

A Call to Action : Historical & Contemporary Rise of Anti-Asian Hate







Terminology

- Calgary Anti-Racism Education (CARED) - Glossary
- Racism (Individual, Systemic)
- Discrimination
- Xenophobia
- Intergenerational Trauma



Racism

Racism: Racism refers not only to social attitudes towards non-dominant ethnic and racial groups but also to social structures and actions which oppress, exclude, limit and discriminate against such individuals and groups. Racist social attitudes originate in and rationalize discriminatory treatment. Racism in the larger society can be seen in discriminatory laws, residential segregation, poor health care, inferior education, unequal economic opportunity and the exclusion and distortion of the perspectives of non- dominant Canadians in cultural institutions (Thomas, 1987).⁵⁵

Racism refers to “a system in which one group of people exercises power over another on the basis of skin colour; an implicit or explicit set of beliefs, erroneous assumptions, and actions based on an ideology of the inherent superiority of one racial group over another, and evident in organizational or institutional structures and programs as well as in individual thought or behaviour patterns” (Henry & Tator, 2006, p. 352).⁵⁶



Individual Racism

Individual Racism: “The beliefs, attitudes and actions of individuals that support or perpetuate racism. Individual racism can occur at both a conscious and unconscious level and can be both active and passive. Examples include telling a racist joke, using a racial epithet or believing in the inherent superiority of whites” (Adams, Bell & Griffin (eds.). Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice: A Sourcebook, qtd. in Racial Equity Resource Guide).

Individual Racism is learned from broader socio-economic histories and processes and is supported and reinforced by systemic racism. Because we live in such a culture of individualism (and with the privilege of freedom of speech), some people argue that their statements/ideas are not racist because they are just “personal opinion.” Here, it is important to point out how individualism functions to erase hierarchies of power, and to connect unrecognized personal ideologies to larger racial or systemic ones. That is, individualism can be used as a defensive reaction. This is why it is crucial to understand systemic racism and how it operates.



Systemic Racism

Systemic/Institutional Racism: “Racism that consists of policies and practices, entrenched in established institutions, that result in the exclusion or advancement of specific groups of people. It manifests itself in two ways: (1) institutional racism: racial discrimination that derives from individuals carrying out the dictates of others who are prejudiced or of a prejudiced society; (2) structural racism: inequalities rooted in the system-wide operation of a society that excludes substantial numbers of members of particular groups from significant participation in major social institutions” (Henry & Tator, 2006, p. 352)



Discrimination

Discrimination: “The denial of equal treatment and opportunity to individuals or groups because of personal characteristics and membership in specific groups, with respect to education, accommodation, health care, employment, access to services, goods, and facilities. This behaviour results from distinguishing people on that basis without regard to individual merit, resulting in unequal outcomes for persons who are perceived as different. Differential treatment that may occur on the basis of any of the protected grounds enumerated in human rights law” (CRRF Retrieved 8/18/20).

There are three kinds of discrimination: **overt discrimination, unequal treatment, and systemic discrimination:**

- **Overt discrimination:** the granting or denying of certain rights to certain groups of individuals.
- **Unequal treatment:** the differential treatment of one group in comparison with another because of certain characteristics (i.e. paying lower wages to women in comparison to men for work of equal value).
- **Systemic discrimination:** the policies and practices entrenched in established institutions that result in the exclusion or promotion of designated groups.



Xenophobia

Xenophobia: Refers to the “attitudes, prejudices and behaviour that reject, exclude and often vilify persons, based on the perception that they are outsiders or foreigners to the community, society or national identity” (qtd. in UNESCO. “Xenophobia,” Retrieved 9/22/20).⁶⁸ In other words, xenophobia is “[f]ear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything that is strange or foreign” (CRRF Retrieved 9/22/20).



Intergenerational Trauma

Intergenerational Trauma: “Historic and contemporary trauma that has compounded over time and been passed from one generation to the next. The negative effects can impact individuals, families, communities and entire populations, resulting in a legacy of physical, psychological, and economic disparities that persist across generations” (Gov’t of Ontario, “Glossary” Retrieved 9/28/20).



