

Sirdar Jagjit Singh and the Dawn of Indian Immigration to the US

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Thesis Statement

Early immigrants to America from India, mostly laborers, in the early 20th century faced a fearful and hostile public and restrictive government policies that denied them citizenship and legal protections against exploitation and discrimination. A rich, Indian businessman of the Sikh faith based in New York became the unlikely champion for the rights of these early Indian immigrants and is credited with the passage of the Luce-Celler Act of 1946 which granted citizenship to all Indians living in the US at that time and established an annual quota for further immigration from India. He took a stand that the treatment of Indians living in the United States at the time was inconsistent with American values, principles and interests. The Luce-Celler Act also paved the way for the much broader 1965 Immigration Reform Act.

The United States of America is a land of immigrants and a melting pot of cultures from around the world. America's strength lies in its diversity but the path for inclusion has not always been an easy one for many immigrant communities. After securing her independence from Great Britain in 1776¹, America passed the 1790 Naturalization Act² which decreed naturalization to be limited to free white persons only. Since belief in the core American values of liberty, equality, and republicanism³ are more important to be an American than one's race, more inclusive immigration laws were passed over the next 150 years including passage of the Luce Celler Act of 1946⁴ and the landmark Immigration Reform Act of 1965⁵ (Appendix A). The

¹ "US History Timeline: War of Independence." US History Timeline: War of Independence. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Feb. 2017.

² "U.S. Immigration Legislation: 1790 Naturalization Act." U.S. Immigration Legislation: 1790 Naturalization Act. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Feb. 2017.

³ "Index of /resources/docs/lesson1." Index of /resources/docs/lesson1. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Feb. 2017.

⁴ "Today In History: Luce-Celler Act Signed in 1946." South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA). N.p., 01 Aug. 2014. Web. 13 Feb. 2017.

spirit of American immigration has been beautifully expressed by Emma Lazarus' 1883 poem, The New Colossus⁶, which reads, in part:

"With silent lips. 'Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

The Naturalization Act of 1870⁷ expanded citizenship to both whites and African-Americans, though Asians were still excluded. The 15th Amendment to the US Constitution⁸ passed that same year, granted voting rights to citizens, regardless of "race, color, or previous condition of servitude". However, in 1882, in response to the flood of Asian immigrants due to the California Gold Rush⁹, the US enacted the Chinese Exclusion Act¹⁰ which restricted all Chinese immigration for a period of 10 years. Early immigrants from India faced similar resistance and discrimination based on race. While the first Indian immigrant arrived in Boston as early as 1670¹¹, a large influx of Indian immigrants, most of whom were laborers from the northern Indian state of Punjab, arrived around the turn of the 20th century. Between 1903 and

⁵ "Three Decades of Mass Immigration: The Legacy of the 1965 Immigration Act." Center for Immigration Studies. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Feb. 2017.

⁶ "The New Colossus by Emma Lazarus | Poetry Foundation." Poetry Foundation. Poetry Foundation, n.d. Web. 13 Feb. 2017.

⁷ "Citizenship and Race - NATURALIZATION ACT OF 1870, WHITENESS AND RACIAL PREREQUISITE CASES, SECOND-CLASS." Rights, United, Blacks, and Whites - Rank Articles. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Feb. 2017.

⁸ "Primary Documents in American History." 15th Amendment to the Constitution: Primary Documents of American History (Virtual Programs & Services, Library of Congress). N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Feb. 2017.

⁹ History.com Staff. "The Gold Rush of 1849." History.com. A&E Television Networks, 2010. Web. 13 Feb. 2017.

¹⁰ "Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)." Our Documents - Chinese Exclusion Act (1882). N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Feb. 2017.

¹¹ "PUNJABI MIGRATION TO UNITED STATES." PUNJABI MIGRATION TO UNITED STATES. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Feb. 2017.

