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Chinese - Now & Then
by Joe Escobar - Friday, March 2, 2018, 11:21 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 which one of the cartoons and/or questions you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Chinese - Now & Then

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Cartoon 2 and 3
by Kerianne Guza - Monday, March 5, 2018, 1:34 PM

In the post Civil War era, a large number of Chinese citizens “were pushed from home by poverty and unstable political conditions”, leading them to seek work in America (Textbook, pg.596). However, in the video clip, the man said that because America was going through such hard times (especially with our debt to China), that we now worked for them.

Each race throughout these cartoons has been given some sort of physical trait to give away who they represent. For the Irish, it is the ape-like face, and for the Chinese, it is the long

braided. When we take a look at the second political cartoon, it is almost comical to look at after having watched that video clip. This is because in the cartoon it is written that "The great fear of the period" is "that Uncle Sam may be swallowed by foreigners". The illustration itself depicts two men, an Irish one, and a Chinese man, swallowing Uncle Sam, who represents America. According to the video, that very thing has happened to America in 2030, by China. In the third political cartoon, Uncle Sam is trying to keep the Chinese out of America, however, some keep finding a way to get in despite what he does. The door that he is nailing shut has written on it, Scott's Exclusion Act. This refers to the extension of the Chinese Exclusion Act, meant to "suspend Chinese immigration for 10 years" for most Chinese citizens (Textbook, Pg. 597). America had seen the Chinese as being such lowly people, to the extent of even trying to block them from entering the country. Now, in the video clip, we see the Chinese laughing at the Americans, like we are beneath them.

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Re: Cartoon 2 and 3

by Kyle Schmidt - Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 10:44 PM

Hi!

I liked your take on this topic especially your comparison of "The great fear of the period" and the commercial. I thought it was cool that the cartoon related so closely to the commercial I said in my response that our attitudes today were not reflected in history and it was nice to be proven wrong. I'm glad people noticed things that I missed in these cartoons I already thought there was a lot going on in this time period but, it is even more complicated than I originally thought.

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Re: Chinese - Now & Then

by Kyle Schmidt - Monday, March 5, 2018, 7:03 PM

"Chinese Now and Then"

3/4/18

Taking a good look at the way our country and its media views immigrants and Chinese people in our society we can make clear connections to our attitudes in history. American nationalism has not changed a whole lot even in over a century we can still see trends that were present in the eighteen hundreds. In the commercial made by citizens against government waste we see fears that are not necessarily the same as those of nineteenth century Americans but have definite similarities. In the cartoons numbers one and six we see one of the dominant worries of Americans, that Chinese immigrants willing to work for cheap labor will slowly replace our workers. In number six we see a depiction of Chinese living quarters side by side with an average American home. This cartoon was honestly one of the least racist simply because it is realistic. It shows the living situation of the Chinese a dark room with only a few bunks and many Chinese men living in very close proximity to each other,

many forced to sleep on the floor. In comparison to the american worker it is a sad truth that a chinese immigrant worker will require less compensation in order to meet their horrid conditions, hence the title "A Picture for Employers" showing the realities of cheap labor. In the commercial we see a dystopian future where America has fallen due to our massive debt and now the Chinese Employ us instead of the other way around. I'm guessing this refers to the railroads in built in the late 1860s and the hiring of chinese laborers. "Chinese laborers ultimately built the Central Pacific Railroad, often under exceptionally harsh conditions, and with substantially less pay than white laborers." (Page 663.) It is a warning that if our country continues increasing our national debt America could lose its power and status to other countries like China in this example. This fear is not the same as losing American jobs to the Chinese but our country's entire way of life and even being subjugated to the same labor conditions Americans forced on Chinese workers. Although this is a different fear all together I feel like it could have started with the simple worry of unemployment in the 19th century. Now I doubt that Americans even envisioned this future in the eighteen hundreds.

