



# Asiatic “Invasion” and Exclusion

I. Reconstructing Whiteness

II. The Irish Question

III. Orientalism and Imperialism

IV. New York City Draft Riots

V. Naturalizing Exclusion

# Racial Boundaries Disrupted by Radical Reconstruction and Industrial Capitalism

Whiteness

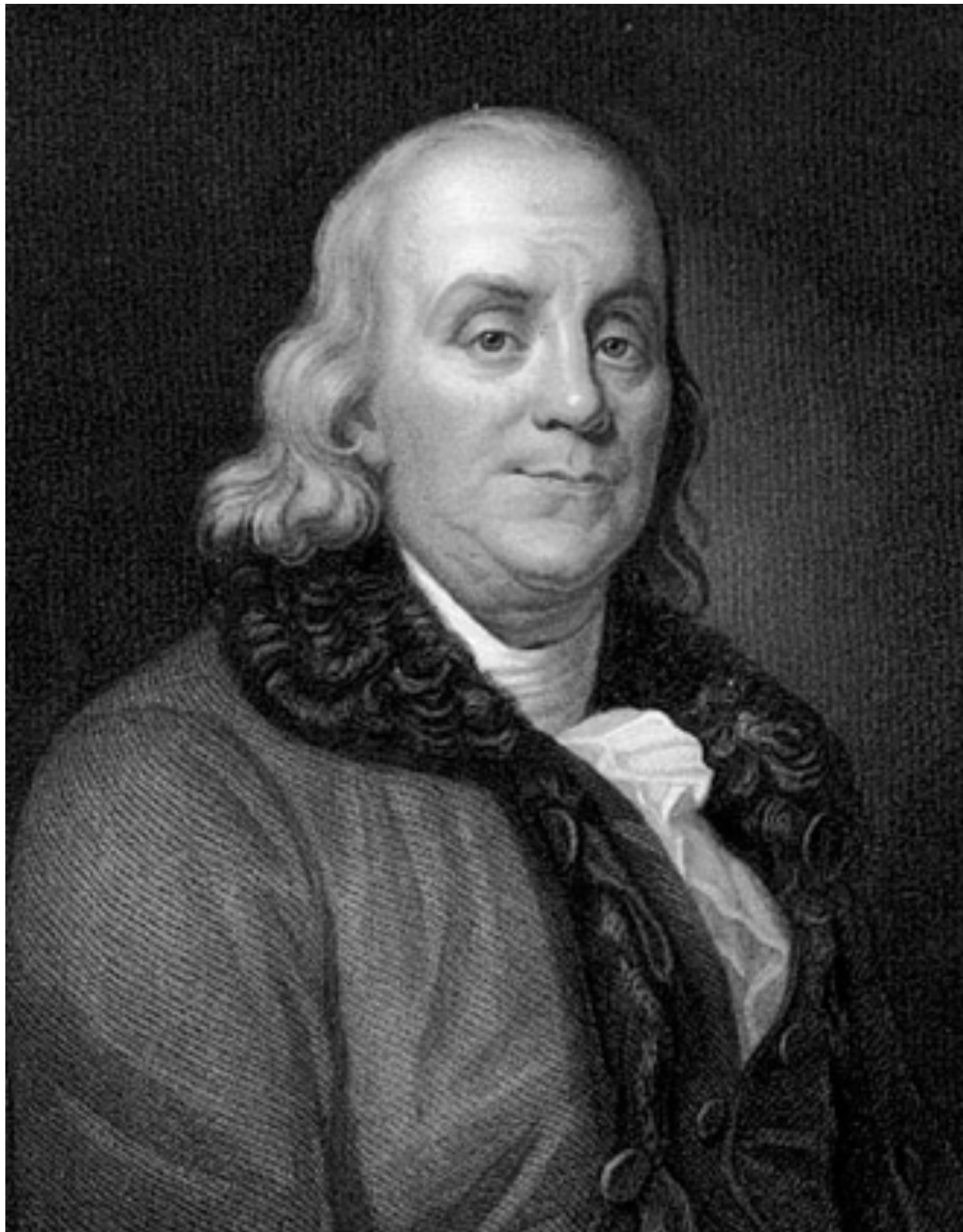
Blackness

Free Labor

Enslaved/Unfree Labor

Fit for Self-  
Government

Unfit for Self-  
Government

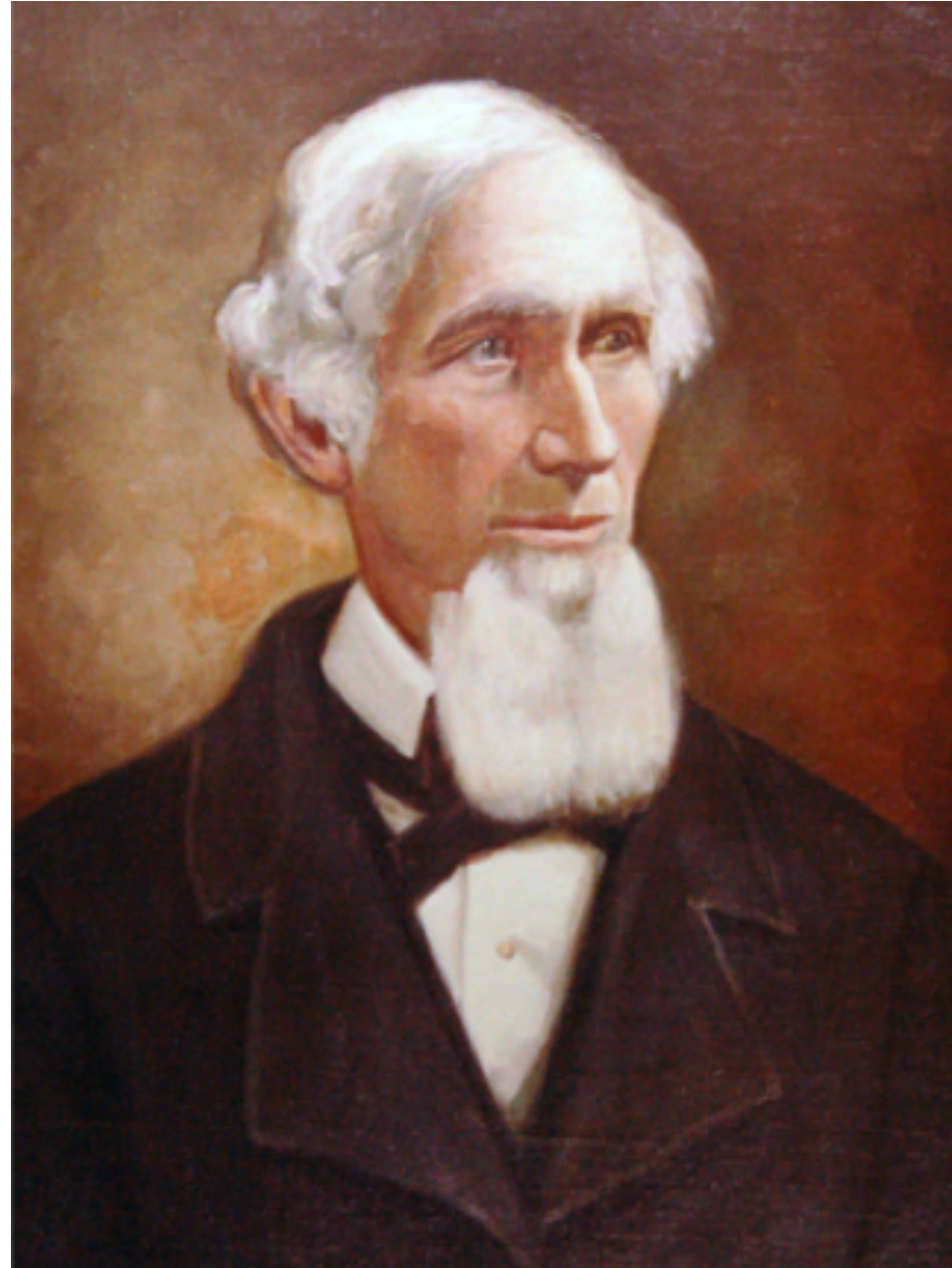


