

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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Not Much Has Changed

by Brian Davis - Monday, March 3, 2014, 10:17 PM

There are stark comparisons to the American people's attitude toward Chinese labor today and in the mid to late 19th century. There was great hostility and resentment back then and it's still prevalent today, it's just not such blatant racism and hatred though. It all stems from a sense that the Chinese are stealing our jobs. You hear about it all the time. People get upset that businesses have their products made in China where there is cheap labor and then export the items here. The same was happening in the mid-19th century except the Chinese were coming here and "taking our jobs". I'm not sure what one would expect a business to do though. From a pure business standpoint of course it makes sense to pay less and that's what the railroad companies did. The men that Chinese labor contractors were recruiting to come work on our railroads in the 1860's were doing the work for less than the white men of the day so they got the jobs. As our book states, "Central Pacific employed a workforce that was by 1867 almost 90 percent Chinese." 12,000 in total worked on the railroad. This created hatred which when mixed with the nativist attitude led

to violence toward the Chinese laborers like the massacre in Rock Springs, Colorado. There's not violence today but there sure is anger and frustration. As a result American companies use this to try and persuade people to buy products made in the USA. Chrysler does this a lot. I see on a lot of their commercials talking about how they are made in Detroit, as if they are saying, "You should buy from us because we employ Americans." Seems as though not much has changed over the past 100 years. Immigrants will do work for cheaper than Americans. I don't think it's so much history repeating itself, I think things have just continued on from the tone set in the late 1800's but with less blatant racism attached.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Chinese Now and Then: At 1st Look

by Robert Johnson - Monday, March 3, 2014, 10:48 PM

So far, I do see a connection between historical attitudes expressed in the cartoons and the current commercial video.

The obvious to me about these cartoon's is, the expression of concern about immigrants taking over, and having control, especially Chinese. For example, the 1st cartoon on the top, to me clearly expresses concerns of competition. China man doing it all, with a small crowd of Americans standing together while a foreigner is being told to leave town, perhaps a Chinese man. Then on the bottom it say's " what shall we do with our boy's ? ". The next two cartoon's show concern in regard to the American government and the Chinese, suggesting the government cut back on the immigration of, and possibly any dependence on the Chinese. These conclusions can be supported with our history book's text, page 613, 614. One example of the government cutting back on Chinese immigration on page 614, The Chinese Exclusion Act.

I think the current commercial video, points out that China owns most of our debt, as seen on many news clips over the past months and years, we owe china trillions of dollars. I think the commercial uses this fact to express concern with China having too much control. In this case perhaps not borrowing so much from China, if that's possible.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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America is a racist country

by Thomas Stevens - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 12:26 AM

[Bill Moyers](#), a journalist who has reported on American politics for over forty years, implied that in a recent 18+ minute YouTube video:

[Video of Bill Moyers](#) 

In the commercial produced by [Citizens Against Government Waste](#), a racist section of the U.S. population is targeted to provoke the fear of a takeover of our country by the Chinese based upon their purchasing of treasury certificates. While they do not state in the

commercial how they intend to take over our country it's a ridiculous argument to make because anyone can purchase those same certificates. It does not offer control of anything, only that the U.S. Government will pay the holder of the note interest on it. If the U.S. Government defaults on that note than there is very little anyone, including the Chinese, can do about it. Defaulting would mean that the U.S. Government would run out of money. That would cause economic chaos as entitlements and defense spending could stop in their tracks.

The cartoons, like the video, also reflect racism that existed in the 1800's. "The Wasp" indicates that the [Scott's Exclusion Act](#) would do little to stem the tide of Chinese workers taking jobs away from Americans that few Americans wanted. "The Octopus China" cartoon also reflected this viewpoint. "The Irish-China eat" reflect that the Irish and Chinese were devouring America with their immigration into this country; that so many were coming to America that it would not be seen as a white protestant country, thus losing its identity. "Yellow Terror" was exceedingly racist in promoting the fear that the Chinese would murder American women.

So, yes history is repeating itself.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: America is a racist country

by Bart Golden - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 5:06 AM

I agree that in many ways racism is alive and well in the good ol USA although in most cases its kept from the open public and left lurking just below the surface but the symbolism is right in your face. for instance "the wasp" I believe wasp stands for "White Anglo Saxon Protestant" any skin head will tell you that. Makes me wonder who is putting out this type of propaganda.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The Swallowing of America

by James Price - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 12:30 AM

I saw a strong connection between the commercial and cartoon number two. Both express a strong fear of an immigrant takeover of the United States. In the cartoon Uncle Sam, representing America, is being swallowed by Irish and Chinese immigrants. For many Americans, especially in California, this may have seemed to be true. The textbook states that "12,000 Chinese laborers ultimately built the Central Pacific Railroad" and that "by 1870 there were 63,000 Chinese in the United States, with over three-quarters settled in California" (p.613). With thousands of immigrants coming to the U.S. every year (textbook p.613), it's easy to see, especially in the West, how anti-Chinese rhetoric started to take

control.

