



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Events of **CROSS-RACIAL
SOLIDARITY** in U.S. History

by The Asian American Education Project



Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIA) history is U.S. history; yet, our stories are often marginalized, minoritized, and misrepresented. The Asian American Education Project aims to amplify the many untold stories of APIA people and communities. We strive to provide a full and accurate account of our histories, narratives, and experiences. We are committed to providing curriculum and professional development dedicated to teaching APIA histories.

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INTRODUCTION

Cross-racial solidarity is when people from different racial groups work together. These diverse groups identify shared challenges. They fight for change. They invoke a call to action. They do this as individuals. Or, they do this as a collective.

Throughout U.S. history, there are many examples of cross-racial solidarity. Asian American and Pacific Islander groups have worked with other racial groups. Together, they fought for justice. They have secured rights for communities of color. They have also protected those rights. They joined forces instead of fighting against each other. In doing so, everyone's lives have improved.



Cross-racial solidarity breaks down “divide-and-conquer” strategies. Unjust systems of power use such strategies to control people. For example, in 1676, Bacon’s Rebellion took place in Virginia. Black and White farm workers united. They, unfortunately, united to push out Native Americans. But they also united to fight against rich landowners. Virginia lawmakers needed to stop such unions. They created the first laws that distinguished between “Black” and “White” people. They gave White people more privileges. They deemed Black people to be property. A system of racial slavery was established. Such a system was designed to prevent these two groups from uniting in the future.

Black communities today are still feeling the effects of slavery. And, because our liberation is tied together, all communities of color are impacted by racism and discrimination. Fannie Lou Hamer (1917-1977) was a civil rights leader. She famously said, “Nobody’s free until everybody’s free.” Cross-racial solidarity ensures a democratic society. It brings us closer to equality.

In this book, learn about some key examples of cross-racial solidarity that took place in each month.

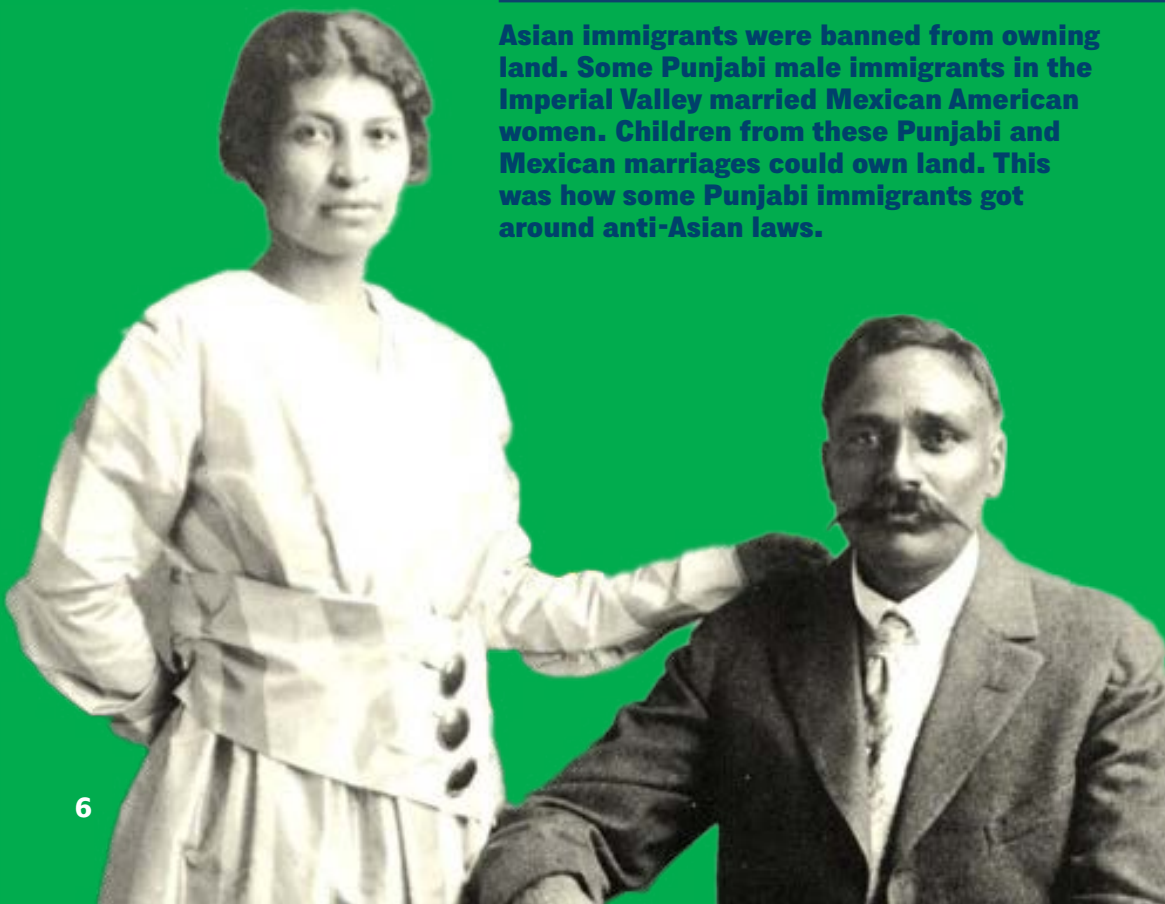
Bacon’s Rebellion instilled great fear in the ruling class. A union of poor Black and White people destroyed Virginia’s capital city of Jamestown. Virginia’s rich landowners were scared. Slavery based on racism was a way for them to keep power. Cross-racial solidarity is the main tool to fight racism.

