

HST 202: History of United States W18 (Escobar Meta 30898 30897)

Home ► My courses ► HST 202 W18 (Escobar Meta 30898 30897) ► Week 9 ► Forum 4 ►
Chinese - Now & Then

 Search forums

Forum 4

Chinese - Now & Then

[• Subscribe](#)[◀ Professional Sports, Data, and Images](#)[Chinese - Now & Then ▶](#) Display replies in nested form ▼ Move this discussion to ... ▼

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

Sum of ratings: -

[Permalink](#) | [Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

Commercial vs. Cartoons

by Carley Kramer - Monday, March 5, 2018, 3:56 PM

I think that the commercial best reflects the views expressed in cartoon #1, and most of all, cartoon #2. In cartoon #1, we see the caricature of a Chinese man doing the work of multiple people while white American men are standing idly with the caption, "what shall we do with our boys?" This is expressing that working class Americans saw working class immigrants as a threat to their job security. The textbook discussed how this specific issue led to violence on page 597, saying, "Violence against Chinese workers occurred in numerous places in the West during the 1870s and the 1880s, including a massacre in Rock Springs, Colorado, after the

Union Pacific Railroad decided to hire Chinese workers.” The commercial also portrays Chinese labor and development as a threat to American security, and the tagline, “now they work for us,” ties directly to job security.

Cartoon #2 reads, “The Great Fear of the Period: That Uncle Sam may be Swallowed by Foreigners” while Chinese and Irish caricatures “swallow” Uncle Sam. In my opinion, this cartoon perfectly summarizes the message of the commercial. They both portray China and the Chinese as a threat to American security, independence, and strength. The main difference to me is that now this “threat” is based around technology and technological advances instead of labor, which was an aspect of the commercial. This perception of foreigners as a threat is tied heavily not only to economic fears but to racial nativism; immigrants threatened not only the job security of working class Americans, but also their American image and way of life. The commercial, which I found to be ridiculous and fear-mongering, reflected this racial nativism as well.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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



Re: Commercial vs. Cartoons

by Jack Swisher - Saturday, March 10, 2018, 11:32 PM

I agree with what you say about cartoon number two, the message portrayed is that the Chinese are stealing the American's job's with their extremely low wages. The Americans didn't like the Chinese so they acted with violence, and even went as far as burning the Chinese's homes. I think cartoon number one wasn't so much a threat to American's job security, I think it was more of showing how much work the Chinese could do especially since so many came over to help work on the railroads and pan for gold.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

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



Re: Cartoon #1

by Jesse Elizondo - Monday, March 5, 2018, 8:00 PM

This political cartoon shows a Chinese immigrant performing various jobs in the United States. The ability for the immigrant to perform all these tasks has driven american workers out of having a job. I think the connection between this cartoon and the video is that we as Americans fear that immigration or foreign powers will lead to the downfall of our country or society. As we see in the video the people watching the presentation are portrayed as bad or evil, and are portrayed as the cause for the downfall of the United States. So i think that the cartoon and the video both share the view that foreign influence (maybe not even specifically Chinese) is bad for our country.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



Small and Grimy, but Power in Numbers

by Miriel Orhai - Monday, March 5, 2018, 10:23 PM

Cartoon #3 depicts America trying to fortify "Scott's Exclusion Act" to no avail-- dozens of tiny Chinese men are breaking through and forcing their way past, crawling up through floorboards and cracks in the wall (labeled things like "Mexico" and "Canada") like an army of rats. This portrays them as dirty, pest-like nuisances that refuse to stay away despite the fact that their host does not want them. According to the textbook, the Chinese Exclusion Act was successful (pg 597), but this cartoon implies it was not.