Benjamin Franklin

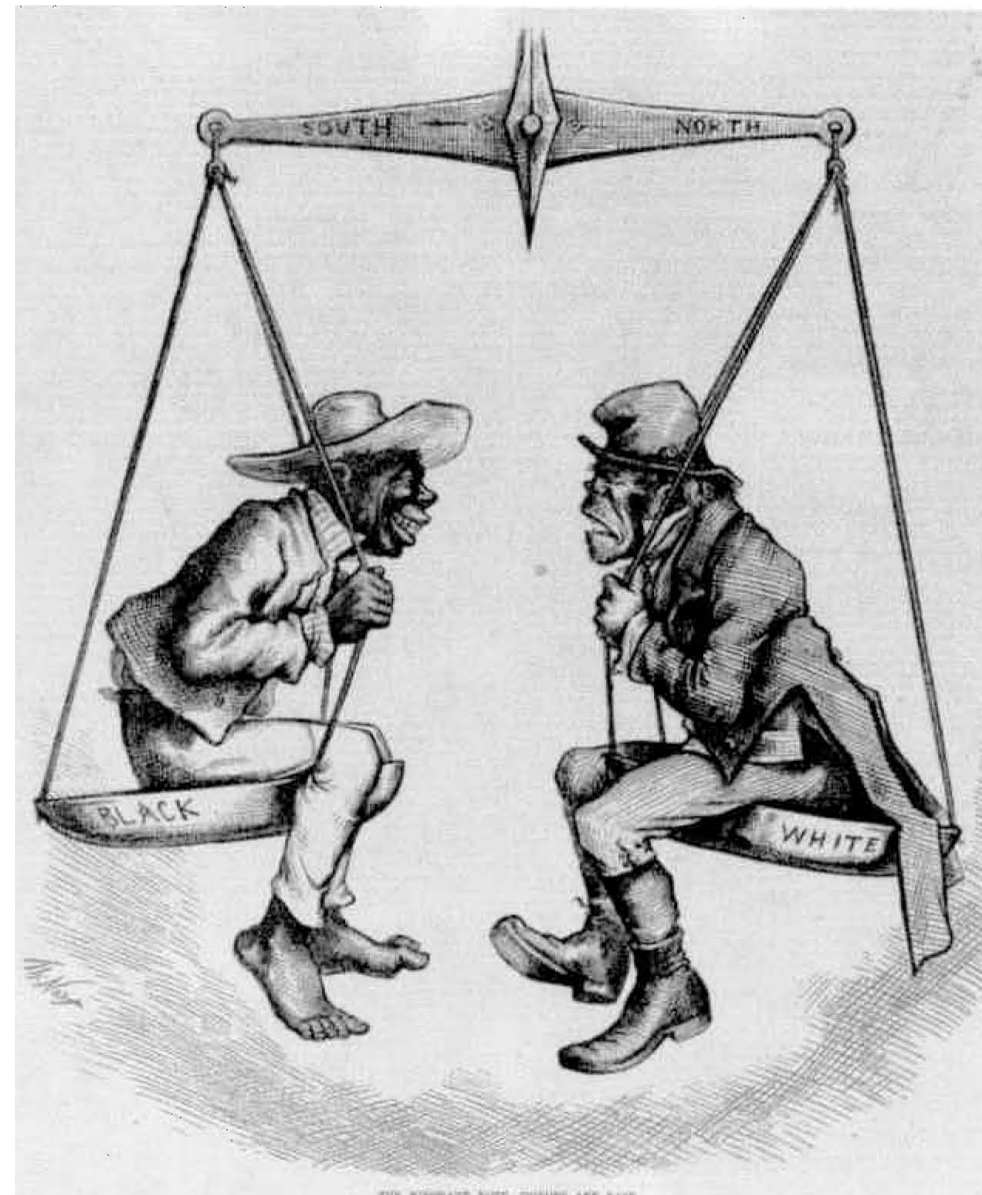
# Foreign-Born Population in the United States

- 1830: 500,000
- 1860: more than 4 million
- 1846-1855: almost 3 million persons entered the United States, half from Ireland.

