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This effort was a forerunner of the Christ Japanese United Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. A major force in beginning this work was Kanichi Miyama, an early convert. The Japanese immigration to the USA did not gain real impetus until the 20th century. The 1870 census found only 22 Japanese. Apparently in San Francisco there were enough Japanese persons to begin this kind of effort.

1870-1875 Anti-Chinese Riots

These occurred in all the major cities of the West. In Los Angeles in 1871, a white mob attacked the Chinese section of the city and killed 19 persons including women and children. In 1878, a mob of unemployed white laborers burned and looted in San Francisco for several weeks without any real interference by public officials. In 1885 in Rock Spring, Wyoming, white vigilantes murdered 28 Chinese and wounded many others.

1882 The Chinese Exclusion Act

The provisions of this first national legislation against Chinese forbade the immigration of Chinese laborers for ten years. A more significant feature forbade the entry of the wives of Chinese laborers. The consequences of this provision were tragic--a basically womanless society. In 1934 in Chicago, it was estimated that there were only 80 women in a total Chinese population of 2,000.

1885 Japanese contract labor begins in Hawaii

The end of the supply of cheap Chinese labor did not end the demand for such workers. Between 1882 and 1884, this void was filled by Japanese more than 30,000 of whom were brought to Hawaii to work on sugar plantations. Many

1893 The Gentry Act

This bill of the U.S. Congress stated "All laws now in force prohibiting and regulating the coming into this country of Chinese patrons of Chinese descent are hereby continued in force for a period of 10 years..." In addition, Chinese were forced to obtain a certificate of residence which could be gotten only with the support of a "credible white witness"

1849 Gold Rush to California

Among those who found their way to California in the midst of the frenzied rush for gold were the first Chinese immigrants to America. Chinese immigration actually began in 1847.

1850 Foreign Miners Tax

Miners was the first major occupation of Chinese in America. Mines or claims were primarily by Chinese merchant companies. California tax was directed against activity in the gold fields. Between 1870 when the act was repealed as \$8 million dollars was collected. This tax was the major source of state county revenue.

1852 The first Chinese contract laborers entered the USA

Understanding contract laborers a key to understanding Asian immigration to the United States. All Asian groups, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans and Filipinos came first in this way. Essentially contract labor was similar to the indentured servant system of English immigrants. In the case of Chinese, the passage was obtained from a relative in China and collection of the debt was the responsibility of another relative in San Francisco. The system was quite corrupt and many people found themselves poorer in America than in China.

1853 The Chinese Presbyterian Church and ministry founded in San Francisco

Dr. W. A. Spear, a former missionary in China, was the founder of this effort. A significant element in this ministry was the fact that it did not limit its concern to "apical endeavors" English classes and medical clinics were started. Later Donald Cameron started a home for young Chinese women, some of whom had been forced into prostitution.

1860 Chinese children in segregated schools

The California legislature agreed to withhold public funds from any school which admitted "Albians, Chinese and diggers." In 1902 a similar restriction was directed against Japanese school children. Chinese school children are today many racial groups being used to achieve school integration.

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SIGNIFICANT DATES IN ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY

Office of Asian Mission Development  
Program Agency

## 1849 Gold Rush to California

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## 1850 Foreign Miners Tax

Mining was the first major occupation of Chinese in America. Mines or claims were owned primarily by Chinese merchant companies. This California tax was directed against Chinese activity in the gold fields. Between 1850 and 1870 when the act was repealed an estimated 58 million dollars was collected in taxes. This tax was the major source of state and county revenue.

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Understanding contract labor is a key to understanding Asian immigration to the United States. All Asian groups, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans and Pilipinos came first in this way. Essentially contract labor was similar to the indentured servant system of English immigration. In the case of Chinese, money for passage was obtained from a relative in China and collection of the debt was the responsibility of another relative in San Francisco. The system was quite corrupt and many people found themselves poorer in America than in China.

