

A serene landscape with misty mountains and a calm lake. The scene is bathed in a soft, teal light, creating a dreamy atmosphere. The mountains are layered, with the closest ones showing more detail and the further ones fading into the mist. The lake in the foreground is still, reflecting the surrounding landscape and the light. The overall mood is peaceful and ethereal.

Chinese Diaspora

China and the Diaspora, Selected Nations



(Source: Data, Academy for Cultural Diplomacy and Wikipedia; map, FreeUSandWorldMaps.com)

Chinese diaspora in SEA

- Began with Chinese trade in neighboring countries, 16th century
- Mass immigration of Chinese until the 1950s, intermarriage among ethnic Chinese and natives
- Rise of Chinese patriotism and Southeast Asian nationalism
- Anti-Sinitic sentiments from Southeast Asians

Chinese Overseas Migration Before 1800

- No urge to go overseas
- Confucian Values
- Traditional enemies were land-based
- Three Groups
 - Merchants, Official Emissaries, Adventurers

The Chinese Identity



Chinese Migrants: Degrees of Loyalty and Layers of Identity



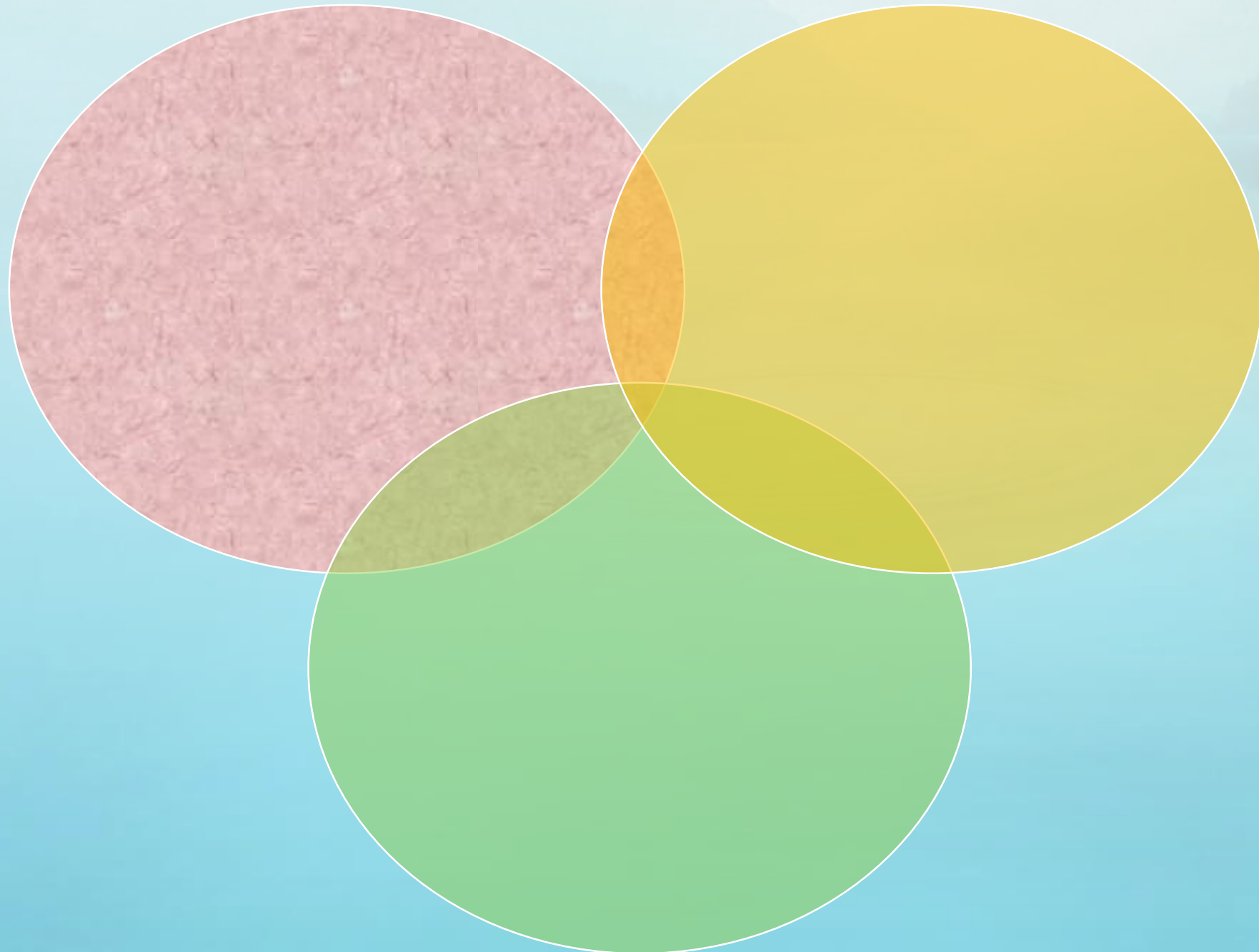
Patterns of Chinese diaspora

- Four patterns (Wang 1991):
 - Huashang (华商) or Chinese trader: primarily through economic activity; basic
 - Huagong (华工) or Chinese coolie: through unskilled labor
 - Huaqiao (华侨) or Chinese sojourner: professionals and educated
 - Huayi (华裔) or Chinese descent: children of ethnic Chinese and natives

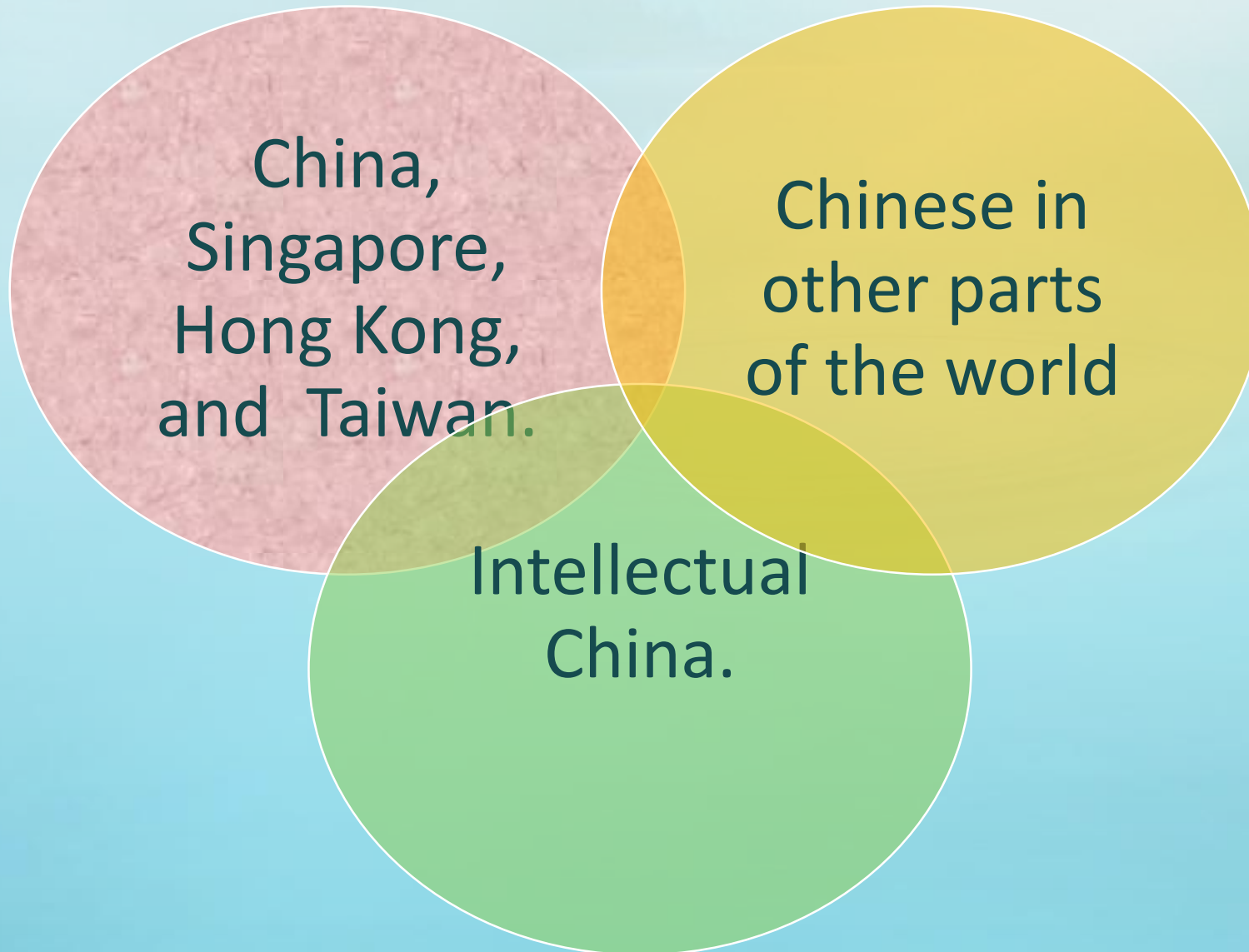
华侨 (Hua Qiao)?