The commercial also exhibits this fear of immigrant takeover by depicting the U.S. as having fallen like other great empires and as having been absorbed by China, who has been steadily buying U.S. debt. Unlike the cartoon this takeover isn't achieved through immigrants, but through opportunism and shrewd economic deals. Regardless of their differences, the end results of the cartoon and the commercial are the same. They are also similar in that they both use a little bit of fact and a lot of insinuation to try and provoke a fear based response.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Video is a representation of the boogeyman

by Thomas Stevens - Thursday, March 6, 2014, 11:59 AM

While I would accept the fact the video is racist, I also see it primarily as a tool to make a case for protecting the U.S. from over spending on social programs. The Chinese have little in the way of safety nets. Although, they have just started to relax the one child policy they have had for many years, it has been incumbent on the son of a Chinese family to provide for his parents in their retirement. This has caused many Chinese families to give away their daughters in adoptions and in some cases infanticide, killing female offspring.

The Chinese economy is developing, there are many issues, pollution is a huge problem in China now. However, in the U.S., it took until 1970's and a Republican President to change that with the passing of the Clean Air Act. China is more then fifty years behind the U.S. in it's social policies, but yet the video portrays them as an advanced society. The Chinese know they are behind us, what they are working on now is developing their economy and one day it will turn inward producing goods for Chinese people.

The video was one sided in presenting a rosy view of China and in my mind, lost its credibility. Individuals who have the brainpower to see past that are better informed than those who don't. Obviously, this video was geared toward the latter.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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It has not changed

by kazu Inaba - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 10:42 AM

I feel that American people is doing exactly same thing between these cartoons and the commercial. In the 19th century, American people took Chinese people for building railroad even though Chinese were able to get cheap salary. And, 90% of Central pacific employee were Chinese. In my opinion, it was also kind of slave because even though they didn't get food and house, they were forced to work, got violent from white people, and got minimum wages. Also, Chinese women was traded to come to America for doing sex. Nowadays, it does not happen, but racism is still existence, just like the commercial. Probably, even though white people don't say about Chinese people in public, they are still thinking same thing as much as they thought 100 years ago. That is why this commercial is one of the

proofs how American people think about Chinese.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: It has not changed

by Shane Escalera - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 12:47 PM

Your post has meaning. The United States does nothing to help prevent racism. I believe racism was made up by government and leaders, through propaganda. Though Chinese and African Americans suffered through some hard times, its important to know because of them our country was built. Who's to say Phil night doesn't use slave labor through his practice of setting up shop in different countries?

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: It has not changed

by kazu Inaba - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 6:50 PM

I agree with your opinion. Any of companies doesn't use slave, but my point is that a lot of companies, which are low wages job, hire Chinese instead of American because of they can cut the cost in order to hire Chinese even though a lot of American people still need jobs. In this case, it has not changed the situation.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: It has not changed

by Matthew Rice - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 11:54 PM

i have to agree, i am sure you have heard the saying the american railroad was built on Irish Whiskey and Chinese tea. the new coming immigrants wanted to work, they didn't care about the wages that they would get, and i think a lot of this comes to the fact that they could do better over here then over in the original country. if you want a good example, look at over in china right now, they don't get paid much at all, but if they came over here they would make a lot more. america was the land of opportunity and freedom, sadly america has always had a problem with people coming in, this issue doesn't go away, but it does change the people that it deals with

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: It has not changed

by Courtney Reeser - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 7:47 PM

Well to say nothing has changed I feel is a stretch. Plenty has changed yes people still

may think and mutter racial slurs about groups and feel jobs are being taken by minorities . These people are the people who have been secluded, sheltered, kept in the dark. Todays generation is about acceptance. "racism" is a social construct by definition. It was created by people to segregate each other but isn't that what religion is as well? A belief system to specify what group we fall into. China has given the world many things and helped forge the landscape we see every day. The American way is instant gratification with little work, slave labor happened to many groups of people in this country. The Chinese just happened to be that group in the time period. There are many countries that still do not have labor laws and yes American companies set up manufacturing stations to take advantage of this, but never we will not see slave labor in the us anytime soon.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Biggest fear of the time period



by Courtney Reeser - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 8:10 PM