1908, approximately 6,000 Punjabis entered Canada and 3,000 then proceeded to migrate into the US (Appendix D).¹²

Most of the early Indian immigrants were of the Sikh¹³ religious faith from the farming communities of the Punjab (Appendix B)¹⁴. Sikhs are followers of Sikhism, the fifth largest religion in the world, founded in the 15th century in the Punjab region of northern India. High taxes imposed by India's imperial rulers, lack of basic rights, and active persecution under British rule in India forced them to seek a better life in the United States. Having gallantly served British and American interests as part of the British Indian Army, many of these early Sikh immigrants were stationed with Westerners in different parts of the world, making them familiar with Western practices and protocols. The early immigrants initially worked in the lumberyards and on railroads.¹⁵ Their hard work and low wages were greatly resented by the locals of European heritage resulting in widespread violence against them. Their darker skin, colorful turbans, flowing beards, and different clothing made the locals very uneasy and untrusting of them (Appendix E).¹⁶ During the Bellingham riots of 1907¹⁷, a mob of over 600 local Europeans raided the homes of the local Sikhs and literally chased them out of town. Due to the rising number of such events, the Indian immigrants chose to either work on the railroads in Utah and California

¹² Ibid.

¹³ A Sikh is a follower of the religion Sikhism. Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world and is followed by over 27 million people. Sikhs come mainly from northern India (Punjab) and have plenty of experience in the agriculture sectors.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Jasbir Singh Kang. "Becoming American Museum Exhibit." Punjabi Migration to United States - Becoming American Museum. N.p., n.d. Web. 19 Nov. 2016.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ The 1907 Bellingham Riot and Anti-Asian Hostilities in the Pacific Northwest (n.d.): n. page. Global Sikh Studies. 16 Mar. 2013. Web. 19 Nov. 2016.

(Appendix F)¹⁸ or move into the agriculture sector of Southern California. The immigrants had little to no recourse for any exploitation they suffered at the hands of their employers or in the communities in which they lived.

As farmers, the Sikh immigrants started to prosper and established the first Gurdwara (place of worship for the Sikhs) in Stockton, CA in 1912¹⁹ as a gathering place to support the growing community. However, the California Alien Land Law of 1913²⁰ which prohibited all aliens, or persons of non-American citizenship, to purchase land, quickly thwarted this progress. Furthermore, the Immigration Act of 1917²¹, which singled out certain countries and ethnicities as barred from immigration to the United States, increased their distress with travel restrictions preventing them from coming back to America if they were to leave, thus tearing families apart. While new immigration was banned, Indians in the US at the time wanted to naturalize. One of the first people to apply in 1923 was Bhagat Singh Thind who had been a soldier in the British Indian army and had also served the US government during World War I. Thind was startled when his application was denied by a lower court and eventually, unanimously, by the Supreme Court. The Bhagat Singh Thind v. United States²² case ruled it unconstitutional for anyone other than a free white person to become naturalized.

¹⁸ La Brack, Bruce. "A Century of Sikhs in California by Bruce La Brack." The Sikh Foundation International. N.p., n.d. Web. 20 Nov. 2016.

¹⁹ "Sikh Gurdwara Sahib Stockton." Sikh Gurdwara Sahib Stockton - Sahidic, Free Sikh Encyclopedia. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Feb. 2017.

²⁰ "California Law Review." California Law Review | California Law Review | Berkeley Law. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Feb. 2017.

²¹ "U.S. Immigration Legislation: 1917 Immigration Act." U.S. Immigration Legislation: 1917 Immigration Act. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Feb. 2017.

²² PBS. PBS, n.d. Web. 13 Feb. 2017.

Sirdar Jagjit (JJ) Singh, a six-foot-tall Sikh from Rawalpindi (Appendix B), a village in the northern Indian state of Punjab became an unlikely champion for Indian immigrant rights. JJ Singh joined Mahatma Gandhi's non-cooperation movement in India at the tender age of 21²³ and eight years later, in 1926, he arrived in New York after successfully serving in the Indian British army during World War I²⁴. Selling the "finest clothes in all of India", JJ Singh soon became a very successful businessman in New York.²⁵ In the 1930s, to reduce import taxes, Singh established the India Chamber of Congress of America²⁶ as a lobbying group. Though unsuccessful, this experience of lobbying the US government won him a lot of supporters who would help him in his future endeavors. He was a brilliant salesman with a forceful personality which had made him incredibly wealthy and very active in New York City's social circles.²⁷

