

Chinese Migrations to Australia and Their Economic Activity 1851-1900

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Introduction

Historical and economic studies are one of the most important topics that require a sound scientific vision in researching and investigating historical events and employing them in order to complete the study. Australia is a recent social and economic transformation, despite the antiquity of its discovery, but it emerged as a continent with economic content in the middle of the nineteenth century.

The study of the subject entitled (External Migrations to Australia for the period 1851-1900) came because the historical importance of this subject is multiple in the infiltration of importance. The study of the political development of Australia is an important axis, while the study of the social and economic axis completes the subject of the study to be more coherent. The specified period of the study is half a century, and it is full of events that Australia witnessed. On the one hand, it was a settlement for thousands of migrations from various countries of the world, but in this study we dealt with the most important migrations according to their positive and negative economic impact.

Delving into this topic was important because previous studies were not as comprehensive as this, but rather were satisfied with studying the historical aspect alone, while delving into the political aspect after the declaration of the federal union. The importance of our study of the topic lies in the fact that we dealt with three axes that we employed methodically, following the events in their chronological sequence with the diversity of their documentation sources. The research was divided into three sections. The first was entitled: The Geography of Australia and its Name, while the second section was Chinese Migration to Australia 1851-1880, while the third section was entitled: The Role of Chinese Workers in Economic Activities in Australia 1880-1900, while the conclusion included several results.

The First Section: The Geography of Australia and its Name

Australia has a unique feature that is different from all other continents. It is unique in its unique location in the southern hemisphere.)Most of its borders are surrounded by water, as it is surrounded by the Indian Ocean from the west and south, while the Pacific Ocean surrounds it from the east.)While it is bordered to the north by the sea (Arafura).)Arfura Sea and (Timor),Timur, and (Torres Strait)Estrecho de Torzo, while it is bordered on the east by the (Coral Sea)(),Coral Sea and Tasman Sea),Mar de Tasmania, the closest country to it by land is Indonesia.),Indonesia is bordered to the north by New Zealand.),And New Zealand, from the southeast, while the islands that are close to it by maritime borders are the Pacific Islands from the east, and they are (Polynesia). Polynesianis, and a large part of the above information can be observed through the map of Australia and its environs.)The divisions of its lands are multiple and are as follows:)Western Australia, Northern Australia, South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria, and its location is between latitudes (41-10) and (39-43) degrees south of the equator, including (Tasmania Island).)Tasmania Island, it extends over a latitude of (33) degrees on average from north to south, and between the head of Yorke Peninsula in the north and the southeastern cape (South East Cape) ()South East Cape, in southern Tasmania, and in terms of longitude, it lies between (09-123) degrees longitude and (39-153) degrees east of the Gretschan line, i.e. about (40) degrees longitude.)In addition to the Tropic of Capricorn passing through its center, which led to the hot tropical climate dominating half of the continent's area, its jaw-dropping location has affected the rise in temperatures, especially over the heart of the continent during the southern summer.)Which made it exposed to scorching seasonal winds despite coming from the surrounding water bodies and enjoying high humidity, which contributed to heavy

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rains falling in the northwestern regions and the rainy east-west winds coming from the southeast. As for the southern winter, the westerly winds prevail, causing rain to fall in the southeastern and southwestern regions, so its astronomical location was unique in its kind, which contributed to the continuity of rain throughout the year, summer and winter.).

Chapter Two: Chinese Migrations to the Australian Colonies and Their Results 1851-1854

The discovery of gold by the Australian authorities in New South Wales and Victoria in 1851 transformed the lands of the two colonies economically, politically and demographically, as it caused a large immigration from several countries, the most important of which was Chinese immigration. The large Chinese immigration began in earnest after the discovery of gold and the subsequent rush. The Chinese ethnicity was present there before the discovery of gold and formed part of a diverse mix of people who inhabited the city of Sydney at an early time when the increasing demand for cheap labour after the cessation of the transport of prisoners in 1840 led to the arrival of much larger numbers of Chinese men as hired labourers, working as shepherds for private landowners and the Australian Agricultural Company. These workers came mainly from Fujian Province.)Fujian via the port of Amoy, some of whom were kidnapped and taken to Australia, a practice often referred to disparagingly as "sell pigs". In the years 1850-1859, the opening of ports such as Amoy ()To facilitate the practice of importing forced labour between 1848 and 1853, more than 3,000 Chinese workers arrived under contracts via Sydney Harbour to work in rural New South Wales, including Victoria and Queensland at the time. This immigration was met with resistance, particularly from white elements, including the Irish, who accused the Chinese of working for cheaper wages. These protests later became racial opposition to the Chinese immigrant race.

