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**Chinese Then & Now**

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, February 28, 2015, 10:21 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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**wasteful spending = working for China ?**

by Adam Graves - Monday, March 2, 2015, 10:50 AM

The connection to me seems to be primarily a racial one. The video seems to focus on the debt we owe China and has an ominous tone that we will be all owned by the China if we don't cut wasteful government spending. The cartoon's all seem to infer to the use of Chinese laborers that came during the gold rush and then ended up working on the transcontinental railroad. The text book states that even before working on the railroad Chinese "laborers faced extremes of prejudice from white nativists" (pg.613) Nativists were angry that Chinese were taking jobs away from them. Both the video and carton seem to capitalize on the fear of foreigner's taking over; ruling in the late 19th century the job market, and in the video eventually owning America due to the amount of debt the United States owes them.

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**A Constant Fear**

by Delaney Crook - Monday, March 2, 2015, 1:36 PM

Based on the information from the video, the political cartoons, and the book it seems to me that this issue with the Chinese is one of constant fear that the Chinese have and will continue to control the United States. It starts out in the book and with the political cartoons with the discrimination towards Chinese laborers, and the amount that came to the United States to work. This was proven with the Chinese Exclusion Act, which suspended Chinese immigration for ten years, with the exception of a few job categories. It seems from this time on the United States has feared the Chinese and their ability to control our country.

This then leads to the video where the Chinese are talking about the United States and if we do not control government spending we will essentially belong to them, because our debt is owed to them, which contributes to our fear of the Chinese controlling the United States. This is shown in the political cartoons. The one that stood out to me was Uncle Sam being swallowed by foreigners. This cartoon exemplifies our worry of being "swallowed" by the Chinese. I think we are seeing history repeat itself, in somewhat of a different way. We are still afraid and trying to not let the Chinese take over and control our country, but rather than trying to control immigration of the Chinese, we are attempting to control our own government spending so we do not owe the Chinese and allow us to belong to them.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1) 2

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Re: A Constant Fear

by [Delaney Crook](#) - Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 10:02 AM

After the lecture in class on Tuesday, there were a few ideas brought up that added to my thoughts and ideas about this constant fear the United States has of the Chinese. In class it was talked about how Leland Stanford was anti-Chinese, but then needed and used them to help build the railroad. He then praised their work and said that it could not have been done without them, but after it was finished he was back to being anti-Chinese. This idea of the Chinese was never fixed, but just changed in America. This was also seen in World War II, where the Chinese fought along side the United States against Japan. Yet, even today we still fear that the Chinese can and will control us if we do not control our own government spending. These examples have led me to believe that while we do have this constant fear of the authority and power of the Chinese, we still need and use them to help us achieve what it is we need done. It seems that there is a fine line between respect and fear between the United States and China, and Americans are unsure of where we stand on it.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1) 2

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Re: A Constant Fear

by [Candice Oster](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 8:47 AM

I agree with your posts. They line this issue up well. Stanford's anti-Chinese stand really shows with the photo of the railroad completion in Promontory Point, Utah, where no Chinese are present. They put in the work under harsh conditions and low pay. These conditions had already been put into place before the railroad. The textbook states, on page 613, "Chinese miners and laborers faced extremes of prejudice from white nativist." The same racial nativism that was taking place in the south with legal segregation, had been going on with the Chinese from the beginning. It is still clear that we have the same racial nativism today; there is still the feeling that we need to protect our "own interests".

Sum of ratings: 2 (1) 2

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Re: A Constant Fear

by [Candice Oster](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 9:05 AM

I also think I should add that the racial nativism went to the extreme with the Chinese Exclusion Act. I find it interesting that, according to the textbook on page 614, the population of Chinese declined from 1880-1900, however immigration from other groups rose.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1) 1

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Re: A Constant Fear

by [Carson Raz](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 2:05 PM



I think you hit the nail right on the head here. The main theme I noticed in the video and the cartoons is a fear of the Chinese gaining power and control. Unfortunately we already owe the Chinese millions so in a sense that video of us working for them is pretty accurate. At least for the rest of our lifetimes America will owe China money aka tax payer money aka your money aka we kinda work for China. The difference from the video and the cartoons though is in the video America works for China but in the cartoons China works for America. So in 100 years the script has somewhat flipped. Clearly we are not being sent over to build railroads but some of our hard works benefit is being reaped by the Chinese. Biggest difference is White America is way more racist especially 100 years ago.