Overview

- A Question of Citizenship
- A Timeline of Anti-Asian Laws
- Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882
- Japanese Internment 1942- 1945
- Muslim Ban 2017
- Rise in Anti-Asian Hate 2020-Present
- Our Communities, Our Stories : A Call to Action



A Question of Citizenship

- Definition of “Citizenship”
- Ronald Takaki’s *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America*
- Birth Rights, Naturalization, Refugee Status
- Immigration (migration waves for Asian Americans)
- Marriage
- Family



A Timeline of Anti-Asian Laws

- 1790 : The Naturalization Act. Only free white immigrants can become US Citizens
- 1850-1852: California passes Foreign Miners Tax. Initially kept Latino Miners out of the mines, then pushed Chinese miners out
- 1853: Washington Territory banning Chinese from voting
- 1854: People v. Hall bars Chinese from giving court testimony
- 1858: California passes law denying entry to Chinese and Mongolians
- 1862: California imposes “police tax” on Chinese residents
- 1863: Washington Territory prohibits Chinese giving testimony in cases involving a white person
- 1864: Washington Territory imposes a poll tax on Chinese residents
- 1870: California passes a law to make it illegal to “import” Chinese, Japanese, or Mongolian women for prostitution (a charge commonly used to bar entry of unmarried Asian women; also perpetuates racist perceptions of Asian women’s sexuality)



A Timeline of Anti-Asian Laws...cont. 2

- 1875: The Page Law. Chinese, Japanese and Mongolian prostitutes, contract laborers, and felons are barred from entering the United States
- 1879: California prohibits employment of Chinese in municipalities and corporations
- 1880: California prohibits interracial marriage; US also signs treaty to limit number of Chinese immigrants. This was repealed in 1948
- 1882: The Chinese Exclusion Act. Chinese Immigration to US prohibited and renewed in 1888, 1892, 1902, 1904. Finally repealed in 1943
- 1886: Washington Territory passes Alien Land Law which barred Asians from owning land
- 1888: The Scott Law. Ren-entry of Chinese laborers who left the US is prohibited
- 1895: *Lern Moon Sing v. US*. Prevented reviews of habeas corpus petitions of Chinese for landing in the US.
- 1906: US Attorney General orders to no longer issue naturalization papers to Japanese
- 1907: Theodore Roosevelt issued executive order to prohibit immigration of Japanese and Koreans through Canada, Mexico, and Hawaii
- 1907-1908: The Gentleman's Agreement. President Roosevelt and the Emperor of Japan agree to limit Japanese immigration to the parents, wives, and children of Japanese men already in the US.



A Timeline of Anti-Asian Laws...cont. 3

- **1913 - California passes the Alien Land Law, prohibiting Asians from owning land within the state.**
- **1915 - Washington State prohibits Asian immigrants from taking salmon, food, or shellfish “for sale or profit.”**
- **1917 - The Asiatic Barred Zone. Prohibits most Asian and Pacific Islander immigration to the US.**
- **1921 - Washington State follows up it’s 1886 law by prohibiting the owning or leasing of land by non-citizens and people ineligible for citizenship.**
- **1922 - The Cable Act. Previously, any woman who was a US Citizen and married a non-citizen would lose her US citizenship. The Cable Act undid this piece of political patriarchal bullshit- unless the woman married an Asian immigrant. Marrying an Asian male would still cost a woman her US citizenship. Also in this year, Ozawa v. US decreed that even with light-skinned complexion, Japanese were barred from becoming US citizens.**
- **1923 - US v. Bhagat Singh Thind. In the face of an argument that Indians are caucasian, Indians are declared non-white Asians and subject to all anti-Asian laws.**
- **1924 - The Immigration Act of 1924 (and The National Origins Act). “Hindu, Chinese, and Japanese” wives of American citizens are denied immigration. Prohibits most Asian immigration, particularly laborers (Filipinos are exempted) and prohibits reunification of Chinese wives with their husbands in the US.**

