

HST 202: History of United States W19 (Escobar)

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Chinese - Now & Then
by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, March 1, 2019, 9:10 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, something that describes the questions & images you are addressing. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Chinese - Now & Then

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"What Shall We Do With Our Boys" #1
by [Trevor Mejia](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 11:53 AM

In Page 597 of our text book it states“At the local level, Chinese immigrants faced a host of discriminatory ordinances specifically targeting them, from queue ordinances regulating the length of men’s hair(forbidding the distinctive braid worn by Chinese men) to sidewalk ordinances pre-venting the carrying of baskets on shoulders.” In this picture we see just that. A very Racist Depiction of a Chinese worker whose face is grotesquely distorted. His eyes are slanted along with his crooked smile missing several teeth. This Picture is divided into two panels, the left occupied by an eleven-handed Chinese worker The Chinese were depicted as “many handed” or monstrous creatures depriving white labors of their job. Hence the Right side showing 4 or 5 white men doing noting while one Chinese man dose all the work. Here we see octopus like quality’s in this cartoon to show how a Chinese laborer is seen going to town, a busy industrial whirlwind of productivity. He is unstoppable in the trades or crafts and most of what he is doing is attributed to Chinese workers; shoemaker, tailor, cigar maker and laundryman testifies his industriousness. Collectively, All of hands holds a saw, mallet, hammer, and brush. But most dangerous of all, he is succeeding and doing the job with ease. Two hands are busy socking away a bag of money. This is referring to Chinese Trade Monopoly which is secured in place with his foot. The image emphasizes the prevailing anti-Chinese view that the Chinese aren’t like other immigrants. They are instead “sojourners” whose only wish is to make money in America to send back to their families in China.This is a common practice even to this day due to exchange rate.



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Re: "What Shall We Do With Our Boys" #1
by [Katie Calkins](#) - Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 2:40 AM

You went into extreme detail explaining this historical cartoon and it was truly amazing. To be completely honest, I didn't fully understand this cartoon until I read your response. I understood that it was showing the fact that the Chinese were said to be taking all of the jobs from the white men, but there were some things that my eyes didn't catch, such as the "Chinese Trade Monopoly" written on the board beneath the Chinese man's foot. That explained more to me about why there was a bag of money other than showing the fact that he was earning more than the white men. I also didn't even think about mentioning the stereotypical features shown on the Chinese man in this cartoon in my response.

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Re: "What Shall We Do With Our Boys" #1
by [Trevor Mejia](#) - Thursday, March 7, 2019, 9:45 AM

Well thank you, I am happy to hear my definition of the cartoon was helpful. I also didn't notice the trade monopoly until after you pointed it out so i should be the one saying "thank you." I also can totally see how that helps clarify the money bag in his hands as well.

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Chinese - How the Whites wanted them gone
by [Katie Calkins](#) - Saturday, March 2, 2019, 4:31 PM

Between the current time commercial and the cartoons from the past on the Chinese, I noticed that the cartoons show more of the Americans hurting the Chinese with their words, using whips, hanging them, hitting them with their fists, housing and working them in poor conditions, and more. The Americans did not want the Chinese in their country by any means. In the 10th cartoon, there was a wall that said many things. One thing the wall said was "The importation of Chinese barbarians into the country must be stopped by the ballot or bullet." The Americans were threatening them saying you will either be excluded from the country by vote, or by bullet because they felt as though they were invading the country. The 9th cartoon showed a white man holding a Chinese man by his hair and was getting ready to whip him. Behind the man was a sign that said "Courts of Justice closed to Chinese. Extra Tax

to Yellow Jack". This means that the white men wouldn't serve the Chinese in their courts because of their race. Then, in the 3rd cartoon, it shows Uncle Sam trying to barricade a door that says "Scott's Exclusion Act" on it. He is trying to keep the Chinese from entering the U.S.

Overall, during this time period in history the Whites of America wanted nothing to do with the Chinese on their land.

