

HST 202: History of United States W17 (Escobar Meta 30937 30938)

Home ► Winter 2017 ► HST 202 W17 (Escobar Meta 30937 30938) ► Week 9 ► Forum 4 ► Chinese - Now & Then



Search forums

Forum 4

Chinese - Now & Then

• [Subscribe](#)

◀ Native American Mascots in Oregon Professional Sports, Data, & Images ▶

Display replies in nested form

Move this discussion to ...

Move

Pin



Chinese - Now & Then
by Joe Escobar - Friday, March 3, 2017, 10:02 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Chinese - Now & Then topic.

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, especially the cartoon numbers you are addressing. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Chinese - Now & Then

Sum of ratings: - [Permalink](#) | [Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



by Timberly Thomas - Monday, March 6, 2017, 12:53 PM

I think they videos and the images have the same motility. They are both saying don't let the Chinese take over America. Granite the cartoons are geared more to show the Chinese in a more animal like and barbarian perspective (shown in image #3 where they look like rats trying to get past Uncle Sam and #4 where he is going on a rampage killing even women) looking to take over whatever they can including land, work and women, while the commercial is trying to persuade as to take responsibility of our nation before someone else takes over it.

The commercial is geared more towards Chinese because so much of things we buy is made in china. We always refer to the Chinese as hard, cheap workers. Just like in Cartoon 1, you see a Chinese man with many arms work, while you see all the whites standing around. It has always been the same, they work for cheaper prices, so employers want them. That is why so much is imported, if it cost less to make (including supplies and man labor) than its going to cost less for people wanting to buy it.

This is where people get upset, all these jobs are going to foreigners because they work for less, instead of the American who "deserve" these jobs. Back then they thought that taken away rights, less pay, forcing them to cut there hair, or any other way to make them feel horrible about themselves, would make them leave. The thing is people forget, as a culture, they would do anything for honor and taking care of there families which includes moving to a foreign place and being treated like animals. People are the same today, they wonder why we don't just open up factories here in America and stop importing everything. The only thing that has actually changed is working environments and we do not treat the Chinese as bad as we once have.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)  [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Chinese - Now & Then

by Caleb Pruitt - Monday, March 6, 2017, 5:55 PM

I think that the commercial subtly pokes fun at the United States' abuse of the Chinese immigrant/labor class during the 1850's. When Chinese, specifically in Guangdong Province, were in economic distress they immigrated to the U.S. by the thousands to find gold and hopefully return home with their hard-earned savings (pg. 596). Similarly, the commercial is set in the future, the year 2030, where the spokesman mentions the great recession of the U.S. and how now all the Americans are working for them, ending with a mocking laugh.

Both of these examples highlight the better off taking advantage of those in need and making fun of them. However, what I found interesting in the reading and what can be seen in every cartoon listed is the stereotypical long braid. Page 597 of the textbook mentions "queue ordinance regulating the length of men's hair," undoubtedly "outlawing" the Chinese's characteristic hair style.

Cartoons 1, 7, and 8 especially point out how Americans feared the Chinese influx and how these intruders were out to steal their jobs. I especially like #1 in that it shows a Chinese man with a smug look of satisfaction surrounded by a number of arms, each symbolizing more and more workers taking over, while the replaced white men lazily stand by. Although this assumption of "Yellow Terror," the fear of Eastern Asian dominance illustrated in #4, may have been slightly exaggerated, it only goes to show that those in power only care to utilize a resource while they are comfortable with it, but once it poses a problem they are quick to attack it.

Sum of ratings:3 (1) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Chinese Immigrants and American Nativism

by Keenan Calhoun - Monday, March 6, 2017, 9:37 PM

Based on these cartoons and on information in the textbook, it is clear that Americans supported a very negative view of Chinese immigrants. After everything I have learned in this class, this does not surprise me in the slightest. All of the cartoons are painting a very clear message that the Chinese will take American jobs and how the Chinese are lower forms of humans than white people. Not only does this relate to the modern commercial, but to every other instance of Americans' opinions of immigrants. Whether it be African Americans or the Catholic Irish, no matter the race, Americans have been hostile towards them. It is obvious that history is repeating itself. The repetition comes from the ideas of American nativism discussed in class, Escobar said it so many times, Americans are not fans of any different race. This continues into the modern commercial, how it is saying that if the government doesn't stop spending, we will basically be enslaved by the Chinese and "work for them." Even today Americans are using other races as negative entities that we should be afraid of, and that astounds me.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Chinese Immigrants and American Nativism

by Caleb Pruitt - Thursday, March 9, 2017, 4:19 PM

I like what you have to say, and there definitely is this trend of new races entering the U.S., as you listed appropriately the Africans, Irish, and finally Chinese. It does seem like history repeating itself, however, I would note that the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the first time a complete race was banned from entry into the

country, a slight difference from the race riots of New York. But I definitely think you are right in saying that modern day America still has nativist tendencies. However, compared to some of the things happening in the 1800's, I think it is easy to say we have made some serious progress towards a peaceful polyracial society!

