

Forum 4



Chinese Then & Now

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 10:22 AM

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

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. 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: Chinese Then & Now

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What could happen

by Jordan Towe - Monday, March 2, 2015, 1:28 PM

I first started with the video and noticed that what they said in the video very well could become true. What they have in the video evidence wise is pretty spot on as we do owe the Chinese a good amount of debt. The Chinese could become the next great country and america could become the next great country to fall. The first cartoon that i saw showed that there was a Chinese man doing almost everything and taking over all of the jobs and leaving the americans outside wondering what to do. The next one shows uncle sam being swallowed by a Chinese man and an Irish man. This is portraying that the Irish would start to take from the east and the Chinese from the west and they would take America if things didn't change. The next one shows how we are trying to confine the Chinese into one area so that they couldn't take over the country. The door reads Scotts exclusion act and its on the door of the container for the Chinese. But they are still escaping from the containment. The last one portrays the Chinese as just running through america killing citizens and saying that the Asian people are yellow and not people but rather some type of different creature.

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Who is being attacked?

by Aj Glessner - Monday, March 2, 2015, 5:57 PM

I think the biggest difference between the current commercial and the cartoons of the past is the focus of the attack. I didn't see the video as an attack against the Chinese. I saw it is an attack on the US, acknowledging the fact that if the US's debt to China gets any more out of control the country could end up "owning" the US. The cartoons however are much more derogatory and aimed at defaming the Chinese immigrants. The cartoons

are attacking the Chinese while the commercial attacked the US government.

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Re: Who is being attacked?

by [Jesse Bowman](#) - Thursday, March 5, 2015, 9:23 AM

I would have to disagree to a degree. The commercial posed from CAGW seem to indicate a warning to the U.S about the **potential** possibility for the Chinese Gov. to take over [our jobs] America if we continue to rely on the them in the **future**. The discrimination level between this video and the "The Chinese Question Again" cartoon seem to parallel each other dramatically in the warning they give.

I interpreted it the information Escobar displayed in for forms for us to read to has as discriminatory towards the Chinese, the only difference I noticed while watching the commercial was the attempt by the 21st century producers to be politically correct.

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Re: Who is being attacked?

by [Cesar Rodriguez](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 12:27 AM

I would argue and say that China is already one of the great countries and that the video shows a modern demonstration of what the old political cartoons are demonstrating or carry the same message as them. That message being that the Chinese are the enemy and are coming for our jobs and coming to take over.

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Re: Who is being attacked?

by [Cody Garrison](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 4:54 PM

I agree but disagree as well. I see that commercial as a slap in the face to America, pretty much saying "you dumb asses, you should have listened". The cartoons show that Chinese immigrants were pretty much slaves but could handle double the work load. It shows the Americans pretty much utilizing their cheap labor while we sit back and collect the reward. I feel that the United States is laughed at due to our greedy antics and our ungratefulness.

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Re: Chinese Then & Now

by [Alec Schauer](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 11:17 PM

In the cartoons I feel that there was worry that all the foreign laborers were going to overtake the United States. In the one cartoon there was a picture of an Irishman and a Chinese man swallowing Uncle Sam saying it was the great fear of the period. What I gather from these cartoons is there so many jobs going to foreign workers like the Chinese that it was a fear that they would take over and take all jobs like from the picture of the Chinese man with all the arms doing all different sorts of jobs. Then the recent video I think relates to this fear because we import SO MANY goods from China and run a huge debt to them that people feel that one day the payment for the debt will result in America being owned by China. I can't remember the last time not seeing at least one "Made in China" item in a day. So I feel that the fear is somewhat the same just in a different context.

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The Perpetual discrimination of Asians in American Culture

by [Jesse Bowman](#) - Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 10:56 PM

Escobar has repeatedly drilled into our heads the idea of repeating theme of American history and seems to me that the 19th century was prominent with these themes. American Nativism consists of the 3 elements; Anti-radical, anti-catholic, and racial nativism.

Curiously, immigration between the Irish catholics and the Chinese happened nearly at the same time in the 1840's & 1850's yet I would argue that the discrimination of the former still exists to this day. The discrimination towards the Irish settlers seemed to focus on the issue of the mass amounts of the immigrants coming off the harbor and into the street every month, along with their associating with alcohol during the "popular" Temperance movement, "The drunkenness and rowdiness they associated with Irish immigrants became one of their particular targets...12 states had enacted prohibition laws by 1855." (L.E.P., 476) Granted, the Protestant Whigs also had issue with the Catholicism the Irish supported when it came to reforming schools, but that seemed to be dwarfed by the pure immigration/drunkenness issue alone.

