

A GUIDE TO THE

Model
Minority

MYTH

BY @COURTNEYAHNDDESIGN

I. THE MODEL MINORITY MYTH IS THE FALSE NOTION THAT ASIAN AMERICANS ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL SOCIOECONOMIC SUCCESS OVER ALL MINORITIES



@COURTNEYAHNDDESIGN

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

DISACKNOWLEDGES THE "YELLOW PERIL" SCARE TACTIC USED TO PROHIBIT CHINESE AMERICANS FROM WORKING

PLACES UNACHIEVABLE EXPECTATIONS ON AAPI

@COURTNEYAHNDESIGN

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

@COURTNEYAHNDDESIGN

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



@COURTNEYAHNDESIGN

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)

@COURTNEYAHNDDESIGN