

GWS 100AC

Vivian Fang and Michelle Zhang

April 12, 2016

Asians in West US

Attendance quiz: Peary or Cook

- For the final: How does the story told through settler colonialism enable the story that your author (in your chosen book) tells?
- Write a paper that makes an argument about the author drawing on blank (dualisms, settler colonialism, etc.) to tell his or her story. Use one or two main logics that the narrator relies on.

Asians in America

- “I am an American” sign
- The same kind of logic works in ways Mexican Americans and Asian Americans were racialized in the United States. In some ways, Asian Americans were seen as a threat, almost seen as close to being black.
- *Yellow Peril* campaigns: Asian Americans seen as a distinct threat to the United States (“they took our jerbs!”)
- Immigration from China and Japan. Towards end of the 19th century, there was an economic downturn. Asian American presence was seen as threat in terms of being an assimilable alien group.
- There were efforts to eliminate Asian Americans in the same way as Native Americans.
- Oregon’s first constitution in 1879 stated that white foreigners could have access to the same land-owning rights as citizens, but no Chinamen.

- Native Americans were kept from putting down roots / making a living.
- Land rights were also given to those of African descent and eligible to become citizens.
- According to *Naturalization Act*, Asian Americans were not allowed to become citizens and own land.
- Asian Exclusion laws: 1875 - *Page Act* - banned entry of contract laborers for lewd purposes and meant to ban the immigration of Asian women; 1882 - *Chinese Exclusion Act* - barred all Chinese from entering except for elite groups like tourists with lots of money.
- Asian women under suspicion of migrating to U.S. for prostitution, so you would have to be rich to not fall under this assumption.
- There was a family unification policy in these acts. If you had family in the US, you could come.
- 1907: *Gentleman's agreement* enabled the Japanese to come to the US. But only family of businessmen and farmers were permitted to come.
- 1942: Japanese Americans lost a huge amount of farmland because of Japanese internment (bombing of Pearl Harbor). If you're Japanese, you might have be a threat to national security.

The case of public land

- The idea of preserving land as public points to the question of frontier wilderness that has never been settled.
- Malheur Wildlife Refuge: BLM taxes ranchers for use of public land. Ranchers (Hammons) were encroaching on refuge. Given minimum sentence. People not happy, ranchers like 'LOOK AT WHAT WE CAN DO NOW'.
- In a recent development, it has been argued that federal public land should be turned over to states.
- *American Lands Council Video*
 - Says it's too expensive to manage federal public lands
 - Congress needs to keep its promise

- There is a sense of entitlement to the land
 - Landscape is big and empty
 - No Native Americans in American Lands Council
 - Compare to Bears Ears promo (“We were chosen by our ancestors”)
- Bloom’s book was published in 1989.
- US has a trend of helping nations achieve independence, and refusing to leave.
- Poles were different story - just for glory.