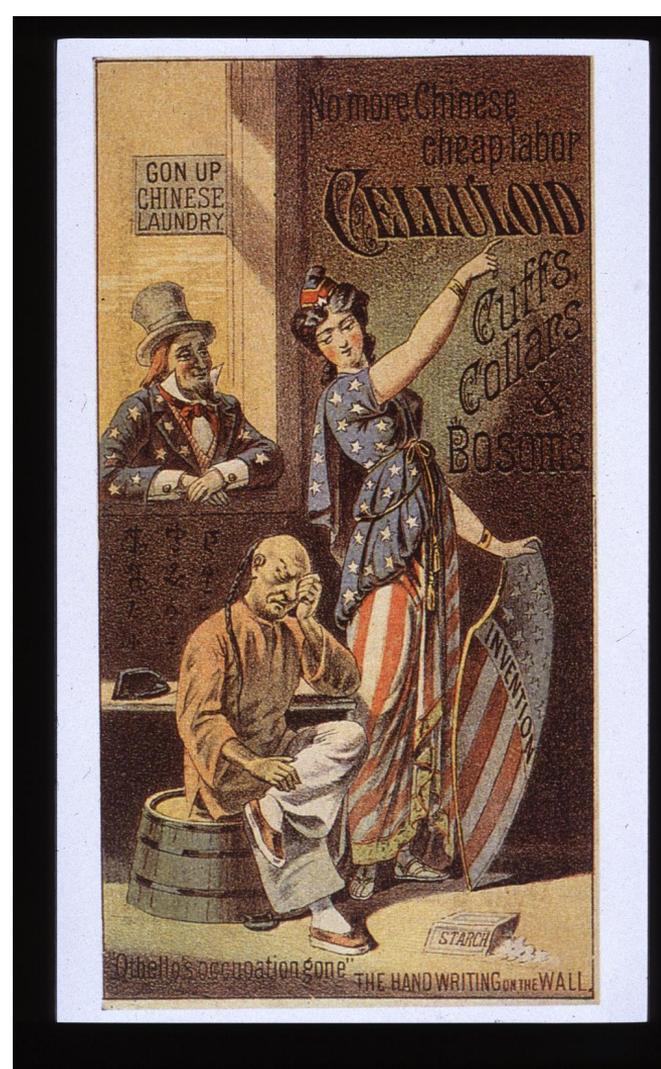


A Timeline of Anti-Asian Laws...cont. 4

- **1925 - *Hidemitsu v. US*. Upholds previous bar to naturalization held under *Ozawa v. US*.**
- **1933 - Filipinos are ruled ineligible for citizenship and barred from immigrating to the US.**
- **1934 - The Tydings-McDuffie Act. The Philippines is made a commonwealth and Filipino immigration to the US is capped at 50 people per year.**
- **1942 - Executive Order 9066. All persons of Japanese ancestry are ordered removed from the Pacific coast and put into internment camps.**
- **1943 - *Hirabayashi v US*. The Supreme Court upholds the curfew imposed on Japanese.**
- **1944 - *Korematsu v US*. Exclusion, detention, and internment of Japanese on the West Coast is upheld.**
- **1945 - The War Brides Act. Yeah, it's what you think it is.**
- **1946 - The Luce-Cellar Act. 100 Indians and 100 Filipinos per year are allowed to immigrate to the US. (Also restores right to become citizens to both groups)**
- **1952 - Immigration and Nationality Act. Repeals bar to immigration/citizenship based on race.**
- **1965 - The Immigration Act of 1965. National origin quotas are repealed.**

Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882

- Chester A. Arthur, US President, economic depression
- Why is this significant? It was the first law in the United States that prohibited the entry of immigrants on the basis of nationality and ethnicity
- Railroads and laundries, but also agriculture
- Affected communities throughout the US
- Social, political, and economic implications
- Repealed in 1943!



Japanese Internment 1942-1945

- Feb. 19, 1942 Executive Order 9066
- Franklin D. Roosevelt and WWII
- 120,000 Japanese displaced and in camps
- Camp Amache (now Granada War Relocation Center) - southeast Colorado
- Impact on families and future generations (language, intergenerational trauma)
- Revisits concept of citizenship



Muslim Ban 2017

- Islamophobia: fear, hatred of or prejudice against Islam and/or Muslims.
- Countries included (Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen)
- Post 9/11 Rise of Anti-Muslim Hate
- Citizenship, a continuum



Anti-Asian Hate: 2020-Present

- The Numbers 2020 and 2021
- Vicha Ratanapakdee
- Atlanta Shootings
- Power of language (terms used)
- Did not begin in 2020
- Vincent Chin
- Denver's history of Anti-Asian hate crimes - Oct. 1990, 6 Japanese students attacked

HATE CRIME INCIDENTS BY BIAS MOTIVATION

	2017	2018	2019	2020 (to date)
ANTI-ASIAN	6	5	1	20
ANTI BLACK	34	45	36	18
ANTI-JEWISH	151	186	242	60
TOTAL	325	353	420	128

Source: NYPD / FILE PHOTO



Our Communities, Our Stories: A Call to Action

- Need for organizing and action
- Protect our elders, our families, our communities
- Breaking some norms to protect valued norms: SILENCE IS NOT GOLDEN IN THIS CASE
- Poem: “Chinese Silence No. 22” by Timothy Yu
- Available resources and organizations : ActionAgainstHate, StopAAPI Hate, iHollaback.org

WE, TOO, ARE
AMERICA!!

