RACISM AND COVID-19

Gilbert C. Gee, Ph.D. Department of Community Health Sciences 3/9/20



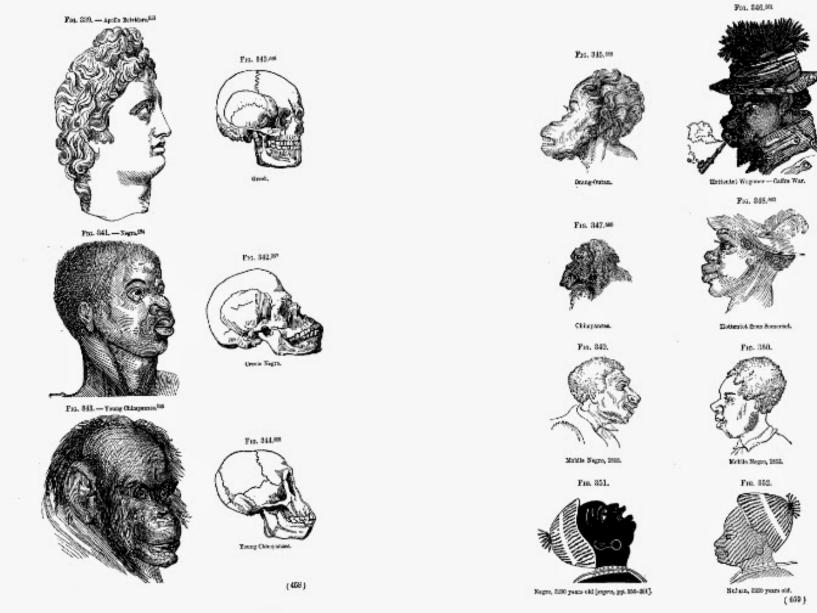
Three points

• Historic roots.

• Why racism matters

• Not just the Chinese





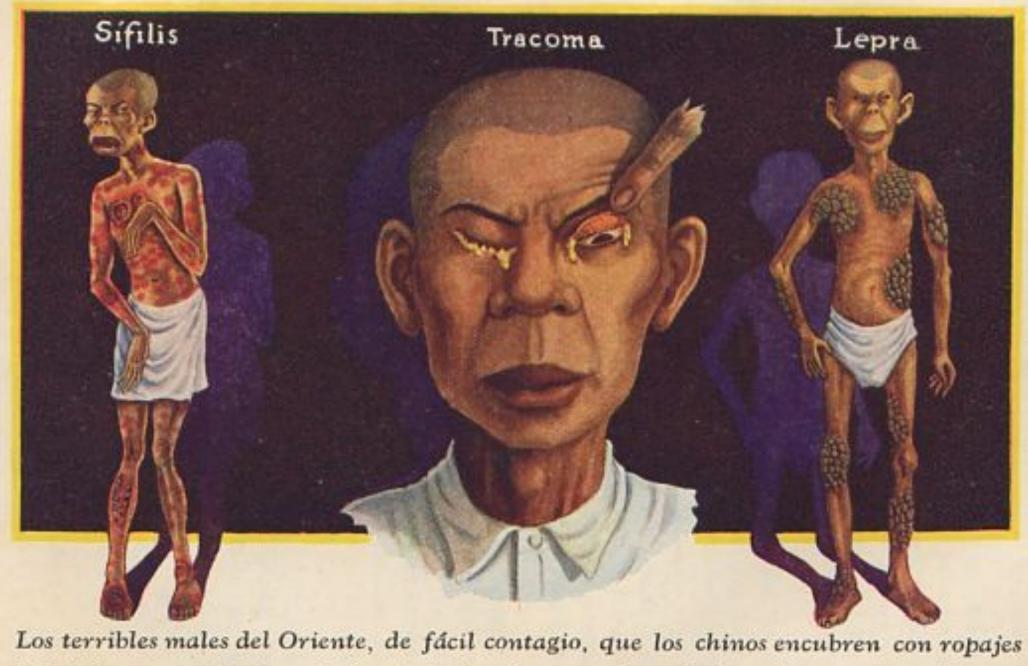
From Nott and Gliddon Types of Mankind (1856) It is not only in the skin that a difference of color exists between the negro and the white man, but in the membranes, the muscles, the tendons, and in all the fluids and secretions. Even the negro's brain and nerves, the chide and all the humors, are tinctured with a shade of the pervading darkness.