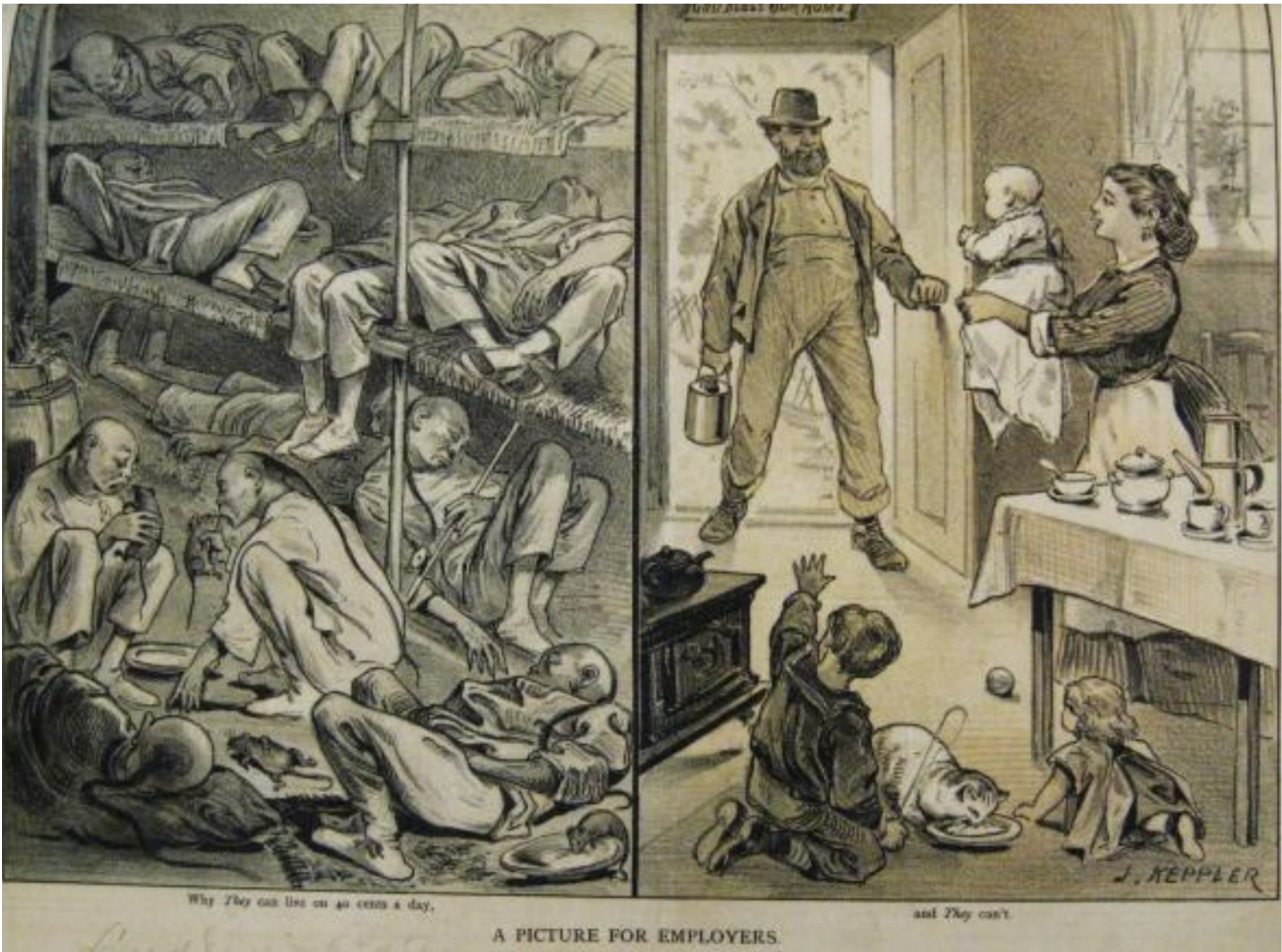
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History repeating itself & treatment of Chinese with cartoon #5
by [Megan Wayne](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 5:50 PM

