

# TIMELINE OF THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT

## CHINESE IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S.

- (1839-42; 1856-60)
  - The Opium Wars waged in China for years, leaving the country devastated physically and with huge debt. Following the war, China suffered from a series of weather phenomena, ranging from periods of severe drought to a wave of floods leading to an exodus of Chinese farmers.
- 1848
  - Gold is discovered in California, leading to an increase in Chinese immigration into the United States to pursue opportunities provided by the gold rush. The U.S. sees its first large wave of Chinese migration. As immigration continues, tensions between white miners and the Chinese increased, leading to violence against the Chinese miners, much of it being racially charged.
- 1854
  - The Supreme Court Case, *People v. Hall*, ruled that, like African Americans and Native Americans, the Chinese were not allowed to testify in court, thus, making justice against hate crimes impossible to pursue.



*Summarize the events leading up to the Chinese Exclusion Act:*

## THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT

- 1882
  - President Chester A. Arthur signed into law the Chinese Exclusion Act, meant to curb the influx of Chinese immigration into California and the U.S. The act suspended Chinese immigration for 10 years and made those already in the country ineligible for naturalization.
- 1892
  - The Geary Act is passed, strengthening the Chinese Exclusion Act and extending the suspension of immigration an additional 10 years. The Act also required Chinese residents in the U.S. to carry documentation issued by the IRS. Those caught without documents were sentenced to hard labor and deportation. Bail was only offered for the accused if they had a “white credible witness” who could vouch for them.
- 1902
  - Chinese immigration to the U.S. was made permanently illegal, leading to a decline in the Chinese population within the U.S.
- 1924
  - The U.S. further strengthens its restrictions, passing the Immigration Act of 1924. Signed into law by President Coolidge, the Act also targeted other immigrant groups, such as Middle Easterners, Hindus, East Indians, Mexicans, and Japanese. Quotas extending immigration to people from Northern Europe countries were established.



*Summarize the outcomes that occurred in the U.S. as a result of this law:*

History.com Staff. (2018, Aug 24). Chinese Exclusion Act. History. <https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/chinese-exclusion-act-1882>