JANUARY
1-23, 1930

IMPERIAL VALLEY LETTUCE STRIKE OF 1930

The Imperial Valley is in southern California. It is home to many lettuce farms. Filipino and Mexican immigrants worked on these farms. They were treated badly. So, they organized. On these days in history, they walked off the job. They were joined by Chinese, Japanese, Punjabi, Black, Puerto Rican, and White American farm workers. Together, they protested low pay and poor working conditions. Sadly, the strike failed. None of their demands were met. But it inspired different racial groups to unite for justice. More farm labor actions took place after.

Asian immigrants were banned from owning land. Some Punjabi male immigrants in the Imperial Valley married Mexican American women. Children from these Punjabi and Mexican marriages could own land. This was how some Punjabi immigrants got around anti-Asian laws.



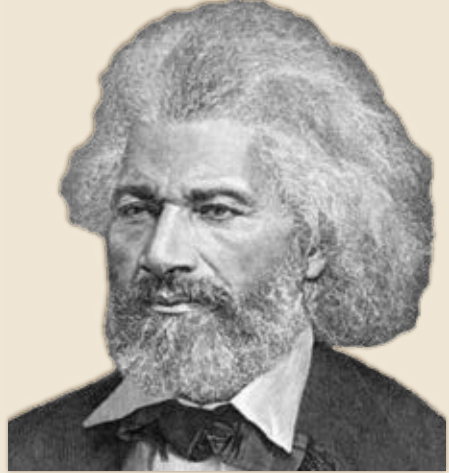
FREDERICK DOUGLASS, AN ALLY

**JANUARY
24, 1884**

“COMPOSITE NATION” SPEECH

1869*: Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) was a formerly enslaved abolitionist. He toured the nation. He gave a speech entitled, “Composite Nation.” He argued against the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. He said the Chinese should be allowed to immigrate. He said the United States should be a home for all races.

**Note: Exact date is unknown.*



In mid-19th century America, public speaking was a form of mass entertainment. Frederick Douglass was a superstar. People filled rooms to hear him speak. He used his platform to support Chinese immigration. He argued that the United States was better because of immigration.

INTERRACIAL MARRIAGE

On this day in history, Douglass married Helen Pitts (1838-1903). Pitts was a White woman. This caused great controversy. Douglass wrote, “What business has the world with the color of my wife?” White women activists like Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902) publicly supported him. Stanton defended the right to “marry whom we please.” Many states banned interracial marriages. This affected Asian immigrants. These laws stopped them from having families. They also excluded them from citizenship.

FEBRUARY
11, 1903

OXNARD SUGAR STRIKE OF 1903

The American Beet Sugar Company had farms in Oxnard, California. They lowered wages. So, on this day in history, Japanese and Mexican American laborers organized. They formed the Japanese-Mexican Labor Association (JMLA). This was one of the nation's first multi-racial labor unions.

They went on strike for 48 days. Their demands were met. Months later, the American Federation of Labor (AFL) offered to recognize the JMLA. But the AFL only wanted the

Mexican American laborers. They would “under no circumstance accept membership of any Chinese or Japanese.” The JMLA Secretary was Mexican American. He said, “We are going to stand by men who stood by us in the long, hard fight which ended in a victory over the enemy...We will refuse any other kind of charter, except one which will wipe out race prejudices and recognize our fellow workers as being as good as ourselves.”



Sugar beets were Oxnard's main crop. Many Japanese farm workers migrated there to work. They were seasonal workers. They often lived in "tent cities" near the fields. They were called *buranke katsu-gi* ("blanket carriers"). This was because they moved from camp to camp with their blankets.

