

Chinese American Ethnogenesis

- 1793 Emperor Ch'ien Lung rebukes King George III --- Chinese edict makes emigration from China unlawful and a capital offense
- 1839 Opium War --- Treaty of Nanking 1842 (cession of Hong Kong to England and 21 million dollars paid to England by China)
- 1840s First Chinese emigrate to the Territory of Hawaii as sugar cane plantation workers
- 1849 *Gam Saan* --- Gold Mountain --- California gold rush attracts first Chinese immigrants (“ineligible for US citizenship”)
- 1853 Foreign Miner’s Tax --- \$4 per month tax on all foreign-born miners
- 1854 *The People v. George W. Hall* case law --- Chinese may not testify in American courts against white persons, however, whites may testify against Chinese
- 1862 Chinese Police Tax --- \$2.50 monthly tax on each Chinese person over age 18
- 1870 Cubic Air Ordinance --- minimum of 500 cubic feet per resident housing requirement
- 1873 -1884 14 “Laundry Ordinances” enacted at the municipal level to disadvantage Chinese laundry businesses
- 1876 Queue Ordinance --- Sheriff required to shave every male prisoner's hair to within one inch of the scalp
- 1879 *Ah Kow Ho* case law --- 14th Amendment’s equal protection clause applies to both citizens and non-citizens
- 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act --- First US immigration law to restrict immigration rights based upon a group’s nationality (Chinese merchants, diplomats, and students are exempted)
- 1886 *Yick Wo v. Hopkins* case law --- subjects laws to review by the courts for their “intent and application” as these considerations might show a law to be discriminatory against a specific race or nationality
- 1943 Chinese granted first legal access to naturalization rights (US citizenship)
- 1943 Chinese granted first legal immigration quota (100 persons per year)
- 1965 Chinese immigration expanded from a maximum ceiling of 100 to 20,000 persons per year
- 1997 Hong Kong returned to China by England terminating the Treaty of Nanking 1842