**Asian American Studies 20A First Midterm Review**

**Chinese Migration in the 19th century**

1. Push and Pull factors
	1. Conditions in the receiving nation (US) – pull
		1. Nation building
			1. Revolution War ended in 1783- a young nation
			2. Jan 24, 1848- gold was discovered in Sutter’s Mill in California
			3. US is in a process of developing attitudes, values, political/ economic/ social/ cultural institutions, physical infrastructure, and other elements that lend identity to a nation as a unified and distinct body
		2. Industrialization
			1. Mill town in Lowell by the 1820
			2. Increased mechanization and production
			3. Increased demand for raw materials and infrastructure, such as roads, railways, and canals
		3. Manifest Destiny- belief that US had a divine destiny to redeem the world and that this project of bringing Christianity and civilization to the world sanctioned the expansion of the country – as a political urge, as an article of faith
	2. Condition in the sending nation (China) – push
		1. Fractured national identity
			1. Qing dynasty ruled by Sinicized Manchurians from the north west
			2. Canton Province geographically isolated from the north, linguistically different, and there is a large class divide
		2. Domestic turmoil
			1. Taiping Rebellion; Red Turban Rebellion; Bendi-Hakka Clan wars; Major flooding in Canton province; all of which accounted for 10 to 30 million casualties
		3. Western imperialism
			1. Western nations (Great Britain, France, Russia, etc.) and the US trade balance
				1. The West importing high value added goods from China (tea, porcelain, silk)
				2. The West exporting low value added goods (sandalwoods, fur,, and ginseng from the US)
				3. The West paying the difference in silver
			2. The Opium Wars (between Great Britain and China); led to cession of HK and Kowloon; opening of 15 treaty ports; legalization of opium trade and mass domestic production of opium
			3. 1844 Treaty of Wangxia
				1. Terms from the treaty of Nanjing
				2. Extra-territorality for US citizens in China (trail in the U.S. court)
				3. Right to buy land in the 5 treaty ports

**Strangers from a Different Shore**

1. **From a different shore**
	1. Eurocentric history serves no one. It only shrouds the pluralism that is America and that makes our nation so unique, and thus the possibility of appreciating our rich racial and cultural diversity remains a dream deferred.
	2. Pushed out of competition for employment by racial discrimination and white working-class hostility, many Asian immigrants became shopkeepers, merchants, and small businessmen.
	3. Unlike European immigrants, Asians were also victimized by the institutionalized racial discrimination of public policies.
2. **Overblown with hope**
	1. Two options for the Chinese
		1. **Contract laborers to Hawaii**- under arrangements made by emigration brokers representing sugar planters, they could have “free passage” to the islands, where they would sign labor agreements to work for a planter for a term of five years and receive in return wages, shelter, food, and, medical care.
		2. **Credit-ticket system**- a broker would loan money to a migrant for the ticket for the passage, and the latter in turn would pay off the loan plus interest out of his earnings in the new country
	2. Most of the Chinese women entering California before 1875 were prostitutes
3. **Gam Saan Haak**
	1. The construction of the Central Pacific railroad line was a Chinese achievement. Not only did they perform the physical labor required to clear trees and lay tracks; they also provided important technical labor by operating power drills and handling explosives.
	2. Released from employment after the completion of the transcontinental railroad, thousands of the Chinese laborers went to San Francisco, where their compatriots were already heavily involved in manufacturing- boots and shoes, woolens, cigars and tobacco, and sewing
	3. Employers of Chinese labor also realized they could pay especially low wages.
	4. **Ethnic** **antagonism** in the mines, factories, and fields reinforced the movement of Chinese into self-employment – stores, restaurants, and especially **laundries**, which could be opened with a small capital outlay
	5. The Chinese laundrymen didn’t learn the trade in China, but from American women. They didn’t need to be able to speak English.
	6. Chinese were also present in the South. The southern planters thought that it was desirable and necessary to look to the teeming population of Asia for assistance in the cultivation of soil and development of industries. Planters saw that the Chinese could be employed as models for black workers. Chinese migrants found that racial qualities previous assigned to blacks quickly became “Chinese” characteristics- heathen, morally inferior, savage, childlike, and lustful

**1790 Naturalization Act**- only free white men could become naturalized American citizen

**1854 People vs. Hall**- Chinese can’t testify against Whites in court

**1875 Page Act**- prevented Chinese women for immoral purposes (prostitution)

**1882 Chinese Exclusion Act**- suspend Chinese immigration until 1943

**1892 Geary Act**- Chinese required to carry a resident permit

**1922 Cable Act-** citizens married to people ineligible for citizenship have to drop their citizenship

**1924 Immigration Act**- cut down the number of immigrants that can enter the US

**1965 Immigration Act**- abolished the act above

**1934 Tydings-McDuffie Act**- self-government of the Philippines and for Filipino independence from the United States; limited Filipino immigration

**White men’s burden**- conquer the uncivilized land **White women’s burden**- civilize the women

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Prejudice**Yellow peril, heathen ChineseOpium addictsEmasculated ChineseGender binaries | **Political enfranchisement**People vs. HallNaturalization act | **Economic discrimination**Laundry ordinanceLocal ordinance- junk, fishing netsObscene animal parts |
| **Physical violence**Anti-racial riots1871 LA Riots1878 Deep Creek1885 Rock Springs | **Immigration Exclusion**Chinese Exclusion Act **Scott Act**- no traveling Chinese living in the US could return | **Social segregation**Germ theoryProhibited miscegenation |

**Anthology-** Women chose to stay because of familial obligations

**Okihiro-** Binaries and racial construct **Chan-** Push and pull factors; global differences