WOUNDED KNEE OCCUPATION

**FEBRUARY
27, 1973**

Wounded Knee is a town in South Dakota. It's the site of the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history. (In 1890, U.S. Army soldiers shot and killed nearly 300 Lakota people.) On this day in history, hundreds of Native American activists seized the town. They protested tribal corruption. They protested the U.S. government's failure to honor treaties. Two months later, a group of Asian Americans from Los Angeles, California joined the protest. This was an example of "Third World" solidarity. Asian Americans recognized the shared struggles against colonialism and racism. This occupation lasted 71 days. It was the longest civil disorder in U.S. Marshals Service history.

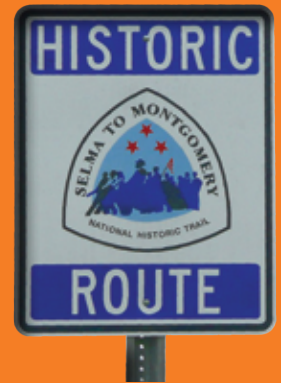
There is another example of Native American and Asian American solidarity. The Occupation of Alcatraz took place from 1969 to 1971. Native Americans sought to reclaim their land. On February 14, 1970, about twenty Asian American activists brought them supplies. *Gidra* was a Japanese American newspaper. Its reporters documented this event. They advocated for Asian Americans to support Native American rights.



**MARCH
13, 1965**

KUROMIYA AND KING

Kiyoshi Kuromiya (1943-2000) was a Japanese American civil rights activist. He was also a gay rights activist. He served as an aide to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968). King was a leader of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Kuromiya was actively involved in this movement. He supported the marches from Selma to Montgomery in Alabama. These marches protested the blocking of Black Americans' right to vote. On this day in history, Kuromiya was on an assignment with King and other Black civil rights leaders. He was helping Black high school students register to vote. He, along with other activists, were attacked by the White Citizens Council. After a lawsuit was filed, the sheriff issued an apology. King said, "This is the very first time a southern sheriff had apologized for injuring a civil rights worker." King was assassinated in 1968. During the week of his funeral, Kuromiya cared for his children.



Hundreds marched from Selma to Montgomery. These marches were a part of the Civil Rights Movement. This movement helped overturn exclusion laws against Asian immigrants. It led to the passing of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 (Hart-Celler Act). As a result, an influx of Asian immigrants came to the United States.

Pettus, Peter, photographer. Participants, some carrying American flags, marching in the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in. [or 2000 from a Photograph Taken in 1965] Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2003675345/>.

STOP ASIAN HATE RALLY

**MARCH
13, 2021**



In 2020, the world faced a global pandemic. Asian Americans were blamed for spreading COVID-19. They were attacked. They were harassed. Many efforts were launched to support Asian American communities.

Ryan Doan-Nguyen (born 2002) was a student at Harvard University. He led a grassroots coalition of multi-racial activists and community members. On this day in history, he organized one of the nation's first recorded Stop Asian Hate protests. This rally took place at Boston Commons. It included a march through the streets of Boston's Chinatown. The march ended at the Massachusetts State House. Hundreds attended. It helped kick off the Stop Asian Hate movement. This movement was a series of demonstrations, rallies, and protests. It was a response to escalating violence targeting APIDA communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**APRIL
16, 1981**

VIETNAMESE FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION V. KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN

Resettled Vietnamese refugees lived in Seadrift, Texas. They were being harassed by White fishermen aided by the Ku Klux Klan (KKK). They were accused of taking away jobs from White men. The Vietnamese refugees utilized the U.S. legal system to fight for their rights. Morris Dees, Jr. (born 1936) was a White lawyer for the Southern Poverty Law Center. On this day in history, he filed a case on their behalf against the KKK. Judge Gabrielle Kirk McDonald (born 1942) was the first African American in Texas and the third African American woman federal judge in the nation. She was assigned to the case. The KKK's lawyer wanted her to step down. McDonald received death threats and one-way tickets to Africa. Despite this, she remained on the case and ruled in favor of the Vietnamese refugees. She banned the KKK from committing further violence.

The Fall of Saigon in 1975 ended the Vietnam War (1955-1975). Over 125,000 Vietnamese refugees resettled in the United States. Many South Vietnamese fled by boat. They faced great dangers in the South China Sea. Some of these refugees eventually resettled in Texas. There, they were able to use their fishing skills.



SA-I-GU: REMEMBERING THE 1992 RIOTS

**APRIL
29, 1992**

On this day in history, civil unrest broke out in Los Angeles, California. This happened because four White police officers were acquitted of the beating of Rodney King (1965-2012), a Black American man. The injustice led to a week of looting and rioting. South Central and Koreatown were destroyed. Tensions between Black and Korean American communities were high. Over 40% of affected businesses were Korean-owned. On May 2nd, a peace rally of 30,000 people took place in Koreatown. Participants included members from Asian, Black, Latino, and White American communities. The rally brought to light issues of racism and the need to rebuild. “Sa-I-Gu” is Korean for 4-2-9. It refers to the first day of the 1992 L.A. Riots. Today, Korean and Black American community leaders host anniversary events. They want to educate people about what happened. This helps with community healing.

