

Scale emigration of chinese history essay

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A. Significance of the study At the end of 2012, a total resident population of 315, 550, 000 makes United States the third most populous country in the world. Chinese Americans, with a total number of 4, 010, 114, account for 23. 2 percent of the Asian American population and 1. 2 percent of the total population of United States in accordance with the US census of 2010. (There is no doubt that Chinese Americans have become the largest ethnic group of Asian Americans. Over the past more than one hundred years, from the first large scale emigration of Chinese emigrated into United States in Gold Rush period started in 1848 till now, the social status of Chinese Americans has changed significantly especially their work place status, from the Yellow Horde to the Model Minority. Moreover, Chinese Americans are generally regarded as one of the most successful minority groups in the United States today. It is well known that elites with Chinese descent have exercised their power on various spectrums, including sports, business and politics. In short, since more and more Chinese Americans are working at well-paid positions with good working conditions in US workplace, to explore its reasons is conducive to a better understanding of the efforts behind the successes of Chinese Americans and must be of great importance on dispel the disparity in Chinese American society and provide guidance to the less-developed Chinese American.

B. Thesis statement This paper is going to give a deep analysis of the present status of Chinese Americans in US workplace related to the increase of income and employment rate, changes in occupation distribution and employment configuration to show the improvement of the Chinese American’s status in US work place. It also attempts to explore the main contributive reasons such as the changes of US policies, higher education level and culture recognition, the efforts Chinese American elites

made to promote their political impact and social status on US society. Although many researchers may regard Modern Minority as a kind of invisible discrimination against Chinese American, we still cannot deny that it is a symbol which suggests the elevation of the social status of Chinese Americans.

C. Organization of the paper

The first chapter gives a brief introduction of the paper, including the significance of the study, the thesis statement and the organization of the paper. The second chapter is literature review. It reviews relevant researches related to US work place discrimination and Chinese Americans social status in United States. The third chapter analysis the latest statistics related to employment rate, household income, employment configuration, occupation distribution and celebrity quantity. Meanwhile, it makes a comparison with the situations of Chinese American several decades ago. In the fourth chapter, it attempts to explore the reasons of the elevation of modern Chinese Americans in US workplace from the US governmental policies and efforts made by Chinese Americans. It mainly tells the importance of US immigration law, US anti-discrimination law and OEEC as external factors. Education, US culture recognition and impacts of the associations established by Chinese Americans ◉◆lites are given the same attention as internal factors. Finally, there is a short section that summarizes research findings and provides new perspective which could be explored for further research.

Chapter II.

Literature review

A. Workplace discrimination in United States

Generally speaking, United States has always been an open land full of freedom and opportunities for all citizens to fulfill their American dreams. However, various kinds of discriminations still exist in the workplace of United States, ranging from racial discrimination, national origin discrimination to age

discrimination and gender discrimination. Racial discrimination and national origin discrimination, due to their complicated historical reasons, has long been regarded as the most serious ones. In 2000 to 2002, Professors Marianne Bertrand and Sendhil Mullainathan did a research in Chicago and Boston, United States to figure out the level of racial discrimination in the labor market by a randomly sent 5, 000 resumes in response to over 1, 300 newspaper advertisement for sales, administrative, and clerical jobs. (para. 3)The findings launched on Discrimination in the Job Market in the United States indicated that all other things being equal, race was still an important factor in the American labor market. An African American applicant's race certainly had negative effects on his employment prospects on average. Resumes with white-sounding names received 50 percent more callbacks than those with black names.(para. 5)In addition, although being native-born, racial discrimination still is a barrier to many Asian Americans. In Do College-Educated, Native-Born Asian Americans Face a Glass Ceiling in Obtaining Managerial Authority, Isao Takei and Arthur Sakamo analyzed the data from the 2003 National Survey of College Graduates, which investigated the managerial authority of native-born, college-educated racial or ethnic minorities, in terms of the total number of employees supervised directly or indirectly through subordinates in the workplace.(79) The findings indicated that Asian American men's level of managerial authority was about 14 percent less than White men. Meanwhile, the findings for Asian American women, Hispanic non-White women, and Hispanic women did not indicate any clear differences relative to White women in terms of obtaining managerial authority after taking the control variables into account. Asian Americans faced a number of structural

