

HST 202: History of the United States W14 (Escobar Meta 31101 31100)

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Chinese Now and Then

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, March 1, 2014, 10:53 PM

This forum thread is for Chinese Now and Then posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the questions in your posts.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post.

To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it

RE: Native Chinese Now and Then

Sum of ratings: -

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History Not Repeating... Repeating...

by Kenneth Green - Sunday, March 2, 2014, 4:24 PM

The connection between The Chinese, now and then, is over a century of enlightenment regarding racism and its forms. One poster stated in the last forum that pockets of the South (and other regions) still hold to old notions of race, but most people today regard Asian-Americans or the Chinese as smart and hard-working people. Beginning on page 613 in the text, the authors describe that Chinese people in the 19th Century were regarded simply as cheap labor, but as we see in the cartoons, a despised minority. They did build the rail system, and the text even mentions that the photo taken to honor the "golden spike" excluded the very men who built it. They faced discrimination, but we've read that many other minorities and immigrants also faced discrimination. It was simply a nasty period in American history when it comes to racism. The cartoons in this forum mirror the ones we've studied in this course concerning blacks or the Irish. (Not to mention the section on Native Americans in this chapter.) But we have come a long way since the 19th century, in regards to racism. So I don't believe the commercial holds the same level of

vitriol and downright hatred, that the cartoons display. We still have a long way to go, for our nation to truly be accepting of diversity but we are not the 19th century. Thank goodness.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: History Not Repeating... Repeating...

by Danny Lopez - Friday, March 7, 2014, 9:13 PM

I agree with your take with the connection with now and then on the Chinese. I think from what the Irish went through, and also the German has now shifted towards the Chinese as soon as they started coming in the west. Americans were sure taking advantage of the Chinese labor by paying low, but also treating them poorly. I also agree with the face discrimination that how many minorities had to face that, and a lot of racial things being said. Yes I do think that America has surely come, but still not entirely.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Chinese Now and Then

by Joseph Foley - Monday, March 3, 2014, 12:52 AM

What connections can you infer between this current commercial, and historical American behaviors and attitudes towards the Chinese which are reflected in these cartoons? Be certain you support your statements with information provided in class and in your textbook. Is there any validity to and/or similarity among these expressed sentiments which are separated by 100 years of U.S. History? Why (or why not) is this just an example of "history repeating itself"?

Our book touches on some of the many hardships Chinese faced in coming to the United States. Pages 613 and 614 in Chapter 18 of our text book give a good overview of the Chinese immigration in the mid to late 1800's. It mentions that Chinese workers were offered lesser wages than white workers, while working in very harsh conditions and building the Central Pacific Railroad. The book also mentions the extreme prejudices the Chinese endured from white nativists during this time. There were even violent protests against the Chinese led by white nativists. The discrimination against the Chinese included specific ordinances, including grooming regulations. In 1882, The Chinese Exclusion Act represented the first law discriminating a particular ethnic group.

Later on in Chapter 18, page 624 mentions the cruel world of prostitution in San Francisco. Men greatly outnumbered women on the west coast hence prostitution became a popular and brutal business venture. Many Chinese women were sold into sex slavery along the west coast.

The cartoons offered in this forum all seem to paint the Chinese as outside

invading threat. The sense of nativism is strong in all of the illustrations, with titles ranging from, "The Chinese Question Again," to, "The Yellow terror in All His Glop." We learned in our chapter 18 reading that many of the Chinese were hoping to come to the U.S. and earn decent wages, and afterwards return home to help their families financially. It sounds like many of them were exploited as cheaper workers by large companies, and in turn hated by the working class whites who only viewed them as outsiders stealing jobs and opportunities. New ethnic groups having a difficult time with nativist whites is an ongoing theme in U.S. history (Irish, German, African, etc.).

The current commercial is a new version of American nativist's view of the Chinese. The commercial portrays the Chinese as outsiders, and even threats to America. The commercial seems to be warning U.S. citizens of some of our own mistakes, but it also uses the Chinese as the "bad guy." The Chinese even laugh at the U.S. in the commercial. This commercial was obviously not made to strengthen U.S. citizen's relations with the Chinese.

