

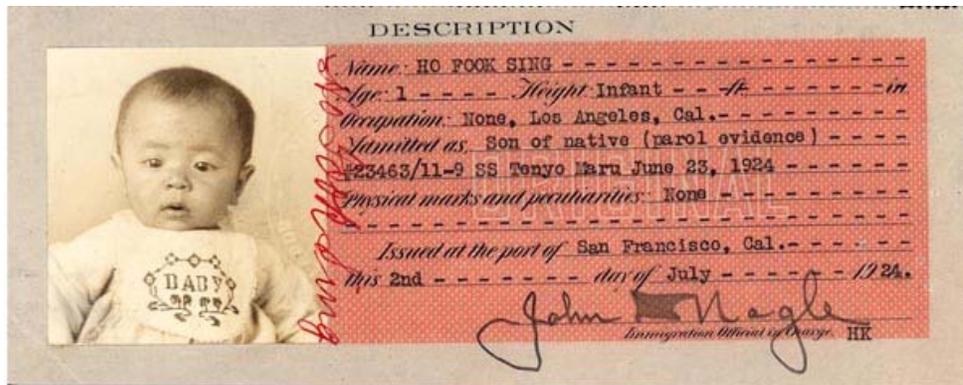
National History Day Research Topics

The Individual in History: Actions & Legacies

National Archives and Records Administration – Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel)
24000 Avila Road, 1st Floor East
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
(949) 360-2641
laguna.archives@nara.gov

The Chinese Exclusion Acts

From 1882 to 1943 the United States Government severely curtailed immigration from China to the United States. This Federal policy resulted from concern over the large numbers of Chinese immigrants. Competition with American workers and a growing nativism brought pressure for restrictive action, which began with the act of May 6, 1882 (22 Stat. 58). Passed by the 47th Congress, this law suspended immigration of Chinese laborers for ten years; permitted those Chinese in the United States as of November 17, 1880, to stay, travel abroad, and return; prohibited the naturalization of Chinese; and created a "Section 6" exempt status for teachers, students, merchants, and travelers. Individuals from these exempt classes would be admitted upon presentation of a certificate from the Chinese government.



Other restrictive immigration acts affecting citizens of Chinese ancestry followed, until 1943 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt, taking into consideration China's position as an ally, signed an "Act to Repeal the Chinese Exclusion Acts, to Establish Quotas, and for Other Purposes" (57 Stat. 600-1). This Act of December 13, 1943 also lifted restrictions on naturalization.

Japanese American Property during World War II

In 1942, people of Japanese ancestry on the West coast were forced into War Relocation Authority camps. Many internees were given virtually no notice before being relocated, and as a result were forced to sell their property well below its value, place it in storage or entrust it to friends and neighbors. In some cases the Federal government sold this property, farm equipment for example, to increase wartime production. In other cases, people entrusted with the care of property took it for their own benefit.



Japanese Americans on Terminal Island

Terminal Island, California in the 1930s was busy with fishermen, canneries and the United States Navy. A small fishing village had grown on the island. Japanese fishermen and their families supported themselves by fishing for companies like Van Camp's. When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the Japanese men of the "Little Tokio," on the island, thought to be enemies of the United States, were arrested and immediately removed to a detention center in the Los Angeles area.

Their proximity to the Naval installation at Terminal Island had raised security concerns for the United States Navy. The Navy discussed dismantling the village and by February 1942, the remaining families were removed from Terminal Island and the United States Navy seized much of the remaining private property on the Island to protect the Naval facilities there.

The Homefront: Southern California During the Second World War

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the United States government created the Office of Civilian Defense (OCD) to ensure the government's ability to protect the homeland and ensure the national commitment. Civil defense councils and committees sprang up around the country and took a particular interest in the defense of southern California with its western coast, its industry and agriculture and its extensive military installations.



Committees enforced blackouts and promoted rationing of food and materials important to the war effort. They ran preparedness drills. They warned people to be constantly vigilant against the enemy and to continue to be productive and efficient.

Desegregation in Orange County: Mendez v. Westminster

In 1946, a group of Mexican-American families in Orange County, California decided to contest the exclusion of their children from whites-only schools throughout Orange County. They families wondered if the children's fathers were good enough to fight along side during World War II, then why should the students be segregated based on their ethnicity. The families won the court-ordered integration of Orange County schools eight years before the more famous Brown vs. Board of Education case.

Organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People took a keen interest in the case, filing "friends of the court" briefs.