The cartoon and commercial are very relevant in Todays society. In the case of the American power house falling due to debt and being taken over is very real. We have moved to a AA country, our health care is in shambles, on top of it most American don't understand simple economics, Our education system is terrible on the global scale. As Americans we shouldn't be considered a world power. Our "stimulus" doesn't help, inflation does no good. The fear derives from the fact of the unknown. Knowledge is power and the Chinese are efficient, educated, and structured. the "take over" is already in full swing.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Biggest fear of the time period



by Agina Hale - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 8:55 PM

I've been mulling this over, and trying to find a way to say this in the most effective way. You beat me to the punch. I think that people have to realize that it's human nature to disagree with a country or culture and not have it be about race. The clip is based on a real fear that we have. We haven't been on "top" for some time, but unfortunately we keep believing we are, which gives us no goals to strive for. Today, we are giving 1bil to ukraine, and my first thought was-oh, we are borrowing it from China? It's just a real reality.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Biggest fear of the time period



by Matthew Rice - Friday, March 7, 2014, 2:23 AM

i agree and disagree the majority of the Chinese population over in china

are not that well educated, only the up class or elite over in china are well educated. sadly a lot of the problems you mentioned can be fixed if we turn our attention to our problems instead of worrying about what other people are doing, and giving out a lot, and our money to fix their problems. most people are surprised that most of the debt that america has isn't owed to other countries, it is owed to our self, now i am not saying that other countries don't own a desinet part of american debt. we are also not helping our self with all of the internal political fighting. as a country we are deeply divided on a lot of our issues and how to solve them. as Ben. Franklin said you have a republic if you can keep it. american will not be taken over by and invading force or economic force, america will die internally, it will die from with in, not with a bang or a shout, but a silent whisper, a cry of sadness.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Biggest fear of the time period(biggest threat to freedom)

by Bart Golden - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 5:42 AM

I think you pretty much hit the nail on the head. America is snowballing out of control towards economic collapse it's not a matter of "if" any more just "when". And it is the doing of the racist and elitist that run our fine corperatastocracy. Sadly the fault lays on us for allowing it. All Evil needs to succeed is for GOOD MEN TO DO NOTHING. I see opportunity after opportunity for change pass while cowards in our leadership turn their heads and act as if all is well. I wonder if things will improve under Chinese rule.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: It has not changed

by Shane Escalera - Thursday, March 6, 2014, 12:00 PM

If I were a preacher i could talk someone into being Christian but not into being black white or Asian or whatever race they are. Apples and oranges are both round and fruits. Same shape, though they look different and taste different. Anyways... we our slaves in our society, like it or lump it. The devilish way is instant gratification, but I can see why you think its the american way. Truth is though its everywhere in the world.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Today's generation

by Thomas Stevens - Friday, March 7, 2014, 3:16 PM

You state that, "Todays generation is about acceptance". I am not sure that I understand that statement.

Are you saying that people today, if they're young, are not racist? Surely, we would understand if racism would somehow be buried as opposed to more open. But, I do not understand how it could have all of sudden evaporated.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: It has not changed

by Matt Hauge - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 11:30 PM

Kazu,

I could not disagree with you more. Although the commercial is slightly racist, it is more about the fear of the collapse of the United States, and a newer super power, which is China, taking our place as one of the "Great Empires". The fear during the 19th century was more about losing jobs to the new work force that was coming in by the droves. The fear became reality and many white protestant railroad workers did lose their jobs on the Central Pacific Railroad, or were just never hired. In my opinion, this type of fear in regards to foreigners taking jobs is being repeated with the immigration of Hispanic and Mexican laborers, and the resentment attached that companies can take advantage and pay less.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: It has not changed

by Karlie Edwards - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 11:30 PM

I agree all of these points are significantly true. The feeling toward the chinese is the same and has not changed much. Even if racism is not put out there directly it is still present in todays society. I think these feelings of hatred have become stronger with our growing debt to China. Our society has changed where there are now consequences and punishment for direct racism, so its not as in your face as it was then, but these cartoons show the feeling as well as the commercial that many Americans hold. There are slight changes to how these feelings are presented today, but the message still gets across. At the end of the commercial the chinese were laughing at americans, which shows that they do hold a certain amount of power, which makes Americans very uncomfortable.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The more things change, the more they stay the same.

by Rae Gardner - Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 9:02 PM

There are striking similarities in the commercial and cartoons. They are all racially motivated to show the Chinese as a threat to the American way of life. They are all made to

inspire a sense of fear and resentment. I do feel there is both valid points being made as well as history repeating itself.