After experiencing the oppressive actions of the British Empire towards Indians, Singh attempted to get US officials' support for India's independence.²⁸ Recognizing that he would need broad support to achieve this goal, he took over the leadership of the India League of America (ILA) in 1938.²⁹ The ILA was a privately operated and supported non-profit seeking to gain US support for Indian interests. When Singh joined the League, the organization was not well known and had been largely ineffective. As President, Singh first restructured the organization, then used his personal wealth and social connections to raise the profile of the

²³ Shaffer, Robert. "J. J. Singh and the India League of America, 1945-1959: Pressing at the Margins of the Cold War Consensus." Cite Web - World Web Citation Database. N.p., n.d. Web. 14 Feb. 2017.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica. "Indian National Congress." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., n.d. Web. 14 Feb. 2017

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Shaffer, Robert. "J. J. Singh and the India League of America, 1945-1959: Pressing at the Margins of the Cold War Consensus." Cite Web - World Web Citation Database. N.p., n.d. Web. 14 Feb. 2017.

²⁹ Ibid.

organization, and started to educate the American public about Indian independence. While not facing active resistance on this issue from lawmakers, Singh experienced apathy and inertia.³⁰ Recognizing that a different approach was needed, he shifted his focus to the plight and rights of Indians currently living in the United States. Singh's calculus was to draw parallels between American racism towards the condition of Indians in America and the treatment of Indians by the British in colonial India. JJ Singh took a stand to extend basic American rights such as equality and justice for Indian immigrants living in the United States.³¹

JJ Singh's fight for rights of Indian immigrants was based on four core principles. Firstly, Indians had fought gallantly alongside, and for, the British and Americans during World War I and continued to support their interests in Burma, Italy and North Africa.³² The American government therefore had a moral obligation to these brave soldiers in granting them American citizenship. Secondly, granting Indian nationals US citizenship rights would counteract Japanese propaganda that Indians were being used by the Americans and not viewed by them as equals or being worthy of US citizenship. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, treatment of Indians in America was wildly inconsistent with American values and ideals of freedom, equality, and community. These founding and guiding principles had brought the disparate colonies together

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Pais, Arthur J. "They Also Fought for Freedom." *They Also Fought for Freedom*. N.p., 14 Aug. 2004. Web. 19 Nov. 2016.

³² Assisi, Francis C., Ragini Tharoor Srinivasan, Aniruddh Chawda, Rajesh C. Oza, Meera Prahlad, Somanjana Chatterjee, Chandra Ganguly, Staff Writer, Shanta Nimbark Sacharoff, Tamanna Raisinghani, and Kalpana Sunder. "How Desis Breached the Great White Wall." *India Currents*. N.p., 04 Nov. 2006. Web. 19 Nov. 2016.

and defined what it meant to be an American.³³ Finally, he would draw parallels with the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act which removed immigration restrictions based on national origin.

As President of the ILA, JJ Singh added more Americans to leadership roles within the organization. It was important for JJ Singh that Americans had a strong voice in the priorities, direction and tactics of the organization.³⁴ In building support, Singh used his connections in government and with the elites of New York to inform and educate them of the immigrants' suffering. As he darkened the halls of Congress, he found an openness to listen and willingness to assist from Congressman Celler, Congresswoman Luce and Senator Langer.³⁵ While Singh wanted to have a very broad immigration bill, Congresswomen Luce coached him that the only way they would achieve any results would be to "start small, then go big".³⁶ In addition to gathering support from members of Congress, JJ Singh sought the support of intellectuals and influentials. He travelled to forty-two of the forty-eight states seeking and securing such support. Professor Albert Einstein wrote in support that the act would be "an advantage for the US and in general for the stabilization of peace and prosperity in the international sphere."³⁷ In fact, many articles were published in leading newspapers by natural-born Americans supporting the cause.

³³ "Index of /resources/docs/lesson1." Index of /resources/docs/lesson1. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Feb. 2017.

³⁴ Shaffer, Robert. "J. J. Singh and the India League of America, 1945-1959: Pressing at the Margins of the Cold War Consensus." CiteWeb - WorldWeb Citation Database. N.p., n.d. Web. 14 Feb. 2017.