**Irishism**



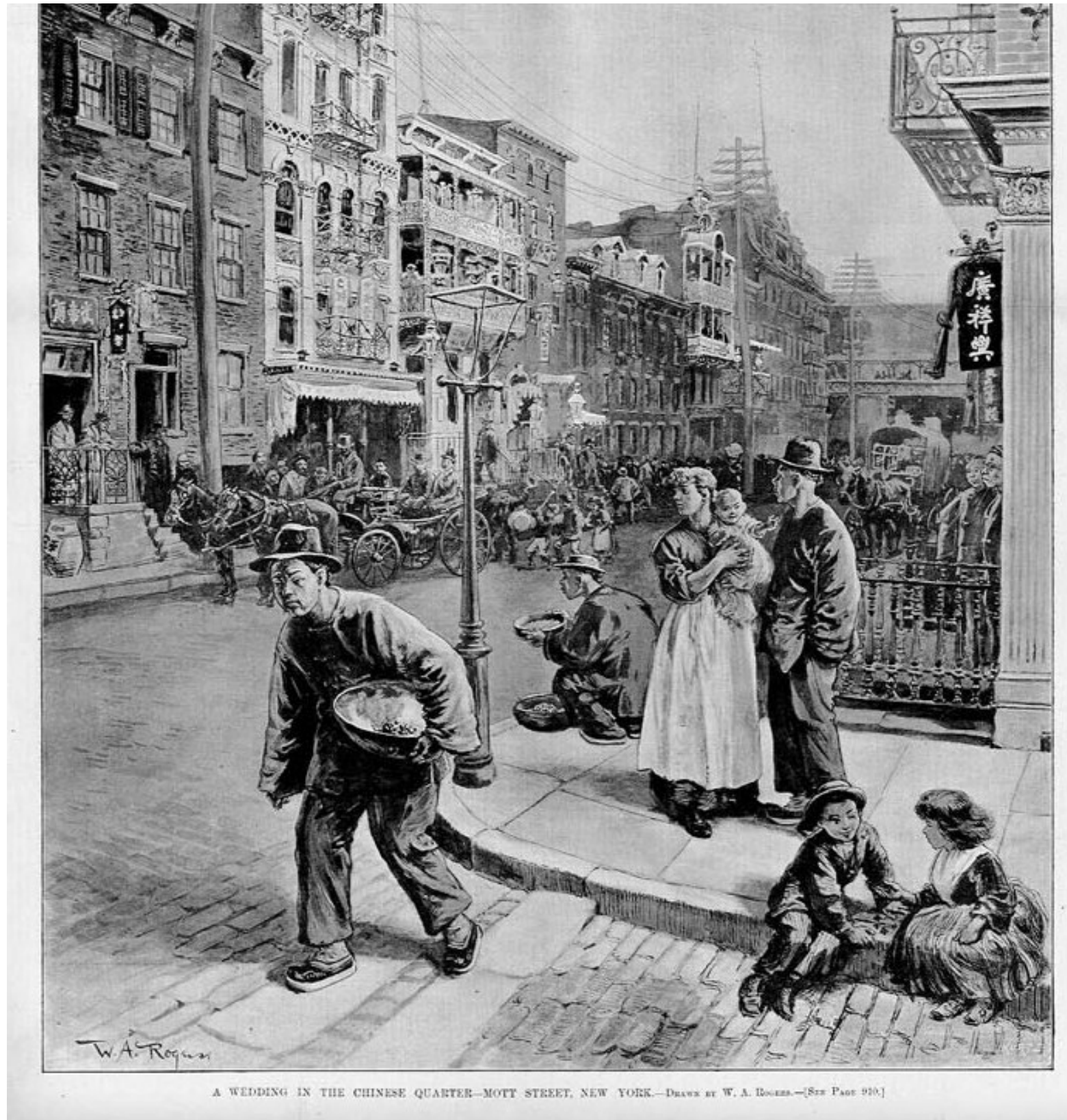
Josiah C. Nott



“The Ignorant Vote - Honors Are Easy.”

*Harper's Weekly* (1876)





A WEDDING IN THE CHINESE QUARTER—MOTT STREET, NEW YORK.—DRAWN BY W. A. ROGERS.—[SEE PAGE 910.]

“A Wedding in the Chinese Quarter” (1890)

# Orientalism

Western images and imaginations of Asian peoples and Asian goods to inspire and justify the subjugation of Asia and Asians.