The modern ad is similar, in a way-- the Chinese shown care not about America's wellbeing, only their own. They gleefully react to the reminder that "now they work for us." These people are depicted as villainous, power-hungry, and immoral. To top it off, they're a crowd-- a mass of people rather than individuals, just as the rat-like caricatures in the cartoon have power only in their numbers.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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



Re: Small and Grimy, but Power in Numbers

by Rodrigo Santiago-Corona - Friday, March 9, 2018, 11:25 AM

I agree, this cartoon is representing the Chinese Exclusion Act, that was in place from 1882-1943. As the Chinese are trying to sneak in through the cracks, and force their way into the United States, it raises the question if Chinese laborers were still coming into the United States. Although there was an exclusion act that banned Chinese from entering the United States for sixty years, do you think that they found different ways to sneak in illegally? "Violence against Chinese workers occurred in numerous places in the west during the 1870s and 1880s, including a massacre in Rock Springs, Colorado, after the Union Pacific Railroad decided to hire Chinese workers"(597) Just before the exclusion act took place in the United States, Whites took action into their own hands by burning down Chinese homes. Clearly whites weren't happy with more Chinese coming to work on the railroad because they were just going to take "their" jobs.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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



Re: Small and Grimy, but Power in Numbers

by Miriel Orhai - Friday, March 9, 2018, 9:41 PM

I'd like to add to this by showing how a few other cartoons back up the idea at the time of the Chinese people being a mass rather than individuals, not requiring a clean or decent working environment, and being overall sneaky and malicious.

Cartoon #1 shows one many-armed Chinese giant, representative of the entire Chinese workforce, carrying out a multitude of jobs that it has stolen from the taskless white men standing nearby, wondering, "what shall we do with our boys?" Cartoon #5 echoes the fear that Chinese workers will take away white men's jobs. In this one, the Chinese workers are shown eating rats and living in a cramped, broken-down little room, all huddled together, while the white worker-- presumably hired for the same job-- returns home to his wife and children whom he must feed and provide for. The white worker is honored as a symbol of American decency, an honest working man who has earned his wage, while the Chinese are shown as a less-than-human mass of limbs.

Cartoon #8 has a similar theme to #1-- a Chinese man's hair reaches out, grasping firmly all sorts of things, including "immorality", "bribery", and "cheap labor". Again portrayed as a tentacled giant, this one is naming all that the author suspects the Chinese have a monopoly on. Certainly, "cheap labor" is the item most discussed in class and in our text (they nearly single-handedly built the Central Pacific Railroad, pg 597), but we know from the video in class on prostitution in the Western towns that "immorality" was widespread, and likely the Chinese were clients at brothels as well as whites.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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



Attitudes Towards Chinese Immigrants

by Aidan Jewett - Monday, March 5, 2018, 11:51 PM

In the mid-to-late 1800's, millions of Chinese immigrants moved to the United States. From this wave of stemmed a new sense of racism and xenophobia. All of the political cartoons shown, except #10, portray as racist, inhuman caricatures. Chinese faced racism and prejudice from not just from the average white American, but also from the government. California banned Chinese immigrants from owning land, testifying, marrying whites, and immigrating. The Federal Government even passed its first discriminatory law targeting a particular group of immigrants. The Government banned, with a few exceptions, any Chinese from immigrating to the U.S.

I feel that the commercial shown is less about the Chinese, and more about American politics and economics. The speaker compared the U.S. to failed empires such as Greece, Rome, and the British Empire. The video, at least to me, seemed more about the potential failures of American taxation than anti-Chinese propaganda.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



It Isn't Anti-Chinese

by Jordan Hibbard - Saturday, March 10, 2018, 10:07 PM

You said it doesn't feel like anti-Chinese propaganda, but I believe that is because that is not what the video is. It does talk about other countries political failures and implies that China is the most powerful country now, but it isn't anti-Chinese. I actually would say if anything I think it is pro-Chinese. It shows advanced technology, discusses other countries failures, and implies that they now rule those countries.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



