

**From:** 80-20PACPresident [mailto:AsianAmericanUnity@80-20.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 25, 2009 1:27 PM  
**Subject:** A Chinaman's Chance

## **A Chinaman's chance**

Dear fellow Asian Americans:

How many of you have heard the expression, "a Chinaman's chance" and wondered about its origin?

The historical context of the phrase comes from the Gold rush days of pre-California, where many Chinese came to work as "coolies," hard laborers for gold mining and building the transcontinental railroad.

In this employ, they were sought out for the demanding and dangerous jobs involving explosives, often for half the pay of the Irish workers.

Yet the Chinese faced higher taxes, denials of legal status (not to mention citizenship), and family reunion with their spouses and family. They did not even have the right to testify in court against violence and grievous crimes committed against them. The Chinese were deemed to be so lowly, uncivilized and depraved that the courts would not debase itself to hear their testimony .

**Without recourse to the courts and law, the early Chinese settler's had "a Chinaman's chance" to receive fairness and justice. Many were beaten and robbed with impunity and some died a violent death.** You can learn about this early history by watching Bill Moyer's PBS series "Becoming American, The Chinese Experience."

The American Civil Rights movement was preceded by a long history of gross miscarriages of justice and bloodshed. Like the African Americans, AsAms have come a long way in the long struggle for equality. However, the pain of discrimination is still felt in America. By AsAm being denied equal salary for equal work. . . Denied equal opportunity for career advancement . . . By our children having to leap over higher bars in order to gain admission to top schools . . .

**80-20 PAC is the single hardest working AsAm organization fighting day in and day out for your equality. From securing landmark promises from President Obama to enforce EO11246 to gaining more AsAm federal judges, 80-20 never shrank away from the toughest battles and challenges. Yet this national burden is born on the backs of a mere 2,000 or so dues-paying members.** We have achieved landmark progress under the leadership of Dr. SB Woo. We are closer than ever before to realizing our dream, but this is no time to be complacent; or to rest on our laurels.

**In order to succeed, we must present a strong case and persuade the Dept of Labor to enforce EO11246. This equal opportunity law has been enforced for Blacks, Hispanics and women—but not yet for AsAms! We must redouble our efforts, and we need your help to succeed.**

If you are one of our loyal dues-paying members, we thank you from the bottom of our heart. If not, won't you please do your part Today?.

**Become a dues-paying member NOW at <http://www.80-20initiative.net>** And join us in the fight for equal opportunity and justice, so that this nation we love will become a more perfect union.

Not sure if you are a member? Find out here:

<http://www.80-20initiative.net/about/membership.asp>

In another 10 years, on the 20th anniversary of 80-20, let it be remembered that **YOU** did your part; that **YOU** joined in this noble fight and made a difference. For yourself, for future generations of AsAms, and for our nation. Thank you.

*Ed*

Dr. Edward Lin

Director, 80-20 Initiative

**Equal Opportunity and Justice for ALL Asian Americans**

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**Encourage Inspire Empower**

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.

Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world"

Mahatma Gandhi