Ch. 8 From China To Gold Mountain

Ch. 8 Questions

1. How did the annexation of California influence the immigration of Chinese workers?
2. Why did so many Chinese begin to migrate to America in 1849?
3. Why did the US pass a Naturalization Act in 1790?
4. Why was a miner’s tax passed in California in 1872?
5. How, once more, do we see an example of how those in power “divide and conquer” to control workers (in this case, the Chinese)?
6. What were the industries in San Francisco that employed the Chinese?
7. Why do you think the Chinese were successful farmers in California?
8. Why did so many Chinese men get involved in the laundry business?
9. Takaki writes (page 152): *This idea was rooted in the racist notion that “American” meant “white.”* Discuss whether this is still a “truism,” being sure to back up your arguments.
10. Compare how some white workers resented laborers and how Native Americans and African Americans may have also been regarded.
11. What laws did California enact to be sure that the Chinese would stay on the bottom socially?
12. What did the 1870 Civil Rights Act attempt to do for people of color?
13. For many years, there were very few women among the Chinese immigrants. Why?
14. Descrbie the lives of immigrant Chinsese men in San Francisco.
15. Why were Chinese laborers discouraged from immigrating, yet Chinese merchants were allowed to immigrate?
16. What natural disaster in 1906 changed the fortunes of Chinese immigrants in San Francisco? In what ways?
17. Why were some Chinese sons allowed to come to America?
18. What were some things that “paper sons” did to try to get into the United States?