Sum of ratings:1 (1) Permalink | Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Attitudes towards the Chinese

by Megan Spencer - Monday, March 6, 2017, 10:13 PM

The connection between the cartoons and the commercial, is that there is still some hostility felt towards the Chinese. The similarities between the cartoons and the commercial, is this fear of white American culture being replaced with Chinese culture. Cartoons #2 and #4 perfectly illustrate the idea of "Yellow Terror" Americans had with the new wave of Chinese immigrants. Which introduced the Chinese Exclusion Act which "suspended Chinese immigration for 10 years", but also "forbade Chinese laborers, who were said to endanger 'the good order of certain localities'" (597). The commercial still reflects this "fear", in the way that because America owe so much of its debt to China, that one day China will end up in control of the United States. In terms of "history repeating itself", I would say that the ideas are similar, but the actions that follow it are completely different.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) Permalink | Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Attitudes towards the Chinese

by Hannah Ward - Saturday, March 11, 2017, 6:52 PM

I agree with you that there still seems to be some hostility towards the Chinese. Back in the 19th century the fear, as you pointed out, was all about the Chinese immigrants coming to America. People were afraid that Chinese immigrants would steal jobs. I also picked up on that section from the textbook when the authors talked about Chinese laborers endangering order and thought it was quite ridiculous. I was so focused on the hatred and racism from back in the 19th century that I didn't pick up on the hostility towards the Chinese in the recent commercial. It is clear though that there is still some resentment there, only this time towards the Chinese for harboring so much of America's debt. I also agree that there are similarities, but this time around the actions are very different. I don't see America excluding the Chinese again anytime soon like in the 19th century.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) Permalink | Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Cartoon #1 Chinese - Now & Then

by Rikkianne Chatfield - Monday, March 6, 2017, 10:19 PM

My first comparison of the cartoons and the commercial is that they both exhibit a significant amount of fear. The cartoon I am looking at first is number one. Fear and hatred towards immigrants was very common not only in regards to the Chinese population but Irish as well. This cartoon vividly expresses the negative depiction of a Chinese person, who shown in one body yet has numerous arms each uniquely working on a task such as sewing or building and the right side of the cartoon illustrates white men idly standing around implying that there are no jobs because they have been taken by Chinese workers. The commercial in my opinion expressed a similarity, which is that it is based in fear; fear that someday China will control America due to the immeasurable amount of debt that is accruing for the U.S.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) Permalink | Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Roles Reversed

by Hannah Ward - Monday, March 6, 2017, 10:49 PM

It's clear to see that there are similarities between the current commercial of America's potential future and historical American behaviors and attitudes towards the Chinese that are prevalent both in the political cartoons and in the readings from the textbook. In cartoons 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10, the Chinese men are obviously portrayed as the "bad guy". These cartoons range from the men being drawn as monsters, to having them strung up by their distinctive long braid, to having Uncle Sam trying to hold them back through the Exclusion Act. These cartoons show an obvious hatred towards Chinese immigrants. According to the reading, Chinese immigrants were not only treated unfairly on a state level, but on a national level as well. On page 597 of the textbook, the authors stated that "In 1882, the federal government weighed in with its first discriminatory law targeting a specific immigrant group." This occurred through the Chinese Exclusion Act. With our background knowledge from class regarding the treatment and hatred of other groups like African Americans and the Irish, I think it really tells you something about just how much the Chinese were disliked by having the federal government get involved through law for the first time regarding a specific group.