Despite this abhorrent racism, the period from 1851 witnessed the largest Chinese immigration to Australia, as the numbers peaked at around (40,000), and increased in late 1853. Most of the Chinese who came to Australia were to work in the excavations for gold, and most of them were from southern China. The results of their immigration in these numbers had a negative impact. The Chinese immigrants to Australia lived in difficult housing conditions and were soon exposed to poverty as a result of spending their money during their travel to Australia, and they set off from the port of (Hong Kong).).Hong Kong The journey from Canton via Hong Kong to Sydney and Melbourne took about (3) months and was often paid through a system of debts to the provincial chiefs or agents who accompanied them on board, the routes of travel were known as (credit tickets), however some Chinese were able to pay their own way and these were mostly the wealthier men born in the cities who came to Australia to work as merchants or to work in an industry other than gold mining. From 1853 - 1855, thousands of Chinese landed in Melbourne and headed for the goldfields, while very few women came to Australia during this period. In 1861, there were no less than (38,000) Chinese living in the Australian colonies, the vast majority of whom were men on the Bendigo goldfields in 1861.

There were only 5,367 Chinese men and one Chinese woman. By 1861, there were about 40,000 Chinese living in Australia, making up 3.3% of the total population. The arrival of large numbers of Chinese gold prospectors in the only colony of Victoria, established in 1852, caused great concern among politicians and gold prospectors in the Victorian Parliament. The presence of so many Chinese in the colony was said to pose a security risk, but the real issue was fear of competition on the goldfields. In 1855, the Victorian Parliament passed the Chinese Restriction Act.).Chinese Restriction Law In an attempt to restrict Chinese immigration, these restrictions resulted in the imposition of a head tax of (10) pounds sterling on the Chinese, while deciding to impose a maximum number of Chinese passengers per ton of freight. As a result of these Australian measures, cargo ship owners raised the prices of transporting new arrivals to Australia, but the law limited the increasing numbers of Chinese arriving at Victorian ports. Official Victorian records show that more than (10,000) Chinese arrived in Victoria between 1853-1855, but only a few hundred arrived in the years 1856-1857.)However, the numbers of Chinese people heading to the Victorian goldfields continued to increase despite these measures and they changed their direction of travel. The Chinese were travelling instead to South Australia, and their numbers were counted in 1855-57, with thousands of them landing at Port Adelaide and in the South Australian city of Robe.Rob.

This measure taken by Chinese immigration to circumvent the expense of travel resulted in the population of the small town of Robe rapidly increasing as it developed into a port of call for Chinese continuing on to the Victorian goldfields, while many others landed in Sydney and began to enter the New South Wales goldfields in the central regions after reaching South Australia, while a large number of them took the long overland route to the Victorian goldfields. After reaching the goldfields, they encountered many difficulties, the greatest concern being anti-Semitism, especially from European miners. In July 1854, the Bendigo newspaper reported that William Denovan. William Denovan called for an uprising to expel the Chinese from the Bendigo goldfields. Hundreds of them were attacked, robbed and their homes vandalized. Despite the protection of the Australian police, racial hostility sometimes occurred with the connivance of the police. However, such sentiments were widespread during the Australian gold rush and in 1857, such anti-Chinese sentiments caused riots in Buckland ()Buckland, and did not stop. In the period from 1860-1861, acts of violence against Chinese workers were repeated, especially the riots that took place in Lamping Flat ()Lamping Flat in New South Wales, while there was unrest in the Ararat area ()Ararat, when the Europeans were sure that a group of men had found gold in Ararat and kept the discovery a secret to avoid the rush of workers of European origin towards that field to avoid problems, for its part, the parliament in Victoria and New South Wales had contributed to limiting the Chinese presence in their lands, as it issued harsh legislation against their presence, which angered the Chinese miners, especially after the decision of the additional residence tax of (1) pound sterling annually, so the Chinese evaded it, so most of them lived in the place they chose, and thus the Chinese lived in most of the gold fields in Victoria and New South Wales in what were called "camps" and these camps were often organized based on their ethnic or dialect differences, and these camps were like their small communities, but these camps were places for the spread of opium addiction.