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barriers, such as language deficiencies, the old boys network, lack of mentoring and management training.(81)B. Chinese American's status in United StatesThe Chinese Exclusion Act 1882 prohibited the immigration of Chinese laborers for ten years. As America's first race-based immigration restrictions, the anti-Chinese laws caused a sharp decrease of the Chinese American population. With the new immigration law of 1965, Chinese American immigrated into United States and revive again. Therefore, much importance have been attached to their social status in United States. Daniel Roger said in Chinese and Japanese in United States that from the EEOC reports of 1979, there was still an anti-Asian and Chinese atmosphere in US workplace on staff employment and promotion. Chinese Americans suffered from modern racism which was complicated and systematic enough to cover the discriminative facts. When it comes to the discriminations suffered by Chinese Americans, Liu Yanhong, in her thesis On Reasons and Countermeasure of Racial Discrimination for Chinese- Americans. , analyzed its deep-rooted historical reasons why Chinese Americans suffered from racial discrimination, the explored countermeasures. Li Aihui, in Contemporary Chinese social and economic status in the United States, clarifies that after the Second World War the social status of Chinese Americans has been much more improved, they became well-paid and well-educated. However she did not think these changes mean their social status was higher than that of American. Moreover, the status of Chinese Americans diversified in their education level, household income and occupation. Chinese Americans were inferior to other Asian ethnic groups in US.(75)In the aspect of the political status of Chinese Americans, Zhuang Guotu explores the keenness to politic of Chinese Americans, as more and <https://assignbuster.com/scale-emigration-of-chinese-history-essay/>

more Chinese Americans became well-educated and their economic power became stronger. In From immigration to voters: since 1965 the United States the development and change of Chinese society, Zhuang suggested that Chinese Americans had suffered a lot in the shadow of the Chinese exclusion laws, at that time to struggle for their survival is difficult, let alone their political rights. Zhuang believed that since more and more Chinese immigrants poured into America, became the fastest growing immigrant group after 1965, the economic and professional power of Chinese Americans surged, and thus, they started to participate in politics actively, striving for with their political rights. (67)From immigrants to voters, was the process of how Chinese Americans take root and thrive. Many people have done researches related to the status of Chinese Americans, however; the data used in those researches are obsolete today. What's more, they mainly focus on the over-all social status of Chinese Americans and Asia Americans as minority groups.

Chapter III. Elevation of contemporary Chinese American's status in US workplace

A. Elevation of the income and employment rate

Income and employed or not have always been the most important factors to judge the workplace status of a person. After 1965, Chinese Americans income has gradually increased. In 2010, according to the US Census, Chinese American men had a full-time median income of \$57, 061 and Chinese American women had a median income of \$47, 224. Chinese Americans have one of the highest median household incomes among most demographic groups in United States, which is 30 percent higher than the national average. (Census 2010)

Median Household income of Chinese Americans and the Whites

Year	Racial Group	Median Household Income (\$)
1970	White	19,801
1980	White	29,902
1990	White	30,000
2000	White	30,201
2010	White	30,201
2010	Chinese American	27,224

Household incomeRacial19701980199020002010Chinese

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American1060022560413165830065050White960020800371525122454620