Although, most of my friends and associates are by no means bigots, I do occasionally run into nativist-like attitudes. I have heard many whites comment on the same issues brought up in this commercial, or even complaining of job losses due to other ethnic groups. Our country's nativist-like views run much deeper than I had realized before connecting the dots in history. The current commercial is not as vulgar or initially offensive as the older cartoons depicting the Chinese-Americans. The U.S. has come a long way in race relations and what is politically correct, but this commercial certainly does not appear to promote further synchronicity with the Chinese or Chinese-Americans.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Chinese Now and Then

by Kenneth Green - Monday, March 3, 2014, 4:37 PM

You make a great point that modern "Nativists" stand firmly against immigration reform and complain that people such as Latino migrant workers "steal our jobs." Yet OPBS reported recently that farmers like Apple Growers in Washington State often face a shortage of workers. As you mention the book offers a grim view of the Chinese workers who migrated to America after the Opium Wars in China. It's not mentioned specifically in the book but I've seen documentaries of how they were used almost exclusively to set the "nitro" when exploding through tunnels. Then, as now, the Nativists who complain the loudest would be the last people who would want the jobs they claim immigrants are, stealing.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Chinese Then and Now

by Joseph Foley - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 7:14 PM

Absolutely, the Exclusion Act was what really surprised me. I was aware of many

of the poor work conditions and racism, but I had not realized the full extent of the Act. I was even more surprised when Professor Escobar let us know on Tuesday how long it had lasted, all the way until WWII.

Americans seems to be very concerned with being politically correct, yet their is an undertone of Nativism in most areas. Politics, advertising, T.V., and of course films. I felt like we had made a fair amount of progress in regard to civil rights, but now I'm not so sure. This section of our survey is really grabbing my attention.

It has been eye-opening to be hyper-alert to nativism, and pick-up on it in todays media.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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In response to your response - Re: Chinese Then and Now



by Zachary Ogborn - Friday, March 7, 2014, 1:50 PM

I'm definitely in agreement with you on how "eye-opening" it can be to realize how media (including other industries) subtly slips in a Nativist bias into almost everything. I'm excited to see how Nativism plays a role in the up-coming term's instalment of History 203 (20th century). I had taken the Fall Term's instalment and was surprised how even Benjamin Franklin had undertones of 'American' Nativism when dealing with the French in early Colonial America.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Chinese Now and Then



by Danny Lopez - Friday, March 7, 2014, 9:25 PM

I really agree with your forum you make excellent points about how the Chinese did have to go through hard labor, and low wages as well. Working on the Central pacific railroad was really hard labor for the Chinese, and still they would get credit for the help on the railroad. Yes, the Chinese just the Irish had to deal with the nativism, and discrimination towards the Chinese people when they came in for a better life, and ended up in worse conditions, and treated poorly. I also agree with you view on the video how they make the Chinese be the bad guy which doesn't give a good look. I still don't think much has changed from the past their are white people blaming minorities on taking their jobs.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Chinese Now and Then



by Maisie Smith - Monday, March 3, 2014, 2:22 PM

In previous years Chinese, like most other races, came to America expecting freedom in many different aspects of life. They didn't expect to stay here for very long, but after the California Gold Rush, many of them did. China has had a huge impact on the world. Not only do they have a massive population, they make goods that the rest of us use in our daily lives. I do believe that this is history repeating itself in ways because when the Chinese first immigrated to the US, they took advantage of our resources and outnumbered Americans in California. Now they have outnumbered the entire country and have a significantly lower amount of debt. Making goods means that they get goods that they can't produce as well as an abundant amount of money, whereas we are still trying to pay off debts from centuries ago.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Looking at the Chinese



by Bryan Sanders - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 1:38 AM

The video we watched was one I have seen before. It was meant to highlight the consequences of our rising national debt, and one of the chief holders of that debt: China. The cartoons from the 19th century deal with perceived stereotypes and problems associated with the Chinese who were immigrating here. Nativism definitely factored into those cartoons, but the more recent cartoon dealt with a more recent issue.

