



Administration

Navigation

Student Support

# 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](#)

◀ 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](#)

Re: Chinese - Now & Then



by Morganne Roy - Monday, March 6, 2017, 3:22 PM

I see two big themes in the material for this forum: Racism and economic animosity. The biggest link between the video and the cartoons is economic fear mongering. While the modern video does otherize the Chinese, I wouldn't say it portrays them as subhuman the way several of the cartoons do. Cartoons 1, 6, 7, 8, and 10 all have a particular economic bent to them. Although they have different perspectives-- particularly 10 which portrays the Chinese man as a victim-- they all give heavy implication that the dominant perspective of the time was that the Chinese were "cheap labor". The first cartoon shows a very large Chinese man with multiple arms doing dozens of manual labor jobs. Outside are several white men. The caption reads "What shall we do with our boys?". The mentality of "they're stealing our jobs" because they're willing to work for less is very prevalent in all these economic cartoons-- along with the heavy hand of racism. While the video cannot possibly be considered nearly as racist as the cartoons, it still portrays the Chinese as America's economic enemies. While racism towards the Chinese as well as other asian ethnic groups has substantially diminished in the last 100+ years, videos like this are still made because of the "threat" China poses to the economy.

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



### Re: Chinese - Now & Then

by Christopher Cockman - Saturday, March 11, 2017, 11:18 PM

I find your analysis interesting in that I was under the impression that the commercial was made by someone from the U.S. that is using the Chinese economy to explicate problems they and their organization see wrong with America; thus, its failure. But, I do agree with you that an important connection to be made in the two forms of propoganda are the economic matters they both discuss. In the old cartoons, and as we know from lecture in class, Chinese immigrants were represented by their cheap labor. That is why American workers hated them so much, they were taking all the jobs. I see the heavy amounts of racism depicted in the political cartoons, and I think alongside the notion that you don't see racism in the commercial is because, as I said before, the commercial is meant to be a positive view an American has on the Chinese government.

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



### Foreign Takeover

by Andrew Erkert - Monday, March 6, 2017, 6:46 PM

Firstly, I see the commercial as conveying the message of the U.S. economy being too dependent on China and that soon enough we will be controlled by China. It had even show the year 2030, which is pretty soon in comparison to most futuristic scenarios that I see.

I think the commercial relates to much of what we read in this chapter because of that theme of the Chinese taking over via the economy. Cartoons #1, 2 and 3 all relate to this idea of being “overrun” by the Chinese.

- **Cartoon #1** is the most telling in my opinion. It portrays the ‘Chinaman’ as having at least 11 arms and doing many different tasks at once. This extreme multi-tasking is symbolic of the chinese taking all of the available jobs while the American (most likely white) “Boys” are left standing around outside, jobless and unoccupied.
- **Cartoon #2** doesn’t necessarily have to be economic but it can be linked to the same concept but in this case it is foreigners in general. The Irishman and Chinaman are both “swallowing” Uncle Sam whole. This is symbolic of the foreigners taking over the U.S. and overturning the “native white rule” of the nation. Both races here have the typical exaggerations illustrated (the long hair braid of Chinese men, the ape-like face of the Irish), which leads me to believe that in this case, they are both equally ostracized and undesirable.
- **Cartoon #3** simply shows the effort of the U.S. to keep the Chinese influence under control as you see Uncle Sam holding the door shut but can’t seem to control the situation. It shows the hopelessness, even with the Exclusion Act, of foreigners taking the country over.

To relate these cartoons and this commercial to now, our new president, Donald Trump, spent many of his public points emphasizing that “our leaders lose deals to China all of the time.” It is clearly something that people still have concern over. We see the phrase “**MADE IN CHINA**” on all kinds of manufactured goods. It has become a norm today. Chinese influence in our economy is strong and many see this as threatening and believe we need to branch away from China and reclaim dominance in the trade industry.

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



### **US sentiment toward the Chinese then and now**

by Luis Huidobro - Monday, March 6, 2017, 8:14 PM

The commercial for the Citizens Against Government Waste and the way the Chinese were treated by the US in in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century is sort of subjective to cartoons number 9,8,5, and 3 in which whites persecuted and even murdered due to their facts as cheap labor taking away from poor whites the jobs needed to sustain. The fear that the commercial communicates is that of China controlling the US through

the debt the US incurred leading to fear or hate of the Chinese, much like the Chinese were hated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century but as always the US had exceptions to those that were wealthy Chinese businessmen and merchants because of the interest in trade with China (pg 597). The fear it posed is pictured in cartoon 3 5 probably made to show that Chinese laborers were dangerous.