Source: Li Aihui. Contemporary Chinese social and economic status in the United States, South East Asia Research, 2005(4). Pew Research Social & Demographic Trends.◆◆The Rise of Asian Americans. ◆◆ Pew Research Center. etd, 4 April 2013. 6 April 2013From the chart above, we could see very clearly that the household income of Chinese Americans increase constantly. The gap between the whites and Chinese Americans has been widened during five decades. These statistics of median house income could demonstrate living conditions of the large majority of each ethnical groups better. However, we should also notice that Chinese Americans still have lower income when compared with the White at a same education level. For examples, the median household income of the Chinese Americans with master degrees is 85. 8 thousands; meanwhile, the average income of the white is 86. 3 thousands according to US Census 2010.(Sina. Finance. para. 5)As a truth commonly shared, the social status of Chinese Americans polarized. Their income also gapped inside Chinese American Community. From the statistics in the research A Portrait of Chinese American given by university of Maryland in 2006, Chinese American has been divided into 3 groups, including 1st generation (Chinese American who receive education outside US), 1. 5 generation (Chinese American not born in US, but immigrate to US before 15, and receive part of education) and 2nd generation (Chinese American born in US).◆◆para. 5◆◆The findings show us that 1. 5 generation get the highest income. The success of 1. 5 generation may have strong relation with their understanding of both Chinese and United States cultural. (para. 11)What◆◆s more, in terms of the employment rate, we could find that 68. 8 percent of Chinese American

population above 16 are employed, and 34. 2 percent of them are jobless on a report launched in 2004 by American Community Survey.(Zhu Huiling23) However, in 2010, although United States was experiencing a financial crisis, Chinese American still hold lower unemployment rate at 4. 7percent than the national average of 5. 9 percent. What♦♦s more Chinese Americans also held a high self-employment rates, in 2007, there were over 109, 614 Chinese-owned employer firms, employing more than 780, 000 workers, and generating more than \$128 billion in revenue. All these facts tell us that though in an alien country, Chinese Americans still had the access to work, they work so hard to equal and to exceed the US average household income to improve their living conditions. They are not the members with low income who need pensions to survive any more. Since United States become friendlier to its immigrants, Chinese Americans are sure to be more successful in the coming days.

B. Changes in employment configuration

A big change in the employment configuration of Chinese Americans took place after the World War II. An increasing number of Chinese Americans are heading to intelligence intensive type of jobs instead of manual laboring ones. In 2004, 51 percent of Chinese Americans worked in management, 21. 5 percent of them engaged in sales and office work, 17 percent of them got a job in service industry.(Zhu Huiling23) Less people worked with laboring work, such as manufacturing, house building, and repairing. Most Chinese Americans nowadays work as white collar salaried professionals, which is largely self-directed in management related occupations such as engineering, medicine, investment banking, law, and academia. On Wikipedia, it is said that, according to the US Census of 2010, 53. 1 percent of Chinese Americans work in white collar professions compared with 48. 1

percent for all Asian Americans and a national average of 35. 1 percent. (para. 2)C. Occupation distribution Zhang Xiaotao, author of The evolution of the US immigration policy towards Chinese and its influence, separated the occupation distribution into three levels. He clarified that the first level is the family reunion immigrants without any skills and knowledge about English language who took part in blue collar laboring work, to make a living in sewing factories, restaurants, laundries and grocery stores. The second level includes skilled immigrants and students aboard. There are an increasing number of them involved mainly in education, scientific research, engineering, medicine science and accounting. From the statistics of 1980, there are 150 thousand of people working in those industries, which account for 20 percent of the total number of Chinese Americans in US. The well-educated and skilled Chinese Americans occupied 26. 4 percent of Chinese Americans total, and 10 thousand of them work in education. The third level is self-owned Chinese Americans; they participate in all walks of life, including trade, retail and real estate industry. (54-5)Occupational distribution of mainland Chinese Americans 1940-

Occupation	Year	Science and technology workers	Shop keepers& farm owners	Clerk & shop assistant	Technology workers	Service Industry	Manual labor in city	Manual worker in the countryside
1940	2.	523.	710.	524.	538.	41.	82.	819502.
1960	20.	317.	613.	619.	328.	51.	50.	5197026.
1980	26.	08.	321.	419.	921.	52.	20.	5Source:

