PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

IT WAS TEMPTING, when the University of California Press decided to issue a second edition of this book, to make extensive revisions. The literature is much richer now and I think that I know a little more. Brief reflection, however, convinced me that this would be unwise. For better or for worse a book has a life of its own, even though there are a number of things that I would wish to change or expand.

I will, however, comment on what was clearly the worst blunder in the book. At page 65 I wrote:

Racism, as a pervasive doctrine, did not develop in the United States until after the Civil War. No common assumptions underlay the enslavement of the Negro and the attacks on the Irish in Boston.

Although this was, I believe, the conventional wisdom of the time, research and reflection convinced me, long ago, that racism—a belief that human races have inherent characteristics that determine their cultures, usually involving the notion that one's own race is superior and has the right to rule others—is a seamless web. The enslavement of the black, the dispossession of the red, the subjugation of the yellow, were all part and parcel of the same phenomenon. To carry the argument a step further it is also quite clear to me that being a victim of racism does not provide the victim with immunity. Some ideologues, such as Gunnar Myrdal, like to posit a world in which there is a united front of the oppressed. In California, at least, no such world has existed. Yellows and blacks, reds and browns have, more often than not, tried their best to keep members of other groups on the bottom rung of what Harry Kitano and I have called the ethnic escalator. These interethnic rivalries and discriminations are, as yet, an unwritten chapter of American ethnic history.

Although I have changed nothing, I have made what I hope is a significant addition, a supplementary bibliography of works relevant to the general subject of the Japanese and the anti-Japanese movement up to 1925 that have appeared since this work was completed.

In the first edition of this book I thanked, *inter alia*, my mentor, Theodore Saloutos. In the years since he has never failed to provide support and guidance, and, even more important, real friendship. Knowing now much more about academic life than I did then I can value his mettle even more.

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