# Opium War (1839-1842)

## “Extraterritoriality”

America  
(Self)

China  
(Other)

Democracy

Despotism

Free Trade

Anti-Trade

Progress

Stagnation





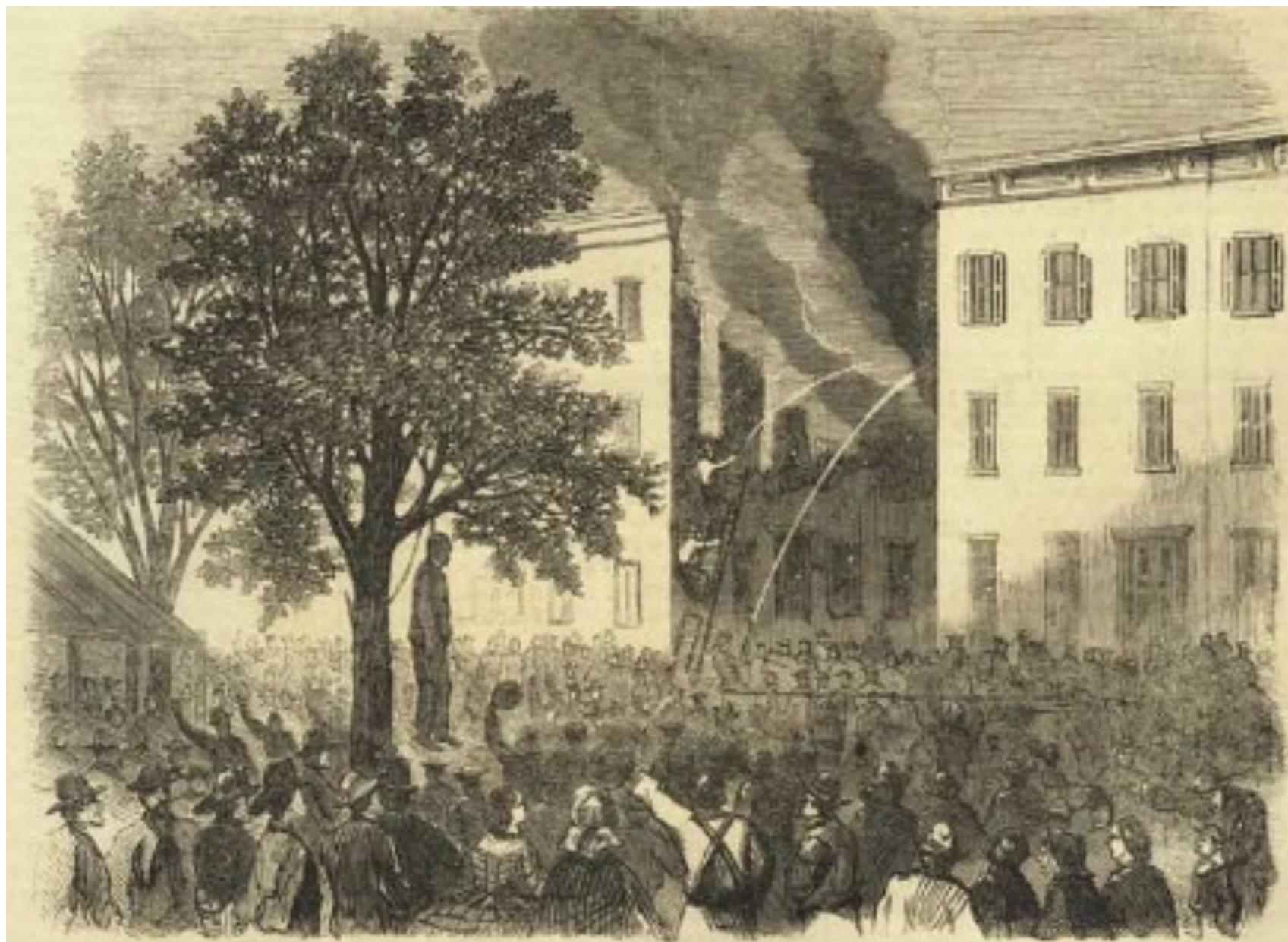
“coolies”





New York City Draft Riots (1863)





New York City Draft Riots (1863)

Were the Irish white and fit for  
republican citizenship?

Debate over naturalization rights in 1870.





