

BOOK REVIEW

Our History is Still Being Written

The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution

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The story behind the story is the little known history of the mass immigration of Chinese into Cuba in the early 1800's. The first arrival of 206 contract laborers arrived in Cuba in 1847 aboard a Spanish brigantine ship and arrived at the port of Regala on Havana Bay, the same port the Spanish used for bringing in African slaves. The Chinese were put in barracks and their contracts were sold to wealthy landowners where they had slave status. Later that year another 365 Chinese arrived. By 1874 it is estimated that over 141,000 Chinese were shipped to Cuba, roughly the same number that went to the US. In proportion to population emigration to Cuba was far more significant. In 1868 Cuba's war of independence began and the slaves were freed. Part of the mystery as to why there is little written about this history is that the Chinese adopted Cuban surnames, which has made it difficult to identify them.

The book is written by three Chinese-Cuban generals in the Cuban revolution. It was published in 2005 by Pathfinder press and can be found at www.pathfinderpress.com