Desegregation in Phoenix: Gonzalez v. Sheely

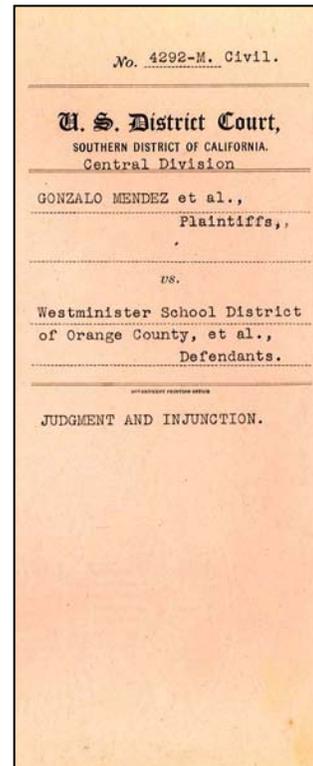
The families of several Mexican-American families filed a lawsuit in Federal court alleging that the schools in Phoenix, Arizona were segregated and that the facilities were far from equitable. The complaint in this case charged that the separate schools in Phoenix, Arizona for Mexican and Anglo children were in violation of the 14th Amendment. The stark differences described by the plaintiffs demonstrated that even without an official policy of racial segregation, the schools were providing insufficient facilities and opportunities for Mexican and Mexican-American children.

Desegregation in Las Vegas: Kelly v. Mason

In 1968, a class action suit was filed Federal court against the Clark County Nevada School District. The case alleged the district had segregated schools in violation of the 5th and 14th Amendments to the United States Constitution. The judge ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, finding that secondary schools were segregated, and imposed a desegregation plan known as Six Grade Center Plus.

Desegregation in San Bernardino, California: Lopez v. Seccume

As Mexican laborers moved into San Bernardino County to work on the Southern Pacific Railroad and in agriculture. The period from World War I to the Great Depression saw growth in San Bernardino, but that growth often missed the Latino community there. Chicano youngsters were segregated in a Mexican grade school with inadequate facilities and insufficient teachers. The city's swimming pool was segregated; Mexicanos could swim only on the day before the water was to be changed. The town's theater was also segregated. The two communities remained segregated, and except for work and some shopping, Chicanos and Anglos seldom interacted. One case filed in the Federal courts sought to end the practice of segregation in the city parks.



Desegregation: Powers v. Southern Pacific Company

A group of African-Americans traveling on the Southern Pacific Sunset line to Dallas, Texas held tickets for reserved seats in Car 21, which "was air-conditioned, well-lighted and each chair seat was upholstered and comfortable." Upon arrival in El Paso, they were removed from the air-conditioned car to a car that "did not have air-conditioning and was poorly lighted and uncomfortable and each of the chairs were not upholstered nor comfortable, but were in fact straight, old-fashioned, hard and uncomfortable." The group filed a lawsuit in Federal court in Los Angeles, arguing that Southern Pacific had discriminated against them.

Desegregation: Wyatt v. Transcontinental & Western Air (TWA)

Ruth Wyatt, an African-American opera singer, sued TWA after being stranded overnight and refused accommodations in the same hotel the airline arranged for the other passengers. She had purchased a ticket from Los Angeles to Detroit, Michigan, but her plane was grounded in Albuquerque, New Mexico due to bad weather. TWA arranged hotels for the other (white) passengers on the plane, and offered Ms. Wyatt her choice of a segregated hotel or accommodations in the home of their African-American porter. Ms. Wyatt refused both and spent the night in the airport lobby.

She filed a lawsuit in Federal court citing the interstate commerce clause of the United States Constitution. She alleged that the airline had violated her civil rights by not finding her suitable accommodations. The judge decided in favor of TWA, saying that it was not the airline's fault that the Albuquerque hotels would not accept African-American guests and that the airline had done all it could to find accommodations for Ms. Wyatt.

A Melding of Cultures: The Silas John Cult

When Lutheran and Catholic missionaries came to the Apache, they brought new ideas, new values and a new way of living. In 1904, God came to an Apache Indian, Silas John Edwards, in a dream giving him prayers and a written alphabet to record those prayers and their associated motions. The Silas John Cult, later known as the Holy Ground Church, blended Christian practices with new ceremonies based on Apache culture and was condemned by both traditional Apaches and Christian missionaries. Edwards had been influenced greatly by the story of Moses and the brazen serpent and incorporated the handling of snakes into his religion. He focused on morality and rejected traditional curing practices. Silas John urged his followers to abstain from drinking and fighting and using traditional Apache witchcraft.