Korean Americans own many businesses in Koreatown and nearby Black neighborhoods. This caused resentment and distrust. In 1991, a Korean grocer named Soon Ja Du (born 1942) accused Latasha Harlins (1976-1991), a Black American teen, of stealing. She fatally shot Harlins. She was only placed on probation. This further harmed relations between Korean and Black American communities. Much cross-racial healing needs to continue.



MAY
1942*

RALPH LAZO AT MANZANAR

Ralph Lazo (1924-1992) was born in Los Angeles, California. He was Mexican and Irish American. During World War II (1939-1945), he witnessed his Japanese American friends being incarcerated. This was due to Executive Order 9066. On this day in history, Lazo, outraged by this injustice, joined his friends at the Manzanar Incarceration Camp in an act of solidarity. He said, “Internment was immoral. It was wrong, and I couldn’t accept it.” He voluntarily detained himself. He is believed to be the only non-Japanese without a Japanese spouse to do so. Years later, he helped raise funds for a lawsuit to fight for reparations. This resulted in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

** Note: The exact day in May is unknown.*

Executive Order 9066 (1942) authorized the forced removal of Japanese Americans. It was in response to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (1941). It targeted those with Japanese ancestry and falsely accused them of being spies. Over 10,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated at Manzanar. Manzanar is located in California’s Owens Valley. Today, it is a national historic site.



LOHIA'S ARREST IN JIM CROW SOUTH

**MAY
27, 1964**



“Jim Crow” is a derogatory term for Black people. Jim Crow laws were in effect in the South. They lasted from 1865 to 1968. They enforced segregation. They discriminated against Black Americans. Many Black Americans fled the South because of these laws.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia (1910-1967) was an Indian politician. He fought to end British colonial rule in India. He recognized that Indians and Black Americans shared similar struggles. In 1936, he wrote to W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963), an African American scholar. He extended his solidarity. He also toured the United States. His goal was to spread the Indian social activist Mahatma Gandhi's (1869-1948) message of nonviolence and civil disobedience. He inspired many young Black American civil rights leaders. In 1964, he participated in sit-ins. The sit-ins were protests against “Whites Only” policies. On this day in history, he went to a restaurant in Jackson, Mississippi. He was refused service. He returned the next day and was arrested. He was released because of his position. He was issued an apology which he rejected. He wanted to shed light on the injustices of American racism.

**JUNE
19, 1982**

THE MURDER OF VINCENT CHIN

On this day in history, Vincent Chin (1955-1982), a Chinese American, was beaten to death. This happened days before his wedding in Detroit, Michigan. Two White auto workers recently lost their jobs. They blamed the Japanese car industry. They took out their anger on Chin. Chin died several days later. Chin's killers got a light penalty. This outraged the Asian American community. Many Asian American activists demanded justice. They formed a group called American Citizens for Justice (ACJ). Prominent Black activists joined the fight. Jesse Jackson (born 1941) was one of them. Many Asian, Latino, Arab, Italian, White, and Black Americans supported ACJ. So did many Detroit-based Black organizations including churches and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Women's groups and local political leaders also endorsed ACJ. Chin's death sparked the modern Asian American civil rights movement.



In 1984, Reverend Jesse Jackson took time out of his presidential election campaign to stand by Chin's mother at a rally. This rally took place in San Francisco's Chinatown. In turn, Asian Americans supported Jackson's campaign. Some formed a group called Asian Americans for Jesse Jackson.

PROTEST AT FORT SILL

**JUNE
22, 2019**

On this day in history, Japanese American incarceration camp survivors and their descendants arrived at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. They protested against using Fort Sill as a detention camp for undocumented migrant children. These children were separated from their families. Japanese American civil rights groups collaborated with Black Lives Matter Oklahoma City, Dream Action Oklahoma, the American Indian Movement, and the Council on American-Islamic Relations Oklahoma. A formerly incarcerated Japanese American activist said, “...we’re here today to speak out, to protest the unjust incarceration of innocent people seeking refuge in this country. We stand with them and we say, ‘Stop repeating history.’” Five days later, Japanese American communities coordinated protests in San Francisco, San Jose, and Los Angeles in California. They aimed to end child detention and family separation.

Fort Sill is the site of much trauma. It served as one of the many temporary sites where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II (1939-1945). It was also the end point of the Trail of Tears (1831-1850). This was the forced displacement of more than 60,000 Native Americans. In addition, Fort Sill was the site of a Native American boarding school. Native children were separated from their families, culture, and language.