I titled this post "Roles Reversed" because of the commercial. In the clip, the Chinese man giving the presentation ended it by saying, "Of course, we owned most of their debt... so now they work for us." This was referring to America's debt to China. This is an example of history repeating itself because many of the Chinese laborers that came to America did so out of necessity. China's economy had taken a big hit after the British Opium Wars and men were trying to escape to poverty that surrounded them. During this time in the 19th century, these immigrants "worked for us", us being America, just like the Chinese man said during his presentation in the commercial.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)  [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Chinese - Now & Then

by Jarred Finn - Monday, March 6, 2017, 11:32 PM

Back then we took advantage of the Chinese with many acts targeted towards them such as taxes and forcing them to change their lifestyles. "At the local level, Chinese immigrants faced a host of discriminatory ordinances specifically targeting them, from queue ordinances regulating the lengths of men's hair to sidewalk ordinances preventing the carrying of baskets on shoulders." (Liberty,Equality,Power, pg 597) This is a statement from the textbook that proves America was extremely prejudice and discriminatory towards the Chinese workers. Remember these are the same workers that are building the railroads and taking part in a industrialization period of the west. We see an example of this discrimination in Cartoon #10 where an american is depicted cutting off a Chinese man's hair. America even issued a Chinese exclusion act, suspending immigration from China for ten years excluding a few jobs. Americans feared the Chinese affecting their way of life. We see this in Cartoons #3 and #2. All the cartoons portray discriminatory views towards the Chinese. So to address the commercial. I can understand how CAGW (sponsors of commercial) can make the video relevant because it is almost a repeat of history. In the video the man states that America lost its value in what made America great and we turned our backs on our principles. We see this happen when the Chinese Exclusion Act took place because America's supposed to be the country built by immigrants and they were excluding. Now a Muslim ban so it is somewhat of a repeat. We also started outsourcing work to the Chinese for the railroads. Today we are still doing that and now they own a lot of our debt. So it's almost as if the roles somewhat reversed.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)  [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



American Fears

by Megan Martin - Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 5:45 PM

I think the ad is trying to depict the fear that Americans will one day "work for us", us being China, because we are so deep in debt that we can't get out. Americans have been afraid of the Chinese taking over America and America's white culture since the 1860s when the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed. "The Chinese Exclusion Act suspended Chinese immigration for 10 years with the exception of a few job categories"(textbook pg 597). As we learned in class today, the ban actually wasn't lifted until 1943. In cartoon #2, we see Uncle Sam being swallowed by an Irish man on the left and a Chinese man on the right. The caption also explains how American's

are afraid that foreigners will take over America. I think that history repeats itself often, we just don't realize it because as Joe said in class, many Americans don't know the history of our own country.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) Permalink | Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Fear

by Megan Martin - Thursday, March 9, 2017, 10:27 PM

Like many of the points that have been made, the commercial and the cartoons show the fear that Americans have of China and the Chinese taking over America. In cartoon #1, we see a Chinese man with several hands performing all sorts of different jobs. Those shows the fear that many laborers had that the Chinese would take over their jobs because they were cheaper labor. "Some 12,000 Chinese laborers ultimately built the Central Pacific Railroad, often under exceptionally harsh conditions, and with substantially less pay than white laborers"(textbook pg 597). Because the Chinese were cheaper labor, they often were even recruited from China to come over and work. Because many whites were afraid of them taking over the country, several laws targeted them specifically, such as laws permitting the length of their signature braids. Historically, the United States has been afraid of our culture being taken over.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) Permalink | Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



A Threat to American Culture

by William Mc Mahon - Saturday, March 11, 2017, 11:33 AM

The only connection I saw between the political cartoons and the way the Chinese were presented in the video is that in both instances the Chinese were viewed as a threat.

The focus of the threat in the 19th century was mostly based on Chinese immigrants stealing jobs from white people. However, in some of the cartoons, there was a thread of Chinese people threatening the American way of life. (Cartoons #2 and #9 in particular)

This is the same threat that is presented in the video. That a foreign body is going to overrun American culture. That we're not going to be the greatest country in the world anymore. That something or someone is attacking us.

I think the only "history repeating itself" piece is that the people funding the video tried to use fear and national pride to bolster support for a political purpose. This tactic is used so frequently that it's more of a running dialogue in our country than a single event repeating itself.

Permalink | Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply

Sum of ratings:2 (1)



Bewildered

by Hope Kelley - Saturday, March 11, 2017, 1:53 PM

That commercial blows me away. I have never seen anything like that before. I'm going to assume it's an American commercial because it had the "Citizens against Government waste" at the end. In a couple of the cartoons it shows the "China man" working hard or doing multiple jobs at once. Others show them being beaten of their hair being pulled. In the commercial the man talking says "And now they work for us." It's kind of switched roles because it was the Chinese working for the Americans but in this commercial it looks as if it is now the Americans working for the Chinese.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

◀ Native American Mascots in Oregon

Professional Sports, Data, & Images ▶

 Moodle Docs for this page

Accessibility at Lane

You are logged in as Joe Escobar (Log out)

HST 202 W17 (Escobar Meta 30937 30938)

