

SELECTED DATES IN ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY  
(provided by Caroline Fan)

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**1600s**

- Chinese and Filipinos reach Mexico on ships of the Manila galleon.

**1763**

- First recorded settlement of Filipinos in America. To escape imprisonment aboard Spanish galleons they jump ship in New Orleans.

**1790**

- First recorded arrival of Asian Indians in the United States.

**1830s**

- Chinese "sugar masters" working in Hawaii; Chinese sailors and peddlers in New York.

**1848**

- Gold discovered in California. Chinese miners begin to arrive.

**1857**

- Alla Lee of San Francisco is first Chinese American to settle in St. Louis.

**1858**

- California passes a law to bar entry of Chinese and "Mongolians."

**1869**

- Completion of first trancontinental railroad aided by thousands of Chinese laborers, 300 Chinese Americans arrive in St. Louis.

**1870**

- 1870 Naturalization Act limits U.S. naturalization to "whites" and "aliens of African nativity and to persons of African descent" thus excluding all Asians from citizenship.

**1882**

- [Chinese Exclusion Law](#) suspends US immigration of Chinese workers. It is the first law to prevent a specific ethnicity from coming to the US.

**1886**

- Residents of Tacoma, Seattle, and many places in the American West forcibly expel

the Chinese.

- Chinese laundrymen win in [Yick Wo v. Hopkins](#) (a law with unequal impact on different groups is discriminatory.)

### **1894**

- Saito, a Japanese man, applies for U.S. citizenship, but circuit courts refuse because he is neither white nor black.

### **1898**

- [Wong Kim Ark v. U.S.](#): US born Chinese cannot be stripped of their citizenship.

### **1905**

- Section 60 of California's Civil Code amended to forbid marriage between whites and "Mongolians."

### **1906**

- Anti-Asian riot in Vancouver.

- San Francisco earthquake destroys City Hall, including immigration records. Some Chinese immigrants start claiming citizenship and the right to bring family to the US.

### **1910**

- [Angel Island Immigration Station](#) opens to process and deport Asian immigrants.

### **1913**

- California passes alien land law prohibiting "aliens ineligible to citizenship" from buying or leasing land for longer than three years. Other states follow.

### **1917**

- 1917 Immigration Law defines a geographic "barred zone" (including India) from which no immigrants can come.

### **1924**

- Immigration Act denies entry to virtually all Asians.

### **1941-1945**

- World War II. Executive Order 9066 leads to internment of over 110,000 Japanese Americans.

- Congress [repeals all Chinese exclusion laws](#), grants an annual quota of 105 Chinese immigrants (1943).

- *Korematsu v. US* (1944) rules that internment camps are constitutional.

## **1946**

- Luce- Celler bill grants right of naturalization and small immigration quotas to Indians and Filipinos.
- Philippines become independent. U.S. citizenship offered to all Filipinos in the US.

## **1949**

- U.S. breaks off diplomatic ties with newly formed People's Republic of China.
- 5,000 highly educated Chinese in the U.S. granted refugee status.

## **1950-53**

- Korean War causes massive displacement

## **1956**

- California repeals its alien land laws.
- Dalip Singh Saund (Imperial Valley, CA) is the first Sikh, Indian, and Asian American elected to Congress.

## **1964**

- Patsy Takemoto Mink becomes first Asian American woman to serve in Congress.
- Civil Rights Act enacted, outlawing discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

## **1965**

- Immigration and Naturalization Law abolishes "national origins" as basis for allocating immigration quotas, leading to a vast increase in Asian immigration.

## **1966**

- Hop Alley (historic Chinatown St. Louis) demolished to make way for Busch Stadium parking.

## **1967**

- *Loving v. Virginia*: invalidates laws preventing interracial marriage and relationships, including Missouri's laws which started in 1835.

## **1975**

- Vietnam War ends, more than 130,000 refugees enter the U.S. from Vietnam, Kampuchea, and Laos.

## **1976**

- President Gerald Ford rescinds Executive Order 9066.

## **1978**

- National convention of the Japanese American Citizens League adopts resolution calling for redress and reparations for internment.
- Massive exodus of "boat people" from Vietnam.

## **1982**

- Vincent Chin, a Chinese American, is clubbed to death by two men who mistake him as Japanese American, blaming him for job losses in Detroit.

## **1986**

- Immigration Reform and Control Act imposes civil and criminal penalties on employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers.

## **1987**

- First formal signing of the Proclamation of APA Heritage Week by the White House.

## **1989**

- President George Bush signs into law a program to pay each surviving Japanese American internee \$20,000.
- U.S. and Vietnam agree to allow political prisoners to emigrate to US.

## **1992**

- Los Angeles Korean American businesses looted and burned as a result of riots over Rodney King verdict.

## **2000**

- Norm Mineta named first Asian American Cabinet Secretary (in charge of Transportation.)

## **2002**

- Post 9/11, INS begins "special registration" program to interview immigrant males from 25 predominantly Muslim countries.

## **2012**

- President Barack Obama starts DACA program to allow some undocumented youth to be recognized and have work permits.

## **2016**

- Tammy Duckworth (IL) & Kamala Harris (CA) become first AAPIs on mainland elected to US Senate.