Learn More About It

Some sources to learn more about the real life events that inspired the story behind *Passage West*.

WWW.SAADA.ORG

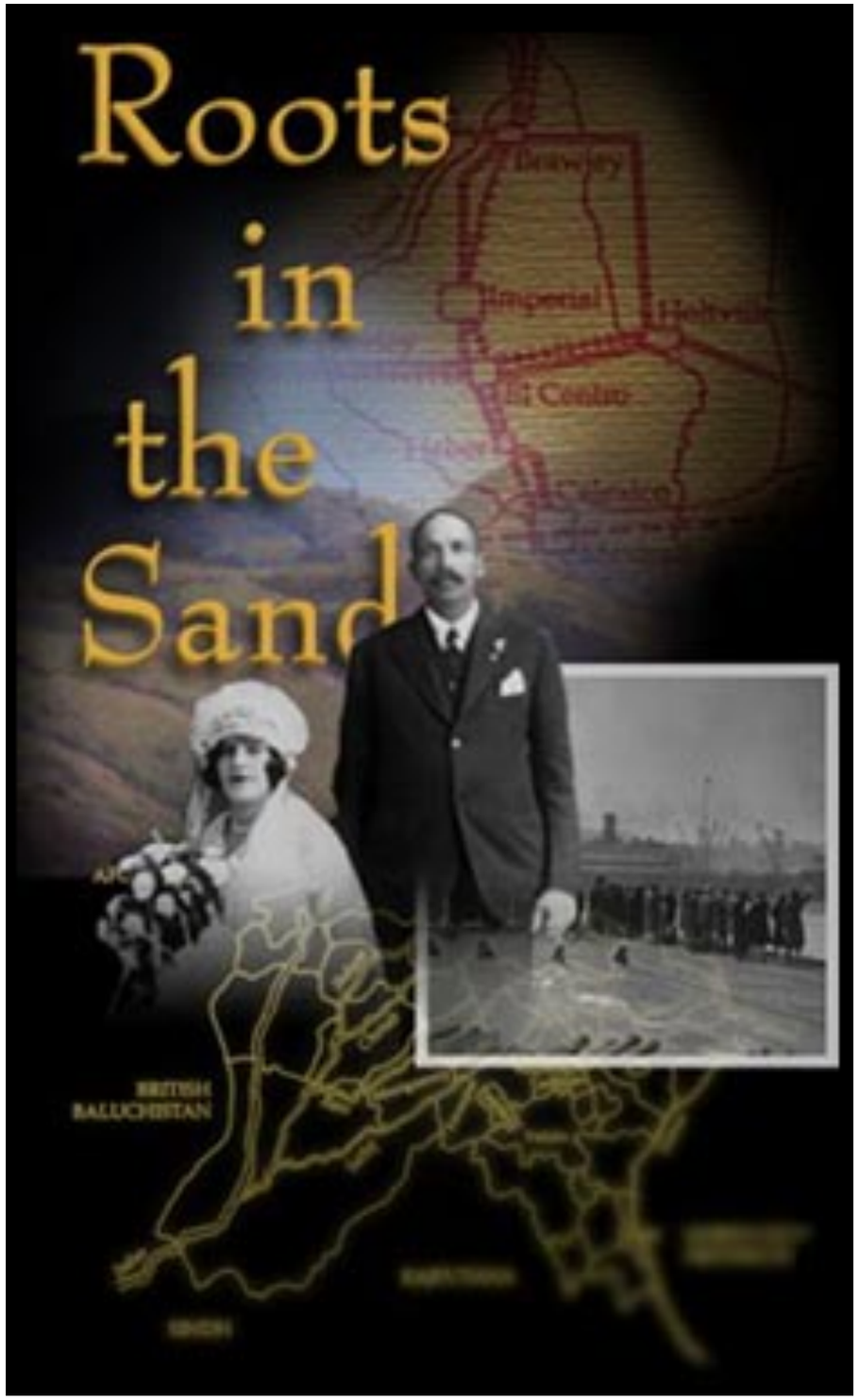
The South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA) has been digitally documenting, preserving and sharing the stories of early South Asian Americans since 2008.

SAADA's files go back to the early 1900s and are full of fascinating primary sources: photographs and video (truly) from the early 1900s, newspaper articles, letters from Indian freedom fighters against the British, and political pamphlets. It all really happened!