- 1997, return of Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China (PRC)
- The Chinese in Hong Kong wanted to retain 华侨 (hua qiao).
- P.R.C. refers to them as 同胞 (tong bao) or compatriot.

Three Symbolic Universes (Tu 1994):



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'Cultural China' -Tu Wei Ming

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- 'Cultural China' tries to accommodate three 'Symbolic Universes'.

First Symbolic Universe

- Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Macao: societies primarily organised by ethnic Chinese.

- There is tension and conflict among them, and they are very different linguistically, politically and organisationally.
- Stages of economic development are all very different.
- Yet they are part of this Chinese cultural universe.

Discuss! ???!



- The term “Chinese overseas” is generally used to refer to the approximately 46 million ethnic Chinese living outside China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau (Liu, 2017; Song, 2019)
- While short episodes of Chinese migration can be traced back through history, the phenomenon generally referred to as “Chinese Diaspora” only dates back to the mid-19th century (Liu & Van Dongen, 2013).



'Cultural China'

- **Second Symbolic Universe**

- Chinese in the global community outside China
- Unlike first symbolic universe which consists of majority Chinese (China – 90%; Singapore (76%), the second symbolic universe consists of minority Chinese (Malaysia – 23%; Indonesia – 3%; Phillipines – 3%; US – less than 1%)
- Total of about 46 million people (including Taiwan about 50 million – population of either England or France).



'Cultural China'

• Third Symbolic Universe:

- Highly controversial in Hong Kong but not necessarily in Taiwan or in Mainland China
- Increasing number of Sinophiles in broadest sense – not connected with China either by birth or marriage
- Not necessarily Sinologists – come from a range of professional and cultural backgrounds: shape the international understanding of what China is about
- Culture in this context not given, but an attainment
 - E.g. the best interpreter of American democracy – Frenchman; the best interpreter of American race relations – Swedish; the best understanding of classical Chinese – Swedish; the best study of Chinese science and civilization – British

Defining “Chinese Diaspora” ?? Diasporic Perspectives

- A distinct entity called the “Chinese diaspora” is contentious.
 - Chinese migrants and their descendants have unique histories and identities in the societies where they live, as well as their own dialects, regions, classes, types of migration, and nationality in their places of origin.
- Subsuming these variations under ‘Chinese diaspora’ produces analytic and political difficulties.
 - E.g. Development of the Chinese term *huaqiao* (generally translated as “overseas Chinese”) in the early twentieth century
 - Implied that overseas migrants did, or should, remain politically and culturally loyal to the Chinese nation-state, and asserted the right of the Chinese government to make financial and political claims on those migrants.
 - Encouraged suspicions among non-Chinese concerning the loyalty of overseas Chinese and whether they were able to assimilate.

Beijing's welcome mat for overseas Chinese



- Beijing's latest policy announcement
 - Allows foreign citizens with Chinese heritage to apply for a special multiple-entry visa granting a residency period of up to five years (extension of previous one-year visa with residency of three years).
 - Consistent with Xi Jinping's speech delivered at the 19th Chinese Communist Party (CCP) National Congress in October 2017:
 - “We will maintain extensive contacts with overseas Chinese nationals, returned Chinese and their relatives and unite them so that they can join our endeavours to revitalise the Chinese nation.”

