

**ABSTRACT** An enduring focus on African American chattel slavery, the U.S. Civil War, and sharecropping in the South has failed to collectively address the varieties of unfree labor and their abolitions in the trans-Mississippi western United States. By exploring systems of servitude and their termination in California and the wider Pacific World, this essay reframes the Age of Abolition. It describes the rise and fall of labor regimes that bound California Indians, African Americans, Chileans, and Chinese women. Citing Chinese-, English-, and Spanish-language sources from a variety of archives and libraries, this article expands the chronology, geography, and actors of the Age of Abolition. Finally, it suggests trajectories for rethinking













1.  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n$  are the standard basis vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .  
2.  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n$  are the standard basis vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .







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The Liberator

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Jose Telegraph. e ... e ... e ...



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sic

peonaje

Californian

sic



**FIGURE 4.** A Chilean couple in James Mason Hutchings, "The World in California," Hutchings' Illustrated California Magazine 1 (March 1857): 387.

Courtesy of the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

peones

patrón,

peones,

Virginia,

peonaje





**FIGURE 5.** Robert H. Vance, “[James King of William (1822–1856)],” ca. 1855. James King of William brought nine Chilean debt peons from Valparaíso

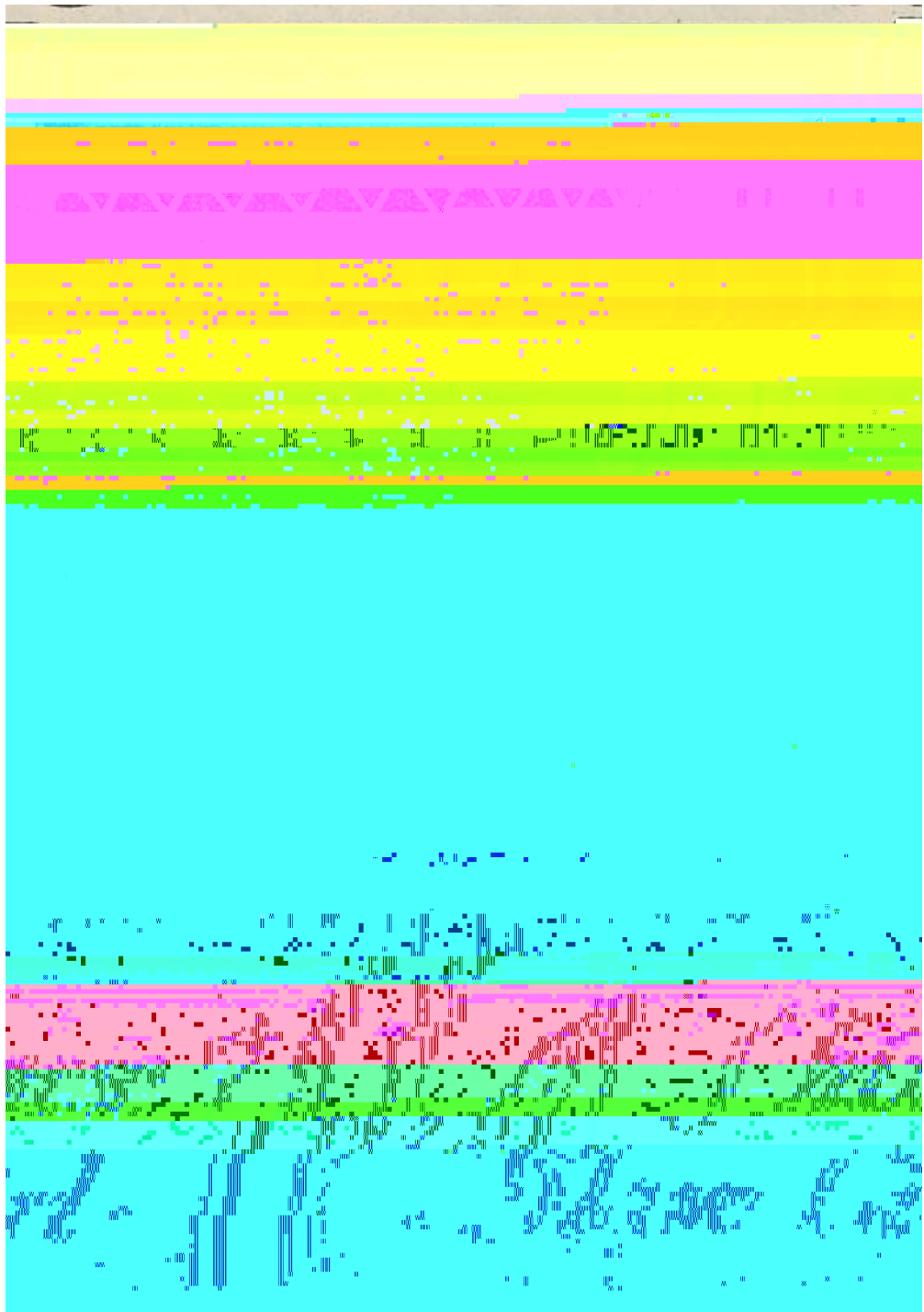
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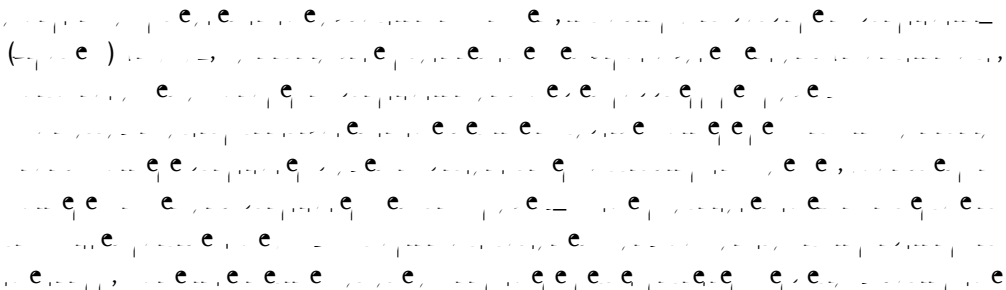
**FIGURE 6.** Unknown artist, “A Chinese Slave Girl,” photograph, Jackson Street, San Francisco Chinatown (?), in Unknown author, “Highbinders & Tong Wars,” *The Wave* 20 (July–December 1899), 4. Courtesy of the Bancroft Library, Berkeley, California, xffF850.W186 v. 20:no.30:04