Check them out here.....
https://www.saada.org/browse/theme/early-immigration

Through the use of found footage, archival and family photographs, personal and public documents, film-maker Jayasri Majumdar Hart tells the touching and inspirational story of the California multi-ethnic community that grew out of a struggle for economic survival in the face of prejudice.

Find out more about this documentary film here: http://www.pbs.org/rootsinthesand/



This study was published in 1923 and sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. It describes in 144 pages the social and work lives, hopes, and disappointments of the early South Asian community in British Columbia, Washington state, Oregon and California. The writer was Rajani Kanta Das, a Lecturer in Economics at NYU and a former special agent at U.S. Department of Labor.

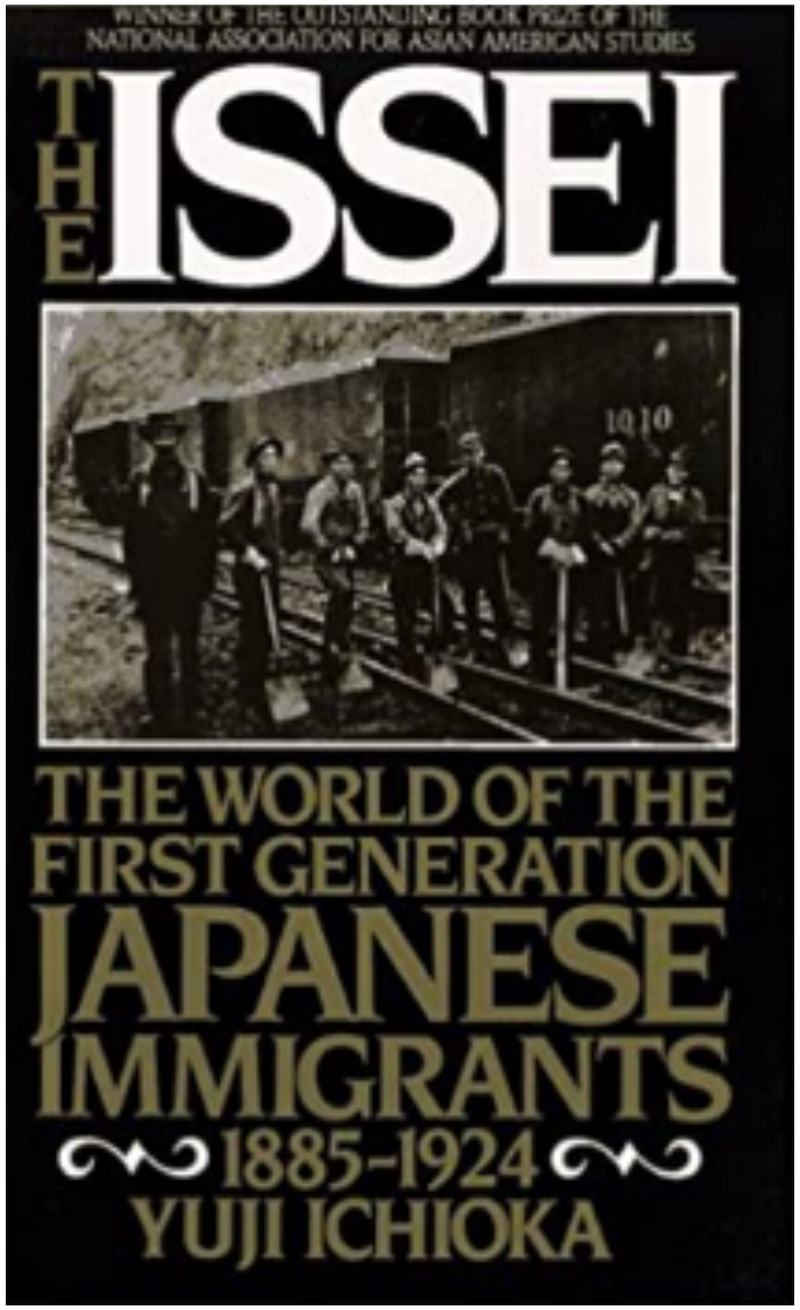
Read this publication here:
https://archive.org/details/dli.bengal.10689.14265/page/n9/mode/2up

HINDUSTANI WORKERS
ON THE PACIFIC COAST

By
Rajani Kanta Das, M. Sc., Ph. D.
Lecturer in Economics, New York University
Former Special Agent, Department of Labor,
United States Government.