The future they saw was different Americans believed the Chinese would somehow collapse their cities with opium, corruption and even prostitution. Despite Americans own addictive behaviors they blamed all of these problems on the arrival of the Chinese. Because the Chinese introduced opium to the american public they were blamed for the following drug epidemic, although they were not directly responsible. The Chinese were trying to escape troubling times in their home country and also to make a fortune to bring back to their families. Because their arrival was so tourmolus to our country they were an easy scapegoat for many of the nations current issues. Even the federal government was convinced that the Chinese were responsible and passed the Chinese Exclusion Act suspending Chinese immigration for ten years saying that they endangered "The good order of certain localities."(Page 664.) cartoon number nine illustrates these fears by depicting chinese immigrants as a monster strangling different aspects of america. With each tentacle representing a different threat that the american people feared, some being opium, cheap labor, bribery, prostitution, etc... Clearly these are not concerns that the American public has about the Chinese today but there is still some underlying fear that the Chinese will somehow be responsible for our destruction and now this commercial goes as far to say that the Chinese will even take over our country and oppress us as we did to their immigrants a hundred years ago. In short no, I do not believe that we are repeating history with the way we see the Chinese in our country today. The only clear similarity that I can draw from then and now is that they are seen as a threat. Now instead of an internal threat we fear their country as a whole and the threat is more real as an external entity but still not as close to home as it was in the eighteen hundreds. However our reasons for fearing the Chinese have completely changed and I do not think it is fair to compare it to how we treated the Chinese immigrants and specifically to contrast it with Chinese laborers seem like overkill in my mind. While the american public's concerns are for the most part based in valid concerns our reasons for these fears have nothing to do with the motivations of the past and a comparison of the two does not do the current situation (or the past for that matter) enough justice.

Murrin, John M.; Hämmäläinen, Pekka; Johnson, Paul E.; Brunzman, Denver; McPherson, James M.. Cengage Advantage Books: Liberty, Equality, Power: A History of the American People, Volume 1: To 1877 (Pages 663 and 664). Cengage Learning. Kindle Edition.

**Re: Chinese - Now & Then**

by Benjamin Hawley-Gamer - Monday, March 5, 2018, 9:40 PM

Throughout most of the political cartoons, the Chinese are demonized and seen as enemies of the US. This is depicted in the 2nd cartoon where the foreigners are depicted as swallowing Uncle Sam. This depiction hints at the idea that foreigners like the Irish and Chinese depicted in this cartoon will soon take over the United States. The 7th picture shows the sign that says "No Chinese Need Apply" which is the same as the "No Irish Need Apply" Showing that the Americans saw the Chinese on the same level as the Irish. The Commercial ties into these cartoons by having a somewhat anti-Chinese theme. The commercial itself is about the idea that the government wasting its resources and time and money and eventually owing the Chinese too much money and eventually the US working for the Chinese. However the creators of this commercial seem to make this prospect into a negative one, even more than it probably should've been. This is shown in the joke made at the end by the Chinese lecturer when he says "Now they work for us." He gives the camera what looks to be an evil smile, subtly hinting that this is not good for the US. I think there are many similarities in these cartoons and this commercial, as well as connections to the current day.

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**Re: Chinese - Now & Then**

by Kyle Schmidt - Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 10:28 PM

Hello!

In your response I liked the comparisons you made to the way the Irish were treated in this period. Although americans were not afraid of the Irish well if they were it must have been for different reasons than the Chinese they were subjected to a lot of the same discrimination that the chinese were. While there were still some differences in the way Americans saw the Irish I agree that it is very comparable and I liked that you saw those comparisons in the cartoons, many of those details went over my head for example yesterday our teacher pointed out that one of the men in the angry mob in cartoon #11 was an Irish man. I thought that was interesting because it surprised me that even other immigrants were racist or atleast also angry about the wave of Chinese immigration.