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Payable to the Chinese Government

by [Colt Eubank](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 2:51 PM

After carefully examining the cartoons, the video, and the text book it seems as though times have changed, but not much. In the late 19th century Americans feared that the foreigners were going to take all the jobs away from our lower class. Back then this was expressed via racist cartoons and propaganda. The same thing is going on today with the immigration issue with illegal aliens taking the lower class jobs. Today however the issue is not handled with racist cartoons, but with news and government agencies. The video is just another way to express the growing concern of our debt crisis. This is an important issue and something needs to be done to, at the very least, slow the growth of our enormous debt. I for one do not want to be in so deep to any government let alone the Chinese government.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: Payable to the Chinese Government

by [Trinidad Delgado](#) - Friday, March 6, 2015, 10:47 PM

I can mostly agree to your response. People in the 19th century indeed feared that the Chinese would take their jobs, which promoted discrimination and can be seen today with illegal immigrants. I do not think that the illegals that come here take other peoples jobs quickly because they take whatever they can to support their families. The media over expose them in an inferior way, which encourage prejudice and hate. We accumulate debt by repeatedly deporting them that is very costly. If we gave the Chinese a chance to work, we can give illegal immigrants a chance to boost our economy.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: Payable to the Chinese Government

by [Rachelle Diffenderfer](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 2:00 PM

I can understand your point of view, and relate to your feelings. Yet in class Joe mentioned that there were cases when only one or two Chinese were hired and their job was to solely walk in and out of the building as to create the fear that the Chinese were taking over the job market. I'm sure there was plenty of scenarios like that one. Also as Joe pointed out in the picture of the Union and Central Pacific Railroads meeting there is not a single Chinese man there. While I do know that the railway would not have been completed in such a timely manner without them it still would have gotten done. As for the connection to today's economy I surely don't want to be indebted to another country any more then we already are. The racism that was shown back then is still in full effect to this very day, the cartoons are still being made

but you have to dig deeper for them. Yes the news covers the situations but they tend to show a fairly neutral point of view in fear of retaliation. While our nation is fairly outspoken as a whole I feel as if the nation is incapable of showing its true feeling because of the amount of censorship that is extremely prevalent in today's society. This of course was not the case back in the late 1800's freedom of speech and feelings were encouraged not discouraged.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Chinese Then & Now

by [Christopher McCay](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 8:04 PM

What I got from the video and pictures, is that then we used a lot of Chinese labor. They immigrated here for the work in the mines and in the lower class jobs. Americans got scared of all the competition from the lower class working Chinese, that's why they passed Chinese exclusion act in 1882, leaving them out of our goods and wages. Now we owe the Chinese most of our national debt, and right now they own us economically, they have the control we had in the late 19th century. If the world economy keeps going the way its going we are going to lose America all together.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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It's a potential "threat" for U.S.

by [Dongwook Lee](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 9:43 PM

I used the word "threat", and I know this word could be very offensive. However, it is not a wrong word. I am not being racist nor saying we all should get rid of Chinese people. By the material of the forum, we know that there were too many Chinese people coming to U.S., just like nowadays. There were people complaining that Chinese people are "taking" their job, and so government should take care of this problem. Also, people were afraid of that Chinese people will take over whole America because there were too many of them. Even now, there are some people believe that Chinese people one day will buy all of the American soil and take over this country.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: It's a potential "threat" for U.S.

by [Carson Raz](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 9:54 PM

I agree that they've been viewed as a threat. As long as I can remember people have said things like, "One day China will rule the world." People in America have always been fearful of the Chinese capabilities. The difference here is that I don't think the Chinese are as power hungry as the US. Since birth the US has fought long and hard to be a top super power. And hey, we're still at war today fighting to maintain it.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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The U.S. Debt owed to China

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

For me the commercial sends a message that the U.S. will pay for what it did to the Chinese. Saying that they "own us now" is a bit far fetched, yes the U.S. does do quite a bit of business with china to this day I fully believe that if push came to shove, America could provide for its self and not depend on China for its overseas manufacturing.

The cartoons seem to suggest that the early Chinese were forced to work when in all reality they came on their own, seeking work and more stabilized income in the downfall

of the Chinese government. It was not until later that the American recruiters brought over more Chinese immigrants. And then in turn the Chinese exclusion act was put in place due to the overflow of immigration to the United States. The cartoons suggest that they were forced to work and that the white natives sat back and did nothing, or that the U.S. depended solely on the work of foreigners as a means for expansion. While the exclusion act may not have been fair I feel the U.S did what it had to do to keep its self from immigrate overtaking.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Chinese Then & Now

by [Luis Murillo](#) - Monday, March 2, 2015, 11:56 PM

From my understanding of the commercial, the reading, and the cartoons Americans have always had a problem with the Chinese, fearing that they are or will take over the United States of America. In the 19th century Americans were mad and scared that the Chinese immigrants would take over their jobs as it is still thought about today. You can see from the picture "what shall we do with our boys." It shows on the left side a Chinese immigrant doing all the jobs the men in the right aren't doing. Because so many Chinese were immigrating to the United States to work came the Chinese Exclusion Act, prohibiting all immigration of Chinese laborers. The video and the cartoons are an example of history reaping itself because of the fear of the Chinese taking over.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Fear politics

by [Adam Graves](#) - Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 4:41 PM

