

An American Narrative

History in the United States is systematically taught from a Eurocentric perspective, and as a result, education has always been subjective. Textbooks contribute to the erasure of history by skipping over significant moments, including the role Asian Americans took in the foundation of our nation. They perpetuate the idea that Asian culture is merely secondary to the "American" narrative. In reality, Asian American history is American history, ever since 1565.

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1500s

1565
Filipino sailors, slaves, and servants land in Mexico
 They are brought by Manila Galleons as part of Spain's Empire

1587
First Filipinos arrive to North America
 Filipino sailors are brought to California by a Spanish Manila Galleon

1600s

The Mayflower brings Pilgrims

1635
An "East Indian" is documented in Jamestown, VA
 He is listed on a headright, a legal grant of land

1700s

Revolutionary War
 US Declaration of Independence

1775
Chinese arrive to the East Coast of the US in Baltimore, MD
 Chinese sailors are brought by John O'Donnell, the founder of Canton, as the creation of the port of Baltimore and beginning of trade with China

1764
Permanent Filipino settlements establish in North America
 Filipinos escape imprisonment aboard Manila galleons and flee to St. Malo, LA

1810

Star-Spangled Banner

1790
The Naturalization Act of 1790 allows citizenship
 Citizenship is allowed to "any alien, being a free white person" who has been in the US for 2 years, but leaves out indentured servants, slaves, and women

1784
The Empress of China sets sail from New York
 It is the first US vessel to travel under the US flag to the "golden regions" of China

1830

Battle of the Alamo

1812
Manilamen from St. Malo, LA fight for the US militia
 They fight in the War of 1812, caused by US territory expansion

1814
618 US vessels sail from New York to China
 This marks a turning point in New York's role in US trade

1840

Texas Annexation
 California Gold Rush

1830
Chinese-born naturalized US citizens live in New York
 Many serve on-board transatlantic ships and marry white citizens

1834
Afong Moy is the first Chinese woman in the US
 At age 29, Moy is advertised as a "beautiful Chinese Lady" and is placed inside an exhibit designed as a "Chinese Saloon" for viewers to pay 25¢ to watch her use chopsticks and speak

1850

Dred Scott Supreme Court case

1838
419,000 South Asians go to British Guiana, Trinidad, and Jamaica
 They are hired as coolies, indentured laborers under contract

1843
The first documented Japanese arrive in the US
 Most work as domestic servants for middle-class white families

1860

American Civil War
 Emancipation Proclamation
 Ku Klux Klan

1849
23,517 Chinese make their way to California for the Gold Rush
 The influx of foreign laborers leads to ethnic tensions, especially as gold grows scarce

1848
The first Chinatown in America forms in San Francisco, CA
 Anti-Chinese racism and legal barriers prevent assimilation which force Asian Americans to form their own communities of ethnic enclaves

1870

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

1854
People v. Hall bars Chinese Americans from testifying in court
 Already a statute that barred testimony by African Americans, mulattoes, and Indians, it is newly applied to all non-whites, including Chinese as they are argued to be "inferior and incapable of progress or intellectual development beyond a certain point"

1852
The Foreign Miners Tax of 1852 taxes immigrants
 Immigrant miners, specifically Chinese and Mexican, are taxed \$4 per month

1880

The Statue of Liberty
 The Washington Monument

1859
The Oriental Public School is founded in San Francisco, CA
 It is the first segregated public school for Chinese children

1855
A new order requires a ratio for South Asian immigrants
 33 women to 100 men are required, but only "moral" women (with parents, married, widowed) are to be accepted. All others are "immoral" and encourage prostitution

1890

Ellis Island Immigration Center
 Plessy v. Ferguson "separate but equal"
 Illegal Annexation of Hawaii

1862
The Prohibition of Coolie Trade Act of 1862 outlaws coolie labor
 Only voluntary immigrants were allowed to be hired for work

1860
Chinese find work in the California mines
 70% of Chinese immigrants work as miners

1900

First Movie Theatre
 Ford Motor Company

1869
Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads meet at Promontory Point
 They lay the last spike in Utah in the transcontinental railroad; The Chinese workers were missing from the official photographs

1867
2,000 Chinese leave Cuba for Louisiana to work as contract laborers
 This is the first significant migration of Chinese, as part of the Reconstruction Era

1910

World War I
 19th Amendment: Women's Suffrage

1875
The Page Act of 1875 denies entry to Undesirables
 "Undesirable" Asians are classified as coolies, prostitutes, and convicts

1871
Chinese Massacre of 1871 targets Chinese residents
 A mob of 500+ white men enter Chinatown to attack, loot, and murder Chinese residents