**JULY
13, 1869**

MISSISSIPPI DELTA CHINESE GROCERY STORES

On this day in history, the Memphis Chamber of Commerce convened businessmen and landowners from the South. Over 500 people attended. They needed a new labor force to replace the recently freed enslaved people. They discussed the idea of hiring Chinese workers. The meeting was called the “Chinese Labor Convention.” Chinese immigrants eventually arrived. They rejected field work. Many ended up opening grocery stores instead. They did this in Black neighborhoods where they lived. (The Chinese were not allowed to live in White neighborhoods.) Unlike White-owned stores, the Chinese served Black communities. They were friendlier. They gave store credit to Black shoppers. Their stores became gathering spots for all.

The Mississippi Delta includes parts of Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana. It is often referred to as part of the “Deep South.” The number of Chinese grocers in this area peaked in the 1930s and 1940s.

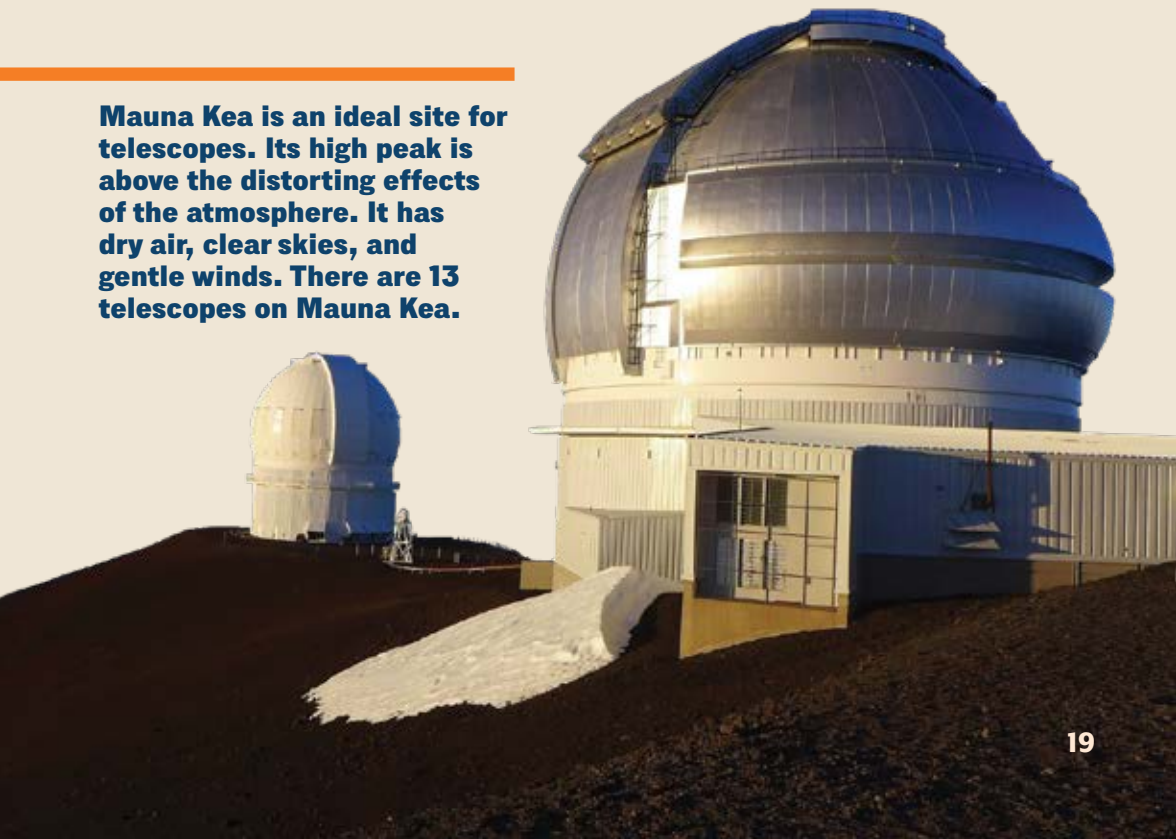


THIRTY METER TELESCOPE PROTEST

**JULY
14, 2019**

Mauna Kea is a dormant volcano. It is on the island of Hawai'i. It is sacred to many Native Hawaiians. It is believed to be the home to Wakea, the sky god. It's believed to be the point where all life begins. However, to scientists, it is an ideal location for a telescope. This upset many Native Hawaiians. On this day in history, an online petition to stop construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) on Mauna Kea was launched. Hundreds of thousands of people from around the world supported it. The next day, a line of elders blocked the road leading up to the summit. They were arrested. Over the next eight months, thousands of supporters occupied the area. They camped and took care of each other. Leaders flew flags from other indigenous movements.

