A GUIDE TO THE MODEL MINORITY MYTH

by @courtneyahndesign
I. The Model Minority Myth is the false notion that Asian Americans achieve universal socioeconomic success over all minorities.

"They're more spiritually enlightened!"

"They're just more intelligent!"

"They have better home values!"

"They're docile and submissive!"

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2. **The Model Minority Myth invalidates the enduring hardships of Asian Americans, perpetuating racist, monolithic stereotypes.**

- **Erases the unjust treatment of Japanese Americans during World War 2.**
- **AAPI students are given less educational help.**
- **AAPI are less likely to reach out for mental health services.**

- **The term Asian American categorizes 43 respective ethnic groups as the same.**

- **This myth has been used as an excuse to exclude AAPI from government aid.**

- **Places unachievable expectations on AAPI.**

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3. The Model Minority Myth was designed to pit minority groups against each other.

"Hey, turns out the Asian Americans (that we selectively let in) are doing okay!"

"Why aren't other minorities doing as well?! It must be their fault!!"

This flawed logic shifts the blame from the oppressor to the oppressed, failing to acknowledge the varying levels of systemic oppression that different minority groups experience.

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4. The Model Minority Myth is based on selective, misleading data that fails to acknowledge the diversity of Asian Americans and disparity between Asian races.

- Asian Americans have the largest income gap out of all the racial groups.
- 33% of Asian Americans dropout of or don't finish high school on time.
- Poverty rate: 11% White, 14% Asian.
- Asian American students are more likely to seek medical leave, go on academic probation, and less likely to graduate in 4 years.
- White men with college degrees make almost $20,000 more yearly than Asian men with college degrees.
- College degree attainment: 40% of Chinese, Korean, and Japanese, 9% of Hmong, Latvian, and Cambodian.

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5. HOW CAN WE FIGHT THE MODEL MINORITY MYTH?

- Be mindful and catch the impulse to assume anything about AAPI.
- Educate others on the dangers of perpetuating the model minority myth.
- Confront all racial injustices, especially day-to-day microaggressions.

(to my fellow AAPI, we must resist the urge to internalize the MMM and actively use our power to serve as allies for minorities that are oppressed through our exploitation.)

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