1920

Disney's Steamboat Willie
 21st Amendment: End of Prohibition

1885
The first group of Japanese laborers arrive in Hawai'i
 They are hired to work in sugar plantations

1882
Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 bars laborers from entering
 It exempts only merchants, students, teachers, and diplomats and introduces policies to interrogate and deport as a "gate-keeping nation," and denied citizenship or the right to vote

1930

World War II
 MLK Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" Speech
 The Beattles Arrive

1892
The Geary Act of 1892 requires Chinese registration
 Chinese laborers now have to register with the US Federal Government

1889
Over 80% of coolies work on British Guianan plantations
 Aspects are 5 years for 16 days, with housing, passage, and food, however workers end up exploited an extra 5 years and faced brutality and a mortality rate of 25%

1940

The Manhattan Project
 Normandy D-Day Invasion

1898
The Philippines becomes a US territory
 They were included as part of the Treaty of Paris, ending the Spanish-American War

1899
4 Sikh men arrive to San Francisco, CA by steamship
 Newspapers report them as a "picturesque group" as some of the first South Asians

1950

Brown v. Board of Education
 The Space Race

1903
The Pensionado Act of 1903 allows Filipinos to study in the US
 The US funds students to study government so they could teach upon return to the Philippines; 103 students come during the first wave of pensionados

1905
The Asiatic Exclusion League forms in San Francisco, CA
 Their goal is the exclusion of Japanese, Chinese, and Korean immigrants in order to maintain the survival of the white race, after the second wave of Korean immigration

1960

MLK Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" Speech
 The Beattles Arrive

1906
Japanese and Korean students are sent to the Oriental School
 The San Francisco School Board sent them after pressure from the Asiatic Exclusion League

1907
Executive Order 589 excludes secondary migration
 The Bureau of Immigration creates the Mexican Border District to patrol for illegal secondary migration; As the first immigrants to be excluded, Asians are the first to be undocumented

1970

Pentagon Papers
 Watergate Scandal

1910
Angel Island Immigration Station opens in San Francisco Bay, CA
 A total of 56,000 Asian immigrants will end up coming through but are held in detention centers for months, weeks, or even years; The longest detention was for 22 months

1913
The California Alien Land Law of 1913 prohibits land ownership
 "Aliens ineligible for citizenship," a legal category only applicable to Asian immigrants, were permitted to lease land for only three years and barred from further purchases; Immigrants found loopholes by securing leases in US-born children's names

1980

First Case of AIDS

1917
The Immigration Act of 1917 creates more immigration requirements
 It imposed literacy testing and established the Asiatic Bar Zone, including South Asia

1919
The fear of "Yellow Peril" is brought to Hollywood
 A number of popular films references "Yellow Peril," including Cecil B. DeMille's *The Cheat* and D.W. Griffith's *Broken Blossoms*

1990

O. J. Simpson Trial
 Google
 Preparation for the Y2K Bug

1921
The Emergency Quota Act of 1921 limits admission
 Annual admission limits 355,000 and 2% of the current US residents per country; non-European countries are less likely than European countries to be admitted as a result

1922
Takao Ozawa v. US
 The Supreme Court rules Japanese ineligible for naturalization, only "free white persons and aliens of African nativity and descent," barring citizenship and the right to vote

2000

9/11

1923
Bhagat Singh Thind v. US
 The Supreme Court rules South Asians ineligible for naturalization, barring citizenship and the right to vote

1924
The Immigration Act of 1924 denies aliens
 The act denies immigration to aliens "ineligible for citizenship"

2010

Facebook
 Presidential Election of Barack Obama

1930
The Watsonville Riot breaks out
 The 5-day fatally violent anti-Filipino riot in Watsonville, CA expands to neighboring cities

1933
The Filipino Labor Union forms
 The union protests for higher wages and improved conditions in California

2020

Death of Osama Bin Laden
 Boston Marathon Bombing

1934
The Philippine Independence Act of 1934 granted commonwealth
 The US promised the Philippines that they will be granted independence in 10 years

1935
The Filipino Repatriation Act of 1935 pushes repatriation
 Filipinos born in the Philippines and in the US could apply for the "benefit" of repatriation to the Philippines, all expenses paid, but would be barred from re-entering the US

present day

Legalization of Same-sex Marriage
 Presidential Election of Donald Trump

1936
The Watsonville Riot breaks out
 The 5-day fatally violent anti-Filipino riot in Watsonville, CA expands to neighboring cities

1939
Hiram Fong is the first Asian American elected to Senate
 The seventh of eleven children born to Chinese immigrants, Fong graduates from Harvard Law and becomes the first Asian American to serve in the US Senate until 1977