1923

WALTER DE GRUYTER & Co.
VORMALS G. J. GÖSCHEN'SCHE VERLAGSHANDLUNG – J. GUTTENTAG, VERLAGSBUCHHANDLUNG – GEORG REIMER – KARL J. TRÜBNER – VEIT & COMP.
BERLIN and LEIPZIG

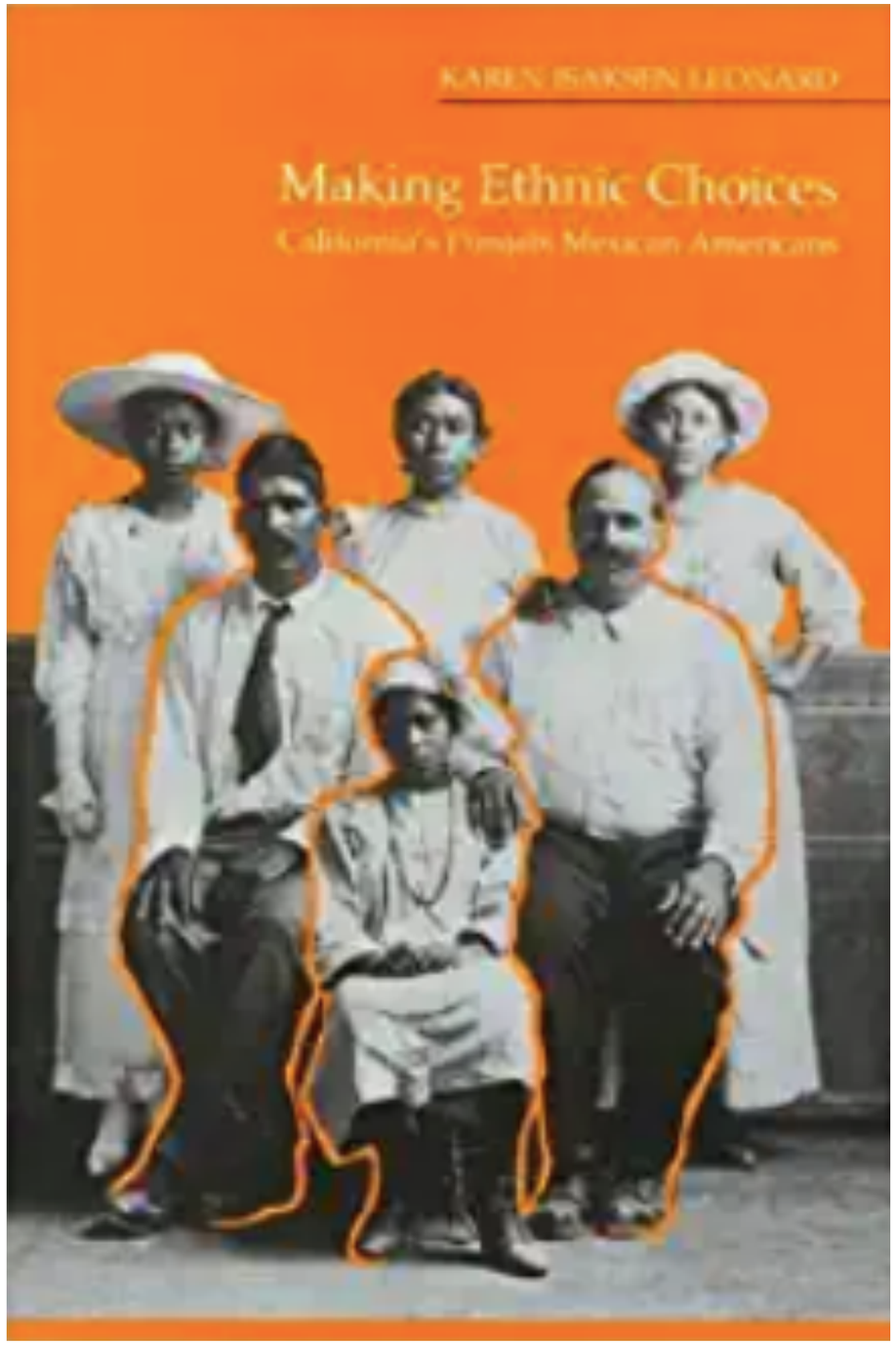


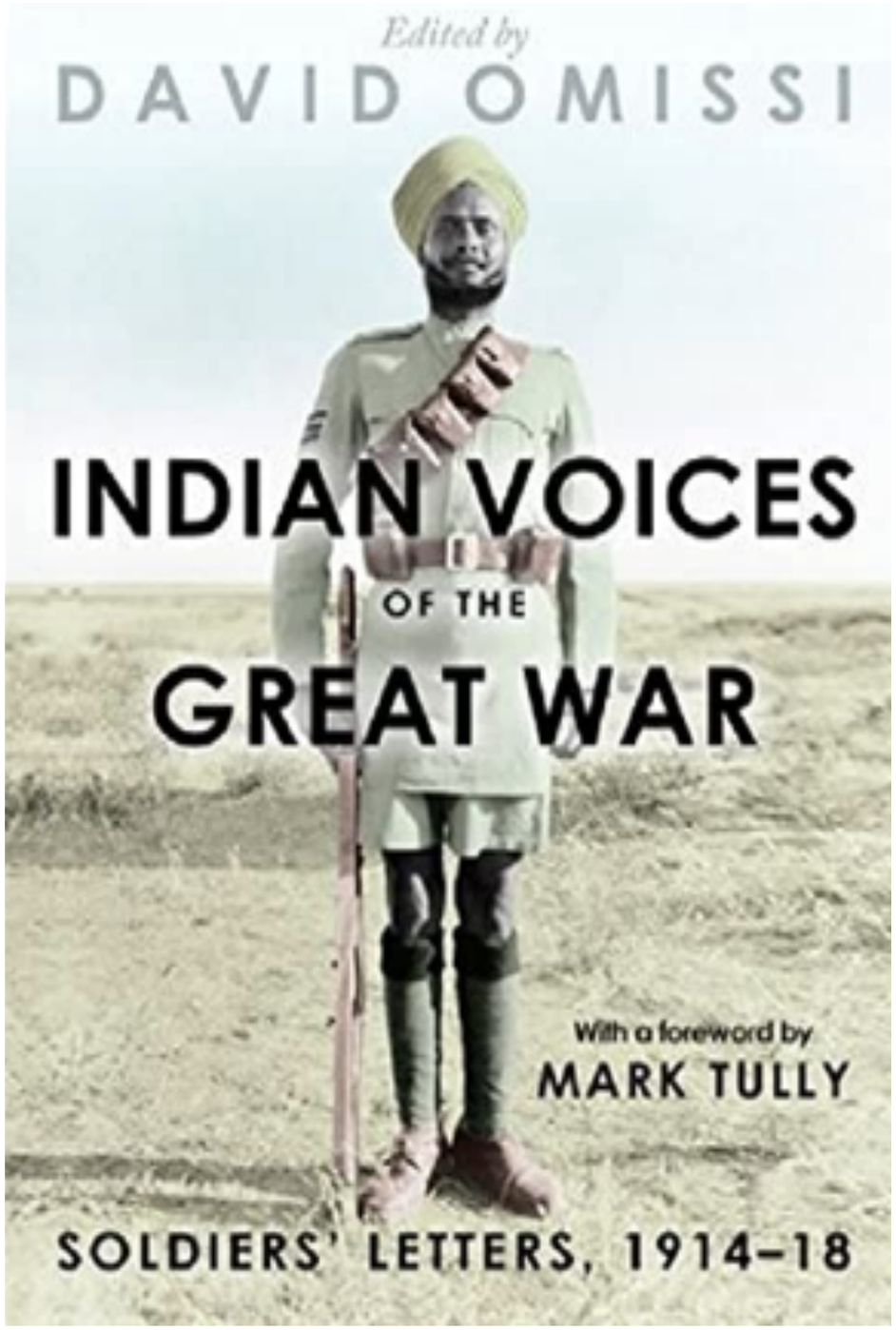
The title says it all: published in 1988, this was the first comprehensive history of the first generation of Japanese immigrants to the United States. Full of detailed heartbreaking real life narratives.... they inspired the story of Harry's family.

You can find it here https://www.amazon.com/Issei-Yuji-Ichioka/dp/0029324351 or order it at your local bookstore or library.

This was the book that started it all for me and was foundational for so much of my research.