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



### **Reasons for reaction to chinese immigrants**

by Amelia Salzman - Monday, March 6, 2017, 10:05 PM

I have never seen cartoons like this before focusing on Chinese immigrants. From reading the chapter and studying these cartoon I believed that the racism toward Chinese stemmed from the unfamiliar culture of the Chinese. In #6, #7 and #9 it uses hair and clothes to show the difference in culture. As we see throughout history people often fear thing that are new and different. When studying Chinese history it is clear to see that there is a very strong tie to culture and heritage. I would imagine that immigrants held on to the traditions they grew up with. There were large numbers that came to America within a short period of time (as seen in cartoons #3 #5). In the textbook they discuss the thousands of Chinese immigrants coming to the United States (bottom of pg. 596) and this quick rise in numbers of unfamiliar immigrants I'm sure continued to add to the extreme racism. There seems to be a common pattern of the feeling of threat through the competition of work from immigrants (as featured in #8 #1) this I'm sure also intensified the racism.

As for the commercial there is a common link of the commercial taking place in Beijing and being in Chinese. I'm sure because of the long history of racism for the Chinese probably helped contribute the selection of China but I think that this commercial holds no reality and no substance. This commercial isn't about the Chinese people taking over. It uses the Chinese as a surface to scare the uneducated. This commercial is attacking government spending. This commercial is about the domestic issue, one side of our on politics pinned against the other side. It uses racism to bring Global importance to the debate that is centered in American politics. It is using racism of a people as a tactic to shape the opinions of Americans in unrelated nonracial Economic debates.

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



### **Cartoon #2 & #3**

by Brandi Paquette - Monday, March 6, 2017, 11:07 PM

By 1870, there was about 63,000 Chinese immigrants who came for the prospect of gold in California, but ended up also heavily involved in railroads and agriculture. The Chinese laborers were faced with prejudice early on. California state legislature

enforced a Foreign Miner's Tax aimed at labor leaders. Not long later violence broke out in many locations against Chinese workers. At a local level Chinese were targeted for things such as length of hair. State level discrimination consisted of preventing Chinese from owning land, testifying in court, intermarrying with whites, and immigrating. By 1882, federal government was involved and passed the Chinese Exclusion Act- suspended Chinese immigration for 10 years with the exception of a few job categories. Despite all the prejudice and discrimination Chinese workers created thriving communities that emerged in places all throughout the west (Textbook).

In cartoon #2, Uncle Sam is being consumed by a Chinese and Irish man. Americans felt a "GREAT FEAR" for being taken over by immigrants at the time. The Chinese man is shown with a large braid which serves as a reminder to the local targeting that was done early on.

In cartoon #3, Uncle Sam is depicted shoving Chinese men back into a door with the label "Scott's Exclusion Act". Scott's Exclusion Act was a stricter version of the Chinese Exclusion Act it allowed no Chinese laborers to enter the US, regardless of prior residence. ([http://www.fjc.gov/history/home.nsf/page/tu\\_exclusion\\_doc\\_4.html](http://www.fjc.gov/history/home.nsf/page/tu_exclusion_doc_4.html)) Uncle Sam therefore is trying to not let Chinese through. The title being "The Wasp" fits with this depiction well considering the Chinese are drawn in numbers all over in little cracks and crevices.

The commercial is saying that America is struggling currently and will eventually fail due to mistakes. China will be there to step in. This scenario is not the same as in the past. The Chinese immigrants were coming to America for individual success financially by mining gold. This commercial is indicating that the Chinese will be benefiting, but will make the US "work" for them. Chinese immigrants in the past were not having the US work for them, they were working for the US. In conclusion, the commercial is dealing with nationalism while the cartoons are dealing with xenophobia the only common thread being Americans fear of change.