2000 (1). From the chart above , there are only 2. 5 percent of Chinese Americans took part in Science and Technology industry in 1940, then this figure roar up to 20. 3 in 1960. In 1980, 30 percent of Chinese Americans
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work in this area. On contrary, the proportion of shopkeeper and farm owner decreased sharply. It shows that more people are engaged in professional area than laboring works which once being the common choices for Chinese immigrants in Gold Rush period. In 21st century, this trend has been strengthened, though Chinese Americans came across structural barriers, such as the old boys network, lack of mentoring and management training, many of them demonstrate their talents in management. In accordance with research A Portrait of Chinese Americans given by university of Maryland in 2006, however; there are 80. 4 percent of Chinese Americans work in private sector and 13. 2 percent of them work for the government. More than 53. 4 percent of Chinese Americans work in management and technical sectors while the US national average is 34 percent. Chinese Americans account for 20. 8 percent of total number of Sales and office work sector. At the same time service industry is also welcomed by Chinese Americans, they occupied 15. 4 percent of all people employed.(Wu para. 14)What mattered equally, the status of self-owned Chinese Americans also start to be more specialized in scientific and technology in 2010, among which nearly 40 percent of them were in the professional, scientific, and technical services sector, the accommodation and food services sector, and the repair and maintenance. Moreover, wholesale trade and accommodation and food services occupied 50. 4 percent of Chinese-owned business revenue. In recent years, the vast majority of Chinese Americans are working in private sector while only 14 percent of them work for the government.()All in all, although Chinese Americans are still mainly engaged in healthcare, catering service, they also contribute themselves to high tech intensive industry like manufacturing ,
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science and technology and scientific research. What should also be pointed out is that Chinese Americans occupied one third of the Asian American high tech professional workforce and a tenth of the entire Silicon Valley workforce. (George koo 2)Chapter IV. Reasons of the elevationA. Laws and organizations◆◆US governmental measuresAimed to prevent the employees from the discriminations against his or her race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, is regarded as the law which protects someone from illegal retaliation against a person because the person complained about discrimination, filed a charge of discrimination, or participated in an employment discrimination investigation or lawsuit. (para. 1)However, title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, cannot dispel the long-exist the historical anti-Chinese prejudice in United States. Chinese Americans first immigrate into US and worked industrious as laboring workers in the California Gold Rush. It was that the low cost Chinese labors aroused the dissatisfaction among the local people and brought the Exclusion Act which caused a sharp decrease in the number of Chinese immigrants and had a negative effect on the status of Chinese Americans in United States at that time. No Chinese workforce could gain access to United States or change their Chinese nationality into US citizens in the following ten year, excluding the short time visit of Chinese diplomats, scholars, students, businessmen and tourists.

(Zhang Xiaotao49)The abolishment of the Exclusion Act of 1882 symbolized that Chinese immigrants regained their access to United States. The negative effects that brought by historical reasons has been gradually diminished with the Immigration Act of 1965 and Affirmative Action. These measures helped to enhance the diversity of the society. What◆◆s more, they provided comparatively fair conditions for Chinese Americans to fulfill

their American dreams with their hard work. Chinese Americans, as well as all other minority ethical immigrants , gain legal protects from US government with the launch of The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA) , which make it illegal for an employer to discriminate with respect to hiring, firing, or recruitment or referral for a fee, based upon an individual’s citizenship or immigration status. (para. 10)Under the Act, employers may not refuse to accept lawful documentation that establishes the employment eligibility of an employee, or demand additional documentation beyond what is legally required, when verifying employment eligibility, based on the employee’s national origin or citizenship status. In addition, the IRCA also prohibits retaliation against individuals for asserting their rights or for filing a charge or assisting in an investigation or proceeding under IRCA. National origin discrimination, involves treating people unfavorably because they are from a particular country or part of the world. (para. 1)Same as racial discrimination, it still hindered the immigrants from achieving their American dreams today. Due to ethnicity or accent, or appearance to be of a certain ethnic background (even if they are not), ethnical minorities are people who suffered from it and complain about it. (para. 1)It is the kind of discrimination which early Chinese Americans immigrants suffered from it due to historical reasons and their poor English language acquisitions. As a federal law enforcement agency, the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission enforces laws against workplace discrimination. The EEOC investigates discrimination complaints based on an individual’s race, color, national origin, religion, and retaliation for reporting, participating in discriminatory practice. At the same time, it is also offer helps to the victims to file discrimination suits and to adjudicate claims <https://assignbuster.com/scale-emigration-of-chinese-history-essay/>

of discrimination brought against federal agencies. (para. 1)It reinforce the elimination of national origin based discrimination regarding to any aspect of employment, including hiring, firing, pay, promotions, layoff, training, responsibility, fringe benefits, and any other term or condition of employment.