There is definitely suspicion toward the Chinese in all these examples. There was fear back then they would engulf the country and conquer it. The modern cartoon envisioned a world where the Chinese dominate us, but not necessarily by immigration or manpower. Rather, it is through economics that they dominate us.

Both modern and past examples warn of Chinese domination, but we must remember that back then nativism was the driving factor. In one of the cartoons we saw, an Irishman was helping a Chinaman eat Uncle Sam. This was definitely intended to promote nativism in America.

The modern cartoon dealt with economics and the debt, but not the nativism and immigration of the 19th century cartoons. Taken all together, I'm not convinced it is history repeating itself.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Looking at the Chinese



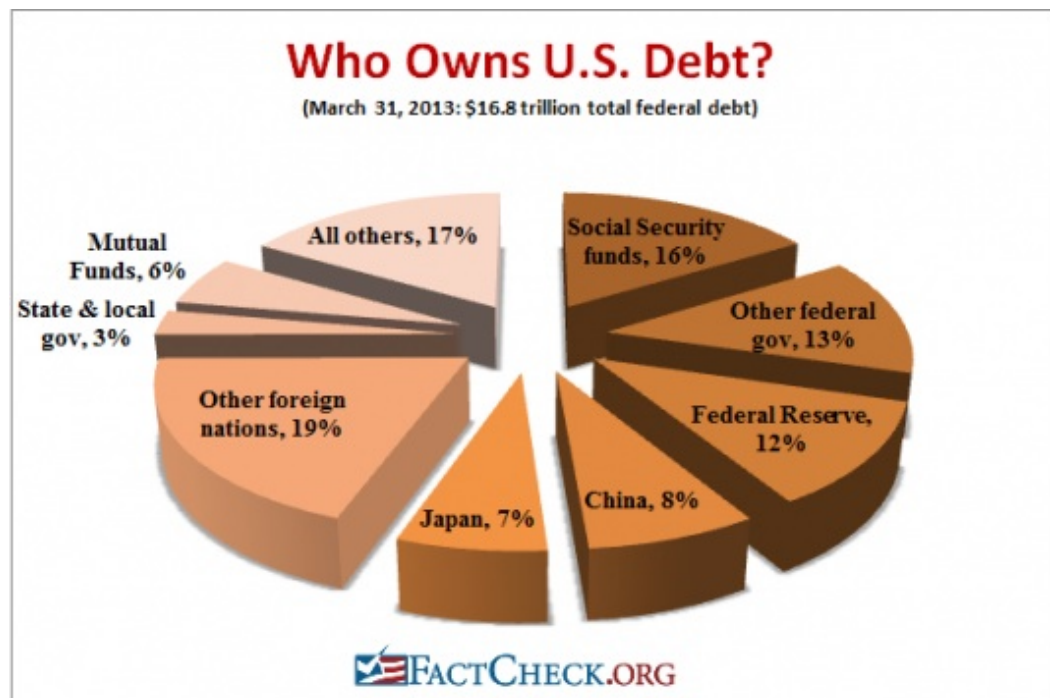
by Timothy Wilson-Haley - Thursday, March 6, 2014, 12:32 PM

I agree that there are some major differences between the cartoons from antiquity and the contemporary political ad. I also agree with Escobar, that history doesn't repeat itself. There is no moment in history that is precisely the same as any previous moment. However, as we've learned in class, and as the textbook commonly makes a point of, there are common threads and themes that come up repetitively. The

commercial didn't discuss immigration and nativism as you wrote. But it did play on American xenophobia, which has been manifested historically by nativist and anti-immigration sentiments. Today, we see such sentiments to be racist. Those cartoons, as racist and hateful as they are, were playing on very real issues that many working-class Americans had to deal with, namely unemployment and very low wages. Such cartoons and campaigning accomplished a great deal by directing working-class frustrations at certain immigrant groups instead of at the ruling classes that dominated access to resources and refused to pay fair wages. Instead of informing workers how they were being exploited together with Chinese and Irish immigrants, these cartoons exacerbated divisions by confusing the issue.