We're Scared Of Competition

by Banyan Ryan - Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 10:02 PM

The reason for discrimination of the Chinese back in the 19th century was the same reason we tend to fear immigrants of any nationality; losing our jobs to them. Our jobs give us money. They give us power. And there are only a limited number of jobs needed to run a business. We can see in comics like #1 and #9 that the Chinese are depicted as squid-like monsters having more ways to take our power away from us, be it through ways like "bribery" or "robbery" or simply by being able to take our jobs for less pay. Which they did in fact work for when

building the Central Pacific Railroad, and in very high numbers. "Some 12,000...often under exceptionally harsh conditions, and with substantially less pay than white laborers" (Textbook, 490). This reflects our fears today over us wanting to be the unrivaled top economic and military power in the world. But with China's growing technological advancements and our growing debt towards them (both of which are subtly hinted at in this ad) is causing us to fear eventually being beaten out by them, stripping us of a lot of our planetary power. Basically, it's the same fear as the people during the 19th century but on a higher scale.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

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



Re: We're Scared Of Competition

by Adrianna Rios Chinchilla-Ordoñez - Saturday, March 10, 2018, 11:47 PM

When you say "we tend to fear immigrants of any nationality; losing our jobs to them", I'm not sure why because the United States is a diverse country. Wouldn't there want to be diversity, so providing jobs to other nationalities should be a good thing. The way I see it is, people complain of illegal immigrants "taking" the jobs of others, which I don't agree with. A lot of illegal immigrants are probably taking the jobs most people don't want to take because of the harsh conditions or low pay. I can think of harvest season, where the majority are Mexican, which is how I see the Central Pacific Railroad situation where you have the Chinese working under these cruel conditions and getting paid less. So in image #5, you see the Chinese consuming rats, in a compacted space, looking like slaves not able to go home to their families since most "They planned to take their hard-earned savings home to the wives and families they had left behind." (p.596), as the man on the right gets to go home with better pay and to his family.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

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



Re: Chines codes

by Jack Swisher - Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 12:04 AM

The first thing that comes to mind when I look at these cartoons and read the section on "chinese laborers and the railroads" is the fact that history is repeating itself. Not just in one way, but multiple ways. Number one, discrimination. Why is this repeating itself? African americans, pretty simple. "Mobs of white workers rioted against chinese workers in San Francisco's chinatown. Violence against chinese workers occurred in numerous places in the west." Sounds like the militias promoted by Johnson to be violent against black people. Also sounds like the incident in New Orleans where white men rioted and ended up killing 34 black men and three white supporters. "28 chinese died in an attack that included burning down chinese homes." History definitely repeating itself. Chinese men also were discriminated like blacks were in the black codes. "California laws denied chinese the right to own land, testify in court, to intermarry with whites."

I think cartoon three and four give the best representation of what went on in the late 19th century with chinese immigrants. The two men eating Uncle Sam are Irish and chinese. These were the two races of men who built the railroad. The central pacific railroad employing the chinese, and the union pacific being the Irish. About 12,000 (pg. 597) chinese immigrants built the union central pacific railroad, and often under exceptionally harsh conditions and with substantially less pay. The key word being substantially. This meant that there could be more

work done, and more hours put in for a cheaper price. I think this cartoon symbolizes the hatred that Americans had for these “lower class” people. But the cartoon also shows that these immigrants were stealing American jobs and ruining America because the two men are eating Uncle Sam. Cartoon four to me does a great job of describing just how many chinese men there were. “By 1870, there were some 63,000 chinese in the United States, with over three quarters settled in California.” (Page 596) The men who were everywhere and couldn’t be kept in the exclusion act crate symbolizes how many men there were, and how they are a pest to Americans looking for work. The exclusion suspended chinese immigration for ten years, and kept being renewed.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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



How The Times Have Changed

by Jordan Hibbard - Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 10:27 AM

In a lot of these cartoons the Chinese immigrants were portrayed as small, weak, dirty, and heathens. The exceptions being 1, 2, 4, and 8. In the other comics there are a few themes that tend to be repeated.

First being the stylistic choice across different artists that makes every Chinese immigrant look almost the same. This choice is one that has happened many times with many other races in political cartoons.