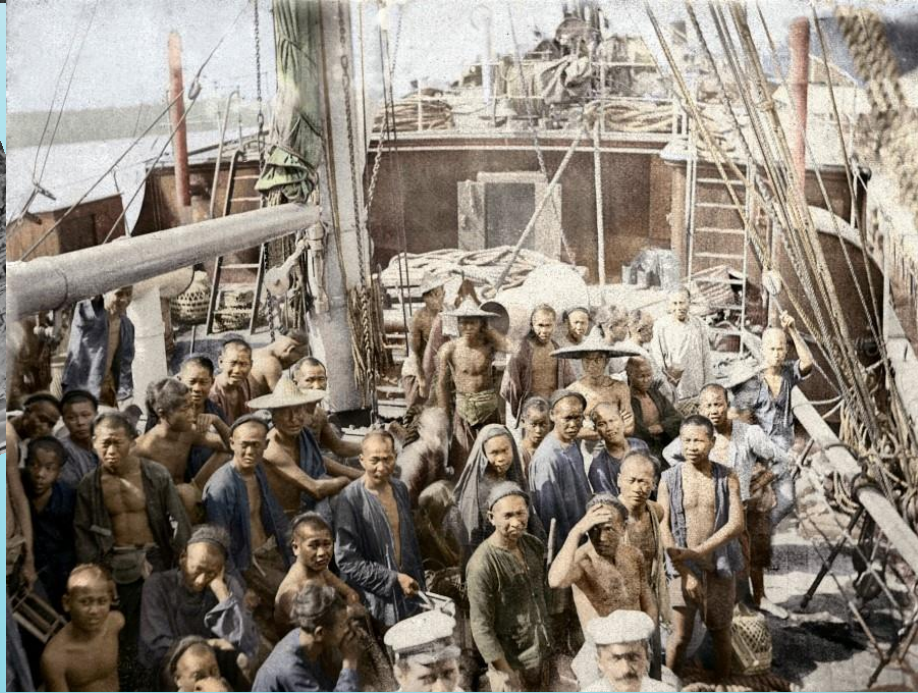
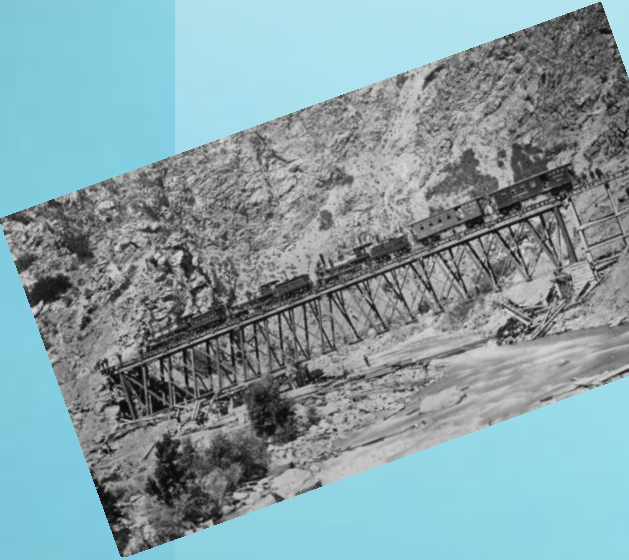
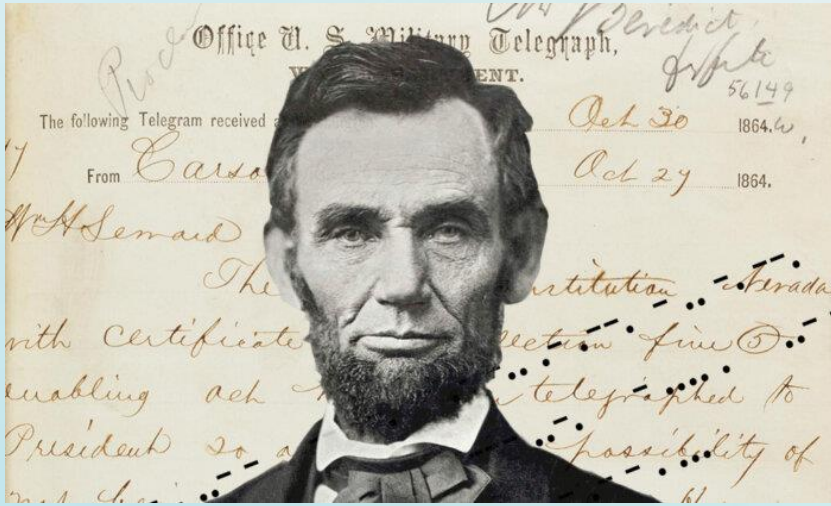
Diaspora as a political concept for group solidarity and political power

- “...at different times in their history, societies may wax and wane in diasporism, depending on changing possibilities—obstacles, openings, antagonisms, and connections—in their host countries and transnationally” (James Clifford 1994:306)



What events in the 1800's opened up
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What events in 1800's opened up Chinese to overseas migration?

1. War, famine, social unrest in southern China
2. End of slavery
3. 1842 Treaty of Nanking opened Hong Kong as a gateway
4. 1848-1852 California Gold Rush (24,000 by 1852)
5. 1862-1869 U.S. Transcontinental Railroad (12,000 by 1867)

1. Weak Chinese government
2. Japan resisted western trade
3. Dutch and Spaniards at war
4. Chinese government realized it could learn from West
5. Expansion in world trade

Early Destinations

- “Nan Yang” or “Southern Ocean”
- Main receiving countries
 - Malaysia Singapore Indonesia Thailand
- Other countries
 - Philippines Cambodia
 - Latin America
 - Peru 1849-1874
 - Cuba 1847
 - United States
 - California Gold Rush, 1848-1852 Transcontinental Railroad, 1862-1869

Early Destinations