³⁵ Essay." N.p., n.d. Web. <<https://www.saada.org/sites/all/themes/saada/bookreader.php?title=TWVtb3JhbmR1bSBvbiBQcm9wb3NlZCBMZWdpc2xhdGlvbiA=&folder=MjAxMy0wMQ==&object=aXRlbS1iYWdhaS1hYmct&pages=NDM=#page/6/mode/1up>>.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Essay." N.p., n.d. Web. <<https://www.saada.org/sites/all/themes/saada/bookreader.php?title=TWVtb3JhbmR1bSBvbiBQcm9wb3NlZCBMZWdpc2xhdGlvbiA=&folder=MjAxMy0wMQ==&object=aXRlbS1iYWdhaS1hYmct&pages=NDM=#page/6/mode/1up>>.

Singh personally wrote so many articles that some mistook him to be a columnist for the New York Times.³⁸

Congressmen Celler, Luce and JJ Singh drafted the Luce-Celler Bill, that allowed all Indians in the US to be naturalized and to establish a quota of 100 Indians to immigrate each year. When this bill was presented in Congress, JJ Singh laid out the four core principles to make the case and read out the list of intellectuals and influentials who had publicly offered support for the bill. With less than 6,000 Indians in the United States at the time, there would have been limited broad congressional support for any such bill solely on humanitarian and moral grounds. Luce and Celler, both legislators from states on the East Coast, also viewed the importance of this bill in its ability to extend American soft power and influence on one of the largest Asian countries whose independence was imminent. This bill would also serve a similar purpose to the repeal of the Chinese exclusion Act counteracting Japanese propaganda.³⁹ One major hesitation which held up the bill in committee, however, was how the British would view this bill and whether it would impact British-American relations. Once the British indicated that they would support this bill as a gesture of goodwill for the significant contributions the Indians have made in serving British and American interests in WWII and elsewhere, the bill quickly moved through committee and was put to a vote. Part of JJ Singh's comments during the passage of this bill included –

³⁸ The Baltimore Sun from Baltimore, Maryland on February 22, 1944 · Page 3." Newspapers.com. The Baltimore Sun, n.d. Web. 14 Feb. 2017.

³⁹"Timeline." Open Collections Program: Immigration to the US, Timeline. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

“Every country, of course, has the right to have such immigration laws and fix quotas as it sees fit. The people of India have no desire to ask for any special privilege or treatment. They do not seek unrestricted immigration into the United States, but they do ask that the stigma of inferiority may be removed – as it has been rightly done very recently in the case of the Chinese.”⁴⁰

“Democratic and freedom loving Americans are certainly not shedding their blood for the continuance of racial discrimination, racial intolerance, [or] racial superiority, which are Hitlerian theories,”⁴¹

Words from Emanuel Celler –

“Here we are fighting racial arrogance. It means the liberation of oppressed peoples, as well as the removal of discriminatory measures, not so thoroughly advertised, on the statue books of our country. Is the exclusion of the Eastern Hemisphere Indians from the rights of naturalization in the United States evidence that we have not as yet purged ourselves of the ugly taint of profound justice?”⁴²

Words from Clare Booth Luce –

“But I consider this bill of mine and Mr. Celler not so much as an immigration bill as a diplomatic and political measure against our present and future enemies. It bears precisely the

⁴⁰“Memorandum on Proposed Legislation.” South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA). India League of America, 03 May 2013. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

same relation to our war effort, and the peace effort that must follow as the recent bill passed by Congress admitting a hundred-off Chinese to our country”⁴³

Words from Senator Langer –

“A group of us are determined that India shall have her place in the sun; that the more than 1,000,000 troops who are fighting side by side with the men and women of the United States and other allies shall not fight and die in vain.”⁴⁴

While there was some limited resistance to this bill by restrictionists, President Truman let it be known that he was supportive of this bill. JJ Singh, and others’, appeal were persuasive and the Luce-Celler Bill, as currently drafted, was passed by Congress in June 1946. JJ Singh stood by President Truman as he signed it into law on July 2, 1946 (Appendix C). While the entire ILA was recognized for this landmark achievement, Mahatma Gandhi gave the sole credit to JJ Singh. JJ Singh’s efforts in taking a stand had paid off with the passage of this bill which provided Indians with the same rights as natural-born Americans.⁴⁵

