

# **THE KOREAN DIASPORA: KOREAN IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY**

**GRADES:** 11

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**SUBJECT:** United States History

**TIME REQUIRED:** Two to three class periods

## **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Identify the factors that contributed to thousands of Koreans migrating to the United States (Hawaii and the West Coast) at the turn of the century.
2. Understand the experience of Korean immigrants in the United States.
3. Compare and contrast the immigrant experience of Korean immigrants to that of southeastern European immigrants at the turn of the century.

## **MATERIAL REQUIRED:**

The Korean Diaspora (Microsoft PowerPoint presentation, attached)

## **PROCEDURE:**

1. Review the experience of southeastern European immigrants (why they came, where they settled, their experience in the United States and the hardships and discrimination they faced).
2. Survey student knowledge of Korea and Korean immigration.
3. Present the PowerPoint on Korean immigration to the United States.
4. Have students write an in-class essay comparing and contrasting the experience of Korean immigrants to that of southeastern European immigrants at the turn of the century.

## **ENRICHMENT:**

- Include background information on the Japanese colonization of Korea in the PowerPoint presentation so that students may reach a broader understanding of why Koreans migrated to the United States after 1895.
- Conduct a follow-up discussion of Korean immigration post-1945.

## **EVALUATION:**

- Have students respond to the following points in a well-organized essay that includes a thesis statement, an introduction, several body paragraphs and a conclusion:
  - Compare and contrast Korean immigrants to southeastern European immigrants at the turn of the century.
  - The following must be included:
    - i. Reasons for migration
    - ii. The experience each group faced once settled in the United States (where they resided, family life, leisure, work)
    - iii. The discrimination each group experienced

- Grades will be based on the essay rubric below:

### ESSAY RUBRIC

|  | Comments | Points Earned |
|--|----------|---------------|
| Format <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Thesis Statement</li> <li>▪ Intro</li> <li>▪ Body Paragraphs</li> <li>▪ Conclusion</li> </ul>                                  |          |               |
| Writing Style <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grammar</li> <li>▪ Cited Sources (if taken directly from notes)</li> </ul>  |          |               |
| Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Factors contributing to migration</li> <li>▪ Experiences once in the United States</li> <li>▪ Discrimination Faced</li> </ul> |          |               |
| Enrichment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Additional information included to enhance the essay</li> </ul>  |          |               |

### REFERENCES:

Kim, Young-Sik, Ph.D. "Brief History of the US-Korea Relations Prior to 1945." Chapter VIII. Koreans in America in the Late 1800s. Retrieved July, 27, 2005, from:  
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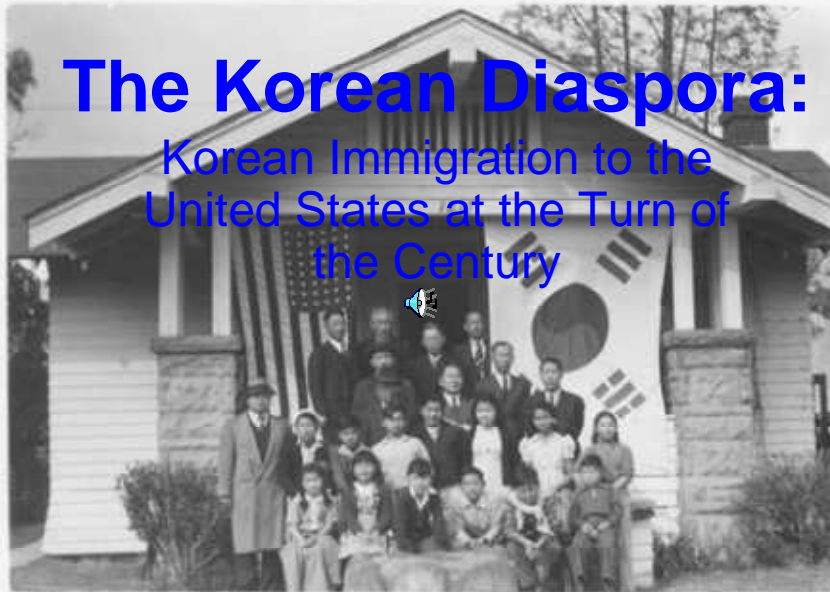
Patterson, Wayne. *The Isle: First-Generation Korean Immigrants in Hawai'i, 1903-1973*.  
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Patterson, Wayne. *The Korean Frontier in American: Immigration to Hawai'i, 1896--1910*.  
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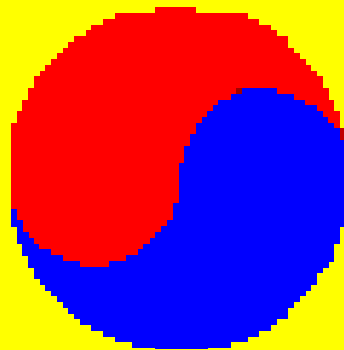
# The Korean Diaspora:

Korean Immigration to the  
United States at the Turn of  
the Century



## Why did Koreans migrate to Hawaii starting in 1902?

- Corrupt Korean government
- Famine hits Chosen in 1901
- Escape from poverty
- Christian Missionaries
- Religious freedom
- Chinese and Japanese workers ineffective
- Labor recruiters from Sugar Planters Association, Hawaii



