

Asian American and Pacific Islander History

A short overview of
AAPI History by
Raphael Ofendo Reyes



16th Century

- 1565 – The Manila galleon trade begins with Mexico.
- Filipinos on board a Spanish ship became the first documented Asians to set foot in the soon to be continental United States



18th Century



Filipino Manilamen establish communities near New Orleans.

1760's



1790's

South Asians settle on the East Coast and the first Chinese arrive in Hawaii.

19th Century



Chinese immigrants settle in New York and the East Coast.

1820's

Chinese students arrive in the US.

1847

People v. Hall establishes that Chinese people cannot testify for or against Whites in court, and further classifies Asians as people of color.

1854

Chinese and Mongolians are banned in California (law struck down in 1862).

1858

A massacre of Chinese residents occurs in Los Angeles leaving approximately 21 dead.

1871

Chinese people can now testify in court.

1872

Chinese Exclusion Act
Remains the only law in the US preventing a specific ethnic group from immigrating to the United States.

1882

20th century



Asians who served in WWI are allowed to have naturalized citizenship.

1918

1930

An anti-Filipino riot takes place in CA; a Filipino boarding house is bombed.



Japanese Internment Camps

Following the Pearl Harbor attack of 1941, FDR signs Executive Order 9066 which authorized the incarceration of people of Japanese descent.

1942

1943

End of Chinese Exclusion Act.



Fig. 1. Anti-Filipino pamphlet, unpublished, in microfilm.

Hawai'i becomes the 50th state.

1959



1992

After 4 LAPD officers were acquitted for the use of excessive force in the beating and arrest of Rodney King, several riots took place in California disproportionately affecting Koreatown.

Chinese in Charleston

- 1700's – "The Chinese Trade"
- 1870's to 1940's – Chinese immigration convention brought Chinese labor to the South
 - First wave came to Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi as indentured servants on contracts.
 - First wave came to Charleston as entrepreneurs.
- 1800's – the Chinese were considered "White" in Charleston according to various government documents
- Racial classifications are unclear but closely related to socioeconomic status and relation to Whites and Blacks





Modern Politics

- There are three Asian American / Pacific Islander U.S. Senators
 - Mazie Hirono – Hawaii
 - Tammy Duckworth – Illinois
 - Kamala Harris – California
- There are thirteen 13 Representatives
 - Bobby Scott (VA); Doris Matsui (CA); Judy Chu (CA); Ami Bera (CA); Grace Meng (NY); Mark Takano (CA); Ted Lieu (CA); Pramila Jayapal (WA); Ro Khanna (CA); Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL); Stephanie Murphy (FL); TJ Cox (CA); and Andy Kim (NJ)



Modern Pop Culture



Why does this matter?

- Our mission
- Telling our own story
- Being a resource to Asian American / Pacific Islander communities





References



- The Columbia Guide to Asian American History – Gary Okihiro
- A History of the Chinese in Charleston – Jian Li
- Further exploration:
 - Brown Skin, White Minds: Filipino – American Postcolonial Psychology by EJR David
 - Paper Menagerie by Ken Liu:
<https://io9.gizmodo.com/read-ken-lius-amazing-story-that-swept-the-hugo-nebula-5958919>
 - “The Untold Story of America’s Southern Chinese”:
[youtube.com/watch?v=2NMrqGHR5zE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NMrqGHR5zE)

