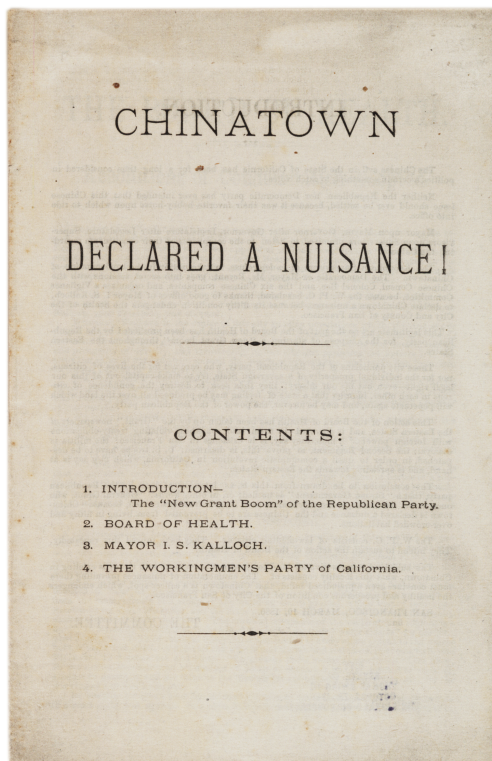


History Resources

San Francisco's Chinatown, 1880

A Spotlight on a Primary Source by Workingmen's Party of California



The Workingmen's Party of California pamphlet, which is representative of widespread anti-immigration sentiment, attacks President Ulysses S. Grant and calls San Francisco's Chinatown "rampant with disease." On May 8, 1882, President Chester A. Arthur signed the Chinese Exclusion Act—the only immigration law in the United States history that targeted a specific country. The act suspended immigration from China to the United States and prevented Chinese who were already in America from going home and reentering the country, effectively

"Chinatown Declared a Nuisance!" by the Workingmen's Party of California, 1880. (Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC06232.03)

stranding thousands of Chinese men and women in the United States. However, between 1882 and 1943, when the act was repealed, tens of thousands of Chinese came to America illegally.

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View the pamphlet cover and the introduction. Then apply your knowledge of American history in order to answer the questions that follow.

- 1. Under what conditions and for what purpose were Chinese originally encouraged to immigrate to the United States?**
- 2. Why did the Workingman's Party of California decide to oppose Chinese settlement as a "nuisance"?**

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