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## 1860 Chinese Children in Segregated Schools

The California legislature agreed to withhold public funds from any school which admitted "Africans, Chinese and Diggers." In 1905 a similar restriction was directed against Japanese school children. Chinese school children are today among racial groups being bused to achieve school integration.

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This effort was a forerunner of the Christ Japanese United Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. A major force in beginning this work was Kanichi Miyama, an early convert. The Japanese immigration to the USA did not gain real impetus until the 20th century. The 1870 Census found only 55 Japanese. Apparently in San Francisco there were enough Japanese persons to begin this kind of effort.

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## 1885 Japanese contract labor begins in Hawaii

The end of the supply of cheap Chinese labor did not end the demand for such workers. Between 1885 and 1894, this void was filled by Japanese more than 30,000 of whom were brought to Hawaii to work on sugar plantations. Many later went to the mainland.

## 1892 The Geary Act

This bill of the U.S. Congress stated "all laws now in force prohibiting and regulating the coming into this country of Chinese patrons of Chinese descent are hereby continued in force for a period of 10 years..." In addition, Chinese were forced to obtain a certificate of residence which could be gotten only with the support of a "credible white witness"

1894 Japanese begin to move to the mainland in significant numbers  
1898 The Spanish American War  
The USA annexes Hawaii and the Philippine Islands

During this war the U.S. forces assisted in a Philippine independence struggle led by Emilio Aguinaldo. But Admiral Dewey's defeat of the Spanish fleet in Manila led to a series of events which resulted in American annexation of the Philippine Islands.

1902 Chinese Exclusion Act  
Congress "indefinitely extended the prohibition against Chinese immigration and the denial of naturalization."

1903 Korean contract labor begins in Hawaii  
Christian missionaries in Inchon encouraged their converts to emigrate as contract workers. One result of this was the beginning of churches in Hawaii and in 1906 in Los Angeles and in 1908 in San Francisco.

1906 Anti-miscegenation statute was originally enacted to prohibit marriage between whites and blacks. In 1906, it was amended to prohibit marriages between whites and "Mongolians."

1907 "Gentlemen's Agreement" excludes Japanese laborers  
Filipino contract laborers begin to move to Hawaii.

In 1907 the so-called "Gentlemen's Agreement" between the U.S. and Japan ended the Japanese labor supply. Filipinos were the next group turned to as a source of cheap labor.

1909 Japanese sugar workers strike in Hawaii  
Oppressive contract laborer situations for Asian workers did not go completely unanswered. A number of work stoppages and strikes took place involving Chinese, Japanese and Hawaiians. The largest was in 1909 when 8,000 Japanese sugar workers struck.

1910 The United States Supreme Court upheld the 1870 Naturalization Act's being extended to other Asian groups.

1913 Korean farm workers attacked

Korean workers were recruited by a Korean contractor to pick apricots in Hemet

Valley in Southern California. On their arrival in Hemet, the group was met by a mob of white workers who forced them to return to Los Angeles.

1913, 1920 Alien Land Act

Actions of the California State Legislature in which Asian residents who were not not citizens were prevented from purchasing land.

1918 The United States enters World War I

1923 Anti-Pilipino Riots

When Pilipinos moved from Hawaii to the mainland, a number of anti-Pilipino riots occurred. In one incident in Watsonville, a number of Pilipinos were beaten by a white mob. The cause was not farm work, but the employment of white female entertainers by Pilipinos in a club in Watsonville.

1924 Immigration Act

While not specifically mentioning Asians, the measure effectively ended Asian immigration. A quota was established which was 2% of "the number of foreign born individuals of such nationality resident in the continental United States as determined by the Census of 1890." Since the Chinese were already excluded from immigrating and practically no other Asians lived in the United States in 1890, the results were obvious.

1929 The beginning of the economic depression in the U.S.A.

1934 Philippine Independence Act

Several bills to specifically exclude Pilipinos were introduced in 1929 and again in 1930. Neither passed. This bill while granting independence to the Philippines also set an immigration quota of 50 persons annually.

