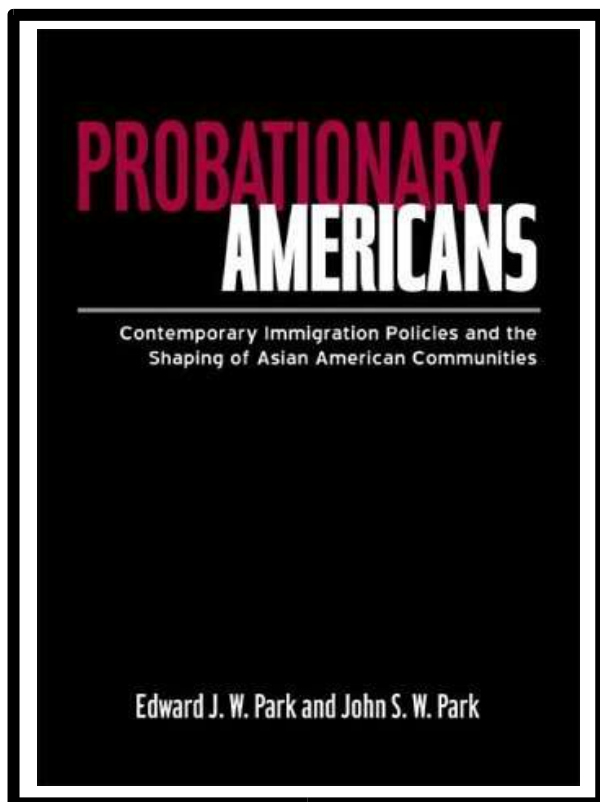


# Probationary Americans

Contemporary Immigration Policies and the Shaping of Asian American Communities

By Edward J.W. Park and John S.W. Park



In this new volume, the authors argue that the incremental changes during the last decade have resulted in a revolutionary change in U.S. Immigration policy. Today, immigration rules favor the wealthy and the skilled, while emphasizing restrictions against the poor and removals for those convicted of even minor crimes. New rules have also blurred the distinctions between “immigrants” and “non-immigrants,” and persons who were admitted temporarily to work now make up the single largest source of permanent residents.

Asian immigrants and Asian American communities have felt these changes dramatically. In the past ten years, migration from Asia has shifted from family reunification preferences to employment-based preferences, and the clear majority of migrants coming to work in the United States are also from Asia. At the same time, all newcomers face increasing threats of deportation and other forms of social, economic, and political vulnerability. *Probationary Americans* traces the recent history of U.S. immigration law and shows how it is shaping the political and economic fortunes of Asians and other major immigrant groups in the United States.

“Park and Park have written the most cogent and succinct survey currently available on the complex set of immigration laws, policies, and practices that have emerged since the landmark Immigration Act of 1965. The convincingly demonstrate the receding emphasis of immigration policy on family reunification and the expanding importance of employment-based categories. Focusing on the race and class dimensions of contemporary shifts in policy, they explain why more and more immigrants are finding themselves in a vulnerable position as ‘probationary Americans’.”

--**Michael Omi**, Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley

“*Probationary Americans* is an even-handed account of the evolution of U.S. immigration law and policy over the past fifteen years. Such lucid and thoughtful analysis is much needed in a time where hyperbole and fear dominate the academic and public discourse on immigration in the United States.”

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“This is the clearest and most concise guide to the labyrinthian provisions of American immigration law. It explains why these provisions were enacted, how they are being administered, and what they mean for the changing status of immigrants. It is especially illuminating on the growth of highly qualified Asian immigrants and the blurring distinction between temporary and permanent residents.”

--**John Mollenkopf**, Distinguished Professor of Political Science, City University of New York, Graduate Center

**John S.W. Park** is Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

**Edward J.W. Park** is Director and Associate Professor of the Asian Pacific American Studies Program at Loyola Marymount University.

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