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



### Re: Chinese - Now & Then

by Noah Cramer - Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 12:22 PM

- American Behaviors towards Chinese, in these cartoons, is harsh and very demeaning towards the Chinese race. In the video, the man speaking states, "So now they work for us." The man in the video is referring to the times when Chinese were used as cheap and easily replaceable labor to build the central pacific railroad (as we were shown in class). He is saying how the Chinese worked for us (the U.S), but now, the tides have changed and we work for them. The pictures #9 and #3 depict the Chinese being cheap and easy labor to maintain, showing connections between the video statement, and the pictures. The man in the video, shows how history repeats itself with the Ancient Greeks,

the Roman Empire, the British Empire, and the United States. He gives examples of how these countries all fall from the same mistakes. Showing that history doesn't repeat itself, but the actions of people in history do.

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



### Image #1

by Anthony Williams - Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 4:09 PM

Watching the current commercial the speaker states “so now they work for us” which relates to the 19th century. Many of these images are stating of how america is trying to keep out china men from taking their jobs. Image #1 states that the china men is doing all of the americans jobs, while the american boys sit outside with nothing to do but get arested. Sentiments from the video to the pictures is that americans are repeating history and going away from our principles

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

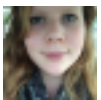


### Re: Image #1

by Alexander Salgado - Friday, March 10, 2017, 9:21 PM

I think these pictures more portray how the Chinese are coming into our country and being able to do multiple jobs that some Americans are able to do but not for as cheap as the Chinese are.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)  [Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



### Re: Image #1

by Brandi Paquette - Saturday, March 11, 2017, 9:37 PM

I was analyzing cartoon #1 after reading your post and couldn't tell what was written at the top. At first it appeared to me to say “the wash”, but I decided to check (rather than guess) other images online with different clarity and discovered it really says “the wasp”, just like cartoon #3 which I have already addressed. After quickly reading I learned that “The Wasp” is the title of a 19<sup>th</sup> century magazine and newspaper. I know Nast's work has been used quite a bit in this class for interpretation, but now I also know some of the cartoons are connected in the way that there from the same print source. 😊

I thought this is interesting information and might influence others thoughts about some of the cartoons. My understanding of cartoon #3 has changed from what I originally said about the words “the wasp”.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



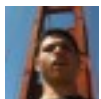
### **American views of the Chinese**

by Alexander Salgado - Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 5:08 PM

In history the Chinese were treated very poorly because they were taking the jobs of Americans. They worked for very cheap and were able to do many different types of work. Cartoon 1 and Cartoon 5 depict how the Americans felt about the Chinese taking their jobs and it wasn't positive. The commercial was interesting in the sense that the Chinese now view Americans as if we are their workers because we have such a high debt owed to them. It relates to our history in the sense that we viewed the Chinese as people that worked for us.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



### **Re: Lower living quality**

by Andrew Erkert - Friday, March 10, 2017, 10:08 PM

I also think that the lower living quality the Chinese immigrants were willing to work at angered and put the American workers to shame in their view. The Chinese did the same work but for less of everything but just as well. There was no way the others could compete so it caused extreme hostility between the two groups and the commercial shows that the hostility still has remnants from the shaky connection between the U.S. and China.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



### **Re: American views of the Chinese**

by Brandi Paquette - Saturday, March 11, 2017, 10:04 PM

The Chinese were “treated very poorly”, I agree. Chinese experienced racism and discrimination soon after arrival to the US and it only became stronger and worse as time went on. Chinese were taking jobs that American's could do and were doing it for lower wages. American's were fearful. I feel the fear was also only becoming stronger as time went on and that's why acts (such as the Chinese Exclusion Act) were put in place to end/slow everything down.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



### Thomas Nast

by Morganne Roy - Thursday, March 9, 2017, 3:19 PM

In class today Joe mentioned that cartoon #10 was drawn by Thomas Nast. If I remember correctly, Nast was a “Radical Republican”, supported Lincoln, and was staunchly for abolition. Knowing those things about him, the fact that he drew the only cartoon on the list that doesn’t portray the Chinese character as worth less than a white character, the aggressor in violence, or deserving of violence is not hard to believe.

The bottom caption is Columbia stating, “Hands off, gentlemen! America means fairplay for all men.” Although this seems like an incredibly positive step away from racism, Nast does also take his opportunity to portray the Irish quite thuggish and simian-like.

Although, could Nast simply be stylizing Denis Kearney-- an Irishman who is most well remembered for his belligerent anti-Chinese “shows”-- as a villain?