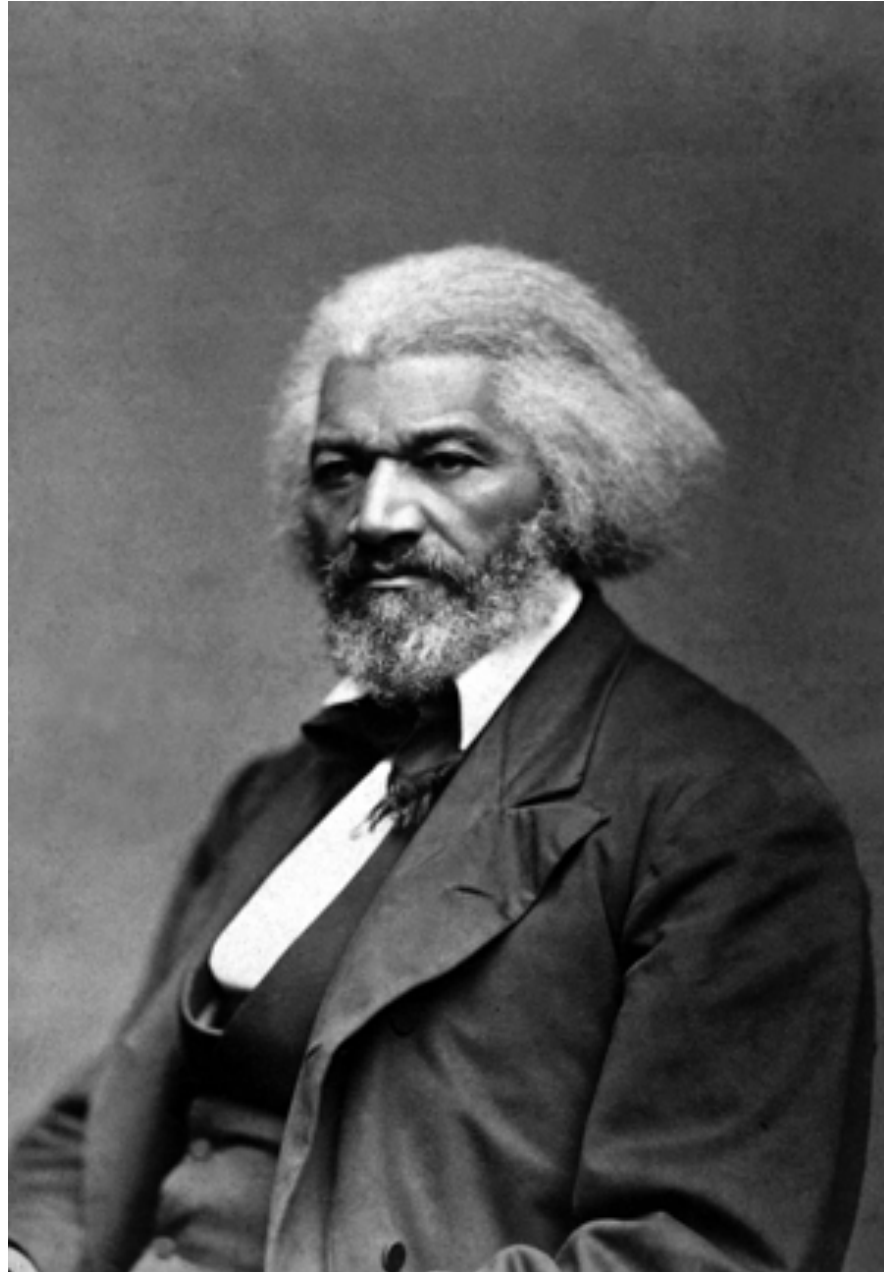
Charles Sumner

Proposed removing *white* from naturalization law.

# Racial Charges Against the Chinese

“Coolies”

Prostitutes



Frederick Douglass

# Race and Naturalization

“free white persons” (1790)

“aliens of African nativity and persons of  
African descent” (1870)

# 1870 Naturalization Debates

- The Chinese deemed racially unfit for republican citizenship.
- Black inclusion rested on inequality.
- European immigrants, including the Irish, became white (racially invisible).

## Page Law (1875)

First federal law restricting immigration targeted:

- Chinese, Japanese, or “Mongolian” contract laborers (“coolies”).
- Women for the purpose of prostitution.
- Felons.

## Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)

Chinese laborers prohibited from immigration.

White

Free “Immigrants”

Fit for Self-

Government,  
Immigration,  
Naturalization

Chinese

“Coolies” (Slavish and  
Enslaved) Labor

Unfit for Self-

Government,  
Immigration,  
Naturalization