Yes a lot of our labor and products we buy are from overseas which provides a valid point that is being abused to sensationalize and cast the Chinese in a negative and threatening manner. This is just history repeating itself when the Chinese were willing to work cheaper than everyone else. It was not a desire to take over but a desire to work towards their own American dream. Fear is a great motivator and when it is being roused in the general populace who are already facing economic troubles it will eventually breed racism and resentment.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: The more things change, the more they stay the same.

by James Price - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 12:41 AM

I mostly agree with you, but I don't think this is an example of history repeating itself. While there are many similarities between the events represented in the commercial and the cartoons, there are also many differences between the two. One example is the difference in location. The cartoons all represent the "threat" the Chinese posed to Americans on American soil, but the commercial expresses the "threat" the Chinese pose from China. Because no two events happen in exactly the same manner, I don't know that any historical event can truly be repeated.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The more things change, the more they stay the same.

by Matt Hauge - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 11:31 PM

James,

I agree that this is not history repeating itself, but it does show the sense of fear Americans feel when it comes to change, especially in regards to foreign change. The way Chinese people are viewed by Americans now and then is vastly different even if in a racist sort of way. I would argue that history in many ways is repeating it self when one reads, observes, and listens to the immigration question about Hispanics. I would ask you, have you ever heard an American express negative views when it comes to Mexicans or other Hispanic groups taking jobs?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The more things change, the more they stay the same.

by James Price - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 8:21 PM

I would disagree that the American response to immigration issues concerning the Chinese is repeating itself with Hispanic people. The

percentage of Americans "taking up arms" against Hispanic immigration is much smaller and the governmental response to these two issues has been different. Also, Hispanic immigration issues focus more on illegal immigrants, while the Chinese were discriminated against regardless of their legal status.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: WELL PUT Re: The more things change,



by Bart Golden - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 12:54 PM

I agree, the biggest difference between the commercial and the cartoons is the "threat on US soil" has changed to "a threat from overseas" however I think that the threat itself has also changed from the "threat of cheap labor" to the "threat of economic destruction" with the buying up US debt

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Repetition of Nativism and Racism



by Matt Hauge - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 11:18 PM

The initial connection that I have deduced is the fear of change. The United States, especially when it comes to ethnic change, usually has a sort of machine gun effect of the masses being scared of a new era. Whether it is the Irish, African American, Chinese, or Hispanics coming into the work force. The first three cartoons really hit this idea on the head.

The first cartoon illustrates a man from China with eleven arms, sowing, building, banking, painting, and writing. The arms represent all of the Chinese immigrants as a whole. Moreover, the way his face is depicted is ugly, and almost malformed showing the negative view of the "China-man". Outside of the building a group of white protestant men have no work, and seem to be brain storming on how to get work. All in all, it is saying they cannot get work because of the immigrants willingness to work for cheap, and do any job.

The second cartoon is a statement about the trans-continental railroad. From the west, building eastward, starting in Sacramento, California Central Pacific Railroad was hiring in mass Chinese immigrants to work on the railroad for cheaper prices, and in a sort of union busting way. From the east, building westward, starting in Omaha, Nebraska the Union Pacific Railroad was hiring predominately Irish workers because the railroad could pay them less as well. This cartoon illustrates that both immigrants are taking jobs, and the country away from already settled Americans.

The third cartoon is a little more difficult for me to understand. Most of the white tags around the cartoon are ineligible for me to read. I could not find any supplemental information in our textbook about the "Scott's Act" so I turned to the Federal Judiciary Center, it is stated "Under the new law, no Chinese laborers could enter the United States, regardless of prior residence. The residence certificates were declared void, and the exclusion of Chinese laborers was made without time limit. The policy would remain in place, with some amendments, until 1943."

(www.fjc.gov/history/home.nsf/page/tu_exclusion_doc_4.html) In summary if a Chinese immigrant were to leave the U.S. they were not allowed to return. The cartoon illustrates Uncle Sam holding the door closed on Chinese immigrants, and the immigrants are literally coming out of the woodwork to return to the States.

The final cartoon is a much more belligerent illustration about a Chinese immigrant standing over a murdered white protestant women. I think the underlying statement is the fear of a Chinese take over. Not necessarily by force, but by more of a cultural, and inter-ethnic marriage way.

