

Where the women went

**NATIVISM, ANTI-ASIAN  
MOVEMENT &  
EXCLUSION**

# Overview

I. Nativism & Citizenship

II. Historical Anti-Asian Sentiment by U.S.

III. “Yellow Peril”

IV. Exclusion

# Nativism & Citizenship

A. Isolationism- U.S. stays out of foreign affairs

1. Don't interfere; isolate from world

2. Don't want world interfering with U.S (race relations)

B. No foreigners (especially those who won't Americanize)

1. "Take jobs" (cheap labor)

2. "They are different" (culture/language)

3. "Go home, they don't belong here"

## C. Citizenship – Who is a citizen in 1910s/1920s?

1. 1790 Naturalization Law – only whites can become citizens

2. 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment – Blacks become citizens\*

3. Who's left out? Who's white?

a. Asians cannot gain citizenship (unless born here)

# Historical Anti-Asian Sentiment

A. Page Law, 1875 – Bars entry of “Chinese, Japanese & Mongolian” prostitutes, felons & contract laborers

1. Asian Women = prostitutes

2. Used fear tactics

- a. American Medical Association

Syphilis Study (1875) – “Chinese women spread a unique ‘Chinese’ strain of syphilis infusing a poison in the Anglo-Saxon blood.”

## B. Anti- Chinese Movement

### 1. Fear of the “Yellow Peril”

- a) Chinese cannot Americanize
- b) U.S can't have another race war
- c) Attempts to limit & stop all Asian immigration
- d) Anti-Chinese movement quickly becomes Anti-Asian movement

## 2. Society

a) 1878 – Naturalization Law upheld. Chinese NOT eligible for Naturalized (obtained) Citizenship; now considered “aliens”

b) 1880 - U.S. & China agree to limit immigration

c) in CA anti- miscegenation (mixing) law: *prohibited issuing of licenses for marriages between whites and "Mongolians, Negroes, mulattoes and persons of mixed blood."*

d) 1880-1890 – 200 Asians lynched

### 3. Media

a. attempts to “other” Chinese

b. media makes them appear “animal/rat like”

c. The Santa Cruz Sentinel, 1879 – *The Chinese are “half-human, half-devil, rat-eating, rag-wearing, law-ignoring, Christian-civilization-hating, opium-smoking, labor-degrading, entrail-sucking Celestials.”*

d. Keep California White Campaign

- U.S Senator James Phelan advocated Japanese exclusion (Asian “invasion”)



# “Yellow Peril” Images







AT FRISCO.

"See here, me Chinee Haythun, I'm wan of the Committee of National Safety; and bringing to me moind the words of George O'Washington and Dan'l O'Webster in regard to Furrin Inflooince, ye must go. D'ye understand? Ye must go!"







Why They can live on 40 cents a day.



and They can't.

J. NEPPLER





# Exclusion

## A. Chinese Exclusion Act, 1882

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Law passed barring entry to country for a group based on race

“We are to keep our hand on the door-knob & admit only those whose presence is desired.” - *Chicago Times*

2. No skilled or unskilled workers (10 yrs.)

3. Needed documents to prove one belonged in U.S. (re-entry permit)

4. merchants (businessmen), students & tourists could be exempt

\*\* Women less likely to be any of the three

5. 1889 – Act ruled Constitutional

6. Act was renewed 1892, 1902, 1904

B. Alien Land Laws, 1913 (CA)-

1. Asians could not own land (“aliens”)

C. By 1917, U.S. bars virtually all Asians

1. Literacy tests (in English)

2. Indians, Japanese, Koreans: immigration stops

3. Renewed in 1921, 1924

## D. Johnson/Reed Immigration Act of 1924/ National Origins Act

1. U.S. sets limit on immigration (200,000/annually)
2. Quota System – who gets to enter
  - a) based on 1890 U.S. population
3. Raised “head” tax
4. Barred all “aliens ineligible for citizenship” (“illegal aliens”)
5. Filipinas/os- still allowed
6. Door closes for Asian immigration

# U.S. & Japan's Gentlemen's Agreement

## A. 1907 Gentlemen's Agreement

1) Japan & the U.S. agree to limit immigration from Japan to U.S.

2) Japan allows only the educated & business class to immigrate (no cheap laborers)

B. Between Exclusion and Gentlemen's Agreement, U.S. sends direct message over immigration