

ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Since 1977, the month of May has been designated as Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. During this month, we honor and celebrate Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, who have enriched America's history and been instrumental in its current success.

A WHOLE
NEW **LGA**



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The AAPI Community

- 6%, or 19 million, of the entire U.S. population
- Asian Americans originate from many different countries, each population with its own unique immigration history
- Asian American describes a heterogeneous group of people in the United States who can trace their ancestry to one or more countries in East, South or Southeast Asia
- While there are some commonalities across ethnic subgroups, there are significant differences among Asian ethnicities related to each group's history
- A greatly urbanized population, nearly three-quarters of Asian Americans live in metropolitan areas with populations greater than 2.5 million



Origins of the AAPI Community

Legend

- East Asians
- Southeast Asians
- South Asians



East Asians

- Japanese, Chinese and Korean immigrants began arriving in the continental United States in the 1800s to fill demands for labor
- Beginning in the 1800s, East Asian groups began immigrating to Hawaii, where American businesses and missionaries had established plantations and settlements
- Originating primarily from China, Japan, Korea, and the Philippines, early migrants were predominantly contracted workers who labored on plantations
- Chinese immigrants were a source of cheap labor as early as the 1830s, with the first formal contract laborers arriving in 1852
- The first major wave of Asian immigration to the continental United States occurred primarily on the West Coast during the California Gold Rush, starting in the 1850s
- Chinese immigrants numbered less than 400 in 1848 and 25,000 by 1852



South Asians

- While South Asians are noted to have been in the United States since the 1700s, their larger presence started in the 1800s
- Some of the earliest known South Asian settlers in North America were from the regions of Punjab and Bengal
- The road to citizenship for South Asians in America has been a long and difficult one. In 1917, the US Congress passed an immigration act which restricted migrants from the "**Asiatic Barred Zone**" a region that included the entirety of the Indian subcontinent
- In the landmark 1923 case of **United States v. Bhagat Singh Thind**, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that South Asians were ineligible for naturalization, preventing South Asians from gaining citizenship and stripping citizenship status from those who were granted it in the years prior
- President Truman signed the 1946 Luce-Celler Act which provided naturalization rights to both South Asians and Filipinos, but still limited the number of migrants allowed into the country



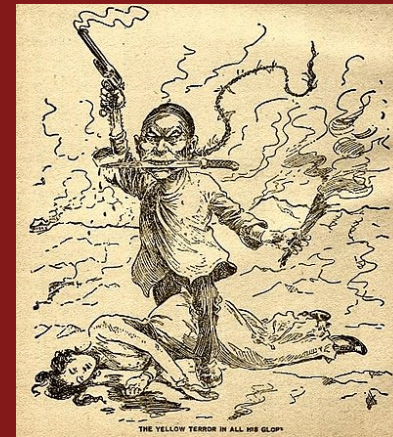
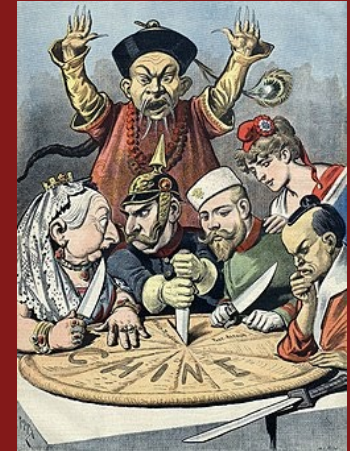
Southeast Asians

- The majority of Southeast Asian Americans shares a common immigration history, which is the legacy of U.S. involvement in the Indochina Conflict (1954–1975), also known as the Vietnam War. This catastrophic conflict devastated Vietnam and destroyed neighboring Laos and Cambodia in the process
- Unlike other Asian immigrants who preceded them, the majority of Southeast Asian Americans entered the United States as refugees
- Between 1975 and 1994, the United States received over 1,250,000 refugees from Southeast Asia, of which 66 percent were from Vietnam, 21 percent from Laos, and 13 percent from Cambodia



Yellow Peril & Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882

- In the 1860s and 1870s, hostility toward Asian laborers in the continental United States grew and intensified, with the formation of organizations such as the Asiatic Exclusion League
- East Asian immigrants, particularly Chinese who composed the majority of the population on the mainland, were seen as the "yellow peril" and suffered violence and discrimination
- In the spring of 1882, Congress passed, and President Chester A. Arthur signed the first significant law – **The Chinese Exclusion Act** – limiting immigration into the United States. It legalized a 10-year ban on Chinese labor immigration, which continued in some form until 1943
- Lynchings of Chinese were common and large-scale attacks also occurred. The most prominent act of violence at the time was the Rock Springs massacre in 1885, in which a mob of white miners killed nearly 30 Chinese immigrants because they were accused of taking the white miners' jobs



World War II & Japanese Internment Camps

- In the wake of the Pearl Harbor bombing, President Franklin Roosevelt issued an executive order in 1942 that led to the establishment of internment camps for Japanese people, regardless of citizenship.
- This was the most severe discrimination against Asian Americans when **110,000 to 120,000 Japanese Americans** were incarcerated in internment camps between 1942–1946
- While roughly a third of those interned were first-generation immigrants who were ineligible for citizenship, the majority were second- and third-generation who were citizens by birth



Historical Violence

Anti-Asian violence has surged in the US since COVID-19. But it didn't start recently. The first Asian immigrants who arrived in the U.S. were met with discrimination and violence.



Because of the 1973 oil crisis, former Big Three American automaker customers bought Japanese imports from Honda, Toyota and Nissan.

On June 19, 1982, 27-year-old Vincent Chin, a Chinese-American, was beaten to death in the Detroit area when he was mistaken to be Japanese.