Published in 1994 and still available on Amazon or at your local library (a bit harder to get from your local bookstore) : https://www.amazon.com/Making-Ethnic-Choices-Californias-Americans/dp/1566392020

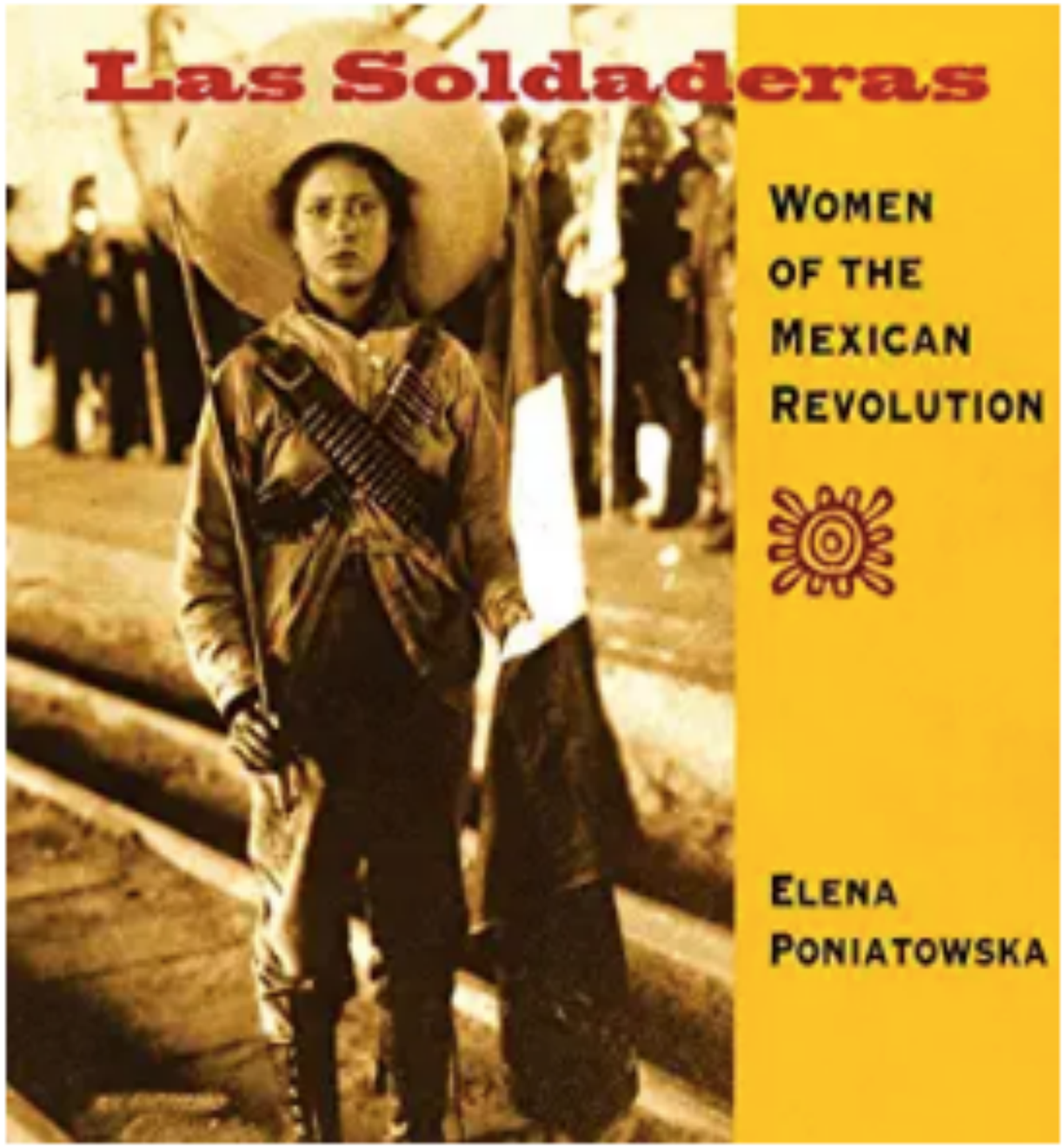
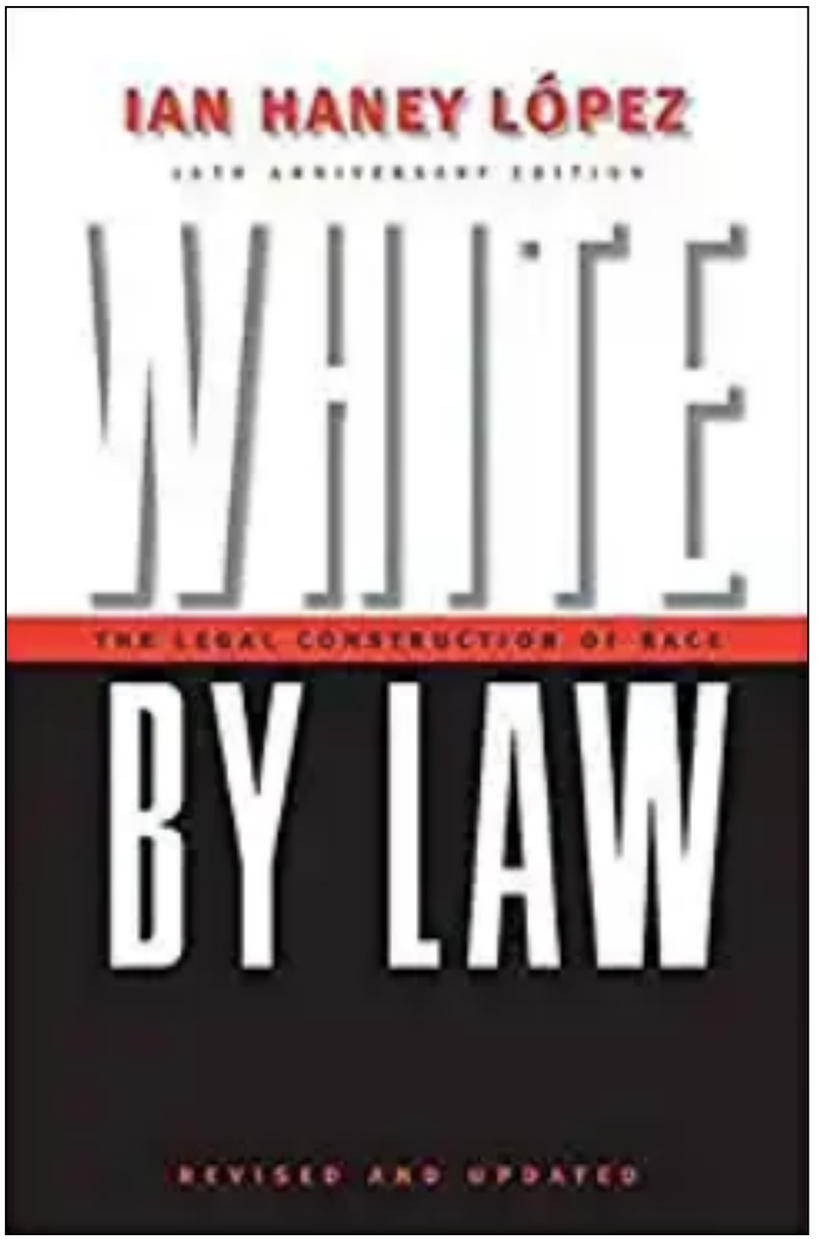




This book is a selection of the letters of Indian soldiers who served in France in WWI from 1914 to 1918. By turns poignant, funny, and almost unbearably moving, these documents vividly evoke the world of the war's Western Front - as seen through their eyes. This taught me so much about Amarjeet! Still available.... Google it!

I was fascinated by a book of photos of Mexican women fighting in the Mexican Revolution, compiled by Elena Poniatowska. I also found a few of the same images on this video on-line. In these photographs, he courage of these soldiers is palpable and so moving....they inspired the character of Adela.

See images and video here:
https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=tightropetb&ei=UTF-8&p=las+soldaderas+de+la+revolucion+mexicana&type=61333_032917#id=1&vid=ffb0d06c917db035a97a084d54ed049f&action=view



I learned so much from this book! Ian Haney Lopez explains how American law supported the creation of the notion of "race" and then used it in dubious court rulings about who was eligible for U.S. citizenship based on their skin color.... A fascinating intersection of race, ethnicity, culture, politics, gender, and socially fabricated facets of American society. These ideas were central to the real life case of Bhagat Singh Thind,—who won, then lost, then won U.S. citizenship again—all on the basis of his race.