

## *A Chinese Kaleidoscope; An American Mosaic*

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Immigrating to the United States is a very popular choice. All sorts of businesses and organizations are centered on immigration, for example travel groups, immigration services groups, immigration lawyers, and immigration agents. Advertisements with slogans such as “success guaranteed, or no charge” abound.

Immigration services groups and middlemen in particular will applicants large sums of money. Although the advertisements say that there will be no charge if the application is not successful, in reality the customer will need to pay several thousand dollars in fees just in order to start the process. Typically such a business will ask for one third of the total cost up front and the final third of the cost once the person has arrived in the country. If the application is not successful, or if the person decides to immigrate to another country, they will request that the money they paid be returned to the. However, getting money refunded from such businesses is very difficult. Some people, after paying money in advance, never hear anything from the business again. Sometimes a business will try to attract many customers at once, and having received the first part of the fees will immediately close down. Dealing directly with an immigration lawyer is more reliable. The likelihood of a lawyer carrying out such a scheme is much smaller, as they would lose their license if caught. Therefore in general if a lawyer tells someone submitting an application to the immigration department that they do not have the necessary qualifications, then the applicant should not waste any more money on the application.

In the past decade, the number of Asian immigrants to the United States has been steadily increasing. Of course, immigrants from Central and South America are still the most numerous, particularly immigrants from Mexico. As for the United States’ northern border with Canada, since Canadian society is quite similar to that of the United States in terms of political system and material well-being, there is relatively little immigration from Canada to the United States.

Before 1970, there were people who had come to the United States legally, but overstayed their visa and were not legal residents. In those days it was not common for such illegal immigrants to be repatriated on an airplane. Instead they were sent on the rather long and tiring journey by sea, which is why in that generation there were fewer immigrants from Asia. Nowadays however, it is common for students who have finished their studies or sailors whose shore leave is over to remain illegally in the United States.

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In the early twentieth century, San Francisco's Chinatown suffered two large fires, and many residents were forced to move away, their homes having burned down. Some residents moved to other cities in the United States, while others returned to China. Many of those who returned to China, most of whom were American citizens, were simply unable to bear their homesickness and so returned to their hometowns to spend their old age. When they returned, many sold their American citizenship papers to people in their hometown who wished to go to the United States, who would return in their place. This type of practice continued on until as late as 1960. A common situation would be for someone named "Huang" to take a name like "Li" after buying the papers, and then moving to the United States and starting a life with that name. In cases in which the immigration department discovered the trick, they would often help the person change their name back to the original. However, many people had already made a living for themselves under the assumed name, and so chose to keep it. There were approximately eight to ten thousand such people.

In 1970, the United States began to emphasize promotion of human rights. Before that, the immigration department would often go to places like dry cleaners, restaurants, and grocery stores to search for and arrest illegal immigrants. When arriving at businesses, immigration officers would tell the manager they were looking for illegal immigrants. Managers would secretly give notice to illegal workers to escape, and then notify them to return once the immigration officers had left. This type of situation was very familiar to everyone, but nevertheless illegal workers would sometimes be apprehended. In such instances, immigration officers would take them away and hold them at the immigration detention center near the World Trade Center.

When illegal workers were apprehended, manager of the detention center tended to be sympathetic. He knew that the work illegal immigrants engaged in was difficult, that they received little compensation, and that their living conditions were poor. He often helped those who had been arrested find lawyers or bail bonds. The help he gave made him many Chinese friends, and when he eventually retired he settled down with a Chinese woman. If he is still alive today, he would be in his seventies. Hopefully he has been rewarded for his good deeds.

Approximately two million Chinese immigrants, both legal and illegal, have come to the United States in the past decade. However, the total number of Americans who have ever taken

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up permanent residence in China or applied for Chinese citizenship is less than two thousand.

Although Chinese people come to the United States to seek a living, they remember their way of life in China and their culinary culture. Under these circumstances such immigrants will often live in the same areas, creating so-called “Chinatowns”. Chinatowns in the past were very simple, with only activities like eating Chinese food, watching Chinese films, buying Chinese newspapers, and going to Chinese temples available. Amongst Chinese people these areas were referred to as “Tang People Street.” Although there are many English and French people in the United States, there has never been such a thing as English town or French town.

