

# The Chinese EXCLUSION Act

**Directions**—Read the provided primary source documents (found on my website). For each, write any evidence you find to explain what led to the Chinese exclusion Act of 1882 (if you can, try to provide a quote to support your reasoning).

	Based on this document, why did many white Americans support the Chinese Exclusion Act?
<b>Document A — Anti-Chinese Play, 1879</b>	
<b>Document B — “The Chinese Question”</b>	
<b>Document C — Workingmen Speech</b>	
<b>Document D — Lew Chew’s Autobiography</b>	

## What factors contributed to the Chinese Exclusion Act?

### Timeline of Chinese Immigration and Exclusion

- 1848 Gold discovered at Sutter's Mill, California; many Chinese arrive to mine for gold.
- 1850 Foreign Miners' tax mainly targets Chinese and Mexican miners.
- 1852 Approximately 25,000 Chinese in America.
- 1854 Court rules that Chinese cannot give testimony in court.
- 1862 Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association forms.
- 1865 Central Pacific Railroad recruits Chinese workers; ultimately employs about 15,000 Chinese workers.
- 1869 First transcontinental railroad completed.
- 1870 California passes a law against the importation of Chinese and Japanese women for prostitution.
- 1871 Los Angeles: anti-Chinese violence; 18 Chinese killed.
- 1873 Panic of 1873; start of major economic downturn that last through the decade; blamed on corrupt RR companies.
- 1877 Chico, CA: anti-Chinese violence.
- 1878 Court rules Chinese ineligible for naturalized citizenship.
- 1880 Approximately 106,000 Chinese in America; California passes anti-miscegenation law (no interracial marriage).
- 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act: prohibits Chinese immigration (in one year, Chinese immigration drops from 40,000 to 23).
- 1885 Rock Springs Wyoming Anti-Chinese Violence.
- 1892 Geary Act—extends Chinese Exclusion Act.

### Part I:

Using the timeline, write a HYPOTHESIS for why the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed in 1882.

### Part II:

Using evidence from both the timeline AND Documents A-D, answer the following question in complete sentences:

*“Why did Americans pass the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882?”*