拒約運動

美國加州金礦的發現和加州鐵路的興建,先後吸引了大量華人前往工作;粗略估計,自 1849 年首批華工赴美,至 1880 年,數目超過十六萬人。中、美兩國更於 1868 年訂立《蒲安臣條約》,兩國國民可自由移民到對方的國土。可是,美國的經濟及就業問題,在美華工的良莠不齊,加上清廷積弱,使歧視華人的情況逐漸在美國社會出現;美國國會於 1882 年首次通過禁止華工入境的《限制華工法

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案》,往後更多次修訂,其中 1892 年的《基瑞法案》把禁止華工入境的法案再延長十年。至 1903 年,清廷宣布禁約期滿;可是,美國政府卻在 1904 年片面議決恢復繼續排斥華工法律,並永遠有效。中國國民獲悉後,大為不滿,於是全國各地相繼發起抵制美貨運動,又稱「拒約運動」,以示抗議。

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Anti-American Boycott Movement

The discovery of gold mines in California in the U.S. and railway construction work in California attracted a large number of Chinese migrant workers. A rough estimate is that more than 160,000 people travelled abroad to work, since the first batch of Chinese migrant workers arrived in the U.S. in 1849 and the migration continued until 1880. China and the U.S. signed the *Burlingame Treaty* in 1868, allowing nationals of both countries free migration to each other's land. However, the economic and employment issues in the U.S., the mixed quality of Chinese labourers in the U.S., and the weak Qing court resulted in considerable discrimination against Chinese people in

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American society. The U.S. Congress even passed the *Chinese Exclusion Act* in 1882 prohibiting the inflow of Chinese labourers. The Act was subsequently amended a few times. Amongst the amendments, the *Geary Act* of 1892 extended the ban on new Chinese workers from entering the U.S. for another 10 years. In 1903, the Qing court announced that the ban had ended. However, the U.S. government unilaterally decided to continue refusing entry to Chinese workers in 1904, and the arrangement was to be made permanent. Learning of this, Chinese nationals were highly dissatisfied, and in protest initiated a U.S. goods boycott movement across the country, known as the "Anti-American Boycott Movement".

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