The invention of the Model Minority myth

Some people don’t believe that Asian Americans experience racism. And on the surface, through the lens of media and pop culture, it may seem that way. In reality, Asian Americans have faced racism as long as they have been in the United States.

In 1882, the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed, thereby banning all new Chinese immigrants.

In 1952, a new immigration law was passed, thereby allowing many of the previous discriminatory policies to remain in place. There were many new immigration laws passed during the Cold War and subsequent wars.

In the 1950s, Chinese Americans pushed the idea of their well-behaved kids, unlike the “delinquent” baby boomer teenagers. In the 1960s, tthe model minority myth was born.

The myth was born due to the Asian American Ban, however, American-born Japanese Americans were primarily the ones affected.

In exchange for economic mobility, during the Cold War and subsequent wars, Asian Americans were given extra opportunities in education and home ownership that were not extended to other minority groups.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order that sent 100,000 Japanese Americans to internment camps across the West Coast.

In the span of the Cold War and subsequent wars, focused on ISLAM, the Korean War, Vietnam War and the Secret War, a new wave of Asian immigrants arrived in the U.S.

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