National Origin-Based Charges	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006
Receipts	6,778	7,929	9,468	10,361	10,327
Resolutions	8,482	8,691	9,528	9,438	10,181
Successful Conciliations	601	591	681	1451	1061
Conciliations	3,217	7,720	7,207	7,207	7,207

SC Rate
7percent
1.8percent
1.7percent
1.6percent
1.3percent
1.6percent
1.4percent
1.7percent
Unsuccessful Conciliations
Conciliations
20,358
6,766
30,540
6,258
9,473
2,894
7,328
UC Rate
2.4percent
6.7percent
7percent
3.4percent
5.0percent
3.0percent
7.6percent
2.7percent
Source:
United States, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Enforcement & Litigation Statistics, National Origin-Based Charges FY 1997 - FY 2012The data in the chart above are compiled by the Office of Research, from EEOC Charge Data System from 1998-2012. From this chart we could see how effective this organization is, and how serious the national origin based discrimination is as well. It is not difficult for us to see that the charge quantity increased constantly. However, more importance should be attached to the successful conciliation quantity. The increase of this item demonstrated the efforts that OEEC made like on-line instructions and the news reports let more people realize the discriminations around and bravely stand out to fight for their rights.

B. Education
◆◆way to become professional
One◆◆'s income gets higher in accordance with their education level. (para. 5)Since most of Chinese Americans who early immigrated into US in 1850s are not well-educated. Chinese Americans undertook their tax

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duty without being taken in by public education system, enduring the prejudice from others, such as Yellow hordes and bumpkins, who were difficult to be assimilated with others. What's more, they became the imaginary enemy as for the Native Americans. Such a situation turns to be changed after WWII. From the chart in chapter two, we could see their bottom-level living conditions gradually changed. Due to the ancient civilization, Chinese Americans' attitudes toward education are strongly influenced by Confucian philosophy which placed the scholar in a position of prominence and prestige. Therefore, education was considered an important route to success. (Chen Huabin 306) They believed that knowledge could improve their social status and living conditions, they have maintained a strong commitment to education and invested a lot in the education expense of their children. Therefore, more and more Chinese Americans received the higher education and became professionals in different industries. Findings of a survey made by Huabin Chen showed that Chinese parents had more positive attitudes toward school science curriculum than did American parents. So it is the attitudes of their children.(309) There were 42 percent of Chinese Americans over 25-year-old have received the higher education in 1990s. In the year of 2000, there were 46. 3 percent of Chinese Americans had a bachelor degree or above, which was much higher than the 26. 1 percent that of the Whites. Ten years after, there are 51. 8 percent of all Chinese Americans have attained at least a bachelor's degree, compared with 28. 2 percent nationally. In addition, 26. 6 percent of all Chinese Americans in the United States possess a master's, doctorate or other professional degree, this figure is roughly two and a half times above the national average. (Wu Gang para. 13) Chinese Americans even constitute 13 <https://assignbuster.com/scale-emigration-of-chinese-history-essay/>

percent of the nation’s top Ivy League universities and other prestigious institutions of higher education around the United States. C. Cultural recognition Chinese American Elites Power Whether a minority ethnical group could succeed in the development of its economy or not, largely depends on their way of life, whether to live an isolate life and do things following his outdated experience within their own social circle, or participate in the boarder social sphere, recognize and melt with an updated advantageous culture. In the book Who’s who among Asian Americans published in 1994 covered 6000 Asian American elites, including 2676 Chinese Americans occupying 45 percent of the total number of the elites listed. What’s more, 80 percent of Chinese American elites are engaged in professional occupations.(Huang Jing, Wang Cangbai 46)Chinese American elites, who successful played their roles in different industries, presented the up-towards stream of Chinese American community that shared by other Chinese Americans. This point could be exemplified by Chinese American writers way to seeking their cultural identities. Due to influence of the different historical circumstances, their cultural identities differed as well. Sui Sin Far, representing the people who lived in the anti-Chinese American society resisted and fought against American culture, firmly engaged in Chinese identity and tried their best to spread Chinese culture. in the middle of 20th century, however; many people began to assimilate with the American culture. Jade Snow Wong, a famous Chinese American woman writer, preferred to seek for a balance between Chinese culture and American culture. Most importantly, at the end of 20th century, as generations of Chinese Americans have already contributed themselves to a prosperous American society, Chinese Americans were more likely to be <https://assignbuster.com/scale-emigration-of-chinese-history-essay/>

