

Chapter 9 Summary
Political Change and Ethnic Identity

1. Introduction

A. The Luce-cellar bill, officially titled the India Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1946, passed

1. Making the Punjabi old-timers eligible for US citizenship
 - A. Providing they passed the literacy test in English
 - B. And they passed an oral examination in American history
 - C. Travel outside the US and legally reenter
2. Activating a small quota for new immigrants from India

B. In 1947, India and Pakistan became independent

1. India became a secular state
2. Pakistan became an Islamic theocracy

2. New Identities and Institutions

A. The Luce-Cellar bill provided that Indian nationals in the US who had entered legally could become naturalized citizens.

1. Activated the quota set in the 1924 act of 100 immigrants per year for India
2. The Indian National Congress Association of America, was a group formed to lobby
3. Alien land Laws no longer applied to them

A. Men establish title firmly in their own family

1. Weren't always successful in this
2. Lost land to partners

B. Men took their savings and bought land

1. Highest proportion of Punjabi landowners was in the Imperial valley
2. In 1955, Punjabi holdings totaled some 13,000 acres

4. Citizenships

- A. 68 old-timers applied for citizenship after 1946
- B. Only two applications per year between 1947-1953
- C. 41 men applied for citizenship between 1954-1958
- D. 1956 the first US congressman from India

1. Leader in the Indians' fight for citizenship
2. Member of democratic party

5. Old-timers retired or visited to India or Pakistan

1. Preferred not to stay in their original homeland, finding the villages

of

their youth too old-fashioned

2. Some took along tractors, cars, or other equipment to sell

B. Political responses to the South Asian nations took many forms.

1. Long-established Punjabi institutions in California changed and new ones were built

A. Stockton Sikh temple

1. A favorite site for visiting Congress party nationalist movement Leaders

2. Meeting place for Punjabi

3. Political struggles over temple management were fierce in the 1940's

4. Sikh emphasis was one sign of an interest in building religious institutions in California

B. Sikh men established their own temple in the Japanese Buddhist temple in

1947

C. Punjabi Muslims in Sacramento

1. Built their own meeting place

2. Muslim Mosque Association formed in 1944

D. Pakistan National Association

1. In Sacramento in 1950

2. Built after the first ambassador of Pakistan came to the US

E. Other Pakistani association was organized in 1950 in Yuba City among peach growers and their co-workers

- F. Muslims in the Imperial Valley set up a Pakistan House
- B. New immigrants from India and Pakistan began to alter the cultural orientation
 - 1. Some immigrants were sponsored by the pioneers
 - 2. Many Punjabi men had little or no desire to reestablish contact with their relatives in India and Pakistan
 - A. had fathered large families to whose welfare they were devoted
 - B. feared additional demands their resources from needy relatives
 - 3. Wives, brothers, sons, and nephews were brought over
 - 4. Efforts to revitalize the Sikh religion and found a new Indian community
- 3. Second-generation Responses
 - A. Had their own ideas about ethnicity and national identity
 - 1. Formed their own groups
 - A. Hindustani Club 1946
 - B. Young India Club
 - 1. Desire to escape parental control,
 - 2. Along with learning some Punjabi and socializing with others like Themselves
 - 2. Hindu queen
 - A. Important title for Punjabi-Mexican daughters to win
 - B. International Festival of Nations was instituted at the Imperial Valley Midwinter Fair
 - B. Greeted newcomers from South Asia with enthusiasm
 - 1. Established direct contact with relatives
 - 2. Young immigrants provided for spouses
 - 3. Took on the clan surname as middle names
- 4. Reassessments After 1965
 - A. The composition of the rural Punjabi communities changed.
 - 1. 1960- 1970 around 1,586 Asian Indians in California
 - 2. 1980 around 57,901
 - B. There had been prejudice against Hispanic wives and Punjabi-Mexican children
 - 1. Men were supported in leaving their Mexican families
 - 2. The families were seen as “bad Mexican blood” and “half-breeds”
 - C. Property caused problems between families
 - 1. Father’s were unwilling to turn over their land to children
 - A. Wanted sons to postpone marriages
 - B. fearing that marriage would force an immediate division of the property
 - 2. Inheritance by widows was not routine in families.
 - A. Partners and relatives sometimes got the property
 - B. Men deeply distrusted their women
 - 1. Feared their land were be lost to their widows’ new husband
 - 2. Children also feared this
 - 3. Some problems acquired international dimensions
 - A. Claims made from India on estates in the US could succeed
 - B. Most problems involved South Asian relatives
 - 4. Polygyny
 - A. More than wife claim an estate
 - B. First marriage, the one in India was legal marriage
 - D. Religion
 - 1. As the men grew older, they became more religious
 - 2. Wives wanted husbands to follow their religion

