

Immigration policies reflect what a society thinks about who belongs in their country, in discriminatory ways, isolating an entire society based on skin color, not on their set of skills. In the early Mid-century, Chinese laborers had to compete with the white working class, creating an unfair advantage for Chinese men. According to Dr. Karen Kuo, in 1875, the first race- based exclusion act was passed, excluding Chinese women from entering this country. The fear of prostitution and the spread of diseases created the driving force of this act. Seven years later the Chinese exclusion act was passed, banning all Chinese men as well from entering this country. Although the Civil rights Act was already in full effect, the impact on the Chinese community was intense. White Americans, even went to the lengths of saying that it's cheaper for Chinese and Asian men to just eat white rice, compared to their counterparts, needing more dense meals, including meat, therefore, costing more to hire these white men. This caused the migrant group to be “othered” by white American men, creating this literal divide.

The difference between borderlands and borders is their purpose. Borders are boundary lines, and a borderline is where two countries or states border one another. In Arizona, SB1070 was passed with anti-immigrant sentiment, claiming that there were “too many” immigrants. For example, on September 7th, 1965 in Delano, California Filipino, and Mexican farm workers protested for the last time, for fair treatment and better wages. These Elders were quiet, older Filipino men who knew they deserved better. The fight and cause they were fighting for, started way before they were elders, starting back in the 1920s and 1930 as young men. These Filipino men did not read or write, and few spoke English, but the language barrier did not halt the work that these men did, even following the crop season all over, becoming migrant workers. In the film, *Delano Manongs* directed by Marsa Aroy in 2014, these Filipino workers were the original group of individuals to start the fight against the growers, who refused to give these workers a

contract, another example of how white Americans “others” migrant groups. A sense of superiority came along with the white men that would own the farms that these men worked on. As for borderlands, the difference between a border is where two establishments border one another. As another example from the film *Delano Manongs* the Mexican workers that also worked alongside the Filipino men were separated on the other side of the field, creating a borderland between the two migrant working groups of men. Not only the language barrier between the two groups, the Filipino and Mexican workers, were unable to collectively strike as one. Although the divide did not last for long, the Filipino men went on strike for their horrible working conditions and wages, the growers found profit in these protests, offering to pay the Mexican workers maybe a nickel more to pick up the work of the Filipino men. As that goes on the divide lessens and the two groups come together and demand more from their employers.

Those who own capital, have enriched themselves even more by exploiting migrant farm workers they use to pay very little for their highly skilled work. These men could “go down a row, when they are hoeing or thinning, with this rhythm... being very skilled ” (Delano Manongs) The growers of these farms, understood the struggles that these migrant workers faced, and because of their struggles, the growers were able to profit more from these men, creating a racially divided environment with the workers of these farms. In the article, *Chinese Workers and the Transcontinental Railroad* written Manu Karuka, speaks about Stanford university in 1862, whose “fear of an Asian invasion grew out of racial and class anxieties, that California would act as an escape valve for the ‘dregs’ for Asia” (Karuka). “Dregs” being used in a derogatory manner, further explains the challenges that migrant workers faced, simply trying to create a living for themselves. The exploitation of the working class, calls for more money and less of that money, goes to the workers, actually doing the hard work. This allows for capitalists

to take advantage of the working class even more, keeping them oppressed. The coming together of these men from different backgrounds stems from a human level compared to other societies which creates a divide instead of learning to work together. An example of this would be in the movie, where the migrant Filipino workers and the Mexican workers, despite their difference, still came together and protested for the same cause.

## Works Cited

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