The superintendents of both the Fort Apache and San Carlos Indian Reservations were concerned over the growth of this cult as Edwards gained followers in the 1920s. They banned Edwards from practicing and limited gatherings - expressly stating that no "snake dances" were to be permitted. In 1925, Edwards was completely banned from San Carlos by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

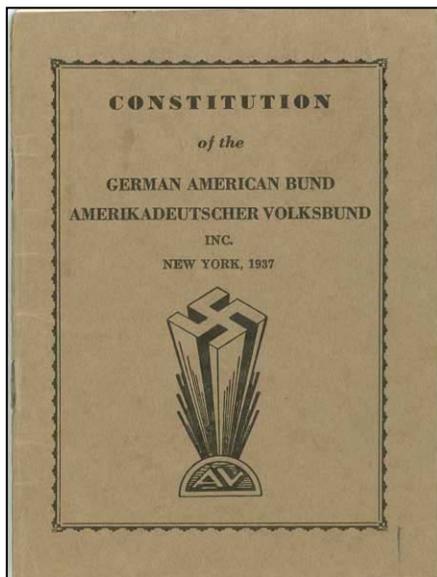
Despite the focus of his religious faith, Edwards was continually arrested on charges of assault, rape and prohibition violations. In 1933, he was accused of murdering his wife. He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. He was released in the 1950s and relocated to the San Carlos Reservation to again oversee his church.

A War Front of Ideas: The Espionage Act of 1917

In 1917, Congress passed the Espionage Act, which made it a crime for a person to convey information with intent to interfere with the operation or success of the armed forces of the United States or to promote the success of its enemies. The Act was used to prosecute people overheard making supportive statements of the German effort, and those who wrote seemingly anti-American pamphlets, poems and songs.

Alien Enemies during the First and Second World Wars

Throughout its history, the American people have struggled with the line between security and freedom. In 1798, Congress passed the first series of legislation in United States history directed at foreign citizens of enemy nations living on American soil, also known as enemy aliens. The Alien and Sedition Acts, as they became collectively known, were intended to make American citizenship more difficult and to limit the influence of potential enemies of the new Federal government.



Again in 1917, during World War I, Congress passed laws requiring registration of enemy aliens in the United States. And in 1940 all aliens, enemy and friendly, were required to register with the Federal government. In 1941, with the onset of World War II, Japanese, German and Italian citizens were arrested and detained by the Department of Justice and then interned in a series of camps administered by the War Relocation Authority. Individuals of German, Italian and Japanese nationality saw their lives turned upside down in the name of American national security.

The Politics of Citizenship: Attempts to Denaturalize Members of the German-American Bund

Founded in the mid-1930s, the German-American Bund was an organization joined by citizens and non-citizens alike, all of German ancestry. In Los Angeles during World War II, the Federal government sued members of the Bund who had become naturalized citizens in order to cancel their citizenship. Federal attorneys claimed that these individuals were members of a pro-Nazi organization and that their loyalty was to Germany rather than the United States.

The Los Angeles Times Bombing

As labor struggled to organize at the turn of the 20th century, many radicals turned to violence to attract attention to their cause. In 1910, a bomb was set off in the Los Angeles Times building, killing 20 employees and destroying the building. This event, set amid the struggle to unionize Los Angeles, California, was a pivotal moment in labor history. Union members John J. McNamara, James B. McNamara and Ortie McManigal were tried and eventually pled guilty to the bombings.

Treason: United States v. Tomoya Kawakita

Tomoya Kawakita was an American-born man from the Imperial Valley of California of Japanese descent who traveled to Japan prior to the outbreak of the Second World War. He was recruited by the Japanese government to work as a translator in Japan's prisoner-of-war camps, where he was involved in brutalities against American and British prisoners.

Following the war, Kawakita returned to the United States. He was recognized outside of a store in Los Angeles by one of the former prisoners of war. The Federal government tried Kawakita for treason for cooperating with Japanese authorities in beatings of Allied prisoners.

American Citizen Detained: Gaetano Territo v. United States

The laws of the United States prohibit American citizens from declaring allegiance to a foreign government. Individuals who vote in foreign elections, work for foreign governments or join foreign militaries run the risk of losing their American citizenship.

During World War II, Gaetano Territo, an American citizen born in West Virginia, was captured while serving in the Italian army. The United States held him as an enemy prisoner of war in southern California for the duration of the war. The Federal government maintained that Territo forfeited his American citizenship when he swore an oath of allegiance to Italy before entering the Italian army. At the end of the war, Territo sued the United States government in Federal court, claiming he retained his U.S. citizenship and requesting to be allowed to stay in the country.

Assimilating Native Americans: Bureau of Indian Affairs Field Matrons

The policies of the Office of Indian Affairs at the turn of the 20th Century promoted the assimilation of native peoples into American society at large. One element of this policy was the work of the field matron. Her responsibility was to work within specific agencies to promote culture assimilation among Indian women. She taught and tracked the domestic skills of the women. When working with the Indian schools, the field matrons sought domestic positions for girls in the homes of white families. Her job was received with mixed feelings by the community and the agency.