# Korean Immigration

## First Wave, 1903-1905

- Came as workers
- Approximately 7,500 Koreans
- Mainly Christian
- 6,000 young men
- Distributed to various sugar plantations

## Second Wave, 1910-1924

- Picture brides
- Man had to submit photo of himself to arrange a marriage
- Worked as educators, church
- Ends with Asian Exclusion Act, 1924



**SS Gaelic**

**Leaves: Chemulpo (Inch'on), 12/22/02**

**Arrives: Honolulu, 1/13/03**

# STATISTICS

## FIRST GROUP OF KOREAN EMIGRANTS:

56 MEN

21 WOMEN

25 CHILDREN

## BY 1905:

6,701 MEN

677 WOMEN

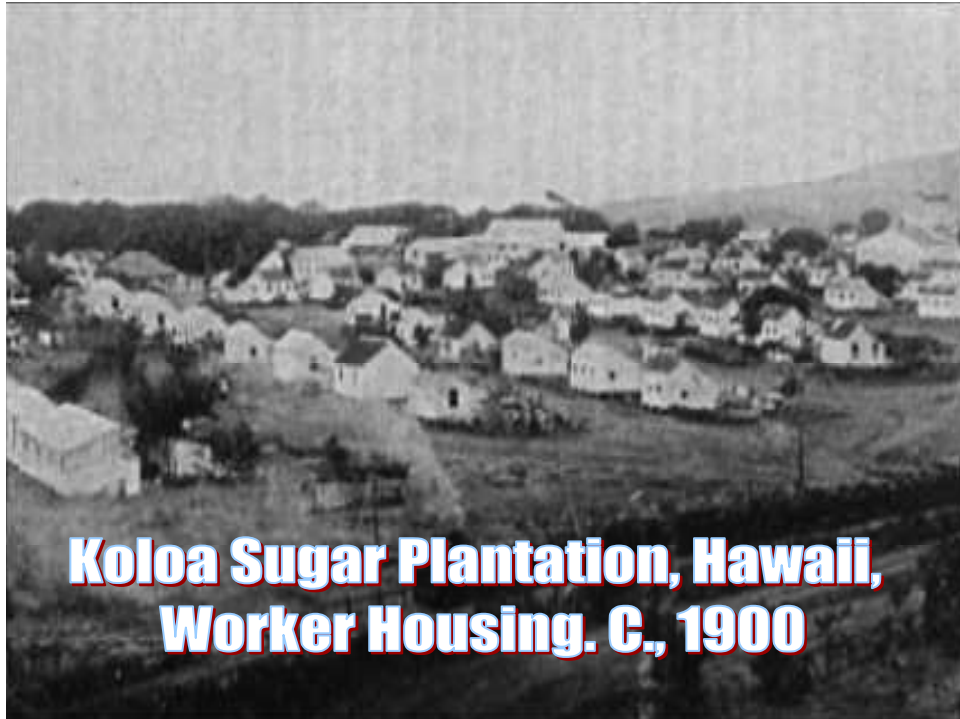
465 CHILDREN

## The U.S.-Korea Connection

1. Plantations owners need new workers
2. U.S. Minister Allen makes deal with Sugar Planters Association, pushes King Kojong to expedite emigration process
3. In 1902, King Kojong creates new office of emigration (Min Yong Ik in charge)
4. Deshler Bank funds and recruits Korean laborers



**Men cutting and carrying sugarcane**



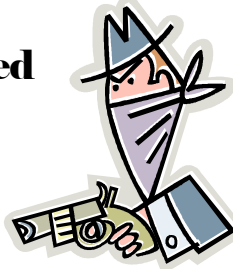
**Koloa Sugar Plantation, Hawaii,  
Worker Housing. C., 1900**

**Men Worked 10  
hour days**

**Earned 69  
cents per day**

## Hardships

- **Low wages**
- **Heavy drinking,  
violence and crime**
- **Work productivity  
dropped**
- **Bachelors caused  
many problems**





## **Discrimination:**

- **Poor working conditions, low-pay**
- **1913 Alien Land Act**
- **Between 1910-1943 U.S. government treats Koreans as citizens of Japan**
- **1924 Asian Exclusion Law,**

## **Discrimination Continued:**

- **During WWII, Koreans brutalized ...why?**
- **Changes on 12/4/43 with US Military Order No. 45**
  - **Koreans were granted non-enemy status**
  - **Spared internment camps WWII**

# Solutions

- **Save money to move to the U.S. mainland**



- **Return home to Korea**

- **Marry**



## Picture Brides

- Men picked women from a catalog of pictures (15-20 per year)
- Korean women had certain expectations
- Men paid travel (\$200-\$400)
- Women came on Japanese passports
- 1000 picture brides came between 1910-1924





**Post-1910, Korean passports  
were issued by the Japanese  
Imperial Government**



**Picture Brides, 1913-1919**



# MORE STATISTICS

1910:

–5,008 KOREANS IN AMERICA

1950:

–7,030 KOREANS IN AMERICA

TODAY:

–OVER 1 MILLION KOREANS  
IN AMERICA

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Wave of Korean Immigration Post-1945

**Who Came?**

- “War Brides”
- Adopted Children
- Families

**Why did they Come?**

- Economic Opportunity
- Escape Poverty
- Escape Government Control (military)
- Education

**Where did they settle?**

- Urban Areas: New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles

**Careers?**

- Nails, Wigs, Grocery Shops, Laundry, family business