This bill enabled Indians to take a more active role in society as well as in their government. One example is the case of Dalip Singh Saund who applied for citizenship in 1949⁴⁶ after the passage of the Luce-Celler Act. In 1953 Saund was elected as a Judge of the Justice Court of Westmoreland Judicial District. Saund went on to run for office and became a Congressman in 1956 serving the 29th District of California. He became the first Indian, Sikh, Asian

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ “Memorandum on Proposed Legislation.” South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA). India League of America, 03 May 2013. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ “IIP Digital | U.S. Department of State.” Dalip Singh Saund Goes to Washington | IIP Digital. N.p., 28 May 2014. Web. 14 Feb. 2017.

and person of non-Abrahamic faith to ever be elected to Congress.⁴⁷ Saund was honored by President Kennedy and become a catalyst for other Indians to serve the country. As historian Rudolph Vecoli notes, "one becomes an American by choice, not by descent."⁴⁸

As an American of Indian heritage, the Luce Cellar Act is an important part of my story. This bill was a critical first step in opening immigration from India which eventually enabled my dad to become a US citizen and for me to be born here. I, and all other US citizens of Indian heritage, can repay the debt of gratitude we owe to the tireless efforts of Sirdar Jagjit Singh and the generosity of the American public, by embracing and living the core values that uniquely define all of us as Americans. E pluribus Unum⁴⁹.

Annotated Bibliography:

Primary Sources:

⁴⁷ "Dalip Singh Saund." Dalip Singh Saund. N.p., n.d. Web. 14 Feb. 2017.

⁴⁸ <https://studyingthehumanities.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/significance-of-immigration-in-the-formation-of-an-american-identity-vecoli-article.pdf>

⁴⁹ Out of many, one (US motto)

"The New Yorker Digital Edition: Mar 24, 1951." The New Yorker Digital Edition: Mar 24, 1951. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

The New Yorker article describing Sirdar Jagjit Singh was one of my most profound sources because of its complexity and how detailed the authors writing was. The article has plenty of detail that will help my project progress. The article begins by describing Singh and his work. The article does not leave any stone unturned and allows the reader to step into Sirdar Jagjit Singh's shoes for 12 pages. The author writes this article after following Sirdar Jagjit Singh for two weeks and jotting down everything there is to know about him. The author praises Singh throughout the article and portrays him in a positive light. The author does not spend much time focusing on Singh's daily routine or physical attributes, but more about his intellect. There is a lot of information in the passage and it is a very dense piece of writing. The author does not hesitate to mention every little detail about Singh's daily life. Entering the middle of the article, the author diverts his focus from Singh's lifestyle to the work he has done through the India League of America and his proposed bill in Congress. The author discusses how Singh transformed the once useless, pointless and unnecessary league, into one of the most influential groups of his time. Singh used the League as a safety net that he could fall to if higher power, including Congress. The League was aware of this fact, but let Sirdar Jagjit Singh have this as he was the main source of their funds. Singh was not only an influential man in Washington, but was well respected by most of Congress due to his intelligence and his charisma. Overall, the article proved to be one of the most important and thorough articles that describes Sirdar Jagjit Singh.

Assisi, Francis C., Praba Iyer, Nitin Deo, Vandana Kumar, Staff Writer, Kalpana M., Sneha Abraham, Sarita S., and Jaya P. "How Desis Breached the Great White Wall." India Currents. N.p., 04 Oct. 2016. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

This article is propaganda for the book: Sikhs, Swamis, Students and Spies; The India Lobby in the United States, but still provides information regarding the struggles of the original group of Indians in America. The article often refers to the book for support, but the author is able to articulate the hardships and the solutions that these men faced. The author briefly describes how the Ghadar party aided the motion of Indian immigration which ended up "lead[ing] to President Truman's signature of the Celler-Luce Act on July 3, 1946." Not only does he highlight on the important acts of the Ghadar party, but how Jagjit Singh (J.J. Singh) influenced the party and pushed them to become more active and start to lobby the bill he proposed. The article also touches on the work of JJ Singh in the India League of America. The article plays to JJ Singh's strengths by

describing how the ineffective and unproductive league was transformed into the influential league that stood by his side as he proposed his bill to Congress. All in all, the article does not describe the details of the significant events in depth, but provides a clear timeline which will aid my paper by ensuring it is in chronological order.