As for the Chinese, it seems the discrimination they faced were long-lasting and more extreme. For example, California issued a Foreign Miner's Tax in 1850 that in just two years evolved into target Chinese immigrants (L.E.P., 613). Violence happened between both groups of immigrants, yet the discrimination subdued with the Irish but the Chinese continued to face harsh treatment. The Chinese Exclusion Act interests me very much, because of fear of losing jobs in America, the federal government banned immigration from China for 10 years. HOWEVER, the government allowed Chinese businessmen and merchants to enter because of their trading interest. Sounds very similar to today's aspects, as we currently owe China upwards of \$5 trillion in debt yet instead of being grateful to another nation we get to watch a commercial by CAGW with an extremely similar anti-Chinese sentiment towards stealing American jobs.

Source for debt breakdown: <http://usgovinfo.about.com/od/moneymatters/ss/How-Much-US-Debt-Does-China-Own.htm>

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Re: The Perpetual discrimination of Asians in American Culture

by [Jesse Bowman](#) - Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 1:15 AM

edit* latter, not former.

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Re: The Perpetual discrimination of Asians in American Culture

by [Jesse Bowman](#) - Thursday, March 5, 2015, 9:16 AM

Continuation of Discrimination Follow Up:

Some may argue that the persecution of the Irish was equal or even greater than that of the Chinese, but I would argue that pure legislation states differently. Some would say that the emergence of the brief party the "Know Nothing" were developed in opposition to the Irish and had extended influence discrimination towards the Irish by influencing popular sentiments like N.I.N.A (No Irish Need Apply, a popular ad that the Irish noticed as pure discrimination towards them gaining jobs on American soil). However, by 1900, the discrimination towards the Irish largely ended while the discrimination towards the Asian culture continued.

The Asian culture has faced severe legislative discrimination in America for an

extensive time, for example, the previously mention Chinese Exclusion Act was not repealed until 1943. Ignoring the Cold War and moving on to more recent and more frightening questionable discrimination even, in 2011 the 12th US congress banned NASA from using funds to host Chinese visitors at Nasa facilities (Sargent&Shea, 31).

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Re: Chinese Then & Now

by [Thea Van Kessel](#) - Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 1:43 PM

The main difference between the video and the cartoons is that they are directed at the same audience for different purposes. In addition to this, they portray the Chinese in two completely different ways.

Both the video and the cartoons are intended to be directed at the American people. In the video the group of Chinese people is portrayed as intelligent, organized, and powerful. They are sitting in a lecture hall while the man gives a speech on the failings of powerful countries, and we are one of them. I believe the video's intention is to warn the people of the United States that we need to take care of our financial crisis so that we don't end up as just another powerful country that has failed. The cartoons however, portray the Chinese as infesting the United States and taking over all the jobs. The cartoons were meant to make people support Chinese exclusion. In the first cartoon for example, there is a Chinese man with a bunch of arms doing a bunch of different tasks. This cartoon is portraying the attitude that if more Chinese people keep being let into the country, they will simply take all of the jobs.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Chinese Then & Now

by [Cesar Rodriguez](#) - Sunday, March 8, 2015, 12:34 AM

I see where you are coming from and can totally see your point of view, but to me the video seemed more hostile. Yes the Chinese are being portrayed in a better light, but the video made me feel like it wasn't Americas fault but instead the Chinese were the enemy and were to blame until the end where it said we have to change, never the less it still made me feel like the video was anti-chinese and went in line with the cartoons.

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America Repossessed

by [Michael Silva](#) - Thursday, March 5, 2015, 11:23 AM

As adults we pay bills and understand what they mean. We also understand if we don't pay said bills the bank will come in and repossess our things. The same could be said for the government and the United states in general. Its not an attack from the Chinese they are loaning us huge amounts of money to keep our bad spending habits alive. So what if they are in it to make an advantage, fair is fair. We agreed to take money from them knowing what it meant. As my grandfather said we made the bed now we have to sleep in it. Unless we cut spending and figure our own government out before judging other governments an easy time line can be predicted. The comics on the other hand were general fear of outsiders that has existed for what I assume is forever. "They will come and take our jobs" In my opinion the separation of people is one of our worlds greatest weaknesses. Instead of separation see them as neighbors and friends people who have joined your community not villains here to hurt us. Just as you would be happy hearing a friend found work we should be happy when someone came all the way to your community and they found happiness and position.

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Re: America Repossessed

by [Cody Garrison](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 5:01 PM

Yes! If we make the bed we do have to sleep in it. Our society is a huge throw away society. We love to spend money regardless if we have to borrow, borrow, and borrow! I think the commercial just tells us that we played the game wrong. We jumped the gun and now we have to pay. I think that our society needs to step back and really re-adjust our ways of life. It is kind of like karma, we treated the Chinese like crap when they came knocking on our doors and now they are sitting in their wealth, laughing at the giant pile of dept owed by the USA.