Dr. Samuel Cartwright. 1851. DeBow's Review. 11:64-69

"China ... has been the breeding-place and nursery of pestilential diseases, cholera, plague, as well as leprosy, from time immortal.... These pig-tailed Argonauts of the orient... have invaded many lands and almost every land they have touch they have tainted with leprosy."

Dr. Prince A. Morrow

Transactions of the American Dermatological Association, 1898



limpísimos cuando desempeñan trabajos de mozos de café, lavanderos o dependientes.

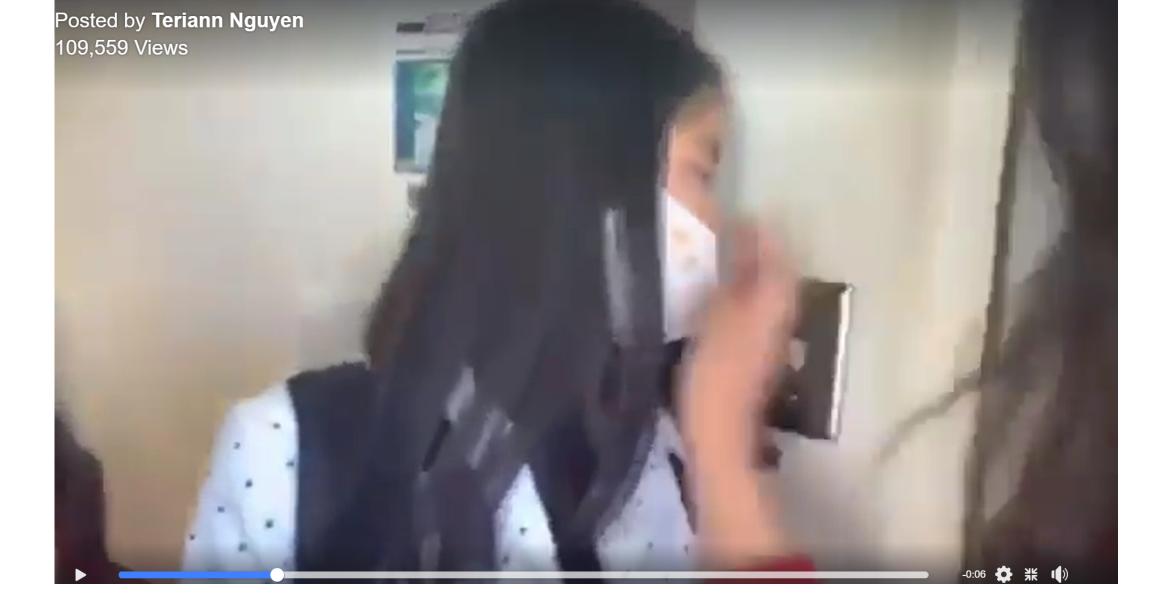
Suspicion of Chinese-Americans has waxed and waned over the 20th century, but it has never completely gone away. It is no wonder, then, that given this not-so-distant history Chinese-Americans are uneasy about the way in which people have responded to the threat of SARS.

Iris Chang, 2003. New York Times



Raymond Hellion (The Georgia Rattlesnake) @HellionRaymond

What do ya say we just drop an atomic bomb on these chinks and stop the corona virus for good? @realDonaldTrump -Raymond Hellion



Bolsa Grande High School, Garden Grove. March 7, 2020

Why it matters

• Racism is intrinsically bad.

• Discrimination makes people sick.

• Discrimination skews our understanding of lethality.

More than the Chinese...

@yashar Because those Mexican murders and rapists are also at the Coronavirus epicenter?

TRUMP'S "remain in Mexico" immigration policy is allowed to proceed for now. Smart choice by the court to not allow the coronavirus to spread. https://t.co/1SiFIgATDh

Korean Noodles: Now made with extra #coronavirus! #southkorea #coronaviruskorea https://t.co/XykCQ3wITT



Thank you!