

6. Sociology Graduate Student Rose Hum Lee Lists American Beliefs About the Chinese, 1927

- The favorite delicacies of the Chinese are rats and snakes.
- The Chinese say yes for no and vice versa. . . .
- They eat soup with chopsticks.
- Chop suey and chow mein are their national dishes and that besides these dishes they eat nothing but rice.
- Chinese men wear skirts and women pants.
- A Chinaman never gets drunk.
- A Chinese is properly a Chinaman and that the word "Chinee" is singular for "Chinese."
- The Chinese are a nation of laundrymen yet have a highly developed civilization. . . .
- All Chinese are cunning and crafty.
- All Chinese are honest and absolutely trustworthy.
- The Chinese never lose their tempers.
- The United States is the friend and protector of China.
- All Chinese look alike.
- The Chinese have no nerves and can sleep anywhere. . . .
- They have no souls because they are not Christians.
- They never say what they mean and abhor straight lines.
- The Chinese invented pretty nearly everything that was ever invented.
- The Chinese all hate water and never bathe.
- They are a mysterious and inscrutable race and that they do everything backwards.

From Rose Hum Lee, "Social Attitudes Toward Chinese in the United States, Expressed in Periodical Literature from 1919 to 1944," in *Scratches on Our Minds: American Images of China and India* by Harold Isaacs, pp. 117-118. Copyright © 1958, 1980 by Harold Isaacs. Reprinted by permission.