The most famous Chinatowns are in San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago. With new waves of Chinese immigration, Chinatowns have been established in many other cities, such as Washington DC, Boston, and Miami. Although New Jersey does not have Chinatowns like other areas, it has many Chinese residents, and there are Chinese stores and restaurants.

### **Twenty: The United States’ biggest industry is printing money.**

After the Great Depression in the 1930’s and WWII, there was a great opportunity for development. The atomic bomb was developed and used twice against the adversary of the time, Japan. Aircraft carriers were constructed, as was other military weapons, and the United States was able to become a world economic and military power.

On the foundation of the aviation industry, the space industry was founded. At the same time the communications and food industries were also growing quite developed. In addition to goods being produced for domestic consumption, goods were being exported to all over the world. The above factors, as well as numerous other ones, together made the United States the world’s wealthiest and most powerful industrialized nation by 1970. However from the 1970s, the economies of Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Singapore began to grow rapidly, receiving the name the “Asian Tiger Economies.” At the same time, American markets were reaching saturation, and manufacturing was weakening under pressure of demands from labor unions. The United States began an unfortunate transformation from an industrial economy to a consumer economy.

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Thirty years ago, the Chinese government saw that its people were struggling with hardships, and thereupon enacted economic reform and opened up the economy to foreign investment, and creating a favorable environment for foreign businesses. Since land and labor were both cheap in China, manufacturing costs were relatively low, which attracted businesses. Large numbers of goods began to be exported to the United States and other countries.

Other undeveloped countries began to copy China's growth model and pursued policies that attracted foreign businesses and took advantage of local cheap labor costs. The result was a major increase in exports to Europe and the United States. Now, other than products that require advanced science and technology for production, such as medical and aerospace equipment, the United States imports its goods.

Nowadays, the United States' biggest industry is printing money. In the past, there was the gold standard, and dollars could be exchanged for their value in gold. The printing technology used to produce dollars is advanced, and they are difficult to counterfeit. If they are counterfeited, it is easy to tell.

Currently the flow of American dollars from the United States is very large. The first reason is that exporters price their goods in dollars, and the United States is the largest importer of goods. The second reason is that labor consumption and international travel also require outflow of dollars. Nevertheless everyone is still happy to price their goods in dollars, and the American government continues to print banknotes, and everyone is still happy to receive them.

Currently in the United States finance, and the trading of public stocks and government bonds are flourishing, and the stock markets are very active. Therefore there are many foreign investors who hold United States stocks and bonds, as well as American currency. If these investors were to one day sell off their holdings of American currency, stocks, and public debt, then there would be great panic about American economic power.

The United States is known for its automobiles, and was the first country in which it was common for people to have a car. The auto industry produces numerous vehicles each year, and continuously seeks to improve its products, so American society by and large uses cars as the main means of transportation. In the years following World War II, major highways were built all over the country.

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Manhattan's 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in New York City is a famous and very fashionable avenue. There are fashion schools, and many clothing design companies have offices there. There are also many designers and clothing production facilities.

The United States' food production industry is also very developed. There are several hundred types of bread, all types of cookies, cakes, and canned foods to meet the needs of the population. The United States has very strict hygiene standards for food production to safeguard the population's health.

A long time ago in about the early 1950s, I heard from my friends that American canned food was extremely good, and that it would heat itself up automatically upon being opened. This is an example of how in those times, the Chinese concept of all things American was one of blind praise. Only now do they know that eating canned food regularly will lead to nutritional deficiencies. In the past, people in China considered it a wonderful thing for someone to be able to eat a piece of American chocolate candy, but after arriving in the United States they discover that the best food is still Chinese food.

The arms industry in the United States is also very developed. No matter whether it is air, land, or sea armaments, the United States dominates the market. Since the United States has lots of talented people and research funding, and since the authorities encourage research and innovation, there is more than enough ability to produce things like aircraft carriers, tanks, and many different types of warplanes.

During the Second World War, the United States successfully developed the world's first atomic bomb. Although the United States has already had nuclear weapons for a long time, and although there are now a number of countries with nuclear capabilities, they are not used due to their extremely destructive nature.