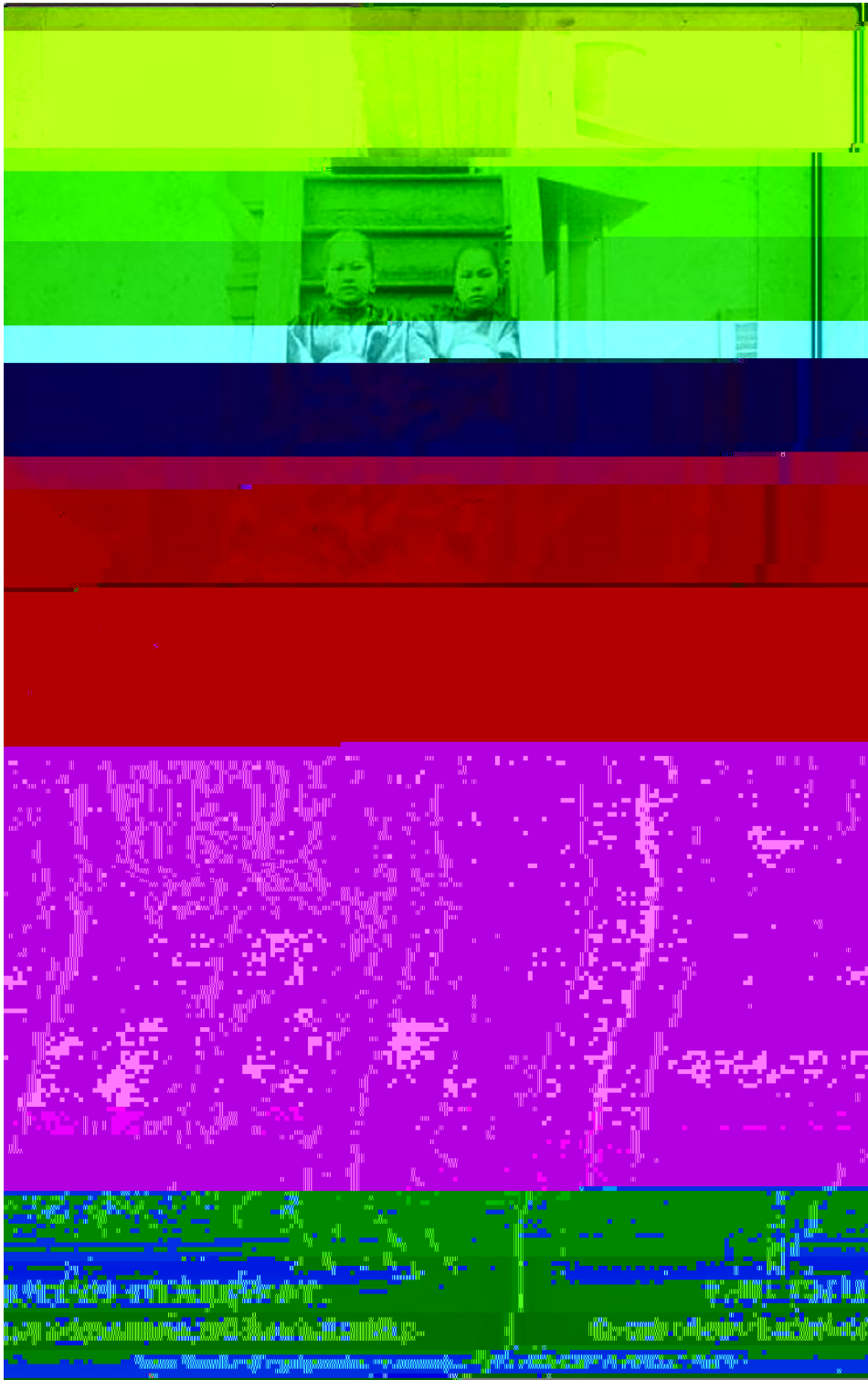
**FIGURE 7.** John Endicott Gardner, “Translation of a Bill of Sale Drawn Up in the Guise of a Promissory Note” (October 1, 1899), in United States Industrial Commission, Reports of the Industrial Commission on Immigration: Including Testimony, with Review and Digest, and Special Reports ... (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1901), vol. 15: 771–772.