The commercial is very similar to what the Americans point of view was in that time. The Chinese were pushed away from China to America by the poverty and questionable political conditions. They were not planning on staying forever, just temporarily until they were stable enough financially to go home to their families. Thousands arrived to the United States and received jobs such as "railroad workers, agricultural laborers, developing fisheries and vineyards, and helping reclaim California swamplands" (Textbook, Ch 18, page 597). They were not paid very much for doing difficult jobs in harsh conditions, but they had to do their job! Americans did not like the fact that Chinese men were in America and celebrated their The commercial was based in the future and the man on stage was explaining how the United States has failed itself with the amount spending and debt. The man speaking was intrigued to say that to his audience and revealed that they have control over the U.S.'s debt. His casual expression turned into a smile when he said that Americans are coming to China and working for them now and the audience laughed and smiled with him. That is how the Americans were, they did not care about how hard life was for the Chinese workers, so history repeats itself by the Chinese doing what we did to them. In cartoon #5 it is of Chinese workers all forced to live and sleep in the same room, uncomfortable positions with no beds, there are even people who are eating rats on the ground... Just horrible conditions that they have to and need to live through in order to be stable. They were not allowed to own land and people made them live like that. "At the state level, California laws denied Chinese the right to own land, to testify in court, to intermarry with whites, and to immigrate" (Textbook, Ch 18, page 597). On the right of the cartoon is an American man coming home to his wife and three children in his own home with food on the table. The room is the exact same size as the one with the Chinese men, but there are only five people in this one. And there is more than just one room in their home, so the space they have is unimaginable to the Chinese.



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Re: History repeating itself & treatment of Chinese with cartoon #5

by [Megan Wayne](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 8:39 PM

In the middle of my response I accidentally forgot to finish one of my sentences! The mistake is two sentences after my first quote and the corrected sentence is: Americans did not like the fact that Chinese men were in America and they celebrated their hardships and pain. No American cared at all about the conditions that the Chinese were living through, and in that commercial the audience has no sympathy at all knowing that they are in control of the American people, exactly like the Americans felt back then.

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Cartoon 1

by [Aaron Richards](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 10:27 PM

The first cartoon supports the anti-immigration views of American Nativism. The Chinese would often work under worse conditions and for lower pay than white people. This led to resentment by white workers towards the immigrants taking their jobs (even when those jobs were work they would not want to do). This is a common historical occurrence and a key focus of politics today with illegal immigration.

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Re: Cartoon 1

by [Aaron Richards](#) - Saturday, March 9, 2019, 11:03 PM

American Nativism has been a constant factor in our nations history. It started with the Irish and German immigrants, the gang wars that ensued because of civil unrest between working class members. It also applied to African Americans, which can be shown by the various ways whites prevented them from voting even though they had the right through such means as the grandfather clause and literacy tests. Later the Chinese became the focus and would be banned from immigrating to America starting in 1882 and continuing into the 20th century. Today Muslims and Latinos are the focus, and many of the same reasons used in the past are used today.

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The Commercial and Cartoon #2

by [Michael Krobatsch](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 10:43 PM

This commercial was kind of eerie in some was, where the thought of this could possibly happen is creepy. Its intent is to "scare" people into seeing what could possibly happen. Then what it leads us into one of the cartoons where we see Uncle Sam getting eaten by an Irish man and a Chinese man. Above it says "the great fear of the period that uncle sam may be swallowed by foreigners." This could be interpreted that America would get overrun with foreigners and it would end up another failed nation. Such as Ancient Greece and the Roman Empire failed as a nation.

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Re: The Commercial and Cartoon #2

by [Owen McCoy](#) - Saturday, March 9, 2019, 11:53 PM

I agree it was a bit spooky to think about. It just goes to show what people's thoughts go to when their pocketbooks are in jeopardy. In the time period we're talking about, the Americans were hit in the pocketbook simultaneously by the economic depression and by the fact that they were being undercut by foreign-sourced labor. They drew a connection between these two things and thus the Chinese became the economic scapegoat of the time and faced tremendous discrimination in the West that according to the textbook, was neglected (or sometimes even encouraged) by the government in the East.

