

SOME STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO ANTI-CHINESE LEGISLATION AND SUBSEQUENT ACTION

Date	Legislation	Subsequent Action
1850	California passes Foreign Miners Tax requiring foreign minors to pay \$20/month.	Repealed 1851
1852	California passes Foreign Miners License Tax, requiring foreigners who were not U.S. citizens to take out a license for \$3/month. This tax was raised gradually over the next twenty years peaking at \$20/month in 1870.	Ruled unconstitutional in 1870
1854	California Supreme Court decision makes Chinese ineligible to testify in court against whites.	State law passed in 1873 repeals all testimony laws
1855	California passes “An Act to Discourage the Immigration to This State of Persons Who Cannot Become Citizens” in attempt to prevent further Chinese immigration. San Francisco levies a \$50 tax on anyone aboard a ship attempting to dock in California who is “not eligible for naturalization.”	Ruled unconstitutional in 1857 Ruled unconstitutional in 1856 in violation of the U.S. Constitution’s commerce clause
1858	California passes “An Act to Prevent the Further Immigration of Chinese or Mongolians to This State.”	Immediately challenged and ruled unconstitutional
1860	California levies a Fishing tax on Chinese activities in fishing. San Francisco denies admission of Chinese children to general public schools. Chinese denied admission to San Francisco City Hospital.	Violated U.S. Constitution’s commerce clause
1862	California passes “An Act to Protect Free White Labor Against Competition with Chinese Coolie Labor” (another attempt to prevent further Chinese immigration). California Police Tax is passed, requiring every Chinese person over the age of 18 who was not employed in the production of rice, sugar, tea, or coffee to pay a tax of \$2.50/month.	Ruled unconstitutional Ruled in violation of the California Constitution in 1863
1870	“Act to Prevent Kidnapping and Importing of Mongolian, Chinese, and Japanese Females for Criminal Purposes” prevents entry of Chinese women without special certificates. (California) San Francisco prohibits hiring of Chinese on municipal projects.	<i>(continued)</i>

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1870 (<i>cont.</i>)	San Francisco bans use of carrying poles for peddling vegetables. San Francisco ordinance requires 500 cubic feet of air within rooming houses. (Aimed at clearing out Chinese ghettos).	Overruled in 1873 by state court
1873	San Francisco taxes laundries using horse-drawn vehicles \$4 per year, while those with no vehicles are taxed \$60 per year.	Passed by city supervisions over the veto of mayor; found invalid in 1874 by county court
1873-1875	San Francisco passes various ordinances against the use of firecrackers and Chinese ceremonial gongs.	
1875	Law to regulate the size of shrimping nets (reduces catch). San Francisco Anti-Queue Law orders shaving off queues of all Chinese arrested.	Vetoed by Mayor
1879	California state constitution prohibits corporations and municipal works from hiring Chinese and authorizes cities to remove Chinese residents from within the city limits to specified outlying areas.	1880, U.S. Circuit Court finds law in violation of the 14th amendment.
1880	Fishing Act prohibits Chinese from engaging in any fishing business. Act to Prevent the Issuance of Licenses to Aliens deprives Chinese of licenses for businesses or occupations. San Francisco passes anti-ironing ordinance aimed at shutting down Chinese night-time laundries.	1880, U.S. Circuit Court finds law in violation of treaty with China and 14th amendment
1882	CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT PASSED BY CONGRESS	
1885	Political Codes Amendment allows for the segregation of Chinese in schools, public facilities, hospitals, and other places.	
1893	Fish and Games Act prohibits use of Chinese nets in fishing.	
1906	Anti-Miscegenation Law prohibits Chinese from marrying non-Chinese.	Nullified in 1948
1913	Alien Land Laws prohibit buying or owning land by “aliens ineligible for citizenship.”	Ruled unconstitutional in 1947