Likewise, this contemporary political ad plays on American xenophobia in order to advance a political agenda. It is implied that the U.S.A not economically dominating the world is a bad thing. It implied that it was always the plan of the Chinese to enslave the U.S.A. With these implications, it asserts that it will all be accomplished through the political/economic strategy that they oppose: the stimulus package and the A.C.A. Rather than explain their ideology, they misrepresented the opposition's policy and attached it to cultural fears. Both sides engage in misrepresenting the opposition's policies. "Spend and tax" is just as much of a misrepresentation as the "conservative war on women".

This becomes more apparent if we begin our analysis with the commercial's assertion that China holds the majority of U.S.debt, forcing the U.S. to "now work for us." It's a lie. China now holds approximately 8% of U.S. debt, not "the majority". A lie by itself means very little, but if it is attached to cultural fears and bigotry, then it is more able to bring people to its cause.



Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Looking at the Chinese  



by Danny Lopez - Friday, March 7, 2014, 9:38 PM

I also had that kind of view from the video clip. I do agree with your take on the cartoons from the 19th century, and they were stereotypes showing that nativism towards the Chinese. America did feel the treat from migrants just like Irish and German how they were treat, and the Chinese when they came into the west, but they were just used for labor on the construction on the Central Pacific railroad, and did not get any credit to the Chinese.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Looking at the Chinese



by Austin McQuaw - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 10:39 PM

I agree that there are distinct separations between the modern and older cartoons. However, yeah, there are similarities. I don't fully understand what drove the nativists to lean the way they did, but there was a fear of immigrants. With the nativists they were driven in part by strong racism. In the video, they use a message of fear and a possibly racist undertone to push an agenda regarding the economy specifically. I also do not think that it is history repeating itself. I think that the similarities between the two do not parallel each other directly.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Talk about Nativism...



by Zachary Ogborn - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 4:07 PM

Just to share a bit of college knowledge I learned a few terms ago; I had an Ethnic Studies class that highlighted just how 'racist' or Nativist our Current society is... especially in the film businesses/industries. Seeing this Commercial reaffirms and connects the 'historical dots' about how anti-minority sentiment is still rampant within our National culture.

That being said, The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was without a doubt one of the most blatantly offensive, racist, bigoted, and Nativist laws ever passed. To be completely honest, I don't feel that "History is Repeating itself" with anti-Chinese sentiment, I feel as if the Nativist History never necessarily stopped. According to Professor Escobar, *Class lecture - March 4, 2014*, "The only reason our nation decided to rescind the Exclusion Act was because we were at war with The Japanese Empire of World War 2." That's roughly 62 years (The act was declared permanent in 1902) of Anti-Chinese immigration, resentment, and bigotry. The political Cartoons provided shed light on why this was so. With the average Chinese immigrant working for less then what the 'American' wage workers would work for, they became the go-to labour force of the time. This caused severe resentment and fear to begin to avalanche into the Denis Kearney incidents/riots, and eventually to the Exclusion Act itself.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Talk about Nativism...



by Kenneth Green - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 6:16 PM

Wow it's amazing to read your viewpoint. I had overlooked the Exclusion Act in the reading, but was reminded about the Act in class. We seem to argue the same point that "History is not repeating" in comparing the ad with the 19th Century cartoons, but on different levels. I argued we are more enlightened in 2014 and you seem to argue History is not repeating, but continuing. Hard to dispute. I will however point out that a recent study by the Public Religion Research Institute (posted in the HuffPost and in many other places online,) says that Millennials are abandoning religion in droves. Mainly because of it's treatment of LGBT's. Now, that seems like something new in American History. The issue at hand is the ad in this forum, and the fact I'm reading posts that some believe it is History repeating, is evidence that it is not. And the Nativists who shout the loudest to repeat History, are losing ears and the argument. (At least that's what I'm hearing.) In other words, future demographics do not favor Conservative white Republicans. FoxNews has high ratings because most of their viewers can't even turn on a computer. The laws gerrymandering have created are History repeating, suppressing minority voters across the Country. But it's their last gasp, to hold on to 19th Century ideals of "Americanism." The kids are having no part of it. It's why most see the ad as "racist." I just see it as "old white people" propaganda.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Talk about Nativism...