labeled as Chinese Americans rather than American Chinese. Tang tingting, as an example, believed that her writings concern more about American society and she was complete an American named Maxim Hong Kingston.(Xu Yingguo157-60)Besides Chinese American writers, the well-educated ~~◆◆~~lites also contributed their efforts in the promotion of cultural recognition; they set up associations for Chinese community ~~◆◆~~s internal communications and fight for equal rights. Chinese American statesmen, as a minority group, devoted themselves to the development of Chinese American Community, and even benefited the Sino-US relation. Early in 1990, a political group aiming at protecting the rights of Chinese American, promoting the unity of Chinese American Community and providing helps to improve the political position of Chinese Americans named Committee of 100 was established by 100 Chinese American elites including Bei Yuming, Chen Xiangmei, Tian Changlin and Ji Yuxi.(Zhuang Guotu 76) It has a great impact in US society. The 21st Committee of 100 was held on April 19th-20th, 2012. A report on what is Chinese and Americans ~~◆◆~~ attitude towards each other mainly discussed the Sino-US relationship, Sino-US bilateral investment and other issues related to trade and military power distribution. 80/20 Promotion Association, an organization aiming at have an influence on US general election was established by Chinese Americans in 1998. It immediately took in Asian Americans of other ethnical groups. It made Chinese Americans no longer silence in political campaign and became a minority of great importance. In the general election in 2000, Luo Jiahui and Wu Jingwei were reappointed successful respectively.(Pan weisong78) The two Chinese American lead association strongly encourage the keenness of common people to take a seat in governmental sectors and to fight for their rights. In <https://assignbuster.com/scale-emigration-of-chinese-history-essay/>

the year of 2013, there are more Chinese American statesmen show their talents in Obama's administration. With the efforts made by US government and Chinese Americans themselves, many Chinese American celebrities boom in recent years and scattered in all walks of work.

Chapter IV. Conclusion

A. Summary of the study

Through the researches, by the comparisons among the statistics about elevation of modern Chinese Americans in US workplace listed of different years, we could easily notice that the income and employment rate of Chinese Americans have been improved and most of the parameters are above the US national average. The employment configuration and occupation distribution has been changed from laboring work to professional work. Their success not only resulted from the better external conditions provided by US government, such as the laws and organizations that helped to prevent national-based discrimination, but also originated from their own constant efforts to receive higher education and to melt with the culture of the US. As is known to all, workplace discriminations against minority ethnic groups still exist in US. From the statement of EEOC's speaker , Asian Americans including Chinese Americans suffered the most from national discrimination, the most serious discrimination in US workplace only second to racial discrimination even nowadays. Despite the scholars' contributions domestically and abroad, it should be pointed out that we still need to make sufficient constant studies to evaluate the Chinese American, especially their status in US workplace. We should also recognize the gap in the education level within Chinese Americans and attach more attention on their bottom line living conditions, so as to promote their competency of them and perfect the Chinese American Community.

B. Perspective for further research

This paper

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analyses the most updated data on Chinese American in employment, income and education. We could see that Chinese American performs better than the US national average. However, it does not make an in-depth view of the performance Asian Americans of other ethnicity. In fact, through the analysis of the statistics we could see Japanese Americans and Indian Americans performed better in some aspects. People could go further study to find the reasons and make more researches on their social status nowadays and to explore its reasons. US Workplace discriminations have different forms, including race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, genetic information. African American women also could be a good case for researcher to explore, for they are such a special group of people who are suffering from both racial discrimination and sex discrimination.