

## Becoming American: The Chinese Experience

- Older generations don't deal with the past
  - Factual, not personal
- Chinese family in the Barnum circus
- Trickled in in the 1840s and 50s
- Meant to be a brief stay, but some didn't want to leave
- Apply for citizen simple at first
- Many thought that their home town in China was the only place they could be loyal to
- 30 million people died in China, so they fled to US to earn money to send home
- Obligation to their village paramount
- Young men had to marry before they migrated to US to ensure he would send money and ultimately return
- Chinese must be buried near their ancestors
- Gold Rush seen as an opportunity
- Journey to the US: No winds for days, no fresh water, death on boats
- Gold mines were tough places
- Clung together out of fear of danger
- Welcomed in San Francisco
- Huiguans: groups of Chinese immigrants who bonded together with those from similar villages, home districts, and clans in China
- Second wave of immigrants: 20,000
- Put to work as soon as they arrived
- Brought culture and animosities between regions/dialect/clans
- 1850s: California's first anti-Chinese laws
  - Tax aimed specifically at Chinese
- 1854: White murderer set free because the witnesses against him were Chinese
- 1850s: Leland Stanford's career started. His views about the Chinese switched back and forth
- City lit by gas light
- People came and went freely before the immigration laws
- Strange and exciting experience for immigrants
- Fights between groups made way to press- view shifted to Chinese being horrid
- Increase in anti-Chinese violence
- "Keep Chinese under control."
- Seen as a threat to American culture
- Chinese 6 Companies: unite Chinese groups to become American, put rivalries aside
- John Chinaman: generic name given to Chinese
- Chinese labor used to clear land: irrigation, drain water, fishermen
- No women immigration
- Crude restaurants
- Triangular yellow flags signified Chinese restaurant
- Chinese men did women's work: nannies, cooking, laundry
- Chinese had to learn to read and write
- Chinese living with American families was a form of assimilation
- Chinese found servant jobs, which confirmed the stereotypes over and over

- Stereotypes
  - Servant
  - Submissive
- Idaho- new frontier for the Chinese
- Lalu Nathoy-
  - arrived as a slave
  - Singsong girl
- Chinese women sold to come to America to become prostitutes
- 1860s: Chinese miners moved into the Boise Basin
- Cities were violent, police not trustworthy
- Frontier justice, Chinese style: arson
- Racial animosity: Non-Chinese referred to as barbarians
- Charlie Bemis: freed Lalu Nathoy
- Chinese women died due to disease and abuse
- Pioneers who came across the Pacific
- 1860s: Build a railroad east- transcontinental railroad
  - Cheap Chinese labor to build
  - Provided jobs for the Chinese
  - 11,000 Chinese workers
  - Those who died on the railroads left there, name marked in hopes of sending the bones back to China
- 1866: endorsement of Chinese in skilled labor
  - Masons
  - Track layers
  - Foreman
- Chinese strike against horrible labor situation
  - Wanted same pay as white men
  - Saw themselves as equal to white Americans
  - 2,000 Chinese participated in strike
  - Food supplies cut
- No ventilators provided
- Leland Stanford praised the Chinese for helping him become wealthy
- Guest of the Gold Mountain: workers on the railroad who would return home
- 1870: Chinese gain civil rights, but not citizenship
- One Chinese man married an American woman
- 1868, 1869, 1870: strikes
- 1870: Chinese teenagers arrive in Massachusetts
  - Brought in as to take jobs, which caused fear
  - Yellow peril
- 200 Chinese in the east
- Use Chinese to mobilize the white working class and organize themselves into a political force
- 1877: Chinese invasion- one Chinese man walked in and out of workplace to scare the workers into thinking he would take their jobs
- Sleeping on the streets, homelessness, juvenile delinquency rose

- Attacks on Leland Stanford's love for the Chinese
- Stanford: Good to his workers, but hid them from others
- Anti-Chinese violence
- Chinese-English guidebook to help Chinese immigrants learn English
- 1877: burn cabin
- 1877: Riots against Chinese in San Francisco
- 1870s: dangerous time for Chinese laborers
- Chinese laborers the main targets in the anti-Chinese movement
- Chinese viewed at first as curiosities
- Chinese baseball team: Celestials
- Elders at home felt that those who were immigrated to US were too assimilated and distant from traditional values
- 1878: Kearney watched closely
- 1876 Election: close, Hayes got presidency
- Afraid that organized labor would take over the government
- Blaine: front runner, in it for the power
- Working class: anti-Chinese
- Blaine: Black civil rights, totally against Chinese immigration; nasty
- People anti-Chinese based on "sanctity of the home and marriage"
- Chinese seen as machines
- George Hoar: Evils of racism, defends Chinese immigration
- Yung's school closed after he tried to get students into Annapolis and West Point
  - "There is no room for Chinese students."
- Won last baseball game
- 1882: Chinese Exclusion Act: Except for merchants and diplomats, no more Chinese were allowed to enter the United States; deprived those in US already of citizenship
  - First time any group banned from US based on race and nationality
- Leland favored Chinese exclusion
- Yung Wing stripped of citizenship, but came as an illegal alien (1:25:00)
- 1887: remains of humans found in a creek
  - White gang shot and beat 10 Chinese miners
- Washington" 600 Chinese expelled, houses burned
- Chinese lynched and run out, Chinatowns were burned
- San Jose: last of the great fires
- 1895: a German photographer took pictures of San Francisco's Chinatown
- San Francisco Chinatown was the Chinese center of their world in America
  - 3 opera houses
  - Restaurants
- Chinese declared permanent aliens: can't participate in elections, politicians didn't have to pay attention to them
- Men stayed in boarding houses
  - Store: where they stayed within their clans
- Family, tradition, and law push Chinese men to go back to China
- Some Chinese earned wages, but spent them