by Danny Lopez - Friday, March 7, 2014, 9:47 PM

I agree with your part on the Exclusion Act of 1882 which was a big part to over racist and nativist law passed. Yes, I do agree with the part that nativist has not stopped, and will continue with the grow the minorities that are coming to America. The Chinese were sure put in the worst conditions in the labor of the construction of the railroads. Then when the railroads were finished they pushed away the Chinese, and the white people didn't give credit to the Chinese as shown on the picture in class.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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The shifting of Nativism



by Danny Lopez - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 8:14 PM

The connections between the Chinese of now and the past in Americas view of behaviors, and attitudes towards the Chinese. In the video it shows how nations have failed, and how America works for China, and this Americas nativism. Knowing that how Americans treated the Chinese when they migrated to the west, and were paid less then other in building the railroads. They also didn't get no recognition of being a big part of railroad construction. The cartoons shown in the forum demonstrate nativism of how the chances came in america as a threat to the people. The naturism has shifted from hating the Irish to the Chinese, as many Chinese migrated to the west. As stated in chapter 18, pages 613-614 the Chinese came here looking for jobs and the Chinese workers had to take low wages

compared to the white workers, and the Chinese were put in hard labor while working in the railroads (Central Pacific Railroad). Just like the Irish were treated poorly so did the Chinese, they had to deal with nativism during that period. Then they had the Exclusion Act of the first law of discrimination of minorities. Before the Chinese, America was treating the same way to the Germans, Irish, and Africans of stealing jobs, and working hard was a big treat to the whites.

Today, there is not that much discrimination or racism, but people still can still show some sort of nativism over how many immigrants are coming to America and taking over jobs because they are wanting to work for any price, and that can bother some people. But America has done better over those things, and I don't see it going backwards.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Exploiting prejudices, stereotypes, and pushing misinformation

by Timothy Wilson-Haley - Friday, March 7, 2014, 12:27 PM

The commercial's narrative of an Eastern power discussing and analyzing "great nations" from an entirely Euro-centric perspective shows its anti-Chinese prejudice. The speaker's words were presented as axioms of all power structures, but there was no mention of "great nations" of the Eastern hemisphere. The only reference to Chinese history was some posters of Mao and other communist icons, meant to show they are unAmerican anti-capitalists. However, the speaker's message is that moving away from unregulated capitalism is bad. We are being told that China is the antithesis of Western capitalist ideals, but they still define themselves by those ideals because they are "obviously" true.

The pale lighting and cold building resemble a dystopic future. The speaker had the perfect resemblance of a James Bond movie villain: in control of wealth and technology, walking in and out of shadows as he speaks, seemingly cold and calculated. The group attending the lecture is studying the strategy of working through Wall Street (or it's implying that Wall Street had been taken over by the government) and all simultaneously laugh as the cunning plan was explained.

All together, we are told that China is a collective mind bent on taking control of the U.S. and the West. It's saying that Americans should be terrified of this villainess country and the trap that the current administration is pushing us into.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Paybacks

by Amanda Daniels - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 3:18 PM

I would say that the message here is not showing history repeating it, but its more of a premonition of what the future holds in store for us. The Chinese's might see it as a sort of a tables turning /sweet revenge on the United States, but honestly you would think that once they came over here and being treated the way they were by Americans, you would think they'd have no desire to stay here anyways. This commercial is very disturbing to me mainly because of how honest it really is, and the fact that the majority of people would be clueless to the message behind it, is even more disturbing.

