



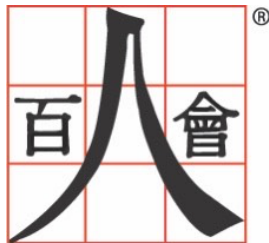
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Committee of 100: Despite Significant Contributions in the U.S. Chinese Americans Still Face Challenges and Stereotypes

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Committee of 100

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By Shang Ying, Los Angeles

Committee of 100 (C100) has released a research report: *From Foundations to Frontiers: Chinese American Contributions to the Fabric of America*. The 142-page report examines the historical Chinese American contributions to the US society, and their influence in the American society today; it also reveals the persisting stereotypes and challenges still facing Chinese Americans today, which have become persistent barriers to Chinese American's full participation and inclusion in the American society. The research is a landmark in the study of Chinese Americans.

Partially sponsored by CitiBank, the report has been commissioned by the C100 and produced by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). The themes of the report range from arts and culture, civil rights, civil service and politics, entrepreneurship and business leadership, to infrastructure, the military and national defense, public health, and science and technology.

The report focuses on the Chinese American community's achievements in shaping the American economic and social fabric, and its long-lasting relationship with the US society. It points out that over almost two centuries, Chinese Americans have been bold and strategic in making the American society more just and equal. Their cases contributed to the establishment of many landmark legal precedents that significantly shaped American democracy. The history of Chinese American's activism and civil participation has led to their increasing participation in public administration and national defense. Over the past 175 years, Chinese Americans have made creative contributions to various industries of the American society, including food, fashion, film, and so on. Their effort has redefined America.

The latest research report has also detailed how Chinese Americans achieved remarkable success as business owners, scientists, doctors, and engineers. Their economic contributions are a key to America's success. In 2019 alone, Chinese Americans contributed over US\$300 billions to US GDP through consumer spending, supporting 3 million jobs.

According to the report, approximately 5.3m people in the US are of Chinese descent, and 75% are American citizens.

There are over 160,000 Chinese American-owned businesses in the US, generating approximately US\$240 billion in revenue and supporting 1.3 million jobs. Only 14 Entrepreneurship and Business Leadership companies that featured in the Fortune 500 ranking in the past decade have had a Chinese American in their C-suite positions; however, during the tenures of these Chinese American executives, ten of the 14 companies experienced record levels of market capitalization.

In 2018, Chinese Americans accounted for roughly 3% of professional occupations but held only 1.5% of mid-level management roles and 1.2% of executive positions. Among the workforce of the 721 companies that have featured in the Fortune 500 ranking in the past decade, only 25 Chinese Americans were named to board positions, representing just 0.3% of the total.

One in 40 Chinese Americans aged 17 years old or over has previously served in the military, or is currently on active duty either in the military or training to serve in the Reserves and National Guard.

By 2016, there were 45,000 Chinese restaurants in operation in the US, greater than the combined number of McDonald's, KFC, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and Wendy's branches, leading one commentator to observe that there is "nothing so all-American as Chinese food."

However, roughly one in ten households earns less than US\$15,000 per year and 35% have incomes below the national median.

The report also reveals the persistent barriers that have restricted Chinese Americans' participation in and inclusion in the American society, including systemic discrimination such as being stereotyped as permanent foreigners, being perceived as the so-called model minority, and the hitting the unbreakable "bamboo ceiling" that impeded their career development. The report also calls attention to the anti-Chinese sentiment linked to US-China geopolitical tensions and the COVID-19 pandemic, which are threatening the safety and well-being of the Chinese American community.