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**Picture #1**

by Kara Longstreth - Monday, March 5, 2018, 10:54 PM

Upon viewing all of the cartoons, the ideaology of American Nativism is highly prevelant. In relation to history, American government passed many laws to stop chinese immigration;such as, the Foreign Miner's tax. This tax was a direct tax on immigrants who came from china curing the gold rush (an estimated 63,000 according to the text book). There was also a federal bill called the Chinese Exclusion Act. This Bill was passed by President Chester A. Arthur (Republican). This Bill suspended chinese labor immigration and the bill was later extended for ten years under the Geary act.

So Why did American's Hate the Chinese so much? Other than outright american intolerance and nativism, it was the work force. Employers were able to hire chinese workers at a fraction of the cost of american workers. The chinese were just as skilled as the average american, and they came here in floods with the intention of finding gold. When the gold ran out they all turned to the labor force. This Upset many americans because soon the job market was over-run with chinese workers.

The photo that I think best describes this worker competition is the 1st photo in the list. It shows an image of a disfigured chinese man doing many different labor tasks as a group of white men stand outside wondering what to do next. All the jobs had been taken by the chinese man and now they were out of work in their home country when someone who wasn't even a citizen had one.

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2

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Cheap Labor

by Alex McCall - Thursday, March 8, 2018, 2:18 PM

Cartoon number 10 shows a Chinese man sitting against a wall that has writing all over it discriminating the Chinese. Words like Heathen, Barbarian, and vile are a few they use to describe them going on to say they are immoral to the christian people (Always gotta throw in the religion aspect). Off to the side there is American men and what look to be Irish men eagerly wanting a shot at him. And in the back there are ropes on trees. This is showing just how hated the Chinese were back then. A lot of hatred was put on them due to the fact that they were willing to work for really cheap, which also correlates to cartoon number five. When all the railroads were being built, Chinese labor was a key factor into completing it, but they weren't treated well by any means. Cartoon five shows a white family in a nice living space and clothes etc. then a group of Chinese people all crammed together on broken bunk beds and some sleeping on the floor.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Cheap Labor

by Kara Longstreth - Friday, March 9, 2018, 6:35 PM

I was interested by your post because I think you lost a key aspect about the Number 10 cartoon. directly in the middle of the photo there is a woman, who resembles Lady Liberty, standing their protecting the chinese man. The date at the top of the photot (1871) signifies that this cartoon was made over a decade before the anti-chinese immigration law. This gives a huge clue into how the american people felt about this issue. They were not only upset at the chinese for taking their jobs, they were very mad at the United States government for allowing it to happen and not taking action against it. I believe that it was cartoons like this one that probably had a significant impact in fueling the anger of the people and redirecting it at the government, which then will eventually lead to the chinese immigration band of 1882.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Attitudes towards Chinese in the 19th Century and 21st Century

by Josiah Sugai - Thursday, March 8, 2018, 8:30 PM

When I watched the commercial, it showed the Chinese laughing at how America fell and is “working” for the Chinese because of its debt. There is an underlying theme of the Chinese wanting to take something from us. In cartoon #2, there is an Irish man and Chinese man both trying to swallow Uncle Sam. Normally, Uncle Sam stands for America, but since that is extremely broad, I would like to focus it down to the wage-labor jobs in America. This was the fear, that the Chinese were here to take their jobs. In the commercial, China is taking America’s money. The underlying attitude of the Chinese then and even now, is that they are trying to take something from us. In some ways there is some validity to this “fear”/attitude of Chinese trying to take jobs from us. Since people in China can live on much less, the minimum wage is cheap so many American manufacturers set up factories in China instead of paying higher wages in America. I would be surprised if there aren’t at least a few things in your household that was made in China. This seem like history repeating itself, but really it is just humans repeating themselves. Even though the use of cheap labor in China is taking jobs from many Americans, there haven’t been any violent riots or murders because of this. However, the one thing that has repeated is the greed for money. If you are an American manufacturer and want to make the best profit, you need to produce it for low costs (labor, materials), and be able to sell it at a competitive price that makes enough gains. In the current world today, it is much easier to make better profit manufacturing in China than here. Therefore, to make more money, American companies set up factories where labor is cheaper instead of improving the American workforce.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

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Re: Attitudes towards Chinese in the 19th Century and 21st Century

by Kyle Schmidt - Friday, March 9, 2018, 1:49 PM

Hi! I enjoyed your post, no one else talked about our relations with China today and how we actually kind of rely on each other. This is why I thought it wasn’t an instance of history repeating itself because our relationship with China is so different than it was in history.