1941
Japan bombs Pearl Harbor
 The US enters WWII and labels all Japanese Americans as enemies, freezing all finances; The US falsely classifies many Koreans as Japanese enemies

1942
Executive Order 9066 incarcerates Japanese into internment camps
 Over 127,000 Japanese Americans were imprisoned in ten camps spread out around the Western US; More than 66% were born in the US and had never been to Japan

1943
A loyalty questionnaire is sent to American citizens
 They are designed to seek out US loyalty in Japanese-Americans, including a volunteer draft

1944
Ex parte Mitsuye Endo
 The Supreme Court rules that the US government could not detain citizens who are "concededly loyal"; Warned in advance, Pres. Roosevelt issues Public Proclamation 21 rescinding exclusions and closing internment camps a day before the ruling

1946
The Luce-Celler Act of 1946 allows South Asian naturalization
 South Asians and Filipinos are allowed to be admitted and naturalized into the US, and are given the right to vote

1945
Japanese Americans are released from internment camps
 Proclamation 21 allows Japanese Americans to return to the West Coast in the new year

1948
Wing Fong is the first Asian American elected for state office
 Fong, a Chinese man, is elected to be an Arizona State Representative

1948
Victoria Manalo Draves wins an Olympic gold medal
 Draves is the first Asian American woman to win a gold medal and the first woman to win two golds for diving in the same Olympics; She remains the only Filipino to win a gold medal

1950
China becomes a communist nation and enters the Korean War
 The stereotype of "model minority" emerges to distance Chinese Americans from China

1952
The McCarran-Walter Act of 1952 allows all Asian naturalization
 All people of Asian ancestry, for the first time including women, are given the right to naturalize and right to vote

1953
The Korean War ends with a divided Korea
 South Korea is reliant on the US for economic and military protection, the Soviet Union and China supports Communist North Korea

1957
Dalip Singh Saund is the first Asian American elected to Congress
 Saund immigrates from India to the US and graduates from University of California, Berkeley; He becomes the first Asian American to serve in Congress until retiring in 1962

1959
Hiram Fong is the first Asian American elected to Senate
 The seventh of eleven children born to Chinese immigrants, Fong graduates from Harvard Law and becomes the first Asian American to serve in the US Senate until 1977

1961
The CIA secretly works with Vang Pao to recruit Hmong soldiers
 Pao, a leader in the Hmong American community, recruits 9,000 soldiers in this first wave

1964
The Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlaws segregation
 Discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, gender, or religion in voting, public areas, the workplace, and schools is illegal

1965
The Immigration & Nationality Act of 1965 begins mass immigration
 It marks a new era of mass immigration and the foundation of immigration today

1966
The Compton's Cafeteria Riot in San Francisco, CA
 The first recorded riot for transgender rights, it precedes the famous Stonewall Riot in New York City; Records include Tamara Ching, an Asian American transwoman and activist

1966
Patsy Mink is the first woman of color elected to Congress
 Mink serves in the House of Representatives for a total of 12 terms, and is famously noted for co-authoring the Title IX Amendment of the Higher Education Act during this time

1967
Loving v. Virginia overrules prohibition of interracial marriage
 Interracial marriages increases by 800% over the course of 30 years

1967
The Voting Rights Act of 1965 bars barriers against racial minorities
 Prohibiting any election practice that denies the right to vote on account of race, it requires jurisdictions with a history of discrimination in voting to get federal approval of changes in their election laws before they can take effect

1969
The International Hotel threatens Filipino residents with eviction
 Activists work to bring in Asian tenants in order to avoid the eviction of 196 Filipino tenants

1968
The Asian American Political Alliance forms
 Yuji Ichika and Emma Gee forms AAPA at UC Berkeley, coining the term "Asian American"; AAPA lead strikes with other organizations to critique the US as racist and imperialistic

1972
Title IX protects against sex-based discrimination
 Congresswoman Patsy Mink author's Title IX of the Education Amendments Act, which states "No person in the US shall, on the basis of sex... be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal assistance"

1970
The Third World Liberation Front forms
 As a coalition of the Black, Latinx, Filipino, Asian, and Mexican student groups, the TWLF collectively calls for campus reform through a strike against San Francisco State University, demanding curricula and programs that reflect the histories and needs of people of color

1979
An Asian American LGBT movement begins
 600+ Black, Latinx, Native American, Asian, and White people attend the First National Third World Gay and Lesbian conference in DC

1970
Onizuka is the first Asian American astronaut in space
 Ellison S. Onizuka serves as a mission specialist and orbits 48 times around the Earth