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Chinese cartoon

by [Braidyn Bowden](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 11:21 PM

This cartoon really caught my eye and stood out to me the most. The caption for the cartoon reads "What shall we do with our boys" which I'm assuming is what the men outside the barn are saying talking about Chinese. The Chinese man inside is doing a hundred different things while the men outside are doing absolutely nothing, but during that time that's exactly what happened they would work the immigrants down to the bone and make them do all the work because they knew they would do it. The Chinese immigrants like all people needed money and work to survive so they would take any job given to them.

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US History With China

by [Pablo Carrasco](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 11:34 PM

Throughout this course we have seen how Americans (not all) react to growing numbers of immigrants and people of color. Reading chapter 8 I was not surprised that the growing numbers of immigration sparked a negative reaction. Similar to the freedman, Americans were threatened that these laborers are taking the opportunities of the American people. You can easily see this in cartoon #1 where a racist depiction of a Chinese man, doing multiple tasks while white Americans are lounging around jobless. Cartoon #3 shows "Uncle Sam" is seen closing a door on chinese men. Scotts Exclusion Act was the nations response to the ever growing numbers of Chinese immigrants. Scotts Exclusion Act suspended chinese immigrants for ten years unless for certain jobs. Now in relation to the "Anti Chinese Commercial" there are similarities to the attitudes that Americans had to the Chinese. The nation is trillion dollars in debt, and according to the ad this will be our downfall. Americans feared that the Chinese will take our jobs and opportunities in the west. Now we fear that we will be the ones working for "them". Nationalist not just Ethnic Nationalism had/have this mentality of it's us or them. How do we solve this ongoing feud with China? Simply by not turning on our principles of course.

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Similarities and Differences in Chinese Depiction

by [Arthur Vander Hoff](#) - Monday, March 4, 2019, 11:53 PM

One similarity I noticed with the current affairs (specifically from our current president) and the cartoons is the notion that the Chinese are taking our jobs, as depicted in cartoon #1. Another similarity is that the Chinese are depicted as being evil (more or less). In the video, it's implied that the Chinese professor had malevolent intent with the look he gives the camera, and in cartoon #8, the Chinese are depicted as a monster.

Other than that, the depiction in this video isn't really all that similar to the depiction in the cartoons. In the cartoons, the Chinese are depicted as being the lowest of the low: the scum of America taking work for little money because they have no worth themselves or (or so they believed), while in the video, China is depicted as being the superior country that outsmarted America.

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Re: Similarities and Differences in Chinese Depiction
by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Saturday, March 9, 2019, 10:44 PM

Hi Arthur,

Your interpretation on cartoon #1 aligns with my interpretation as well. The ironic part, is that in the image you see a Chinese man doing multiple skilled jobs. This, like you said, can be argued today. That outsourcing jobs is in a way, stealing jobs from Americans. Yet, the ironic part is that they are more skilled at the work. Which is something that we shouldn't be angry about since qualifications is what matters. History isn't necessarily being repeated in the same ways, but in new and more modern ways.

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The Hatred and Violence Toward the Chinese Immigrants / tying in cartoon #9
by [Megan Wayne](#) - Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 12:51 PM

The Chinese immigrants were mainly in their teens and it was their first time on American land experiencing a different culture, so they did not really know what was going on. They were in need of jobs and accepted the extremely low pay to do difficult jobs. Since they were getting paid so little, they basically got most of the jobs and Americans did not like that. American workers wanted all of the Chinese men gone. In a video we watched in class, I believe David Kearney had said, "Let's do this country a favor and get rid of them!" Which is weird because Kearney is Irish and not so long ago, American people were doing the same things to Irish people as they are doing to the Chinese men in the late 19th century. Many white men started riots unexpectedly against them and killed so many. "Violence against Chinese workers occurred in numerous places in the West during the 1870's and 1880's, including a massacre in Rock Springs, Colorado, after the Union Pacific Railroad decided to hire Chinese workers. Twenty-eight Chinese died in an attack that included burning down Chinese homes..." (Textbook, Ch 18, page 597). Cartoon #9 shows a white man and a Chinese man running away from him. It is kind of racist because the Chinese man is drawn with the long-stereotyped ponytail that Americans never liked. It shows the white man tugging on his hair about to whip him and probably kill him. If the violence didn't say that they hated the Chinese enough, the federal government decided to suspend Chinese immigrants for a decade, also known as the Chinese Exclusion Act. It was the first time that a race was banned from the United States. People in office met again when the ten years was up and decided to extend it for another ten years... After that they ended up making it a permanent ban up until World War II, where we became allies with China.