Although trade with China was an important factor in the nineteenth century considering only merchants and a few other professions were pardoned from the chinese exclusion act.

It was still very different than our relationship today we do still fear the chinese but for very different reasons. Although much has changed I very much agree that all the motivation behind these fears was based in money and capital gain.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1

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Re: Attitudes towards Chinese in the 19th Century and 21st Century

by Kara Longstreth - Friday, March 9, 2018, 6:15 PM

Hey this is my going to be my two cents in this conversation.

You pointed out that you don't believe that this is history repeating itself. I agree in that aspect, the factors and tensions between our two countries varies vastly from the times of the 1860-70's. It is almost like the coin has switched in a sense. Back then, chinese men were coming here for more job oppurtunies and to hopefully support their families back home. In todays modern age, we just employ overseas workers in their home

country. Also the way that society handles the tension is vastly different. Then, all the anger and tension was held in racism and tense personal interactions. Today, you would be hard pressed to find a directly racist situation that had its basis in the job market and political tensions. I do not mean that these types of situations do not occur. what I am trying to say, is that they do not happen for that specific reason ike they did back then. Right now, I feel that the everyday person does not bother with this tension and leaves it up to politicians to carry it.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Attitudes towards Chinese in the 19th Century and 21st Century

by Josiah Sugai - Saturday, March 10, 2018, 10:19 AM

I agree with you on the fact that violence towards Chinese does not happen often today, but argue that there are people who are frustrated when they can't find a good job. I believe it is best to not generalize and say that most middle class people want to leave it up to politicians. In addition, how would the politicians control a private company? Shouldn't the everyday person/middle class citizen, take it up with that company? By "everyday person" were you meaning a middle class citizen?

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Re: Attitudes towards Chinese in the 19th Century and 21st Century

by Kara Longstreth - Saturday, March 10, 2018, 4:30 PM

By everyday person, I am refering to the ever-shrinking middle class. I think that many people can feel powerless when it comes to issues of the economy and poltical tensions between countries. In a sense, they feel that they have to leave it up to the polticians that they vote for because on their own, as a middle class citizen, have very little power in those matters. People can rally and protest but it is ultimategy up to politicians to make the direct changes, even if the change calls for a vote. Politicians may not have a direct say in the actions of a private company; although, they do have a say in passing laws that will affect those companies. Such as the Steel tariff. That Tariff directly effects private companies that ship steel into the United states. That is an example of how politicians can directly "control" a private company. Back in the 1880's, The U.S. government passed the Chinese-exclusion Act that Directly effected companies in China that were sending workers over-seas. This also affected american companies that had ties with those chinese companies.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Things are strangely similar

by Stephen Sorber - Friday, March 9, 2018, 10:21 PM

The Chinese in the 1800's were the majority of the workers working on the Union Pacific Railroad. They worked for pennies on the dollar compared to the Irish and white workers working for the Central Pacific. Today we see that the similarities of the people's blame are set

upon the Chinese. In the picture number 6, you see that there is a depiction of how the Chinese live following a picture of a white family. The Chinese are depicted as living in very poor conditions eating rats to stay alive, while the white family is depicted as owning a comfortable home with the father coming home to a newborn child with animals. The drawing is depicting that the Chinese are coming over from China to live on pennies eating rats, while the white man has a family and has to make more money to live a more comfortable life. After seeing the drawing and the video of how we will soon work for the Chinese I can clearly see the similarities of the stereotypes and the point they are trying to make. I can clearly see that history is repeating itself because Americans seem to be threatened by the fact that the Chinese are taking the jobs. For example, in the commercial, we see that a Chinese man in the near future is holding a seminar stating that the United States is working for China because of too much government spending. However, in the 1800's the Chinese were seen as the menace that was taking jobs. It is interesting that things are not so different today.