Each field matron had a different set of goals and issues for the women with whom she worked. Each agency had responsibility over a group of Indians with specific social and cultural concerns. The diversity and similarity of experiences of the Field Matrons shows the implementation of the assimilative policy of the Office of Indian Affairs.

Becoming an American Again: Regaining Citizenship Lost through Marriage

The United States Congress has continuously worked to ensure that foreign influence on the internal politics of this country is limited. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many daughters of wealthy businessmen had married foreign aristocrats. As a result, Congress feared that the husbands of these women would have an undue amount of influence over their wives' votes.

Congress passed legislation that stated that native-born American women who married foreign men between March 2, 1907 and September 22, 1922 lost their United States citizenship as a result. Prior to July 2, 1940, only women whose marriage was terminated by death or divorce qualified to have their citizenship reinstated. After 1940, any woman who resided continuously in the United States since the date of the marriage was also qualified for the reinstatement of their citizenship. Many women applied through the Federal courts to regain their United States citizenship.

Braceros in Their Own Words: The Garin Company Phoenix Bus Accident

Between 1942 and 1964, more than 4 million agricultural laborers entered the United States from Mexico, under contract with the Federal government to work in American farmers' fields harvesting and planting crops.

A group of nearly 45 Bracero workers from Phoenix, Arizona were injured or killed in 1959, when a bus in which they were being transported crashed into a tree. The bus had no windows and was so full that many of the men were lying under the seats. The surviving workers and the families of the deceased filed personal injury claims in Federal court against the Garin Company, for whom the Braceros were working. They and their families described the circumstances in Mexico that had led them to work in the United States in the first place.

Chuck Yeager and the Breaking of the Sound Barrier: The XS-1 Aircraft

In the era of the "Military Industrial Complex," the aircraft industry worked closely with the



United States government to design and build advanced aircraft. The building and test flights of the experimental research aircraft, the procedures and personnel which established themselves on this project helped lay the foundation of America's space program in the 1960s. The X-1 project defined and solidified the post-war cooperative union between U.S. military needs, industrial capabilities, and research facilities.

Chuck Yeager's flights in the Bell Aircraft X-1 aircraft were the first to break the sound barrier in 1947. This advancement, which took place at

Dryden Flight Research Center in southern California, illustrates the importance of technological advances in America's post-war economy.

Camp Grant Massacre

In a response to frustration created by Indian raids in southern Arizona, a group of nearly 150 men, Anglo-Americans, Mexican-Americans, and Tohono O'Odham Indians attacked an Apache camp near the U.S. Army's Camp Grant in Arizona in April 1871. The Apache camp was home to nearly 500 people. By the end of the day, the men had killed over 100 Apaches, mostly women and children, and captured 27 children.

Those involved, including Tucson mayor Sidney R. de Long and Tohono O'Odham chief Francisco Galerita, were tried, by the territorial court in October of 1871. It took the Tucson jury only 19 minutes to declare that they were "not guilty."

Detaining Foreign Combatants: Mexican Revolutionaries Detained

In 1913, during the Mexican Revolution, a Federalist garrison stationed at Naco, Sonora was overrun by Constitutionalist forces. The Federalists were forced to flee across the border into the United States. The Mexican soldiers surrendered to the United States Army, which took their weapons and detained them. They were initially held at Fort Bliss, Texas then transferred to Fort Rosecrans, California.

Higinio Toscano and 207 other members of the Federalist garrison then petitioned the United States District Court for a Writ of Habeas Corpus on the grounds that they were being imprisoned without being charged with a crime and that they had been denied due process of law. The Government based its defense of the Federalists' detention on the Hague Treaty, written in 1907 and then ratified by both the United States and Mexico. This treaty required America, as a neutral nation, to detain troops from belligerent armies that landed on its soil. The Federal court concluded that there was no constitutional violation because the 4th and 6th Amendments relate to criminal prosecutions and the case at hand was not a criminal prosecution.

Farm Workers in Imperial Valley During the Depression

Working 9 to 10 hours a day in the spring and fall, and suffering in temperatures over 110 degrees in the summer, the seasonal agricultural workers of the Imperial Valley in California suffered from low wages and an abusive system of labor contractors. Many of the workers were Mexican immigrants. As early as 1928, the Mexican agricultural workers formed a union and began to demand better conditions and wages. 1934 saw a series of strikes which quickly became violent when rumors of Communist infiltration and a "Mexican uprising" reached the local non-Mexican communities.