Second being the smallness of the Chinese in these drawings. One of them going so far as o actually minitureize them and show them scurrying on the ground as if they were rats. The small and dirty/rat like symbolism is again apparent in cartoon number five as we see a room packed full of Chinese workers on the left sleeping on top of one anther and living with actual rats, there is also many similarities in that drawing between the people and the rats. Finally in cartoon number ten the wall the Chinese man is leaning against actually calls them the "lowest and vilest" clearly portraying the negative feelings towards Chinese at the time.

Things are very different in the video, however, we see great advances in technology, many references to what a great nation they are, and then it is exposed that the U.S works for them. This shows a complete role reversal as they laugh at our mistakes and how the tables have turned.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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



Chinese

by Rodrigo Santiago-Corona - Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 2:38 PM

In 1849 the global economy had drawn thousand of Chinese laborers to the United States. Specifically California, because of the gold rush. Although the Chinese laborers were only in the United States as sojourners, not permanent settlers. “they Planned to take their hard-earned savings home to their wives and families they had left behind”(596). In the 1860’s More Chinese laborers were recruited to come to the United Sates, and assist in the building of the railroad. “Some 12,000 Chinese laborers ultimately built the Central Pacific Railroad, often

under exceptionally harsh conditions, and with substantially less pay than white laborers”(597). As you can imagine the American people were going to be furious about there immigrants coming to their country and taking their jobs. The only people benefiting from the Chinese labor would be wealthy men like Lelan Stanford, who was a owner of the central pacific railroad. As seen in cartoon #4 Uncle Sam in holding back a group of Chinese laborers, and on the door it reads Scotts Exclusion Act, which the Chinese Exclusion Act that was passed by the federal government in 1882. This was the first time the United States placed a ban on a race. The purpose of the Act was to suspend Chinese immigration for ten years. The Chinese Exclusion Act was renewed by the federal government in 1892, then made permanent in 1902. As the Chinese laborers helped the United States in World War II, to fight against the Japanese, the Exclusion Act was repealed in 1943. The Video is set in Beijing, China In the year if 2030. At the Beginning of the short video, the man speaking ask the crowd, “why do great nations fail?” From the video you can see how great china is doing, and how they have caught up to the United States in some ways. Today China is the lead manufacturer in, electronics, toys, and cars. Its hard to find something at the store that doesn't read “Made In China”. In the 1860's Chinese laborers were being payed well under what the Americans were being payed, and now the United States in sending jobs over seas to China, so that they can pay lower wages.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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



Questioning the Chinese Question

by Jonathen Gray - Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 7:21 PM

I believe history repeats itself constantly and especially in the case of immigration / minority clashing. However, the video clip does not necessarily demonstrate the major issues repeating, rather the issues of minority scapegoating. For exmple, the video uses the narrative that the Chinese (in China) are attempting takeover of America. While many of the cartoons are demonstrating the threat of outsiders coming in and taking over jobs. Most would seem the answer to the Chinese question would be to send them back to China. The commercial is about the “powerful” mainland China attempting a takeover, the comics are about the “powerless” Chinese overtaking 2nd least powerful American workers. Opposite ends of power spectrum personified by outside threats.

The real question on the macro-economics side is which lie is the greater stretch of truth. On one side you have the commercial that is spreading lies such as China holding most of America's debt (in reality American debt is around 20 trillion and China owns around 1 trillion). However, in the comics you have American workers who want to stop Chinese workers so Americans can have more jobs. The reality being that no company could afford to treat and pay Americans like they treated and paid the Chinese. In addition you have a time sensitive issue of uniting the coasts on a rail system to increase productivity, gross national product, and efficiency. Even if railroad magnates could afford pay Americans the same wage it just wouldn't have been done in time using American workers. Having a connected rail system benefits American workers and objecting to its speedy completion would work against their long term interests.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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