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Re: The Hatred and Violence Toward the Chinese Immigrants / tying in cartoon #9

by [Brayden Lane](#) - Saturday, March 9, 2019, 4:32 PM

To start with I believe it is very interesting and also agree it is weird that Kearney an Irish man says "Let's do this country a favor and get rid of them!" When not long before it was the Americans that wanted the Irish out. I think one reason an Irish man such as Kearney said this is to fit in more with non immigrants and have them join forces and agree on something. Another reason I believe he said that is because he feels as if the Chinese are taking labor jobs that Irish immigrants such as him were used to having. I also think its a very similar situation between the riots and murder of Irish men being attacked and then in the late 1870's and 1880's riots at chines work camps. Then when it comes to the cartoon and the racist message it sends between the slanted eyes of the Chinese and the long pony tail being grabbed by a white man. Along with what looks like a box in the back that says "Courts of justice closed to Chinese, extra taxes to yellow men." I think the entire cartoon shows the time of change a couple of years can bring from hating Irish and German immigrants to Chinese immigrant's. Overall I like the comparison given between Irish Immigrants and then Chinese immigrants, along with the quote from Kearney.

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Cartoon #2 similarities.

by [Brayden Lane](#) - Thursday, March 7, 2019, 11:45 PM

When looking at the cartoons I found that number two has the most similarities between it and the commercial. As seen below cartoon number two has the caption "The great fear of the period. That uncle Sam may be swallowed by foreigners." In the photo there is a Chinese man Irish man swallowing Uncle Sam whole. What I believe is similar to the commercial is its saying if we keep letting foreigners in and let them control our culture and country then they will just consume it. The difference however between the cartoon and the video to me is in the video its almost as if its blaming the government for mistakes and if we keep doing them China will soon takeover. Overall however both the cartoon and commercial are giving off the same idea about foreigners and more specifically Chinese workers. However, I don't necessarily see it as a warning for history repeating itself but more of showing us what happens if we continue to make mistakes regarding the Chinese. It also could be saying in the commercial we fixed it back then so we know how to fix it again, when regarding to fix I mean setting another immigration law against Chinese. Both the cartoon and the commercial however are anti Chinese and show what will happen and how they will "consume" the U.S if we don't fix our problems.



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How The Chinese Were Treated

by [James Hebert](#) - Friday, March 8, 2019, 8:00 PM

It is amazing to see the change in cultures, from then until now. Now, the Chinese seem to be revered and uplifted higher then the United States in intelligence and in work ethic. When I was in public school, everyone would make comments about the Chinese students in the class because they automatically assumed that they would be the smartest. Of course this is a ridiculous stereotype which has developed over time, but you get the point.

But, when looking at how they were treated right after the civil war, it is completely different. They were treated like garbage. When looking at what we learned in class and what the book said, they not only were eager to work, they were also willing to work at a much lower pay than Americans were, created a hostility towards them.

As can be seen in the eighth picture, they were portrayed as the root of all this evil (opium, cheap labor, immorality, etc.), causing the Americans to want them to leave and eventually succeeding in that.

These were not good times to be a Chinese immigrant.