In 1934, Senator Robert F. Wagner ordered an investigation of the treatment of farm workers in the Imperial Valley of California. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) office in Los Angeles participated in this investigation and produced a report that detailed the strife, analyzed its causes, and made recommendations to provide both workers and farmers with a more stable future.

Founding the Israeli Air Force: Adolph Schwimmer's Neutrality Violations

Events between 1881 and 1945, beginning with waves of anti-Semitic programs in Russia and the Russian-controlled areas of Poland, and culminating in the Holocaust, converted the great majority of surviving Jews to the belief that a Jewish homeland was an urgent necessity.

At the end of World War II, Schwimmer purchased excess airplanes and airplane parts from the United States War Assets Administration and shipped them through Mexico, Italy and Czechoslovakia to Palestine. The airplanes that Schwimmer brought were used by Israelis during their war against the Palestinian Arabs to establish independent Israel. In the late 1940s, the United States Federal government prosecuted Adolph Schwimmer and several of his associates for violating American neutrality laws.

Freedom of Speech: The Chicano Movement Comes to Brawley Union High School District

Several Mexican-American students at Brawley Union High School in southern California, returned from a Chicano Student Conference at San Diego State University in 1969 excited by the speakers they had heard there. They wore "Mexican-American Liberation" pins they had obtained at the conference to school to show their support for the Chicano movement.



The school administrators demanded that they remove the pins, arguing that they were disturbing the student body and advocating disruption. The students filed a lawsuit in Federal court arguing that the school administrators violated their civil rights under the 1st and 14th amendments of the United States Constitution. Students and staff offered arguments about the Chicano movement and its effects on the school.

Freedom of Speech: Spirit of 76 Case

As the United States became involved in World War I, Congress passed the United States Sedition Act, which was intended to curtail activities of people and organizations which were speaking out against the United States, her allies and the war in general.

In 1917, Robert Goldstein, the owner of a costume shop, completed his first motion picture. The movie was an intensely patriotic film about the American Revolution, "The Spirit of '76." The film was banned by censors who believed that scenes depicting the Redcoats bayoneting a baby and apparently raping a young maiden would provoke hatred against their British allies. Goldstein was prosecuted under the Sedition Act for ignoring warnings against leaving these scenes in his final production.

Guns, Politics and Land: Harry Chandler and the Mexican Revolution

Beginning in 1903, Harry Chandler began acquiring over 800,000 acres of land straddling the United States - Mexico border in Imperial County, California and the Mexicali Valley in Baja California. In 1917, the same year that Chandler became president and publisher of the Los Angeles Times, the United States government charged him with neutrality violations for his attempts to influence Mexican politics in order to preserve his land interests. The government alleged that Chandler bought guns, which were to be hidden on his ranch for transfer to the Mexican army. The government further alleged that he hired men to support this operation, in fact raising a foreign army on American soil.

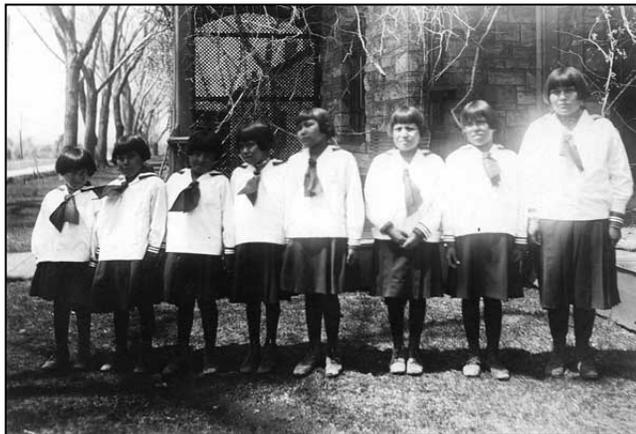
Home is Where Your House Is: Magana v. City of Santa Fe Springs

In 1967, the residents of a small Mexican-American neighborhood in Santa Fe Springs, California filed a lawsuit in Federal court to stop the redevelopment of their neighborhood. The City's urban development, community leaders argued, was focused on their neighborhood because 90% of its population was of Mexican descent. The City argued that it was a blighted area that needed to be cleaned up.

Education, Assimilation, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs

The goal of Indian education from the 1880s through the 1920s was to assimilate Indian people into American society by placing them in schools where traditional ways could be replaced by those sanctioned by the government and American society.

Many children were forced into boarding schools where their hair was cut, their traditional clothes were replaced with American style clothing and their language and religion were banned in favor of English and Christianity. The taking of these children often caused intense anger among the communities on the reservation, resulting in violence and mistrust of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, whose responsibility it was to oversee the education of Indian children.



Agencies across Arizona and California implemented these policies with results that were typical of the national results in many ways, but with events and reactions unique to each specific cultural group.