I do not agree that the commercial is a "repeat in history" but more of a fear about the U.S. collapsing, and the Chinese becoming the new super power of the world. I believe the closet thing we have in regards to a repeat in history is the immigration of Hispanic peoples coming into the country. I have heard the same sentiments about specifically Mexican people taking jobs from Americans, and being paid less for the same job. In the 19th century not a single country feared China becoming a world power. They were imperialized, and were no where close to a fully industrialized nation

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Repetition of Nativism and Racism



by Bart Golden - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 1:45 PM

I read your post and it made me take another look at the forum topic materials. You make some excellent interpretations. I was not seeing a lot of the symbolism for what it actually was. It makes a lot more sense to me now. I would like to say that the jobs that are being taken by the Hispanics or the Chinese for the most part are jobs that Americans won't do or don't want. I think we are generally lazy. Most Americans would rather bitch and complain than work manual labor. We say that because they will work for less pay but they work harder and without complaining. They're happy they are working and we're trying to get sent home early.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Not really a disclaimer..



by Agina Hale - Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 11:47 PM

Before every bad joke there is the disclaimer, and I feel like I need to do that now..

One of the things that I've studied is the sociological reasons for our actions. A going theory for me is that racism while it is fixated on the literal aspects of a person's race. The problem in its simplest form is non-conformity. Humans are social creatures, we thrive with interaction and actively seek out a sense of feeling like we belong. The primitive nature is very precarious. We are jealous and fearful of losing what we have, and constantly have to prove we deserve what we have.

Basically, our fragile egos will always feel threatened by the outsider. A good example of this is pride: country pride, regional pride, state pride, city, neighborhood etc. Basing irrational fears on the premise of race, country, sexual orientation etc. subconsciously is

normal. However, our higher functioning rational allows us to locate irrational fears.

Which means.....

I can't help but see the question of this topic split into two. Country. Race. Economically, we aren't superior anymore, and being concerned that we are being "taken over" is a fear of ours. We have had this same concern with German or Scandinavian investors, although when I was a kid-it was the concern of the Japanese. If we were being brutally honest, collectively, we would say we'd prefer to be taken over by the German or Scandinavian investors-as opposed to Japanese or Chinese. I think slapping the label of race, doesn't sufficiently answer the question. I truly believe that it's more of a fear of culture and way of life. We see Germans and Scandinavians as more similar in the Anglicized culture, and when push comes to shove, religiously similar when compared to Buddhism or Shinto.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Well put, have you considered religion?

by Thomas Stevens - Friday, March 7, 2014, 3:06 PM

Now, I don't suggest that as something you should take up, but rather as an illustration to your point that we "actively seek out a sense of feeling like we belong". Yes, I agree with your premise, humans need to feel connected to people.

I would also mention that most Americans are more closely aligned to German or Scandinavians by nature of our DNA and that is why we feel less threatened by a takeover of our country by the Europeans than the Asians. It's as if we are trying to preserve our structure by maintaining dominance of our biology.

Perhaps that is also why many Americans feel so threatened by African Americans, because they appear to be so different?

Surely you know that I am not joking.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Well put, have you considered religion?

by Bart Golden - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 1:07 PM

What your saying actually makes a valid point. People fear the unknown. Weather it is appearances or culture or both, the less familiar we are the more fear there will be. Racism is just a manifestation of fear. In fact its difficult to imagine hate on any level without it being driven by fear and of coarse ignorance

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Placing Blame

by Kira Iantorno - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 1:39 PM

I do feel the situation is the same, but for a much different reason. Then and now we have blamed the immigrants for "Taking our jobs" yet many people are not blaming the right group. The business or corporations that choose to employ immigrants or move factories to other country are the reason America is losing jobs. It is inconsiderate to blame hard working immigrants who on top of it getting paid half of what nonimmigrants get paid are only excepting work offered by the business. If business didn't offer the work then there would be no work for immigrants "to take". They are like all people coming to America, they are looking for opportunity. The greed of business then and now have not changed, much like Mr. Stanford we have people in this country that are willing to get what they want despite ramifications of the country or the people.

We still today blame many Mexicans for "Taking our jobs" today but we don't hear people turning in greedy businesses for hiring them very often. Racism is an easy out for people to use when angry about something, yet if one takes the time to step back and see the real problem they will see the problem is much more complex. The only people that are taking over this country are Big Business.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Placing Blame



by Rae Gardner - Saturday, March 8, 2014, 7:19 PM

You bring up really excellent points. The general fear of the immigrant taking our jobs is almost like a smokescreen. Doing something with our left hand to hide what our right hand is doing so to speak.

Businesses hire immigrants yet they are hardly ever brought up as the issue. It is not the immigrants fault for being willing to work for a lower wage, it is the fault of the business willing to take advantage of those situations while at the same time creating an issue to redirect blame.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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