You can only pay your Visa off with your Master Card and vice versa so much before eventually you've got them both maxed out. And then if you open up a new card to start paying those off you're not getting anywhere except for further in debt. Eventually you will max out all your resources and if you are unable to pay your minimum balance then they (the bank) start the collection process, and if you are unable to get your bills under control at that point often times people end up filing bankruptcy, in which case everything goes back to the bank in an attempt to pay back the debits you've accumulated. At that point the bank calls the shots. They decide what you get to keep what will be sold and so on and you are sort of left to just work and start all over again. Well on a much greater scale that's what our government has done with China except rather than open new credit card accounts they just print more money to pay the minimum monthly payment. You can't do this forever cause you will end up using up all of your resources and eventually you will run out of, in this case money, and be unable to pay that monthly payment etc., etc.. And so since everything goes back to the bank (China in this case), you can guess what happens next? That's right China will be the ones calling the shots, leaving us at their mercy you might say you. They would in a sense, own us, allowing them to implement their policies on us, in an attempt to reduce spending in order to recover some of those debts owed. However, over in China their policies aren't quite the same as ours, In China, you can to a certain extent become whatever you would like to be, but everyone for the most part makes the same amount of money no matter what you are or become. The Chinese only pay an average of 3-5 percent of their total living cost, the rest is subsidized by the government. So basically everyone there works and essentially everyone gets a welfare check on the first of the month to compensate for the gap in the cost of living. No one gets ahead there, everyone is dependent on the government for food, housing and medical, and all land is owned by the government. It's very similar to slavery, except this kind slavery is more of an economical slavery, where slaves are required to feed and house themselves, as opposed to physical slavery, where you as the slave owner, are required to feed and house the slaves yourself. Still the same basic concept just played out a little differently. It's a more subtle, more humane form of slavery I suppose. Although we are the ones in debt with the Chinese, it seems as though we may actually be receiving some payback from them at this point in the game. In the commercial they even laugh about how we work for them now. This commercial is taking place sometime in the future, the year 2030 to be exact, well that's only a mere 16 years from now. How fast have the last 15 years flown by for you?

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Paybacks



by Timothy Wilson-Haley - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 10:37 PM

The argument made by this ad regarding perceived dangers of the current fiscal policy falls apart when it is revealed that China does not own "the majority" of our national debt. Two thirds of the national debt is domestic debt. It is debt that we owe ourselves. Of the roughly one third left that is foreign debt, approximately one quarter of that is held by China. Further, when the specifics of the Federal budget's and the U.S. economy's relationship are known, the comparison of the national debt with a household's credit card debt becomes invalid. Finally, while China does call itself a communist country, I'm sure that the sweat-shop worker who made my t-shirt doesn't get paid the same amount as the sweat-shop owner, which isn't necessarily the

government. Nor is China without U.S. investments and loans and other debt issues, both internal and external.

<http://www.factcheck.org/2013/11/who-holds-our-debt/>

<http://www.rooseveltinstitute.org/new-roosevelt/federal-budget-not-household-budget-here-s-why>

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/itsallpolitics/2013/03/19/174762184/how-the-federal-budget-is-just-like-your-family-budget-or-not>

<http://www.economist.com/node/18928526>

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB1000142405270230455400457942072148445439>

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jackperkowsky/2014/01/21/chinas-debt-how-serious-is-it/>

Now that we know these things, it becomes obvious that this commercial is very similar to these cartoons. It is a fear-mongering piece of propaganda that takes advantage of Americans who are unfamiliar with these issues and are xenophobic to the point of prejudice against cultures, peoples, histories, and concepts they are also unfamiliar with. The speaker is a cleaner looking villain than the knife and gun wielding man but he is still the threat to be feared. The simultaneous laughter resembles the multiple little "chinamen" menacingly coming in through the cracks in the woodwork. The statement "now they work for us" is not different from the image of Uncle Sam being consumed.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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More of the same



by Brian Breedlove - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 4:32 PM

There are a lot of different angles to this topic specifically with the anti-Chinese sentiment, but really concerning our countries still vibrant racial undertones towards all. I really enjoyed the video to be honest. "Of course, we owned most of their debt so now they work for us." Nothing like a little glimpse into a future where America is not leading the pack to open our eyes to the possibilities, especially if our country continually makes the same mistakes. I didn't necessarily find any relationship between the video and the cartoons, but I did notice how the cartoons looked exactly like the anti-black, anti-Irish, and anti-Indian illustrations that have shown up previously this term. They also look similar to anti-north Korean, anti-Taliban, even anti-Mexican political cartoons of today. Our national racism seems to be directed at whoever is in our way at that specific time. The text mentions "the massacre in Rock Springs, Colorado, after Union Pacific Railroad decided to hire Chinese workers" where 28 Chinese workers were murdered. (Pg 613) How many different races and ethnic groups have we as Americans attacked and destroyed for our own gain? Africans, Native Americans, Mexicans, Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Phillipinoes , Native Hawaiians, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans,....I probably could go on for ever and at some point the United States has screwed them over one way or another. It's kinda our thing...unfortunately.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: More of the same