Jackson Barnett: "The World's Richest Indian"

In 1912, Jackson Barnett, a Creek Indian, became extremely wealthy when oil was discovered on his allotment. An Oklahoma court ruled that Barnett was incompetent and appointed a custodian to oversee his affairs. Records held by the Regional Archives in Laguna Niguel primarily relate to settlement of Barnett's estate.



Indian Relocation: The Employment Assistance Program

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Bureau of Indian Affairs implemented a policy of relocation. The program encouraged Native Americans to leave their rural reservations and move to cities, where they could engage in industry and learn to become a part of an increasingly urbanized America and eventually live the "American dream."

Los Angeles, California with its growing aerospace industry was a magnet for Indians interested in moving to the city. The Bureau of Indian Affairs worked with many Native peoples from throughout the West, but largely with Navajo families who moved from the isolated Arizona and New Mexico reservation to the heart of suburban America.

Labor Strife: The Bisbee Deportations

The United States' involvement in World War I created an inflation in the cost of living at the same time it was a boom for the copper industry of Arizona. The copper corporations moved their profits along to their stockholders, and paid little or no attention to the wages of their miners and mine workers, many of whom were from Eastern Europe and Mexico. The International Workers of the World (IWW) began to successfully organize the Bisbee, Arizona miners, especially the immigrant workers.

They struck in 1917 and the copper company officials and the non-mining population of Bisbee went up in arms. The next morning after the strike had been called, the sheriff and mining company executives rounded up workers and forced many of them on a train that was headed for the desert in New Mexico where they were taken off the train and abandoned. The sheriff and executives argued that this action was necessary to prevent labor unrest, but the United States government prosecuted them for violating the rights of the workers.

Mexican Revolutionaries: Flores Magon and his Followers in the United States

At the beginning of the 20th century, a group of revolutionaries from Mexico living in the United States, including the anarchist Ricardo Flores Magon, recruited fighters to join the movement against the government of dictator Porfirio Diaz in Mexico. The United States was required by the Hague Treaty to remain neutral and to detain any belligerent armies organizing within its borders.

Magon, his brother Enrique Flores Magon, Librado Rivera, Anselmo Figueroa, Ceryl Rhys Pryce, Antonio Villarreal, and Maria Magon were all prosecuted by the Federal government for neutrality violations.

Native American Self Governance: United States v. Bill Whaley, et al

In 1887, the tribal council on the Tule River Indian Reservation in California ordered four tribal members to kill a healer. Several of the healer's patients had died, and the council had warned him that he would pay with his life for any further failures. When he lost another patient, the council ordered Bill Whaley, Salt Lake Pete, Pancho Francisco, and Juan Chino to carry out the death sentence. Prior to the Major Crimes Act of 1885, administration of justice between Indians on reservations was left to tribal custom. In this case the U.S. Government prosecuted the four for murder under the Major Crimes Act of 1885, a law that mandated Federal control over tribal justice systems in cases of crimes such as murder. This prosecution showed the sharp differences between American and tribal culture.

Native American Autonomy: Mission Indian Federation

In 1919, California Indians from over 30 different reservations met at the Riverside, California home of Jonathan Tibbet, a white realtor and Indian rights activist, to form the Mission Indian Federation (MIF). The purpose of the organization was, "...to secure by legislation or otherwise all the rights and benefits belonging to each Indian, both singly, and collectively - to protect them against unjust laws-rules-regulations."



Through much of the 20th century, the MIF agitated for Indian self-rule on southern California reservations. Led by Tibbet and Adam Castillo, who presided as the President of the organization for much of its existence, the Federation challenged the authority and competency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) throughout the 1920s, publicly claiming that the United States government did, "...nothing for the advancement or benefit of California Indians" and that the BIA had robbed, defrauded, and denied the Indians of their land, privileges, and rights. In 1921 the Federal government responded to these accusations by indicting 57 Federation

members on charges of conspiring to defraud the Federal government, interfering with the administration of the BIA, and alienating Indians from the Federal government.

