

# CONTROLLER STEVE WESTLY

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA

300 Capitol Mall  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916.445.2636  
[www.controller.ca.gov](http://www.controller.ca.gov)

PR 005:39

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
OCT 21, 2005

CONTACT: RUSS LOPEZ  
916-445-2636

## Westly Speaks Out Against Asian History Veto

**CUPERTINO** – State Controller Steve Westly today said Governor Schwarzenegger made the wrong choice when he vetoed a bill that would have encouraged instruction in Asian history to middle and high school students on the profound events leading up to and during World War II.

“Understanding Asia’s past will help secure California’s future. Unfortunately, it seems the Governor doesn’t recognize this,” Westly said, noting that California exported \$47 billion in goods to Asia last year. “In the global economy, we must have a global perspective.”

“World War II and the events leading up to it had a profound and tragic effect on all of Asia. China, Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines, Japan, and so many Pacific Islands all suffered profoundly,” Westly added. “The effects of that suffering are still being felt today, and will be for generations to come.”

**SB 684** was authored by Sen. Elaine Alquist (D-San Jose). It would have encouraged social science instruction in grades 7 through 12 to accurately reflect the role of populations in the continent of Asia, the subcontinent of South Asia, and in the Pacific Islands, regarding the many historical events leading up to and during World War II.

###