"The Baltimore Sun from Baltimore, Maryland on February 22, 1944 · Page 3." Newspapers.com. The Baltimore Sun, n.d. Web. 15 Feb. 2017. This article is from the prestigious newspaper company, The Baltimore Sun.

This article is among many other articles that support JJ Singh's movement for Indian naturalization and immigration. These articles put pressure on lawmakers to start to make decisions. This article added to my knowledge of JJ Singh's broad support for his bill and allowed me to enhance my paper with this primary source.

"A Century of Sikhs in California by Bruce La Brack." The Sikh Foundation International. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

This article is a transcript to the speech Professor Bruce La Brack gave to the population of the Gurdwara in Stockton, California for the 100th anniversary of the opening of the first Gurdwara in the United States. The article tells the tales of how those before us fought arduously for the freedom we take for granted today; we are lucky to have such hard working people in our history. Overall, the article is a deep speech reflection on 100 years of incredible Sikh history. This article does not talk much about Sirdar Jagjit Singh, but allows me to wrap my mind around the 100 years of Indian/Sikh American history in immigration.

The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica. "Indian National Congress." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., n.d. Web. 14 Feb. 2017

This article simply describes the India Chamber of Congress. The India Chamber of Congress was JJ Singh's first attempt at influencing the US Government.

"15 May 1944, Page 1 - St. Louis Post-Dispatch at Newspapers.com." St. Louis Post Dispatch. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

This article is from the St. Louis Post Dispatch, a renowned newspaper company which had multiple columns in support of the Luce-Celler Act. This article was heavily biased towards JJ Singh, but it was written so articulately that it seemed neutral. This article allowed me to grasp exactly how the media was aiding Sirdar Jagjit Singh and his efforts in lobbying the Luce-Celler Bill.

"5 (more) South Asian Americans You Should Know About." South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA). South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA), 09 July 2015. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

This article published by the South Asian American Digital Archives (SAADA) provides a clear and concise summary of Sirdar Jagjit Singh and his work in the field of Indian immigration to the United States. The article describes in a vague manner how Sirdar Jagjit Singh's work influenced the US government to open the doors for Indian immigration. One of the highlights of this article is that it answers the sixty-four thousand dollar questions: Why did Sirdar Jagjit Singh change stances from Indian Independence to Indian Immigration? I was able to use a link provided in the article to view the official speech that Sirdar Jagjit Singh gave to Congress along with his proposed bill. My analysis of the 43-page document can be seen in the next annotation. This article provides other resources for me to use in the references section of the webpage.

Friedman, Andrew. "The Luce-Celler Act of 1946: White Nationalism, Indian Nationalism and the Cosmopolitan Elite." Shah, Neilay. N.p., 01 Jan. 1970. Web. 15 Feb. 2017

This source helped me further my understanding of the Luce-Celler Act of 1946 and how Sirdar Jagjit Singh's role in the Indian League of America lead to this significant event in immigration history. This simple article not only provided context for the Luce-Celler Act of 1946, but provided background on each of the key members who orchestrated this, as well as an explanation for why Clara Booth Luce and JJ Singh wanted to see this act in place. This article also explained the alternative motives that Ms. Luce and Mr. Singh had in mind.

"Harvard Mirador Viewer." Harvard Mirador Viewer. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

This article is the original legislature for the California Land Law of 1913 and showed me how cruel the laws at the time were and how openly biased they were. In today's laws, the true meaning needs to be interpreted, which may take an extreme amount of time. In this Land Law, it is blatant and straightforwardly biased against the Indian. In most Congressional bills, there is a stated reason for the bill, but this law lacks one. I found this source extremely helpful as it helped me build my case for the introductory paragraphs regarding the plight of the Indians.

"Hindu's In America." N.p., n.d. Web.

This article is a primary source from JJ Singh's work in 1944 as he proposed his bill to the public. The government seemed to reject the idea at first, but the media stood firmly behind him. At this time, the Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed and many Americans felt that the Indians should be treated the same way. This article is propaganda for the Luce-Celler Act.