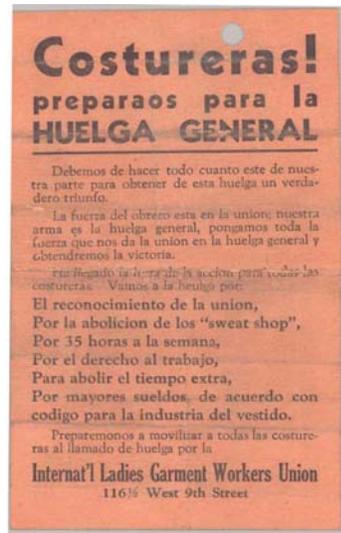
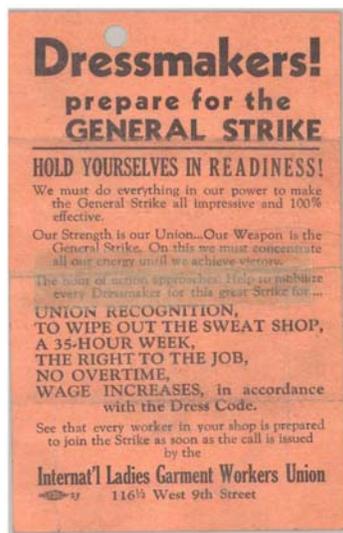
Naturalization: A Black and White Issue?

In 1917, the United States Congress passed a law barring all Asian people, including Indians, from entry into the United States. In 1923, the Supreme Court decided in *The United States v. Bhagat Singh Thind* that high caste Hindu Indians were, in fact, Asian and not Caucasian and could not enter the United States. It also found that those who had been in the country prior to 1917 who had attempted to naturalize should be denied American citizenship. Several cases were filed at the same time as Bhagat Singh Thind's case arguing that these Hindu people should be allowed to become naturalized citizens of the United States as they were high caste, educated subjects of the British Empire.

It was not until 1946 when President Truman signed into law the Luce-Celler Act, that the rights of immigration and naturalization were returned to Indians.

Navajo Stock Reduction

From the late 1920s through the 1940s, the Federal government forced the killing or sale of many animals owned by Indians in Northern Arizona and New Mexico. The government imposed limits on the livestock permitted to graze on the Navajo Indian Reservation for the purposes of soil and range conservation. This policy was vehemently opposed by many Navajos. The traditional reliance on livestock for food, clothing, and wealth encouraged the accumulation of large herds. Those opposed to this program used many tactics, including participation in tribal government and violence against government officials, to try and put a stop to it. The tribal government attempted to balance the needs of the government, concerned about soil runoff affecting Hoover Dam, against the deeply held beliefs and economic needs of its people. The program resulted in a system of grazing permits still in use today.



Needle Trades Strike in Los Angeles

Labor unions gained strength among Mexican workers during the Great Depression. In 1933 and 1934, the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) was involved in a large strike among the needle trade workers of Los Angeles. They had focused on organizing, not only European immigrant women, but Mexican and Mexican-American women. They published bilingual materials to attract the women and gain

support in the Mexican community. The Federal government's National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) became involved in trying to bring the workers and factory owners together for mediation.

Of Pink Slips and Red Scares: The Hollywood Ten

In 1947, a group of Hollywood writers, directors and producers were summoned to Washington, D.C. to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Ring Lardner, Jr., Alvert Maltz, Dalton Trumbo, Samuel Ornitz, John Howard Lawson, Herbert Biberman, Robert Adrian Scott, Lester Cole, Alvah Bessie and Edward Dmytryk endured several days of testimony in which they all refused to answer the question, "Are you now, or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?" After they returned to California, those of the Hollywood Ten who were under contract with the studios faced termination and a blacklist. In a series of court cases filed in Federal court, members of the Hollywood Ten accused the studios of breach of contract for firing them.

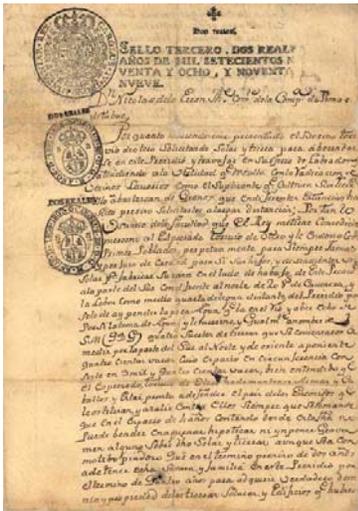
Prosecuting Communists in Los Angeles

The Smith Act, passed by the United States Congress in 1940, criminalized the advocacy of the violent overthrow of the Federal government. The law, for the first time, also made it illegal to hold membership in any organization that advocated such an overthrow.

Geared toward limiting the influence of the Communist Party in the United States, which had been formed in 1919, prosecutions began in New York. However, soon the Department of Justice began to investigate and eventually prosecute alleged members of the Communist Party in California. Leftist groups had been active in the labor and civil rights struggles in California in the 1930s, and the Federal government focused their attention on those groups, intent on uncovering the extent of the American Communist Party.

Religious Freedom: Polygamy on Trial

In 1852, the Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints (LDS), also known as the Mormon Church, declared "celestial marriage" or a man's duty to God to take multiple wives, as a tenet of their faith. The reaction from the United States government was to pass the Morrill Anti-Bigamy Act in 1862, outlawing bigamy. One prominent element of Mormon history in the American West was the Church's long-running dispute with the Federal government over the practice of polygamy.



