## A Select Timeline of the Chinese Exclusion Period

Compiled for The No Place Project by Tim Greyhavens

These are just some of the thousands of anti-Chinese acts that took place during this period. For more information, see the No Place Project website.

1848: Gold is discovered at Sutter's Mill in California

1850: California institutes a Foreign Miners Tax

**1854**: California court rules that Chinese have no right to testify in court, regardless of the charge

**1862**: Congress passes the "**Anti-Coolie Act**", banning immigration of Chinese laborers on U.S. ships

**1866:** As many as 300 Chinese are killed when miner wagon trains in southeast **Oregon** are attacked

**1873**: Fires erupt through Chinatown in **Portland, Oregon**, destroying a 17-block area

**1875**: Congress passes the **Page Act**, prohibiting entry into the U.S. of "undesirable" Asians

**1877**: Anti-Chinese riots in **San Francisco** do an estimated **\$1 million in damages** to Chinese-owned businesses

**1879**: 5 Chinese miners are murdered at a camp in **Oro Grande**, **Idaho** 

1880: Chinese residents in Rockland, Roseville, and Garberville, California, are force to leave

**1881**: Over 17,000 Chinese workers are brought to **Canada** to help construct the Canadian Pacific Railroad

**1883**: U.S. Supreme Court decides part of the **Civil Rights Act** of 1875 is unconstitutional, allowing discrimination based on race

**1885**: Chinese residents in **Eureka, California**, are forced out of town and their homes destroyed

**1885**: Chinatown in **Pasadena, California**, is looted and burned to the ground

**1885**: In **Truckee, California**, a boycott is started to starve out the Chinese living in town

**1885**: White labor unions in **San Francisco** demand all Chinese leave the city with 60 days

**1885**: Residents in **Bellingham, Washington**, celebrate the expulsion of Chinese from their town with "a grand torchlight parade"

**1886**: At least 350 Chinese are forced to leave **Seattle** on boats bound for San Francisco

1886: Chinatown in Placerville, California, is destroyed by fire

**1886**: About 150 Chinese residents in **Redding, California** are forced to leave town and their homes are burned

**1886: Honolulu's** Chinatown burns down, leaving 8,000 Chinese homeless

**1886**: 5 children are killed when Chinatown in **Yreka, California**, is burned to the ground

**1887**: Fire destroys the Chinatown in **San Jose**, **California**, displacing 500 residents

1887: 31 Chinese miners are murdered at a mining camp in Hells Canyon, Oregon

**1892**: All of the Chinese residents in **Bonners Ferry, Idaho**, are expelled from the town by a white mob

**1898**: The **Supreme Court** rules that U.S.-born Chinese cannot have their citizenship taken away

**1900**: The **Canadian** government raises the head tax on Chinese and Japanese immigration to \$100 per person

**1903**: Chinese residents in **Tonopah, Nevada**, are forced to leave town, and a Chinese merchant who had lived there for 30 years is killed

**1907**: At least 5,000 people take part in an "anti-Oriental" demonstration in **Vancouver**, **British Columbia**, destroying Chinese- and Japanese-owned homes and businesses

1923: In Canada, Parliament passes the Chinese Immigration Act, prohibiting almost all Chinese immigration into the country 1785: First documented Chinese immigrant arrives in the U.S.

**1850**: Nearly 500 Chinese immigrants documented as arriving in California

1853: Chinese are denied the right to vote in Washington Territory

1854: Yung Wing is the first Chinese immigrant to graduate from an American college (Yale)

**1867**: An estimated 14,000 Chinese laborers are working on the construction of the **transcontinental railroad** 

**1871**: **21** Chinese immigrants are killed by rioters on the streets of Los Angeles

**1877**: 6 Chinese workers are shot in cold blood near **Chico**, **California** 

**1878**: California Governor George Perkins declares a legal holiday for the purpose of anti-Chinese demonstrations

**1878**: Chinatown in **Reno**, **Nevada**, is destroyed by fire purposely set by white laborers

**1880: 3,000 rioters** destroy most of Chinatown in **Denver**, killing at least 1 Chinese worker

**1881**: The Ninth District Court rules that the **Johnson Act**, which bars the hiring of Chinese workers, is unconstitutional

## 1882: Congress passes the Chinese Exclusion Act

**1885:** U.S. Superior Court Judge James McGuire rules denying Chinese children public education is unconstitutional

**1885:** The homes of more than 100 Chinese families in **Tulare, California**, are burned to the ground

1885: In Rock Springs, Wyoming, white miners attack and kill at least 28 Chinese workers and burn their homes

**1885:** 5 Chinese men who were accused of murdering a local white merchant are lynched by armed and masked men near **Pierce, Idaho** 

**1885**: In **Tacoma, Washington**, a mob led by the mayor drive 200 Chinese out of town; 2 Chinese are reported to have died in the expulsion

**1885**: Near **Squak (Issaquah), Washington**, 3 Chinese laborers are killed and 3 others wounded in a nighttime attack

**1886**: Chinese residents are forced to leave the towns of Arcata, Crescent City and Petaluma, California

**1886**: A mob of white men in **Oregon City, Oregon**, expel all of the Chinese laborers from the town

**1886**: The sheriff and deputies in **Olympia, Washington**, stop a mob from expelling Chinese from the city

**1887**: Congress makes a historic decision to pay reparations for the **Rock Springs Massacre** 

**1888**: Congress passes the **Scott Act**, banning the re-entry into the U.S. of at least 20,000 Chinese laborers who had temporarily returned to their homes in China

**1893**: Thousands of Chinese workers in California go on strike to protest the Geary Act requirement of wearing ID cards

**1893**: Chinese residents are expelled from **La Grande**, **Oregon**, and their businesses are destroyed by fire

**1898**: In a rare legal victory. Chinese merchants in **Butte**, **Montana**, are awarded \$1,750 to compensate for losses caused by a white boycott of their businesses

**1893**: A Chinese worker is killed when 3 bombs explode in Chinese-owned businesses near **Fresno, California** 

**1903**: The **Canadian** government again raises the head tax on Chinese and Japanese immigration, this time to \$500 per person

**1908**: At least 150 Chinese residents in **Reno, Nevada**, are expelled from Chinatown, which is then burned to the ground

1943: Congress finally repeals the Chinese Exclusion Act