by Isaac Anderson - Saturday, March 10, 2018, 7:20 PM

The Anti-Chinese sentiment displayed in these cartoons reminds me of the racial nativism that the early Irish had endured earlier in the class. Cartoon #8 has a Chinese man being hung by a man with simian head which we learned earlier to be a negative depiction of an Irish immigrant. The sign in the top left corner that says No Chinese Need Apply is a reference to something that the Irish also experienced with "NINA." Like the Irish the Chinese immigrants were poor. "The global economy had drawn thousands of Chinese laborers to California during the gold rush. They were pushed from home by poverty and unstable political conditions related to Chinas defeat in the British Opium Wars (Liberty, Equality, Power)." Cartoon #3 also makes a reference to the Chinese and Irish with a Chinese man and an Irish man swallowing Uncle Sam. This cartoon says that "the great fear of the period was that Uncle Sam would be swallowed by foreigner's." I think cartoon #3 has big connections with the "potential future" commercial. America is still very afraid of "Uncle Sam being swallowed by foreigners". In the 19th century when the country was still very new, Americans were afraid of the political and religious influence that the foreigners might have on their newly gained "freedoms". According to a Wikipedia entry on Anti-Chinese sentiment "These attitudes were transmitted to Americans who never left North America, triggering talk of the Yellow Peril, and continued through the Cold War during McCarthyism." We can see this sentiment in the commercial with the picture of Mao Zedong and flashes of the communist flag of china.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3



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



Re: Chinese - Now & Then

by Adrianna Rios Chinchilla-Ordoñez - Saturday, March 10, 2018, 9:02 PM

The Chinese get racially discriminated, and in image #9 it seems that the Chinese man with long, possibly braided hair is having his hair chopped by the man behind him who doesn't see his hair acceptable, or as in the class textbook says, "...Chinese immigrants faced a host of discriminatory ordinances specifically targeting them, from queue ordinances regulating the length of men's hair..." (p.597). Their never seems to be accepting views on different cultures. We live in the "United" States where we are a mix of all types of races, yet it's not so united. Through this chapter, the Chinese also go through unfair pay, poverty, and undergo cruel working conditions.

When I saw the Chinese commercial, what came to my mind were the last lines, "Of course we owned most of their debt, so now they work for us" because I see a lot of goods imported with "made in china". Goods from China are cheap, and the United States has a lot of goods for sale from China. I see the "pay back" this video portrays through the light giggles and smirks.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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



Re: Chinese - Now & Then

by Adrianna Rios Chinchilla-Ordoñez - Saturday, March 10, 2018, 9:40 PM

With image #8, it portrays all the unpleasant events the Chinese had to face as far as receiving less pay than the white laborers (cheap labor), the way Chinese women sold themselves through sexual acts, encouraged to be prostitutes, and many of the Chinese moved to

California during the gold rush because of poverty and the political conditions with the British Opium Wars in China (p.597). From the class textbook, "In San Francisco, an estimated 85 to 97 percent of Chinese women were prostitutes in 1860; around 72 percent in 1870; and between 21 to 50 percent in 1880." There was corruption within the Homestead Act, as the opportunity of land was being given only to owned by corporations in the end. These are some of the unfair events that this image shows as the Chinese had to struggle through these problems and perhaps the octopus itself is meant to give off the Chinese as monstrous.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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



Re: Chinese - not welcomed

by Jack Swisher - Saturday, March 10, 2018, 11:39 PM

I think cartoons, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 all portray one thing. The cartoonists here were all anti Chinese. Why? Look at all of the cartoons and how the chinese are portrayed. From the long hair, guns, tentacles on the octopus, these are all images to persuade the Chinese that they were the bad ones who were stealing the American's jobs. The newspaper articles on cartoon 10, saying "Chinese barbarians", the chinese are obviously not welcomed, and the white people even reacted with violence and burning of the chinese house's.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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

◀ Professional Sports, Data, and Images

Chinese - Now & Then ▶

 Moodle Docs for this page

Accessibility at Lane

You are logged in as Joe Escobar (Log out)

HST 202 W18 (Escobar Meta 30898 30897)