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Re: Chinese Then & Now

by [Stanley Cates](#) - Friday, March 6, 2015, 12:14 AM

Yeah, the US owes China quite a large sum of money, however, China's economy depends in large part on the US buying it's consumer products. It's really a rather interesting predicament. China needs us to buy their stuff, and we need China to make cheap stuff that we can afford. Currently the Chinese aren't actually taking any American jobs, because you can't make the goods we buy from China in America and still expect the average American to be able to afford to buy it. In the 18th century that's not true; the Chinese are physically present in the United States performing tasks that could be done by Americans; but would Americans be willing to work as cheaply?

Nativism creates an environment which produces the availability of cheap labor by institutionalizing prejudice. You could quite simply get away with paying a Chinese; or Irish; laborer less than you would need to pay a white protestant worker to do equivalent tasks. The cartoons both illustrate this and try to cover it up. With the idea of modern day migrant workers in mind I wouldn't say history is repeating itself so much as we are continuing what has been happening all along. As far as the video is concerned, I see it somewhat similar to the cartoons in the fact that it's purpose is to stir up fear over foreign labor but does little to address the underlying reason for our dependence on it.

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"History doesn't repeat itself, but it does rhyme."

by [Kai Seltman](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 7:21 PM

I definitely see the similarities between Anti-Chinese sentiments expressed in the video, and past Anti-Chinese sentiments expressed in the cartoons. In a nutshell, both imply that China will lead to the economic downfall of the United States. When it comes to the validity of this rather brazen notion, I am not as certain.

Admittedly, 'Chinamen' were a threat to the working class men of 19th century United States. After the Civil War and the disastrous Restoration period, many citizens, especially Southerners, were in financial distress. It would be easy to understand why they feared foreign competition for jobs, especially when the Chinese were willing to work for less. A century later, China continues to pose as a threat. China is rapidly developing to become one of the greatest economic forces in the world, and the Chinese government is known for its despotism, for example, their treatment of Tibet and its harsh censorship of any source of media that dares to speak up against the government. However, I feel it is a bit of a stretch, and not to mention egocentric, for the commercial to imply that 'the big bad Communist country' has some sort of diabolical plan to take over the US. The same goes for the political cartoons of the 19th century; the Chinese immigrants did not intend to 'invade' the US, they simply wanted a better life for themselves (although history class on Tuesday taught me that they were gravely

letdown.) Ultimately, both are examples of propaganda. Propaganda is based on just enough truth so that it wouldn't be inconceivable; however, its function is not to spread the truth, but to manipulate the public by instilling fear.

Although the exact nature of the attitude towards Chinese have changed over the century, (we wouldn't justify murder just because the victim was Chinese) what does remain are the xenophobic tendencies of people and political exploitation of them. In class, we discussed Denis Kearney, who milked nativist sentiment to gain the public's approval. According to Wikipedia, Kearney initially even encouraged workers to be "thrifty and industrious like the Chinese." I specifically remember hearing in class that Denis Kearney resorted to making a spectacle out of his racist tirade and riling up the crowd "because they didn't really respond to other political platforms." Similarly, the commercial aims to strike fear in Americans to promote their fiscally conservative cause. I agree with Mr. Escobar when he said in class that the well-worn quote, "history repeats itself" is an overstatement. Mark Twain worded it more aptly: "History doesn't repeat itself, but it does rhyme."

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Re: Chinese Then & Now

by [Erik Umenhofer](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 8:34 PM

All of the Chinese cartoons that are posted have a relevance to one another, in fact they all show the fear that Americans had of Chinese taking their jobs. The video based in the future says that the Americans spent too much creating a debt and taxed their people in to the ground to where the other countries could take advantage of our waste in money and no productivity so they could insert labor in to our country and also control us, do to are large debt to them. So the cartoons correspond to the video in the sense of the Americans fears at that time of the Chinese coming over and taking their jobs, which in turn could mean taking control of our country.

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Re: Chinese Then & Now

by [Thea Van Kessel](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 11:22 PM

I agree. The one thing they all have in common is definitely an American fear over the power of the people of China. The cartoons are of course more rude and racist but they still do show a sense of the United States being afraid of the "damage" that the Chinese immigrants could cause. In the cartoons it is a fear that they will take all of the jobs and in the commercial it is basically the same thing except instead of them taking our jobs they are making us do our jobs for them. The purpose of the commercial wasn't to shut them out of the country though like it was in the cartoons; the commercial was more to open our eyes to the hole that our country seems to be digging as far as debt goes.

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They took our jobs!

by [Erik Fischer](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 11:50 PM

I feel like this is the underlying message of both the video and the cartoons. First the laborers of the 19th century were worried about the Chinese immigrants taking their jobs by working cheaper so they used racism to ban them from immigrating into the US and taking jobs directly. Now they are worried about owing China huge amounts of money because everything is made in China for lower prices. It comes down to the Chinese working for less. If you ban them from America then they'll make goods in China and still undercut the American workers by importing them for less than goods made in the US.

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