Chapter Three: The Role of Chinese Workers in Economic Activities in Australia 1880-1900

As a result of the discovery of gold in Victoria, some Chinese moved to other colonies to continue searching for gold there despite the Australian authorities imposing strict legislation, which caused riots in Lamping Flats, then the Palmer River Goldfields riots.) Palmer River Goldfields, and these complications continued towards them. In the period 1870-1880, the number of Chinese miners greatly outnumbered the number of Europeans. In the social aspect, they were allocated cemeteries, although it was common for the deceased to be transported to China for spiritual and traditional reasons. Many families made great efforts to achieve this, but others were buried in Australia. Cemeteries throughout the country contain Chinese graves to accommodate the Chinese funeral rites, which included cremation. Throughout Australia, the construction of chimneys was permitted. These chimneys can still be found in cemeteries throughout the country today. The people responsible for the cemeteries were often devout Christians, and had an aversion to what they considered pagan rituals. The Chinese section of the White Hills Cemetery in Bendigo is perhaps the most important remaining example in Australia of a Chinese grave in its original state. The Beechworth Cemetery is considered (), Beechworth Cemetery, which opened in 1857, is significant for the way it incorporated the Chinese section into the original cemetery plan. Many other cemeteries have been redeveloped and lost the heritage and cultural diversity of their Chinese sections.)After the gold rush in Victoria and New South Wales in the 1850s and 1860s, the numbers of Chinese in those colonies declined markedly and in 1873, in far north Queensland at the Palmer River, after the discovery of gold there was another rush and by 1877 there were (20) thousand Chinese there.)Conditions and problems there were similar to those in Victoria, but conditions were also more extreme. After the rush in Queensland ended, people returned to China or dispersed. Many Chinese remained in Queensland and worked hard to establish much of the northern banana trade.

In the same context, the growth of the sugar industry in Queensland during the period from 1875-1877 led to the search for workers willing to work in difficult conditions, so large numbers of them headed after their failure in the gold mines, as they preferred to work on farms and their work on those farms was at the expense of European workers and whites in general and at a cheap price. As a result of these repercussions, the union movement began a series of protests against foreign workers, the most important of which was the Chinese, as they took jobs from white men, worked for wages "below the required level", reduced working conditions, were tougher workers and refused to join unions. These objections were disturbed by

the owners, as they justified the use of Chinese because they could tolerate working conditions in a harsh environment, so the Australian authorities enacted new laws to appease whites in all Australian colonies for the period from 1875-1888, excluded any other Chinese immigration but did not expel Asian immigrants already residing in the Australian colonies, so they retained the same rights enjoyed by their Anglo and southern citizens, on Although they faced great discrimination.

In 1889-90, there was also a rise in anti-Chinese sentiment in Melbourne and Sydney, and earlier discontent over apartheid policies was tempered. Apartheid policies in the rural reserves As more Chinese began to move from rural to urban towns, there was a corresponding rise in anti-Chinese sentiment. This led to another round of restrictive laws in New South Wales in 1881–88. It also contributed to the growing push for Australian federation. One of the most compelling arguments in favour of federation among the public and politicians at the time was that a uniform immigration policy would secure the borders of all Australian colonies. The Chinese threat was the root cause of these immigration concerns.

Despite the above shift in Chinese migrant employment, mining remained one of the largest industries for Chinese in Australia, but it became more dangerous as the alluvial fields disappeared. Chinese in the rural towns either established themselves in other industries there or moved to the cities. Many of these opened shops and became traders and peddlers. In 1890, in New South Wales alone there were nearly 800 shops owned and operated by Chinese. The fishing and fish processing industries operated in Melbourne and north and south Sydney. This supplied valuable seafood to Chinese people throughout New South Wales and Victoria. By 1890–1900, the Chinese population in Australia was represented in a wide range of occupations including scrub workers, interpreters, cooks, tobacco farmers, cabinetmakers, storekeepers and draperies. The Chinese population in Australia increased steadily in Sydney and Melbourne.