Courtesy of U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC









**FIGURE 8.** Thomas Houseworth, "The Christian Stairway," featuring "rescued" women at the Chinese Girl's Presbyterian Mission Home at 933 Sacramento Street in San Francisco, ca. 1885. Courtesy of the Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, California





## NOTES

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), Amerasia ( ), Explorations in Economic History ( ), coolie ( ), Keywords for Asian American Studies ( ), Relations of Rescue: The Search for Female Moral Authority in the American West, 1874-1939 ( ), Memoirs of Elisha Oscar Crosby, Reminiscences of California and Guatemala from 1849 to 1864, ( ), The Madams of San Francisco: An Irreverent History of the City by the Golden Gate ( ), Asian American Women and Men: Labor, Laws, and Love, & ( ), Chinese Women of America: A Pictorial History ( ), SDU, Unbound Feet: A Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco ( ), San Francisco's Lost Landmarks ( ), DAC, Labor Immigration under Capitalism: Asian Workers in the United States before World War II ( ), Journal of Social History ( ), Journal of Women in Culture and Society ( ), Xindalu youji jielu ( ), DAC, Journal of Historical Geography ( ), SDU, The Statutes of California, ( ), Unbound Feet, Laws Harsh as Tigers: Chinese Immigrants and the Shaping of Modern Immigration Law ( ), Entry Denied: Exclusion and the Chinese Community in America, 1882-1943 ( ), The Statutes at Large and Proclamations of the United States of America, from December 1869 to March 1871... ( ), Driven Out: The Forgotten War against Chinese Americans ( ), At America's Gates: Chinese Immigration during the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943 ( ), Driven Out, SDU, Entry Denied: Controlling Sexuality at the Border ( ), Law & Society Review ( ), SDU, The Statutes of California Passed at the Twenty-Third Session of the Legislature, 1880 ( ), Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans ( ), DAC, DAC, Reminiscences of California Life, Being an Abridged Description of Scenes... ( ), San Francisco Call, The Codes and Statutes of California: As Amended and in Force at the Close of the Thirty-Fourth Session of the Legislature, 1901... ( )



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Daughters: The Women Who Fought Slavery in San Francisco's Chinatown ( ),  
The Statutes of California and Amendments to the Codes Passed at the  
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of Chinese American Women and Their Lives ( ),  
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