

Promises and Exclusion

Tracing how economic competition and racial prejudice shaped policy.

11.4d "Racial and economic motives contributed to long-standing discrimination against Mexican Americans and opposition to Chinese immigration."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline economic motives and circle racial prejudice. Mark a treaty protection and a policy that restricted immigration.

Rights, Work, and Opposition in the West

- ① The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) ended the Mexican-American War and transferred northern Mexican territory to the United States. Mexicans in the ceded region could retain Mexican citizenship or choose U.S. citizenship, and the treaty promised respect for property. Yet settlers and speculators sought valuable land and water. Costly legal proceedings, debt, fraud, and challenges to land grants contributed to Mexican American land loss. Racial prejudice also undermined equal treatment. Treaty promises did not ensure secure property or equal power.
- ② Chinese migrants worked in mining, farming, laundries, and railroad construction. Thousands helped build the western portion of the transcontinental railroad, connecting markets. During hard times, some white workers and politicians blamed Chinese laborers for low wages and scarce jobs. Nativists portrayed Chinese people as incapable of belonging to American society. These racial claims joined economic resentment in campaigns to exclude immigrants, despite their contributions.
- ③ The Chinese Exclusion Act (1882) suspended immigration of Chinese laborers for ten years and barred Chinese naturalization. Certain categories, including merchants and students, were exempt from the immigration ban, but faced restrictive documentation rules. Later laws extended exclusion. Mexican Americans and Chinese immigrants had different legal situations, but both faced discrimination tied to competition for resources and racial prejudice. Explaining opponents' motives does not establish that their accusations against these communities were true.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two protections did the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo promise to Mexicans living in the ceded region?

2 Identify one economic motive and one racial motive behind discrimination against Mexican Americans in the passage.

3 Name one contribution Chinese workers made to the national economy. Then explain why some white workers and politicians opposed further Chinese immigration.

4 How did the Chinese Exclusion Act turn opposition to Chinese immigration into federal policy?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In four sentences, explain how economic motives and racial prejudice reinforced discrimination. Include one passage detail about Mexican Americans and one about Chinese immigrants.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline economic motives and circle racial prejudice. Mark a treaty protection and a policy that restricted immigration. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two protections did the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo promise to Mexicans living in the ceded region?	It allowed them to keep Mexican citizenship or become U.S. citizens, and it promised respect for their property.
2	Identify one economic motive and one racial motive behind discrimination against Mexican Americans in the passage.	Economic motive: settlers and speculators wanted valuable land and water. Racial motive: stereotypes made it easier to deny Mexican Americans equal treatment.
3	Name one contribution Chinese workers made to the national economy. Then explain why some white workers and politicians opposed further Chinese immigration.	Chinese laborers helped build the western section of the transcontinental railroad. Opponents claimed they lowered wages or took jobs, and nativists used racial claims that Chinese people could not join American society.
4	How did the Chinese Exclusion Act turn opposition to Chinese immigration into federal policy?	The 1882 law suspended immigration by Chinese laborers for ten years.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Settlers sought valuable land and water, while racial prejudice undermined equal treatment of Mexican Americans. Costly claims and other pressures contributed to land loss despite treaty protections. Chinese workers helped build railroads, yet opponents blamed them for economic hardship and portrayed them as outsiders. Such campaigns helped produce federal exclusion, showing how economic resentment and racial prejudice reinforced each other.

Accept accurate evidence for both groups and an explanation connecting economic motives to racial prejudice. Distinguish nativist accusations from established facts and the laborer immigration ban from a ban on every Chinese entrant.