1980
The Asian Pacific Lesbians & Gays is established
 It is the first gay and lesbian Asian group in Los Angeles, CA

1975
Operation New Life begins
 The US evacuates 7,500 South Vietnamese people before the fall of Saigon

1982
The Refugee Act of 1980 is the first comprehensive refugee legislation
 It contains an explicit welcome to refugees fleeing communist countries

1975
Indochina Migration & Refugee Assistance Act of 1975 marks refugees
 Vietnamese, Cambodian, Lao and Hmong are classified as refugees; Cloaked in "humanitarianism," US begins global involvement and brings in 1.2 million refugees

1983
A new wave of alone and student immigrants arrives
 Nicknamed "parachute kids," children lived alone or with hosts to attend grade school

1976
49% of Americans surveyed believe that refugees should be excluded
 14% of Americans are unsure while 37% believe in admittance according to a Harris poll

1983
American Citizens for Justice forms
 A multiracial coalition spearheaded by journalist Helen Zia, lawyer Liza Chien, and Vincent Chin's mother Lily Chin, demonstrates how the murder of Chin was racially motivated

1982
Ronald Ebens is found guilty of murdering Vincent Chin
 Ebens appeals, and a retrial in 1987 results in acquittal

1988
The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 brings national apology
 It grants \$20,000 to each Japanese American affected and states that actions were based on "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership" as opposed to security

1989
Immigration increases from Taiwan and Hong Kong
 The war occurs after the Tiananmen Square massacre in China where the army killed thousands of demonstrators protesting for democracy

1990
The Immigration & Nationality Act of 1990 allows educated immigrants
 It emphasizes capital investment, workers in "specialty occupations" or investors

1992
The "Sa-I-Gu" riots in Los Angeles, CA
 The riots occur after four white police officers are acquitted of beating African American Rodney King; 2,300+ Korean businesses and 10,000+ homes are destroyed in the process, increasing the hostile relationship between the African American and Korean communities

1999
Wen Ho Lee is placed in solitary confinement for 200+ days
 The Taiwanese nuclear physicist is falsely suspected by the New York Times in giving China nuclear warhead technology from the Los Alamos National Lab

1999
The US 2000 Census allows the identification of multiple races
 Before, people could identify as only one race, inaccurately portraying interracial families

2000
Hate crimes increase by 1600%
 Murders and harassment are directed against Middle Eastern and South Asian Americans

2000
The Model Minority stereotype that Asian Americans are overrepresented in privilege and poverty, as reports show that Asian Americans are more likely to have college degrees (49%) compared to Whites (28%) yet are 5x more likely to have 0-4 years of education

2001
1,200+ people were arrested days after 9/11
 Muslim men disappeared with little public awareness despite few or no links to terrorism

2001
The US 2000 Census allows the identification of multiple races
 Before, people could identify as only one race, inaccurately portraying interracial families

2003
The DREAM Act is proposed but never passes
 The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act would work as a multi-phase process for undocumented immigrants to obtain permanent residency

2003
2,100+ Pakistanis have applied for political asylum in 2001
 The impact of post-9/11 policies on Asian Americans highlighted how quickly status could change from model minorities to suspected threats after the rise in hate crimes in the US, and they look to escape to Canada

2010
Daniel Inouye is sworn in as President Pro Tempore
 Inouye is the highest-ranking Asian American politician in US history

2003
Far East Movement is the first Asian American Band in the top 10
 They rank #7 on the Billboard Pop Hits, and in 2010 rank #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart

2012
Jeremy Lin is the first Taiwanese-american NBA player
 Pointguard for the Brooklyn Nets, Lin generates a global craze known as "Linsanity"

2011
Yale Professor Amy Chua publishes Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother
 The pop-culture rise of Asian Americans is linked through media coverage of Chua's memoir; Many worry that Chua's book would fuel anti-Chinese rhetoric in the media based on the "rise of China" and the "Tiger Mother"

2016
Asian Americans are mentioned during election coverage
 They are the fastest growing voter bloc but usually invisible in political conversation

2013
100,000+ Pakistanis have applied for political asylum since 2003
 This means of escape from the US to Canada has increased by 5000% since 2003

2014
New York City Police Officer Peter Liang fatally shoots Akai Gurley
 Liang accidentally fires his weapon in a stairwell, with the bullet ricocheting and striking Gurley in the chest; Liang is indicted on manslaughter, assault, and other criminal charges

2015
Bobby Jindal is the first Indian American to run for President
 Jindal is also the first Asian American to run a nationwide campaign to seek the Presidency

2016
Peter Liang Protests split the Asian American community
 Liang is convicted of manslaughter, inspiring a divisive protest in the Chinese community, one side against the use of Asians as scapegoats versus the other side fighting for black lives and against anti-Blackness

2017