1935 The Repatriation Act

In a further effort to exclude Pilipinos, a bill was passed and signed by President Roosevelt which would pay the transportation expenses of those who wanted to return to the Philippines. Those who returned could not re-enter the U.S.A. Only about 2,000 Pilipinos took advantage of this offer.

1941 The United States enters World War II

1942 Executive Order 9066

Under this order all Japanese-Americans living within 200 miles of the Pacific Ocean were ordered to internment camps. Voluntary movement inland was permitted, but most persons who tried this alternative were turned back at the state lines by armed forces, refused gas and food or otherwise intimidated. 110,000 Japanese-Americans were interned, 70,000 of them U.S. citizens.

1943 Repeal of Chinese Exclusion Acts

China was America's ally in the war and it became embarrassing to maintain exclusion laws. American labor and other groups supported Chinese Americans in the effort for repeal. Chinese immigration, however, was restricted to 105 persons per year.

1950  
1948 The Korean War  
1952 McCarran-Walter Act

Under the provisions of this bill the right of naturalization was conferred on Asians not born in the United States. A quota of 100 immigrants per year was set for Asian countries.

1965 The Vietnam War  
National Origins Act

The provisions of the bill declared "no person shall receive preference priority or be discriminated against in the issuance of an immigrant visa because of race, sex, nationality, place of birth or place of residence." For every nation an annual quota of 20,000 immigrants for any fiscal year was set.

1967 Anti-miscegenation laws declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court

1971 The Church Movement Among Asian Americans

In their own response to the growing sense of pride in Asian American identity, Asian American Christians have developed their own movements within several denominations. These organizations are usually called caucuses and function to raise the consciousness of these denominations to Asian American ministry. The first of these groups was begun by the United Methodists in 1971. The Asian American Baptist Caucus was formed in the same year. In 1972 the Asian Presbyterian Caucus was organized and in 1974, Asian Americans in the Episcopal Church and the United Church of Christ organized.

1972 The Rev. Wilbur Choy, a Chinese-American was elected a bishop of the United Methodist Church

1973 Immigration continues

In the fiscal year ending in June 1973, Asian immigration to the United States reached a general all time high. During this time period 19,436 Chinese, 6,014 Japanese, 22,313 Koreans and 30,248 Filipinos came to this country as immigrants.

1974 Ariyoshi elected

During the recent national elections, George Ariyoshi, a Japanese-American from Hawaii was elected governor of that state, the first Asian American to serve as governor of a state. Hawaii has a majority Asian population. It has also elected two Asians to the House of Representatives in Patsy T. Mink and Spark Matsunaga and two Asian senators Daniel Inouye and Hiram Fong.

ASIAN PRESBYTERIAN ACTIVITIES

The oldest Asian Presbyterian organization is the Japanese Presbyterian Conference, previously called the Japanese Work Conference. This grouping of the 17 Japanese congregations in the denomination has been meeting for more than 70 years on mutual concerns.

The Asian Presbyterian Council was organized in 1972 in St. Helena, Ca. APC exists to be an advocacy group and a supportive force for Asian American ministry and concerns within the UPC. APC has a dual concern: that the ministry of the UPCUSA deal with Asian American mission and that Asians be permitted to contribute to the fullest extent to the overall mission of the denomination.

Asian Presbyterian Women is a group organized to deal with specific concerns of Asian women in the denomination. The group has produced a filmstrip on Asian women's concerns, done workshops and participated in the triennial women's meetings in Purdue.

Congregational development is a major concern for Asian Presbyterians. As of the beginning of 1979, there were 62 Asian congregations related to UPCUSA presbyteries. A number of other new churches have been developed since that date. Of these congregations 35 are Korean, 17 are Japanese, 5 are Chinese, 3 are Filipino and 2 are Formosan. New churches are being started by all these Asian groups.

Program Agency funding for Asian American mission through Mission Development Grants 1974-78 totals \$ 546,675.