Spanish and Mexican Legacy: Land Grants in Arizona and California

When Mexico ceded lands to the United States in the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, provisions of that treaty mandated that the United States uphold the rights of landowners in the ceded territories. This required the American government to measure and validate private land claims while combating a stream of new settlers squatting on lands they did not own.

The owners of land under the Mexican government, many of whose families had acquired the land from Spain two generations or more before, spent years pursuing these claims. They submitted documents and offered testimony about the history of their land holdings.

Smuggling Immigrants: An Unintended Impact of the Chinese Exclusion Acts

The United States' border with Mexico has long been porous. Smuggling immigrants dates to the Chinese Exclusion Acts, when many Americans and Mexicans began to smuggle Chinese across the border. Passed in 1882, the first Chinese Exclusion Act was the earliest effort to completely exclude a specific group of immigrants from entering the United States. The Chinese Exclusion Acts were meant to restrict Chinese laborers from entering the United States and impacting the labor market. Because of economic conditions in China, Chinese continued to flow across the Pacific to Mexico.

The Federal government, under the United States Customs Bureau, documented the techniques and conditions of the smugglers and their human freight as they investigated the smugglers and many were eventually prosecuted in Federal court as violations of the Exclusion Acts.

Violations of Neutrality: United States v. Jose Gandara and Alfonso de la Huerta

In 1927, the Federal government indicted Jose Gandara, Bishop Juan Navarette (Roman Catholic Bishop of Sonora), Esteban Borgaro, Jr. and Antonio "Chito" Valenzuela for neutrality violations for supplying weapons to the Yaqui Indians of Sonora to continue their resistance against the Calles government. One case includes a transcript of testimony of United States government officials, Gandara and others. *United States v. Alfonso de la Huerta*, also includes an indictment of former Mexican president Alfonso de la Huerta, Gabriel Rendon and Juan Frias for similar neutrality violations.

Working for the Army: Apache Indian Scouts, 1870-1920

During the Indian Wars in Arizona, the U.S. Army hired Apache Indians to assist them in tracking and fighting renegade bands. These records document the campaigns that individual Indians fought in as well as their general work for the Army.

Standing Down: Conscientious Objectors and Draft Dodgers in the Vietnam Era

During the Vietnam War an active movement of draft resistance also occurred. With the passage of complicated legislation related to the institution of the draft in 1967 came resistance. Young men publicly burned their draft cards or refused to register for the draft. They were then drafted, refused to be inducted, and fought their cases in the Federal courts. Across the United States more than 9,000 men were convicted, and 3,250 were imprisoned for their resistance. These draft resisters hoped that their public civil disobedience would help to bring the war and the draft to an end. Many young men went to prison as part of this movement.

In California, the draft resistance movement was centered in the Bay Area, but men from across the Southland also objected, some filing for official conscientious objector status.

The 1918 Influenza Epidemic in Indian Country

World War I claimed an estimated 16 million lives. The influenza epidemic that swept the world in 1918 killed an estimated 50 million people. It was rampant in urban and rural areas, from the densely populated East coast to the remotest parts of Alaska. Young adults, usually unaffected by these types of infectious diseases, were among the hardest hit groups along with the elderly and young children. The flu afflicted over 25 percent of the United States population. In one year, the average life expectancy in the United States dropped by 12 years.

Indian reservations with their Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) agents served as a microcosm of the national response. The BIA had responsibility for the care and containment of the epidemic within the Indian population. They faced challenges of geographic location as many reservations were extremely isolated. Also, they faced challenges of culture as many Native American cures for illness only aggravated influenza and ceremonies brought the healthy into contact with the ill.

The Building and Flight of the Spruce Goose

During World War II, the military commissioned large flying troop and supply transports. Initially the brain child of Henry Kaiser, the shipbuilder, and Howard Hughes, the transport began to be built by the Hughes Kaiser Corporation in 1942 and was known as the HK-1 (Hughes Kaiser design number one). Adhering to the wartime mandate not to use critical materials such as steel, the plane was built of plywood and plastic. In 1944, Kaiser pulled out, but Hughes moved forward, renaming the project the H-4 flying boat, more commonly known as the "Spruce Goose," the largest plane ever built.

Out of time, over budget, and under Congressional investigation, Howard Hughes himself flew the plane for its only flight on November 2, 1947 over Long Beach Harbor. The local National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics (NACA) representative, Edwin P. Hartman, documented Hughes Aircraft Company leadership and engineers as they designed and constructed the incredible plane and was a witness to its flight in 1947.