Mauna Kea is an ideal site for telescopes. Its high peak is above the distorting effects of the atmosphere. It has dry air, clear skies, and gentle winds. There are 13 telescopes on Mauna Kea.



**AUGUST
4, 1977**

FIGHT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

The International Hotel (I-Hotel) is in San Francisco, California. It was home to many elderly Asian Americans, mostly of Filipino descent. At that time, San Francisco was being redeveloped. Investors wanted the I-Hotel's land. They evicted the residents. Many activists came to support the elders. Allies included Asian Americans, Black Americans, Mexican Americans, student activists, and more. Over 3,000 protesters surrounded the building. They locked arms and formed a human barricade. They shouted, "We won't move!" Despite this, on this day in history, about 400 policemen physically removed the residents. They came with horses, police cars, and riot gear. They used ladders to climb up to the top floors. This violent eviction made national news. It angered many people. After years of advocacy, in 2005, a new I-Hotel opened. It offers senior housing once again.

I-Hotel was in Manilatown. Manilatown was a Filipino American neighborhood. It thrived from the 1920s to 1970s. With the fall of the I-Hotel, Manilatown declined. Today, there is a two-block corridor named "Manilatown." In addition, the new I-Hotel building houses the Manilatown Heritage Foundation.



CHEF MENTEUR LANDFILL PROTEST

**AUGUST
14, 2006**

After Hurricane Katrina (2005) passed, the mayor of New Orleans, Louisiana, signed an executive order. The order converted a deep pit in the wetlands of eastern New Orleans into a landfill. This area was known as Chef Menteur. Nearby was the largest urban wildlife refuge and a community of Vietnamese Americans. Dumping into Chef Menteur allowed toxins to leak into these nearby areas. Youth from the Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association of New Orleans (VAYLA-NO) protested. They wanted to shut down the landfill. Environmental groups such as the Sierra Club and Black Americans from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference joined. On this day in history, the landfill was shut down. Vietnamese and Black Americans also worked together in other ways. For example, they stopped developers from profiting off the Katrina disaster. They fought for more resources.

Hurricane Katrina was a powerful storm. It hit the southeastern United States. Many people died. Much was damaged. New Orleans was especially affected because Katrina destroyed the city's levees. Levees help control water flows. When they broke, the city was flooded.



SEPTEMBER
8, 1965

DELANO GRAPE STRIKE



In 1972, the United Farm Workers (UFW) became the first recognized farm workers union accepted into the AFL-CIO. AFL-CIO stands for the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations. It is the largest federation of unions in the United States. It has more than 12 million members.

On this day in history, the Delano Grape Strike started in California. Led by Larry Itliong (1913-1977) and Philip Vera Cruz (1904-1994), over 2,000 Filipino American farm workers refused to pick grapes. They fought for fair pay, healthcare, and better working conditions. Itliong asked for support from Mexican American union leaders, Cesar Chavez (1927-1993) and Dolores Huerta (born 1930). Filipino and Mexican American laborers joined forces. They formed the United Farm Workers (UFW) union. They were also supported by civil rights groups. The strike lasted over five years. They led a boycott. They marched. Eventually, they won. The Delano Grape Strike was important. It changed the farm labor movement. It also helped aid the 1960s Civil Rights Movement. Itliong wrote in a letter: “May I let you know that it was our [Filipino] people who started the strike. Then our Mexican brothers followed suit. Since then the cooperation between these two groups has been good. It looks to me that this is the real beginning of a closer relationship between our people.”

THE BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS (BSCP)

