

LESSON EIGHT

U.S. China Relations

Presented by

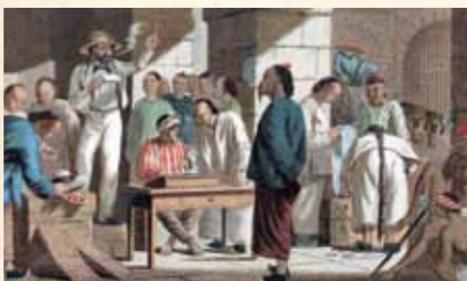


美国俄克拉荷马大学孔子学院

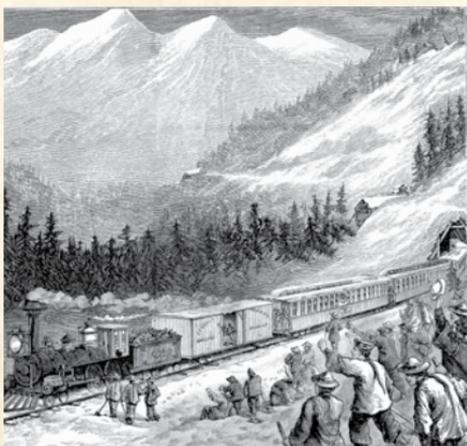
CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BEIJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY

The relationship between the United States and China began in 1784 when the US-flagged ship *Empress of China*



began trading American furs for Chinese tea and silk. In 1847 the first of 300,000 Chinese laborers began arriving in the



US to help build railroads. Many Chinese also opened restaurants, laundries and stores and helped establish the first American Chinatowns. Then in 1875 the US Congress passed the first of a series of laws banning Chinese immigration to the US, the ban remained in place until 1943.

American policies toward China changed after the US declared war on Japan following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. In early 1941 American military fliers, known as the

Flying Tigers, volunteered to help defend western China from Japanese attacks. Throughout World War II the US provided



arms to help Chinese soldiers keep over 2 million Japanese soldiers busy fighting in China and unavailable to fight the US.

The modern era of US-China relations began in 1972 with the Shanghai Communiqué, in which the US and China agreed to respect each other and work together in the future. In 1979 the US and China established diplomatic relations. Since then, the US and China have established multiple ties and their economies have become closely interconnected. Although today the US and China do not agree on everything, both continue to work together to peacefully resolve their conflicts and expand their areas of cooperation.

Student Activities:

1. When the *Empress of China* was trading with China, the city of Guangzhou (Canton) was the only port open to foreign trade. Find it on a map of China.
2. The Flying Tigers operated out of the city of Kunming in Yunnan Province. Find it on a map of China.
3. Read this article on the Shanghai Communiqué <http://to.pbs.org/2bydJMU>. What is a communique? Why was this agreement so important to US-China relations?

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