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Employers profits

by Camille Titus - Friday, March 9, 2018, 10:43 PM

At first when I watched the commerciale, I was confused on what "side" it was presenting. Toward the beginning I thought it was from the chinese viewpoint, stating why those nations failed and how they wouldn't follow in their footsteps. When the part came about our debt I realized it was supposed to be from a american viewpoint. That part also made me think about how the chinese was treated when first coming to America and how ironic it is to me. It's ironic to me because I saw that the "biggest fear" for an American, for lack of better words, were to work for a different nation. Yet ameericans have turned to immagrintants time and time again for work, which was scary because of the added competition to the workforce. You can see this with different groups throughout our history, lik with Irish, African Americans, and also Asians. Though now we use workers in a different way, by putting factories in the different countries to enhance profit. As our professor talked about Mr. Stanford in class the other day, I seemed to think about how time hasn't changed everything about us humans. Politicians still flip- flop when needed, and the employers find the most productive ways in their field to gain profits. I think this mindset is clearly seen in the first cartoon, why would you hire multiple people to do different jobs when you could just hire one? Also the mindset of many skilled workers at the time worried for their jobs and angry at the idea of sharing the workforce.

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Americans vs. Americans: How the White Working Class Came to Hate the Chinese

by Mariah Goodman - Saturday, March 10, 2018, 1:56 PM

A particular pattern I see among these historical cartoons and the current commercial is that Americans have been exploiting the Chinese for many decades. The forms of exploitation have evolved, of course, as industry has evolved, but their cheap labor has still been taken advantage of for the capital gains of Americans. Additionally, Americans continue to place blame on the Chinese for taking away jobs from them and for their playing such a large role in the American economy. The commercial states that it wants Americans to join the coalition against the "government waste" of Chinese involvement in the economy. Cartoon number 1 seems to share this perspective as well with its depiction of a single Chinese man performing a

multitude of jobs while white men are standing around government and industrial buildings waiting for work. The irony behind all of this anger and animosity that Americans have for the Chinese is that Americans are precisely those who are employing the Chinese to work for less to accomplish more, and yet they still hate them. Granted, I am aware that the Chinese are being employed by rich men, such as Central Pacific Railroad owner Leland Stanford, who employed mainly Chinese immigrants. This provides explanation as to why poorer whites hated the Chinese, as they were seen as taking their jobs from them, but in reality, they should have been angered with the rich white men who chose to employ Chinese people over native-born Americans.

In regard to the commercial, there lies a similar irony. It calls for the banding together "to stop the spending that is bankrupting America". And yet, the commercial, to me, appears to at first show how the incorporation of Chinese skillset and labor into the American economy has been the only thing thus far to prevent it from collapsing in on itself. This yet again emphasizes the prejudice of Americans toward Chinese because it shows that despite the benefit that they are bringing to the current economy, saving it from ultimate destruction, Americans will still feel as though their jobs are being taken by the Chinese. In reality, their jobs are being "taken" from them by other Americans. The real issue they should have is within their own political system that chooses to employ these cheaper industrial practices.

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Re: Americans vs. Americans: How the White Working Class Came to Hate the Chinese

by Stephen Sorber - Saturday, March 10, 2018, 5:31 PM

I agree with you that there are certain differences on how some Americans blame the Chinese. The irony is that the same fight to keep the Chinese out has been "fought" for the last 100 years, is the exact reason we can not drive them out. The commercial is very interesting to see that the message is to stop spending before China has all of the power over Americans.

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