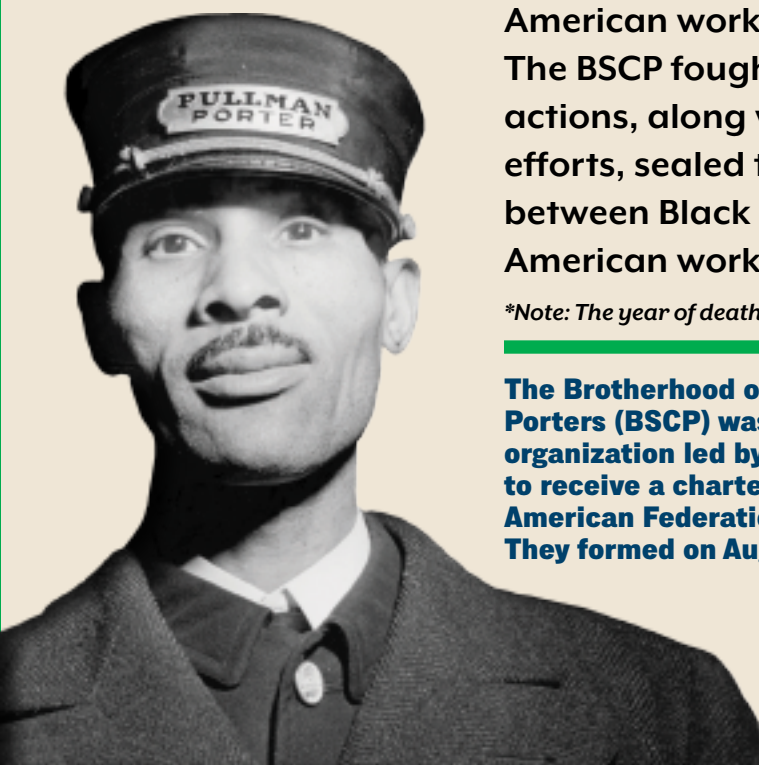
SEPTEMBER
26, 1896

On this day in history, Cipriano Samonte (1896-1947) was born in the Philippines. In 1920, he moved to Chicago, Illinois. He was a Filipino American Pullman club car attendant. The Pullman Company made and operated railroad cars. It employed thousands of workers. Black workers formed the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP). BSCP was led by A. Philip Randolph (1889-1979). They fought for better pay. They refused to work until their demands were met. The Pullman Company hired Filipino workers to replace them. The Company tried to create a separate Filipino American union. The BSCP said, "There can be no such thing as a colored labor union or a Filipino labor union. All unions are workers' unions." Samonte promoted solidarity with Black workers. He and Black leaders worked to support the Filipino American

workers. In 1938, a Filipino American worker was demoted. The BSCP fought for him. Such actions, along with Samonte's efforts, sealed the solidarity between Black and Filipino American workers.

**Note: The year of death is unknown.*

The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP) was the first labor organization led by Black Americans to receive a charter from the American Federation of Labor (AFL). They formed on August 25, 1925.



**OCTOBER
2, 2010**

RALLY FOR FONG LEE



Minnesota is home to the largest urban population of Hmong in the United States. Many came as refugees after the Vietnam War (1955-1975). They came in the 1980s and 1990s. The Hmong are an ethnic group from Southwest China and northern Southeast Asia.

Fong Lee (1987-2006) was a Hmong American. At age 19, he was murdered by a White Minnesota police officer. The officer claimed Lee had a gun. An all-White jury acquitted him. The Lee family has since protested the verdict. On this day in history, a rally for justice was held for Lee. The first people to support the Lee family were Black activists. Youa Vang Lee (born 1961*) is Fong Lee's mother. She said, "[Black people] were the loudest voices for us. Even before we asked for help from other communities, they had come to us and offered their help." So, when George Floyd (1973-2020), a Black American, was murdered by a White Minnesota cop, Youa Vang Lee spoke up. She said, "The same happened to my son." She spoke at a Hmong4BlackLives march. She marched to the state capitol.

**Note: This year is an approximation from news sources.*

NEW YORK TAXI WORKERS ALLIANCE (NYTWA) PROTEST

**OCTOBER
20, 2021**

In New York City, taxi drivers need medallions or permits. These medallions are expensive. (A medallion could cost more than \$1 million.) So most drivers lease medallions from others. Many are in debt because of this practice. The New York Taxi Workers Alliance (NYTWA) fought for debt relief. They camped outside of City Hall. They protested for a month. On this day in history, they started a hunger strike. This strike lasted 15 days. The campaign was mainly led by immigrant South Asian Americans. But they were joined by many others from different racial groups. Even elected officials joined them. (Two elected officials were arrested.) The city eventually agreed to help with debt relief.

At one point in time in New York City, taxicabs were either yellow or green. Yellow cabs required medallions. They could pick up passengers anywhere. Green cabs can only pick up passengers from certain areas. The medallion system was created in 1937. It was a way to limit the number of cabs. Today, the rideshare industry has reduced the value of medallions.



NOVEMBER
6, 1968

THIRD WORLD LIBERATION FRONT (TWLF)



The Third World Liberation Front (TWLF) organized a series of protests. They held rallies. They hosted sit-ins. They coordinated occupations. They held a hunger strike. TWLF organized the longest student strike in U.S. history.

At San Francisco State University, the Black Student Union wanted to see themselves represented. They demanded the admission of more students of color. They demanded the hiring of more faculty of color. They demanded classes about their histories. At the University of California, Berkeley, the Asian American Political Alliance (AAPA) joined in. Working together, these students of color established the Third World Liberation Front (TWLF). The TWLF was a coalition of students from the Black Student Union, the Asian American Political Alliance, the Latin American

Student Organization, the Filipino-American Student Organization, Pilipino American Collegiate Endeavor, El Renacimiento, and more. On this day in history, the strike began. The police were sent in to disrupt the student protests. Several protesters were beaten. Some were arrested. Their efforts were successful. Ethnic Studies was launched across the nation.