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Measuring knowledge
by [Megan Wayne](#) - Saturday, March 9, 2019, 8:02 AM

I agree with you on the change of culture and the drastic difference between then and now based on both American and China point of view. During that time, Americans made it fixed in themselves that the Chinese immigrants were stupid and could not understand things like they did. Americans did not even trust their knowledge to get certain jobs done. In class, we learned that the way to “check” on how much knowledge you have, Americans had this thing that you held on over your head that sort of measured the size of your head. If your head was smaller then you were not as smart and vice versa. All this does is measure the size of your head, but it was believed to be the barrier between smart and stupid. But it is funny that that was happening then, that Americans thought the Chinese men were stupid, but in modern times, the stereotype is that Chinese people are smarter.

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The Irony
by [Amanda Francis](#) - Friday, March 8, 2019, 9:00 PM

The commercial, when the speaker says in Chinese, “So now they work for us”, is referring to the post-civil war Chinese workers that were underpaid and mistreated while building the Central Pacific Railroad. This sparked anger and nativism in the West similar to that felt by the Northeast with the influx of Irish immigrants prior to the Civil War. The anti-Chinese feelings were so strong that it led to the Chinese Exclusion Act that “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” (textbook p 597). The commercial is set in the future and shows the United States being indebted to China because “America tried to spend and tax itself out of a great recession” and the nation collapsed (minute 0:28). The audience, full of Chinese people, laughs because they know the history of America’s relationship with Chinese workers, and they understand the irony of Americans now having to work for China.

"The Central Pacific employed a workforce that was by 1867 almost 90 percent Chinese" (textbook p 596). Cartoon #5 shows the stark differences in what life was like for Chinese and white laborers. Originally, I thought the cartoon was in favor of Chinese workers and showed how unfair they were treated, but after zooming in on the text below it is exactly the opposite. The cartoon shows a crowded bunk house full of sleeping Chinese men. Some are sharing a bed, some are sleeping on the ground, and two men awake on the floor either eating rats or kissing rats like they are their pets. It feels sad and cold. Below the picture is says, “Why they can live on 40 (?) cents a day.” The picture next to it is of a man dressed in overalls walking through the front door of his house being greeted by his wife holding a baby and two children playing on the floor. There is tea on the table, a fireplace, and also a cat. The picture feels warm and even has a warmer hue to it. Below this picture, it says “And they can’t.” The cartoon overall is trying to justify why Chinese workers can be paid less. They don’t mind living in terrible conditions and don’t have families to provide for. White men, on the other hand, have a higher standard of living and families to take care of and therefore deserve a higher pension. The cartoon just further shows the racist nativism of Americans and the unfair treatment of Chinese workers.

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Cartoon #1 and in-class photograph
by [Megan Wayne](#) - Saturday, March 9, 2019, 7:51 AM

In cartoon #1, it is of a Chinese man with multiple arms doing multiple jobs at the same time representing the amount of work they could do and had to do. On the right of the cartoon, is a separate scene that shows an American dragging a Chinese boy by his shirt with the caption on the bottom saying, "What Shall We Do With Our Boys?" Asking that question as if they do not have enough to do during the day. There was a video shown in class and in that video there was a picture taken back fro this time. It was of Americans in front of the completed cross-country, one-way railroad that the Chinese men had worked on too, but the photographer had made sure to not even get them in the photo because no one cared or wanted them in it. Even though the Chinese men are the ones working on these things, they do not get any credit from others.

Sum of ratings:1(1)_ 1

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Re: Cartoon #1 and in-class photograph
by [James Hebert](#) - Saturday, March 9, 2019, 7:34 PM

I think that is so true! Looking at that idea you built of them not recieving credit, I would go even further to say that they were treated very negatively because they did so much work. They were harassed, rioted against, and eventually ran out of the country! All of this because they were "stealing the jobs" of the Americans in the Union who wanted more benefits.

Looking at the commercial that we were told to watch, they Chinese have been put to a certain standard nowadays that they are seen as almost better than the United States. They talk about how the US fell because of certain things, such as debt. The debt that was "mainly from them."

i feel like most people today don't realize the way the Chinese were treated back in those days, because they are so focused on the slavery issue. As countries age, it is important to remember the misconduct of the people that came before them, so as to learn and not make the same mistakes that they made.