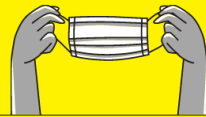
In the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the number of attacks against people perceived as Muslim rose exponentially.



Anti-Asian Hate

FROM MARCH 2020 - FEBRUARY 2021

We received
3,795 reports of
anti-Asian hate
incidents.



Stop AAPI Hate National Report
March 19, 2020 - February 28, 2021



I Still Believe in Our City

- Part of the “I Still Believe in Our City” art series by Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya created in partnership with the NYC Commission on Human Rights
- Asian and Pacific Islanders, together with supporters of the Black Lives Matter movement, standing up for themselves and their home: New York City



Chinatown by Ben Sakoguchi

Ben Sakoguchi was born in California in 1938. During World War II, he and his family were incarcerated by the United States because of their Japanese ancestry.

After the war, his family reopened their small grocery business in San Bernardino.

Ben attended public schools and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree and a Master of Fine Arts Degree, both from UCLA.



Power For Change – Community Rises



Why Is Queens Significant for Asian Americans?

- Asians are numerous throughout the borough but most concentrated in Northeastern and Central Queens in areas such as Flushing, Little Neck, Bayside, Fresh Meadows, Jamaica Estates, Elmhurst, Woodside, Richmond Hill, and Ozone Park
- 49% of New York City Asians live in Queens
- Queens is truly the “World’s Borough”, with at least 138 languages spoken throughout the borough
- Flushing (Queens) has the largest Chinatown in New York City



2020 Power of Diversity: Asian 100

- Grace Meng – U.S. Congresswoman
- John Liu – New York State Senator
- Huge Ma – "Vaccine Daddy," Turbovax
- Peter Koo – NYC Councilman
- Kevin Thomas – New York State Senator
- Jenifer Rajkumar – New York State Assemblymember
- Bhairavi Desai – Executive Director, New York Taxi Workers Alliance
- Jo-Ann Yoo – Executive Director, Asian American Federation



Grace Meng



John Liu



Huge Ma



Peter Koo



Kevin Thomas



Jenifer Rajkumar



Bhairavi Desai



Jo-Ann Yoo

Individuals selected from "2020 Power of Diversity: Asian 100" www.cityandstate.com (except Huge Ma)

Help Asian Communities

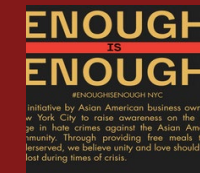
#STOP Asian HATE

NUMBERS DON'T LIE.

SINCE COVID-19, ANTI-ASIAN HATE CRIMES ARE HAVE INCREASED BY 1900% IN THE UNITED STATES.

NEARLY 3000 REPORTS OF ANTI-ASIAN HATE INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN OVER 47 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

AND 7.3% OF THE REPORTS COUNTED THE MOST VULNERABLE-ELDERLY ASIANS-AS THE VICTIMS. AND MANY CRIMES GO UNREPORTED OR ARE NOT CLASSIFIED AS HATE CRIMES.



Port Authority Denounces Hate

The Port Authority denounces hate in all its forms and stands in solidarity with the Asian American Pacific Islander community, our colleagues and their families.

We call on you to be allies and anti-racists.

We ask you to protect, intervene and report bias incidents and crimes immediately.

It is time for action, healing and unity.

#StopAsianHate





Port Authority Asian American Association

Empowering Cultural Diversity. Diverse Workforce. One PANYNJ

HISTORY

The Port Authority Asian American Association (PA-AAA) is comprised of volunteers made up of Port Authority employees and retirees. The association is the unification of two previously informal employee groups, the Asian American Association and the South Asian Group. The former groups were organized around 1978 to foster career opportunities for its members and participated in recruitment activities to attract new talents to the agency, as well as promote cultural diversity within the agency.

MISSION & VISION

The PA-AAA empowers Asian Americans through leadership development, executive partnerships, professional networking, community service and public outreach in direct alignment with the Agency's mission – to keep the region moving.

The PA-AAA strives to provide its members with tools and resources to become great leaders and valuable employees as well as liaisons to our communities by enhancing the exposure of small businesses and minority diversity to the Agency. We offer unique cultural events, advance Asian-inspired work-life balancing techniques and cultivate the valuable contributions and unique perspectives of Asian Americans.

For more information about PA-AAA contact: PAAAA@panynj.gov

Tell Your Stories

- **How to Report a Hate Crime (7 Languages)** – <https://www.hatecrimebook.com/>
- **Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Stand Against Hatred** – <https://www.standagainsthared.org/>
- **COVID 19 Resources: Anti-Asian Harassment and Violence** – <https://www.aabany.org/page/933>
- **New York State – Stop Asian Hate** – <https://www.governor.ny.gov/programs/stop-asian-hate>
- **New York City – Stop Asian Hate** – <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/cchr/community/stop-asian-hate.page>

About Asian American Culture

- Asian Pacific American Center (Smithsonian) <https://smithsonianapa.org/>
- Museum of Chinese in America <https://www.mocanyc.org/>
- The Rubin <https://rubinmuseum.org/>
- India Center <http://theindiacenter.org/>
- Snug Harbor Scholar's Garden <https://snug-harbor.org/botanical-garden/new-york-chinese-scholars-garden/>
- Asia Society <https://asiasociety.org/museum>
- Asian Americans PBS <https://www.pbs.org/show/asian-americans/>

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[Attacks on Asian Americans in California](#)

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[Americans Rally Against Asian Hate](#)

[We can't make sense of the senseless](#)

[Hate Crimes Are Hard to Prosecute](#)

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