While the furniture industry flourished during this period and was one of the largest industries for the Chinese in Melbourne and at the height of that industry there were (175) companies producing and selling Chinese-made furniture, the Chinese success in that industry did not last long and furniture makers of European origin petitioned the government saying that Chinese furniture makers were harming their livelihoods, so the Victorian government passed the Factories and Shops Act which targeted the Chinese working in that industry.

Mining in Western Australia meant overcoming much more difficult conditions; the scorching sun and desert left little food or water, and many died of heatstroke and starvation while travelling or working in the area. The prospect of finding gold was enough to tide many over, and within ten years the population had risen to 16,000. Transporting large quantities of gold across the harsh terrain was expensive and dangerous, but by 1896 a railway had been built, providing miners with cheaper transport. By 1898 Coolgardie had become the third largest town in Western Australia, after Perth and Fremantle. Kalgoorlie soon followed Coolgardie, when three Irish prospectors struck gold at Mount Charlotte in 1893. Within three days of registering the claim, an estimated 700 men had made their way to Kalgoorlie to prospect in the area. The Perth Mint, Australia's main modern-day coin and bullion refinery, was opened in 1899 as a means of processing gold deposits found at Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie. Australia remains one of the world's most prolific gold producers, continuing to benefit from a gold rush that began over (150) years ago.).

Thus ends a period rich in events and positive and negative influences witnessed by the continent of Australia in the second half of the nineteenth century, which contributed to the emergence of a diverse society that was able to find job opportunities and transform desert lands and the banks of rivers and lakes into economic centers and cities, due to the individual ambitions achieved by thousands of immigrants from various countries of the world, but most of them were European and Chinese immigration, although hostility and racial discrimination were present among the immigrants due to competition over rich resources, including gold.

Conclusion

At the end of this study, it is necessary to state the most important results that it has reached.

Australia constituted an important topic as it is a newly settled continent. By following the axes of the topic, it became clear to us that Australia can be studied from a unique economic perspective as it constituted, in its geographical nature and the resources it contains, a target for other discoveries within the rich minerals.

The social diversity that prevailed among its inhabitants was not the result of European migrations that preceded the discovery of gold, but rather it was a process of diversification that preceded that century. When tracing its human races, we found that it was a mixture of various species of the earth, and this is evidence of its natural richness that contributed to the direction of those migrations towards it.

The last years of the eighteenth century marked the beginning of the interest of the population in searching for rich resources such as gold, and at the beginning of the nineteenth century dozens of discoveries were launched that achieved simple gains but were the key to more successful trips.

With the discovery of gold in 1851, news was transmitted quickly between the countries of the world, which caused hundreds of thousands to head there, which put pressure on the existing population, as the economic system collapsed and services became difficult to achieve.

Immigration was not limited to Europeans, especially after Britain stopped sending thousands of convicts to it, so it allowed the entry of German immigrants despite the social intersection with them, as they were from a country whose interests conflicted with Britain, but it preferred them over the rest of the population because of their religious culture and physical abilities to work in the vineyards and produce wine and frankincense.

Due to the decline that struck Ireland following the Great Famine, the Potato Famine of 1845-1860, the British authorities allowed the arrival of thousands of immigrants from Ireland, but they failed to deal with them because of their hostility towards them, and they were more aggressive and racist towards the rest of the immigrants.

Racial hostility was not the only characteristic that the population was accustomed to from the Irish immigrants, but it went beyond that, as some of them led armed rebellions and rebellions against the authority, and accordingly those rebellions were suppressed, which rose to a revolution in 1854.

On the racial side, Chinese immigration had also reached Australian lands and was able to bring about a demographic change and caused the collapse of the wage ceiling for white workers, which led them to adopt hostility and hatred towards the Chinese and accuse them of being yellow races, and they carried out several attacks against them.

Although the Australian authorities welcomed Chinese immigration, they colluded with the rest of the population elements in Australian society, especially the whites, so several laws were passed to limit their arrival to Australian territory.

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