

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER

A fairly extensive search has not produced as much information about Asian educational/occupational achievement as I would have hoped, but the general outlines are clear and easily support the position that the more orientals we have in this country the higher the level of high energy physics.*

I will confine this memo to education.

American Jews (for whom there is no Census data) are the most highly educated group in this country or anywhere. It would appear that about 95 percent go to college now. After Jews it would appear that Chinese are next -- we know that in 1960, 51 percent of Chinese males 25-34 had one or more years of college -- and then Japanese. (Although I suspect the 1970 Census will show Japanese ahead of Chinese.)

Persons 25-34 Years Old With Specified Amounts of
Schooling, in 1960

Race and sex	Percent with--		
	: Less than	: High school	: College
	: 5 years of	: (4 years or	: (1 year or
	: school	: more)	: more)
<u>Male</u>			
Native white of native parentage	3	59	27
Negro	12	30	11
Japanese	1	82	40
Chinese	6	71	51

(Cont'd)

*Until very recently, it was good liberal practice not to know whether a person was black, white, red, or whatever. Hence little data.

<u>Female</u>			
Native white of native parentage	2	63	19
Negro	6	36	11
Japanese	1	77	22
Chinese	12	64	34

In general Japanese and Chinese have more years of education than any other group.

Median Years of School Completed, Population by Race, 1960

Race	PERSONS 14 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER					
	United States		California		Hawaii	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
White	10.6	11.1	11.8	12.1	12.2	12.4
Japanese	12.2	12.1	12.4	12.3	11.2	10.8
Chinese	10.7	11.7	11.0	11.6	12.0	12.0
Filipino	8.3	11.1	8.7	11.5	5.0	9.7

An interesting point is that the Chinese (in California for which we have reliable data) have both the largest proportion of persons with no schooling whatsoever, and the largest with four or more years of college. This could be the result of a bimodal immigration pattern, but my view is that it simply reflects the rapid three generation change from laborer to shopkeeper to scientist.

SCHOOL LEVEL COMPLETED BY PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY SEX (White, Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, and Other Nonwhite Persons) - California, 1960
(Percentage distribution)

School level completed	White		Japanese		Chinese		Filipino		Other nonwhite	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
None	1.6	1.3	2.6	2.9	15.8	18.7	7.8	2.3	2.0	1.5
College										
1 - 3 yrs	13.4	13.0	16.9	14.9	15.9	14.3	9.5	15.1	9.4	10.1
4 or more yrs	10.7	6.6	11.9	5.7	13.3	8.9	3.9	9.2	3.5	3.4

A further point is that Asia now supplies a large proportion of the scientists and engineers admitted to the United States as immigrants.

Scientists and Engineers Admitted to the United States As Immigrants, Fiscal Years 1962-64				
:	:	Natural	:	Social
: Total	: Engineers	: scientists	:	: scientists
<u>By area of last residence</u>				
Total	15,992	10,679	4,607	706
Asia	2,731	1,818	812	101
<u>By area of birth</u>				
Asia	2,957*	1,961	895	101

*108 of these entered the United States from Canada

Asian Country of Last Residence

Hong Kong	145
China-Taiwan	689
India	516
Japan	159
Korea	223
Philippines	144

Summary. Asian immigrants to the United States have proved exceptionally upwardly mobile. In terms of available census data, younger Chinese and Japanese are the best educated groups in the country. Asians already contribute largely to the numbers of

scientists and engineers immigrating to the United States. It should be expected that even a large body of immigrants would quickly educate themselves so as to add to the nation's supply of competence, and would not present any long run problems of dependency.



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