After class watching the videos in class today on Chinese immigration and thinking more about the treatment of the Chinese and the workingman's party of California using them to elicit fear amongst the general public seemed to make the term "Yellow Fear" mean a lot more. This use of fear in politics is very useful, and unfortunately for the Chinese who did no wrong. After being exploited for cheap labor then be the target of "economical and racial hysteria" as stated in the video, followed up with a the racially motivated exclusion of their race being able to migrate to the United States shows how far radical nativist could take things

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Foreigner's Breached

by [Trinidad Delgado](#) - Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 9:01 PM

From watching the video, and learning about the discrimination of the Chinese in the 19th century; it is understandable why the U.S. was intimidated by immigrants. When the Chinese came to America, they were desperately looking for work; even if it meant working in harsh conditions. Additionally, it was a competitive factor for the primarily existing workers. They portrayed as a threat to society at that time because many immigrants---including the Chinese---didn't conform to the American culture.

The Chinese do not get discriminated today as they did in the late 1800s. Furthermore, history is not repeating itself regarding to the use of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Recalling from today's lecture, Mr. Escobar reminds us that the Exclusion Act was repealed because they sided with America as our ally in World War II. The Chinese had less freedom that they do now. They were excluded from political duties, yet now they represent American politics.

In spite of the fact that history may repeat itself, I think we generally speculate of the rising power within China; were the repeated fear of being overrun by foreigners again. I do not think so, but it might be a possibility to American citizens. The video that i watched

exemplified how the Chinese worked for the U.S. in the 19th century in return that we work for them. Maybe they are referring to how we abuse our power by almost going into debt, but we base our economics on trading. So it could be solely be based on one country's debt affects all of us. In conclusion, we accepted them for their hard labor and their contribution towards America's growing economy.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

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Re: Foreigner's Breached

by [Carson Raz](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 10:03 PM

I don't think history will report itself, if anything the roles will be switched. Instead of the Chinese working for America, Americans could be working for the Chinese one day. We didn't almost get into debt with China we are in debt with China. America owes them about a trillion dollars. This is how the Chinese dollar is always worth less then the American dollar. It helps Chinese economy and it makes importing and exporting cheaper for them as well.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: Chinese Then & Now

by [Brody Wasson](#) - Friday, March 6, 2015, 4:40 PM

After watching the videos in class today on Chinese immigration, the Chinese and the workingman's party of California using them to elicit fear amongst the general public seemed to make the term "Yellow Fear" a lot more clear. The use of fear in politics is very useful, and unfortunately for the Chinese who did no wrong. Most Chinese were brought to the states based on the need for cheap labor. Most like everyone else wanted a fresh start and come to the states willingly. After being exploited for their cheap labor some were taken back to their home country but some would stay in the states and start their own racial group to add to the many other groups of people that were already there.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Chinese Then & Now

by [Rachelle Diffenderfer](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 1:39 PM

While reading the chapter I guess I didn't fully grasp the length of the Chinese exclusion act. I had mathematically figured out the length but did not realize that it was literally only considered null and void when China helped the U.S. in 1943 during WWII. It makes me wonder how long the U.S. would have carried out the exclusion act had we not repealed it.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Re: Chinese Then & Now

by [Michael Leopold](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 7:07 PM

If the Workingmen's Party of CA had had their say about it, it probably would still be going on today! But, by 1878, Denis Kearney and his nativist political party had "returned to obscurity." [1] I can't quite remember, but I believe in a video clip that we watched in class quoted Leland Stanford as saying that the transcontinental railroad simply could not have been built without the Chinese. Had we not employed their help and utilized their skillset and work ethic, I wonder if our railroads would have been completed as quickly or if we would even have as many stretches of them today. Without the 12,000 Chinese laborers that helped to build the Central Pacific Railway, I wonder if it would have ever been built. And if so, how much longer would it have taken to complete.

[1] http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/i_r/kearney.htm

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Re: Chinese Then & Now

by [Michael Leopold](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 5:55 PM

In both the advertisement and the old cartoons, I think that the main fear was being taken over by foreign people. Back in the 19th century, it was feared that the Chinese would come over and take all of our jobs. As we learned in class, Leland Stanford, the governor of California, hired the Chinese as cheap laborers to build the railroads. They were hired as union busters and poor white laborers began to see them as a threat to their jobs.

The new age commercial is again playing on our fears of the Chinese, but in a different way. We've borrowed so much money from them, the new fear is that they will soon own our economy and we will ironically then have to work for THEM. I find the first cartoon to be very interesting in that it seems to show that Chinese children are taught many trades from a very young age while our children here at home will never learn any trades as industry and automation has taken all of those opportunities away.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Chinese Then & Now

by [Andrew Kline](#) - Saturday, March 7, 2015, 11:20 PM

Both material share a main idea. That the Chinese are taking over. Not through warfare, through the industries. the idea that in the end they will own everything so as Americans we need to stop them. This is not history history repeating itself though. The new commercial is more Global aspect and more of the Chinese targeting America. As the 19th Century cartoons are more Americans targeting Chinese for taking all the jobs an work.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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