

IMMIGRATION TIMELINES: ESPM 50 ASIAN AMERICANS

(note: See China Men for more complete description of laws affecting Chinese immigrants; See “Chino’s Artful Harvest” in reader. *The only dates I will hold you responsible for are the ones in bold. Otherwise, you should understand the underlying patterns and themes, and be able to explain things like “what the Gold Rush had to do with Asian American history.”*)

1849: Gold Rush in California--major pull factor

1870: Nationality Act--Asians could not become citizens, only “free whites” and “African Aliens” could apply; anti-Chinese sentiment builds to end of century. Anti-Chinese violence occurs, Delta and China Camp are refuges.

1860: Chinese population 90% male, 8 Chinese farmers in California

1862: Leland Stanford, California governor, in his inaugural message decried "the presence among us of a degraded and distinct people" and called for "any constitutional action, having for its object the repression of the immigration of Asiatic races." Legislature took his suggestion in developing "an Act to Protect Free White Labor against Competition with Chinese Coolie Labor, and to Discourage the Immigration of Chinese into the State of California. Stanford as governor and senator, was consistently anti-Chinese, but as a gentleman farmer and railroad magnate, he was just as consistently an employer of large numbers of Chinese laborers. Various taxes and rules targeted at Chinese businesses and residential areas, laundries were established.

1880: 1434 Chinese farmers in California

1882: Chinese Exclusion Act

1882-1925: high rate of Japanese immigration

1884: large scale immigration of Japanese to Hawaii begins--imported by sugar cane plantation owners, etc., became largest ethnic group on the islands, 25% in 1980.

1880s: mass expulsions from Tacoma and Seattle area in Puget Sound. More property loss than loss of life. Given deadlines to leave then escorted to steamers, shops looted, stores and homes burned.

1885: Puget Sound newspaper. The chicken hearted Puritans of the past who for years have refused to aid the Pacific Coast in its efforts to check Chinese hordes from swarming into this country should be given a dose of their own medicine. Let us do everything to encourage the Chinese to leave for the eastern states and few years will bring about a revolution that will retire the man and brother element from eastern politics.

1887: Snake River Massacre : 31 Chinese miners robbed, murdered, and mutilated by a white gang in Hell's Canyon, Oregon.

1888: President Cleveland, 1888: the “experiment of blending the social habits and mutual race idiosyncracies of the Chinese laboring classes with those of the great body of the people of the United States... proved by the experience of twenty years in every sense unwise, impolitic, and injurious to both nations. U.S. cancelled reentry permits, breaking a promise to thousands.”

1898: Supreme court decides person born in US to Chinese parents is an American

1907-8: Gentlemen’s Agreement between US and Japan, Japan agrees to restrict laborer-level emigration

1906: fire destroyed vital statistics record so could claim American birth. paper sons: claimed citizenship, then brought over sons, more than ever a bachelor society.

1910: special immigration facility set up on Angel Island: thousands at Angel Island pent up for weeks and months, examined and reexamined.

1913: California Alien Land Act: non-naturalizable persons could not own land

1908-1924: Japanese in U.S. allowed to bring in wives, population of Japanese -Americans doubles.

*note: between 1882-1925 275,000 Japanese immigrated
1913-14: 283,000 Italians immigrated*

1924: Immigration Act

Immigration law said that you needed to be naturalizable to immigrate
marrying someone Chinese meant loss of citizenship for any American, 1920 census had the lowest count of ethnic Chinese in this country since 1860.

Law allowed legal immigration of 1/6 of 1% of total population of that ancestry in US as of 1920; from China 105 immigrants per year were allowed to legally enter, Chinese wives specifically excluded.

1930’s: boom in Japanese agriculture, vegetables, flowers, almost all the snap beans, celery, peppers, and strawberries for example.

1940: 2/5 Japanese Americans in Farming (41%)

1942-1945-6: more than 70,000 Japanese-Americans incarcerated, many on days notice, significant loss of property and wealth.

1943: Chinese Exclusion Act repealed (U.S. on Chinese side WWII)

1965: Immigration quota bias removed. Since 50's Philippines, Korea, south Asia, most recent Kampuchea, Laos, Vietnam.