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



### Re: Chinese - The railroad to consumerism

by Alec Ebert - Saturday, March 11, 2017, 5:49 PM

The biggest connection that can be made between these cartoons and this commercial brings together the incredible irony that has befallen upon both of our countries. All of these cartoons depict aspects of the treatment of Chinese immigrants in the United States right after the reconstruction. They were seen as an invasive force threatening the well being of the white man by dominating the work force, working for low wages. There's no question that the railroad linked the two sides of our country together. Without it we would not have been able to achieve the level of industrialization and become the economic super power we are today. Leland Stanford used the Chinese to build the railroad and it would not have gotten done as fast without them. The irony is everything is made in China now and America's economic power is now based around consumerism. In the late 1800's the Chinese helped us build the infrastructure of our country and now in the 21st century we are helping them build theirs. The difference is that since there is not an equal level of material goods being exchanged, the deficit we have created owing China is outrageous.

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



### Re: Chinese - Now & Then

by Alec Ebert - Saturday, March 11, 2017, 7:39 PM

I think that it is also blatantly obvious that the all of these cartoons are printed from the persepective of Americans that were negatively affected by the Chinese immigrants. All of the cartoons portray an negative image of the Chinese by showing them as people of a different race making life difficult for white people. I think that cartoon number 3 is the one that strikes a cord the best. Mostly because it directly shows us how history repeats itself. The cartoon depicts the Irish Immigrant and the Chinese immigrant attempting to swallow Uncle Sam. Earlier in the 19th century the fight was against the Irish immigrants over cheap labor, a bit later it was against the Chinese for cheaper labor, and now its over Mexican and other latino migrant workers who are willing to work for less to prove their worth in this country. In my opinion the history that repeats itself in the US is the fear of people who come from less fortunate countries will take everything from Americans by undermining the work force. Thats one of the negatives of capitalism. Since that powers that be make all the big decisions, the little guy doesn't get a say. When another group of people are willing to do the same work for less the powers that be take advantage of that and it hurts the already existing work force. The cartoons were analyzing in this forum depict that exact fear.

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



### **China: From 0 to Hero**

by Christopher Cockman - Saturday, March 11, 2017, 10:29 PM

In class, the representation of the Chinese that was displayed most prominently was their role in building the Central Pacific Railroad. Leland Stanford employed these men because they were cheap and worked for it. Clearly the he viewed these men as nothing more than expendable and payed them accordingly, very little, as discussed in class. This theme can be drawn from cartoons #1 and #8 provided as well, the Chinese worker is depicted to have eight arms like that of an octopus to show they can multi-task very proficiently. Normally, I would not see anything wrong with this, however in this context the American man is not able to do the same jobs. To someone of that time period, namely a working-class white male, Chinese could be seen as very negative because they were taking over the job market. This representation is where the titular 0 comes from as far as perspective from the American citizen.

100 years later, in the commercial provided, the Chinese are seen as a superior nation that overcame disbandment like the U.S. I feel the most important point made in this commercial can be found in the final line: "now they're working for us (general laughter)". This is a clear shot at how the Chinese immigrants became the overwhelming factor in the American job market in the late 1800's, to the point where that America had to pass an exclusion act towards them. Clearly, the Chinese have escalated from inferior to superior, at least, notably, in the contrast between these political cartoons of the 19th century to the commercial of the 21st.



### **The outlying political cartoon**

by Christopher Cockman - Saturday, March 11, 2017, 11:33 PM

In my comparison of the cartoons and the modern commercial, I deliberated that the commercial is a more positive view of the Chinese government, perhaps from an American using that medium to express what they view is wrong with America, and like the commercial, I find cartoon #10 to be the only positive portrayal of Chinese in the cartoons provided. In many of the cartoons, Uncle Sam and a Chinese person are depicted as enemies, even to the point where Uncle Sam is being eaten. Yet in the 10th cartoon, it can be seen that what looks to be Lady Liberty, is comforting a Chinese man, maybe even defending him, from what looks like a mob of American workers.

The negative viewpoint America had on the Chinese, interestingly enough, does not have to be represented in artistic means. The viewpoint is explicitly depicted in the various news articles found behind the Chinese man and Lady Liberty. The just of the tabloids are that the Chinese laborer will work for less, which is accurate as to what was discussed in class, yet the tabloids are also saying that this is the reason he is a 'barbarian'. Apparently, the morals of labor of the time are that you must work for as much as everyone else to not be deemed in such terms of negative connotations, however stupid and self-contradicting this notion is. This sad yet realistic portrayal of Nast's surmounts to my favorite cartoon of the forum, since it goes against the woodwork of the time's mindset and gives what I can assume to be actual historical headings in the background as well.