The United States' arms exports have been greatest in the past twenty years. A part of the total amount of arms production is to sell to other countries, but the majority is for the United States itself. Although there are no wars on American soil, they are used to sustain America's role as the world's policeman, and its so-called peacekeeping force. However, America acting as the world's policeman has left many countries very unsatisfied. In the Iraq War, the United States even encountered resistance in the form of suicide bombers. Despite growing public opposition to the war, the United States was unable to extricate itself from the situation.

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The United States' beverage industry is also very developed. There are hundreds of kinds of juices, iced teas, sodas, beers, coffees, and mineral waters. After the Second World War, a type of store emerged that sold food and beverages all through automatic vending machines. This type of store enjoyed great popularity for a while, but inexplicably became less and less common until they died out entirely.

The United States is not only an industrial superpower, but also has a great amount of fertile land for agricultural businesses. Therefore the United States can also be called an agricultural superpower.

Some types of fruits and vegetables require a large amount of labor to be planted and harvested. Others, such as corn and wheat, can be planted and harvested using mainly machines and few workers. In the United States a single farmer can plant a thousand acres, whereas in China a farmer using only manpower can plant just six or seven acres. Therefore the agricultural production capability of the United States is a thousand times that of China.

### **Twenty One: A long distance phone card is five dollars, and is worth 500 minutes of calls.**

Thirty years ago, The United States had a greater number of telephones than any other country. Nearly every household had a telephone. Local calls were cheap, but long-distance and international calls were very expensive. A call to Hong Kong or China was two dollars per minute.

About twenty years ago, the fax machine was invented, and replaced phone reports in the field of business, being both fast and convenient. And afterwards, the cell phone was invented, making communication much more convenient. With a cell phone it was possible to communicate without a telephone line. In the early days of the cell phone, it was large and expensive, but currently cellphones are cheap and convenient, with compact designs.

The most wondrous thing of all was that one was able to buy phone cards worth 500 minutes of calls for just five dollars. This was the equivalent of just one cent per minute, which was even cheaper than local calls, which people found hard to believe.

With the advancement of technology, the quality of cameras also progressed rapidly. American cameras were popular throughout the world many years ago, and became popular again with the advent of the Polaroid camera, which produced a picture immediately after the exposure was taken.

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In the beginning of the twentieth century, a household would be fortunate to have just a radio to receive news, weather reports, and music. Afterwards came household television sets, which were even rarer. In those times, only wealthy people could afford them. With the advancement of science, black and white televisions were replaced by color ones. When color televisions were released, black and white televisions were no longer sold. The same thing is happening nowadays with the advent of high definition LCD screens. Advances in science continually bring improvements to the electronics industry. In the world of electronics, an invention of particular success is that of the computer. The first generation of computers was extremely large and were not available to the average person. Only government scientists and large companies had the means to purchase or develop one. These evolved into personal computers, which were able to be operated by most people. Nowadays computers are small enough to carry around on your person, and in addition to being valuable work tools, also allow you to buy plane tickets, sell merchandise, and possess numerous miraculous functions.

The United States' film and recording industries are also some of the most advanced in the world. The change from black and white films to color ones was another major development that took place. Los Angeles' Hollywood is known for its excellent films and actors, especially Universal Studios. Tourists can visit Universal Studios' locations in Los Angeles and Florida after buying a ticket and only after spending several hours is it possible to see everything.

The scale of scenes filmed for American movies is very large. The Chinese film industry is small by comparison. In China all that is needed are one director, an assistant director, two cameramen, and ten actors and workers.

### **Twenty Two: Resorts and casinos can also be considered money-making industries.**

The United States also has an industry designing and building resorts and sports stadiums. Entertainment parks like Disneyland are all fun, safe, and exciting, attracting numerous young people. These types of establishments are another one of the United States' exports.

Disneylands are present not only in the United States, but also in Europe, Japan, and Hong Kong. Such entertainment parks cover a large surface area, and after parking your car and entering the facilities, you can ride vehicles provided by the park. For such reasons, these parks require a lot of capital to be built, as well as a lot of work and administrators.