1968: quota is by hemisphere, first limits on immigration from Western hemisphere: 120,000; Eastern 170,000.

1978: worldwide quota of 290,000 per year.

1980s: Asian-American population of US has doubled in last decade.

Timeline: Southwest

See Rochin's article in the reader!

1598: Spanish settlement of Southwest/New Mexico begins. Santa Fe made a city in 1610. Missions established. Spanish goals: convert and assimilate on one hand, find gold on the other. Met periodic strong resistance but resulted in hundreds of small villages along the Rio Grande and nearby valleys. Exchange: sheep, cattle, horses. Horses made it to Canada by late 1700s, changed ecology of Native American life, as did gun.

1607: Jamestown established.

1680: Pueblo Revolt

1692: Spanish back in control in New Mexico

1769: first CA mission in San Diego

1822: Mexican Independence

1834: California missions secularized

1846: war declared on Mexico

1848: Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, California and Southwest become territory of U.S.

1850 there were 56,000 Spanish in northern New Mexico. Expanded north, worked on ranches in Colorado, Utah, Nevada, etc. Most lost the land they had been granted by Spanish government. Had to sell land to pay taxes or couldn't prove ownership.

Small irrigated farms left and labor jobs; mid 1800s experienced miners from Sonora went to Arizona, New Mexico, Utah--still shows in concentrations in mining areas. The 9,200 Mexicans living in California are engulfed by gold seekers from the east. At least 5,000 Mexicans from Sonora come in as mine labor. In Texas Hispanics are less than 7% of population because of influx of settlers.

1860's Mexicans recruited to build railroads, 1870's demand for labor in agriculture and mining, railroads, resulting in barrios near tracks in many places. Peasants are losing land in Mexico (see Angus Wright in reader).

1872: "no fence law" requires ranchers to control livestock, keep them out of fields in most California counties--so open range rancho style grazing ends.

1900+: considerable out-migration for manufacturing jobs, mining, railroads.

1910: influx to cities including Chicago, track maintenance and yard work. camps, barracks, lived in old boxcars, seasonal and low paying; Railroad companies set agents to Texas borderlands to sign up men who had just crossed the Rio Grande and put them on trains for Chicago.

1910: irrigation on large scale begins in Imperial Valley, importation of Mexican labor expands 1917. Previously Texas was the main focus of Mexican immigration until the Chinese and Asians excluded and irrigation became more important in California.

1900-1930: railroad provided most employment for Mexican people in LA, also employed in manufacturing, meat packing, etc. Many Barrios are located near railroad tracks.

1910-20: violent revolution in Mexico pressed Mexicans to move north, about 220,000.

1921: following WWI, immigrant quota laws established, Border Patrol created, Mexicans just paid a head tax to get in. Recruited for labor.

1929: Great Depression: deportation and exclusion.

1939: again demand for labor. An agreement struck with Mexican govt in 1942, and for 22 years 4.8 million braceros came seasonally to work American farms and ranches. Illegal immigration grows.

1959: Cubans did not arrive in great numbers until thousands fled Castro

1964: Bracero program ended in 1964, but illegal immigration increased and is still increasing today, despite Immigration reform and amnesty programs.

1975-79 saw explosion of refugees from Nicaragua, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, and Argentina, but Mexican origin still predominant, 74% of people of Mexican origin in 1980 were born in U.S.

1980: Chicano families make up half of the population of the Imperial Valley

1981: Mariel Boatlift -- Flotilla of immigrants from Cuba, many believed to be criminals or considered undesirable by Castro.

1989: Estimated 5 million illegal Mexican immigrants in 1989; 1 million legal Hispanic immigrants.

1994: Prop. 187 on November ballot, epitomizes two-faced approach to illegal immigrant workers (also see China Joe). Huffington, a major supporter, admits hiring illegal nanny. Hialeah City, second largest in Dade County, Florida is 60% Cuban; over half the Cuban population in U.S. is in Dade County. Castro clamps down on dissidents, USSR money to Cuba stops, another boatlift to US results. Invasion of Haiti to stop boat people.

2000: "Eliau" case brings Cuban immigration issues to widespread attention.