by Jonathon Shimmon - Sunday, March 9, 2014, 5:44 PM

Its a coincidence that you mentioned all of the races and ethnic groups the United States have fought with for our own gain. My friends and I have been thinking that for a while now, and constantly get into conversations about how unfortunate it really is. It seems we have a bad rep in many european nations because of it, and that is only a bad thing, considering the way this world has gone round, with a few world wars, and many other smaller wars between nations. It's a shame what power can do for you sometimes, or need need for more power I should say. As for the video, I can see it becoming a reality, simply because I feel like our nation might be dumbing down a bit when compared with the past. Although I think its due to our advancements, I feel like it isn't so good for us, with all the technology that makes tasks that much easier, like all the things phones can do and whatnot. I do hope however that we can climb out of the debt we are in, although its going to probably take some sacrifices that our powerful selves might not be willing to take.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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History repeating itself?

by Jacob Sanders - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 5:50 PM

I think it's a bit drastic to compare 19th century American immigration issues with the fall of the United States. However, it is a fair to compare the immigration issues and attitudes of the different time periods.

Many Americans during the 19th century felt that the Chinese were in America to do the same jobs for less, thereby putting American employees out of work. This situation is analogous to the current state of affairs we find ourselves in with respect to Mexican immigrants. So in that sense, history is repeating itself.

The U.S. has a long and rather despicable history of ostracizing and subjugating foreigners. It's nothing new. In this sense, it has actually been in our best interest to ignore our founding principles, and embrace change. It has made us a far more ethically upstanding nation. This further invalidates the Chinese mans claim that an empire ignoring it's founding principles is what leads to their inevitable downfall.

The claim that we are ignoring the principles that made us great is a controversial one. The U.S. was founded on the exclusive voting privilege of white, male, land-owners, thereby creating a "democracy" that was intended from its inception to placate the needs of the upper-class. So in some sense, it's a strange criticism to say that we are worse off than we were when we started. Yes we are trillions of dollars in debt, but we also no longer revere the institution of slavery. Times change, situations change.

China and the U.S. are economically dependent each other, so it makes no sense for one or the other to hope for failure in the opposing country. The Chinese want us to have a healthy economy so they can keep selling us their goods. It's in their best interest to keep the empire that is the United States poised for economic health and prosperity.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: History repeating itself?



by Maisie Smith - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 8:39 PM

I agree completely with all of the points that you made. I personally don't believe that we are "ignoring our founding principles". I believe that those principles are still in place and have just been modified to make this country more accepting of others.

China and the US are both two of the largest suppliers in the world. That being said, they are both know for supplying different things, and therefor aren't necessarily competing with each other, and need one another to prosper.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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My take



by Haden Peterson - Sunday, March 9, 2014, 7:43 PM

In the mid 1800s China wasn't looking too good. With a failing economy and an unstable political conditions, China men needed work. With the Gold rush happening in america and the building of the railroads, the chinese thought that it would be a perfect opportunity to move to america and work and then eventually move back to China to their families.

But with the gold rush slowing down the chinese had no choice but to stay and work in the US. More than three quarters of the chinese immigrants lived in California. Very overwhelming to the US and americans thought that chinese were gonna take their jobs with all the immigrants that are coming in.

I think the illustrations illustrate how the US felt about the Chinese in a vulgar but clear way. They were showing that the Chinese were coming to the US and taking all the jobs and doing all the work while the white man was outside with no job. Saying that the Chinese and Irish immigration problems were gonna cost the white men their jobs.

The video to me was kind of interesting. The fact that we use China for the majority of our resources and the US economy is going down, China feels like they're the power state now and they rule over us. To me, I don't think that "history will repeat itself" because the history was far more worse than what would be happening today. Chinese men back then were pretty much getting the same treatment as blacks. Low paying jobs, heavy restrictions on what they could do, say or even wear. I don't see any of that happening again.

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