BUFFALO SOLDIERS

**NOVEMBER
17, 1899**

In 1898, the United States took control of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. This was a result of the Spanish-American War (1898). The Philippines wanted independence. This led to the Philippine-American War (1899-1902). U.S. troops were sent to the Philippines. The Black community was divided. Some thought fighting for the United States would further their own fight for racial justice. But, others didn't think people of color should support U.S. colonial expansion. Four Black army units known as the Buffalo Soldiers served during this war. On this day in history, about fifteen to thirty of them deserted the U.S. army. Instead, they joined the Filipino armies. They fought for Filipino independence. The Philippines ultimately lost the war. But the refusal of Black soldiers to support the United States in a racial, colonial war was a significant act of solidarity.



One of the Buffalo Soldiers deserters was Private David Fagin (1875-?*). He became known as “Insurrecto Captain.” He was so successful that the United States placed a bounty on his head.

**Note: Year of death is unknown.*

**DECEMBER
1950***

EMERGENCY DETENTION ACT OF 1950



The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) formed in 1929. It is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States. They continued to fight for the civil and human rights of all Americans, especially Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

The Emergency Detention Act of 1950* was a law that would give the U.S. government power to incarcerate anyone suspected of spying. It was used to punish Black American radicals. Black American activists fought against this law. They were unsuccessful. J. Howard McGrath (1903-1966) was the U.S. Attorney General. On this day in history, McGrath selected six camp sites to incarcerate suspected spies. One of the sites was Tule Lake. (Tule Lake was used to incarcerate Japanese Americans during World War II (1939-1945).) Japanese Americans had just been released from incarceration camps. The Japanese American Citizen League (JACL) stepped in. They protested. They did not want a repeat of history. They shared their own experiences. Working together, Japanese and Black American activists got the law repealed.

**Note: This year was determined after consultation with The Harry S. Truman Library.*

The Original DREAMer

**DECEMBER
6, 2017**

On this day in history, thousands rallied in Washington, D.C. They were supporting the DREAM Act. (DREAM refers to Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors. It was introduced in 2001. It gives young undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children a pathway toward U.S. citizenship.) Tereza Lee (born 1983) inspired the bill. She is South Korean but was born in Brazil. She moved to the United States with her parents in 1985. She was a talented pianist and student in Chicago. Her teacher encouraged her to apply to colleges. Lee revealed she was undocumented. Her teacher contacted U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (born 1944). Durbin and others sponsored the DREAM Act. There was bipartisan support for the DREAM Act. But, after the 9/11 attacks, the bill was never passed. Today, multi-racial activists continue to fight for immigration reform.



In 2012, President Barack Obama (born 1961) passed Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). This is an immigration policy that provides applicants a renewable two years of deferred action from deportation. It also provides eligibility for a work permit.

THINK ABOUT IT!

After reading this book, answer these questions:

- **Who benefits from cross-racial solidarity?
Who doesn't benefit from cross-racial solidarity?**
- **What are some challenges that prevent cross-racial solidarity?**
- **What do all these examples of cross-racial solidarity have in common? What are the factors that create conditions for cross-racial solidarity?**
- **What are the differences among these examples of cross-racial solidarity? What accounts for these differences?**
- **Why is it important to study historical events?
What can we learn from the past?**
- **What are other examples of cross-racial solidarity?**
- **What can you do today to advance cross-racial solidarity?**

Grace Lee Boggs (1915-2015) was a Chinese American activist. She embodies cross-racial solidarity. She dedicated her life to fighting for labor and tenants' rights. She was married to James Boggs (1919-1993), a Black American leader in Detroit, Michigan. Together, they mentored generations of young leaders, especially Black Americans.

Image from *Grace Lee Boggs*
(Cherry Lake Press, 2022)



**WE HAVE MANY RESOURCES
TO SUPPORT THE EVENTS
PRESENTED IN THIS BOOK!**



Scan the QR code or visit

<https://qrco.de/TDIHCrossRacialSolidarity>

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**ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER GROUPS
HAVE WORKED WITH OTHER RACIAL GROUPS.
TOGETHER, THEY FOUGHT FOR JUSTICE.**

The history of Asian America is often forgotten or ignored in today's classrooms and public discourse. The Asian American Education Project works to ensure students and teachers have access to inclusive curricula. By showcasing struggles and triumphs, we aim to demonstrate the many contributions that

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made to U.S. society. Our lesson plans, professional development opportunities, and educational resources are free and available to all educators who strive to create and/or sustain racially-just learning environments. Together, we can engage in narrative change and ensure that Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) voices are heard, valued, and visible.



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