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Re: Chinese - Now & Then
by [Mitchell Bell](#) - Saturday, March 9, 2019, 9:01 PM

Cartoon 1

In this cartoon it is easy to see they are referencing that the huge immigration of the Chinese population Americans were afraid of the chines taking all the jobs it showed a Chinese person with about ten arms doing all sorts of different jobs. If you look at the course of history this occurs many times with many different races Americans become scared because these immigrants tend to work for a lot cheaper than Americans and thats why work unions came about. Now on to the commercial thetas huge joke that is purely a scare tactic first off portraying china as a stronger power than the U.S is just laughable as far as economics it is a lot easier to stay out of debt when your are communist there is little to none wealth sharing from the government to the people also it is purely manipulated by the government in a communist society so that commercial is laughable as far as merit and any relevance.

Sum of ratings:1(1)_ 1

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Is this a fair depiction?
by [Gerardo Morales-Martinez](#) - Saturday, March 9, 2019, 9:46 PM

In this cartoon, the message the artist was attempting to show was pretty obvious. Depicted in the cartoon is a man of Chinese descent based off the hairstyle and clothing. The other man is depicted with an ape like face, portraying the Irish man. The attitude clearly is not pleasant regarding what the Irish and Chinese are doing to this country. With migrating over to the U.S. and taking the jobs from Americans for half the cost what Americans would work for. In a sense, history might be repeating itself. History won't necessarily repeat itself, a different version will surface. Now in modern society, we are outsourcing jobs that could be going Americans. The difference might be that they'll work for less, but nowadays it could be that they are the most skilled for the job. The stigma can still be identified that jobs are being taken by others, but now it's because they are the right person for the job.

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Anti-immigrant nativism (again)
by [Owen McCoy](#) - Saturday, March 9, 2019, 10:53 PM

Cartoon #2 shows the sentiment being described here. As we've seen, the fear of foreigners goes way back in history. The cartoon shows an Irishman and a Chinese man swallowing uncle Sam from either side. This symbolizes how immigrants were pouring into the United States on both fronts (the East and West coasts).

What we've also seen happen over and over again in history is that when economic hard times hit, people will look for someone to blame. In post-WWI Germany, it was the Jews. Way back in the first half of class, we saw an economic depression that fired up opposition to the national bank. In the case we're currently studying, American wage-earning workers saw their jobs being taken by immigrants who were undercutting them. This was in the midst of an economic depression, so money was already hard enough to come by for the working class.

In the commercial, the speaker mentions the recession that hit the U.S. about a decade ago. Again, the commercial shows the fear of foreigners that remains even 135 years later. However, the context is slightly different. The workers of the late 19th century feared foreign influence starting from the bottom, with immigrants taking American jobs. The commercial envisions a time when national debt got out of hand and foreigners acquired control of America immediately at the top. Nevertheless, the basic idea hasn't changed much over time.

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Immigration authority
by [Owen McCoy](#) - Saturday, March 9, 2019, 11:22 PM

Cartoon #3 shows the premise of the Chinese Exclusion Act. The law was in response to the new supply of Chinese labor that was undercutting the American workforce. To protect American workers from unemployment, the government almost completely barred the Chinese from entering the country. This type of action on immigration has been seen before in the United States and in other countries as well. China itself was largely intolerant of foreigners for a long time. They maintained a position of power until British opium made its way through the Chinese border.

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Cartoon #1
by [Michael Krobatsch](#) - Saturday, March 9, 2019, 11:43 PM

In Cartoon #1 we see on the left side a Chinese man with many hands working furiously. While on the right side we see a bunch of boys hanging around not really doing anything. The boys are looking over at possibly their buddy who seems to be in trouble with a police officer, who has him by the collar. Since the Chinese men did all the work there was nothing for the kids to do so they would always get in trouble. In class the other day Joe told us that that is where the term "hoodlum" originated from. On the bottom of this cartoon, it says "what shall we do with our boys?" because of how much trouble they were getting into, and no work for them to do.

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