### **Cartoon #s 7-9-Chinese and immigrant perceptions in USA**

by Name Withheld-0716 - Saturday, March 11, 2017, 11:45 PM

The Chinese treatment during the western frontier time period in the mid to late 19th century to me draws parallels to the current issue of illegal Mexican immigration. It is no secret that Mexican immigrants, both legal and illegal, perform large quantities of blue collar labor in this country. Industries from construction, automobile assembly, sanitation, restaurants/food, laundry, landscaping, and the trades have strong representations of Mexican immigrants in the workforce. These are valuable, constructive professions to society and yet many Americans in this country like to stigmatize or attach negative associations to hispanic immigrants for taking this kind of work. Its either because they associate these jobs with being unskilled which is not necessarily true, or because they lack tertiary education themselves and have to compete with immigrant laborers for these relatively low paying jobs, blue collar jobs.

Chinese manpower in the late 19th century was mostly for hands-on labor that included railroad building and mining, frontier industries that were thought to be the livelihood of nativist americans at the time, men who'd been here for generations. It seems like american citizens today have that kind of attachment to their professions and their role in the economy, and that foreigners coming and taking their jobs for a lower wage is akin to some kind of invasion, sabotage or hostile takeover. That commercial to me symbolizes a sentiment that some americans do fear, that our sovereignty and import on the global stage will fade, our country will collapse and fall under the command of a regime like Russia or China if we don't take an extreme nationalist stance and adopt aggressive "america first" policies. The commercial also seemed to be taking a hard line at wasteful government spending and disastrous policies on immigration. We seem to be moving towards that trend with donald trump securing the election mainly by appealing to patriotic and populist sentiments amongst blue-collar white workers. China's ever growing economy, population number, expanding military and links to white collar industries in the US also seem to raise fear and suspicion amongst americans in the lower socioeconomic strata.

In cartoons 7,8, and 9, the chinese are being lampooned, smeared, and insulted as carriers of vice, enemies of the state and infiltrators of honest work. in the 7th cartoon, a union-type man leading a "working mans procession" rally is punching a chinese man in the face in front of another chinese man, as if to flatly reject the idea of their integration into the american workforce, into the rebuilding and expansion of american infrastructure. The 8th cartoon captures a similar theme as a group of white frontier men string up a chinese laborer with a shovel by the neck, while a sign that says " No Chinese need apply" hangs behind. in the 9th cartoon, they attach the Chinese to numerous unsavory stereotypes and vices like gambling, opium, bribery, robbery, and immortality/unconventional religious notions. Not only do these connotations persist today with the Chinese, but they are also reflective of the propaganda campaigns during this time period to disenfranchise and ostracize the Chinese workers who ended up contributing an enormous amount to the industrial evolution and expansion of America. In the modern economy, we are heavily dependent on China for raw materials, treasury bonds and investment banking, manufacturing goods, and other critical, lucrative industries. In Mexico we are dependent on them for trade, military relations, among other things. But the american populous often comes to this consensus that we can strong-arm other nations into adopting policies that may favor us because of the size and influence of our government and armed forces. Not only is this a shallow, bumper-sticker mentality, it doesn't take into account the long history the U.S has in maintaining relations with other powers despite whatever conflicts may be going on between us and that nation. in *Liberty, Equality, and Power*, it states that " In 1882 the federal government weighed in with its first discriminatory law against a specific immigrant group. The chinese exclusion act suspended chinese immigration for 10 years with the exception of a few job categories. Wealthy Chinese businessmen and merchants were allowed entry because of the U.S.government's interest in trade with China. But the law forbade Chinese laborers who were said to endanger the good order of certain localities." (Pg. 597 pp. 4) This law characterizes the way the U.S generally handles

foreign policy matters, preserve and protect the things that keep the governments coffers up, and sanction/ban/eradicate the things that are a perceived threat to safety of the american people. This law is indicative of the mentality towards chinese at the time that unless they were among the educated and skilled white-collar elite making hugely important financial decisions, the common worker of a foreign land has no place in the U.S economy.

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

◀ 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)