"The Wilkes-Barre Record from Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania on April 7, 1944 · Page 2." Newspapers.com. The Wilkes-Barre Record, n.d. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

The Wilkes-Barre Record newspaper company published several articles over the course of two years in effort to help JJ Singh in his quest for broader support. This article goes into detail regarding why the new movement to 'naturalize all Indians in America' was one of the greatest movements in history. From my perspective, this article may have been one of the most influential of its time. JJ Singh met with the owner of the newspaper many times and after JJ Singh swayed him in support of the Luce-Celler Act, the owner agreed to publish some of JJ's articles.

Secondary Sources:

<https://studyingthehumanities.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/significance-of-immigration-in-the-formation-of-an-american-identity-vecoli-article.pdf>

This article describes the professional historian Roduloph Vecoli. Mr. Vecoli was a large interpreter of the Luce-Celler Act.

"IIP Digital | U.S. Department of State." Dalip Singh Saund Goes to Washington | IIP Digital. N.p., 28 May 2014. Web. 14 Feb. 2017.

This article is about Dalip Singh Saund and his work as the first Asian, Indian, and person of non-Abrahamic faith to run for office and be successful.

"Index of /resources/docs/lesson1." Index of /resources/docs/lesson1. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

In this essay, I could grasp what the true American values are because this essay covered them in depth. I was able to use this to support JJ Singh's claim when he referenced the American values in his efforts to persuade Congress. I was able to use this paper to broaden my knowledge of Sirdar Jagjit Singh's claim of American ideal. I was able to verify his words to ensure there was no disconnect. Using this paper, I could enhance the content of my own paper significantly.

Johnston, Hugh J. M. The Voyage of the Komagata Maru: The Sikh Challenge to Canada's Color Bar. Vancouver: UBC, 2014. Web.

This source helped me explore the difficulties the Indians faced as they made the dangerous voyage from India to the Americas. In this synopsis, the author is describing the painful process that the Sikhs had to go through in order to reach Canada, a prosperous place today for Sikhs. This source also educates me on the type of people who were entering places like the US and Canada through dangerous and unfair means. This source did not help me learn about Sirdar Jagjit Singh, but helped me strengthen my background knowledge, which will definitely aid my project in the long run.

"Luce–Celler Act of 1946." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, 09 Feb. 2017. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

This article proved me with a basic information the Luce-Celler Act that allowed me to create a solid ground for my research. This article is the simplified definition of the Luce-Celler act and was the base of all of my research. I was able to see some of the references at the bottom of the to enhance my paper in the long run.

Margaret Hill, California 3Rs P. Pioneer Sikh Migration to North America (n.d.): n. page. Web.

This article is written by Jasbir Singh Kang, a prominent leader in the Sikh community who writes for the Sikh foundation. This article regards the battle that many Indians, primarily Sikhs, faced during the early 20th century and how overcame those hurdles. The article also provides context as to how over time, with the Luce-Celler Act as well as the Immigration Act of 1965. I will be able to use this source to create an obvious short term and long term effect of the Luce-Celler act. I believe that this source will be crucial to aiding my project.

"Memorandum on Proposed Legislation." South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA). India League of America, 03 May 2013. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

This article is a transcript of Sirdar Jagjit Singh's speech to Congress along with his proposal with Clara Luce and Emmanuel Celler of the Luce-Celler Act of 1946. The article provides an eye-opening speech that allows me to see Sirdar Jagjit Singh's work come to life. I am able to see how Sirdar Jagjit Singh marketed himself to the public and how his charisma persuaded Congress to support his efforts and pass his bill. It was difficult for anyone at the time to pass a bill through stubborn Congress, let alone a businessman from another country. This article allows me to know exactly what Sirdar Jagjit was intending to pass through Congress. This document exposed me to the full details of the Luce-Celler Act.

The 1907 Bellingham Riot and Anti-Asian Hostilities in the Pacific Northwest (n.d.): n. page. Web.

This paper allowed me to grasp the harsh living conditions before the acceptance of Sikh and Indian immigration to the United States. Indians were treated extremely poorly and were cast aside as useless and ignorant in the eyes of society. The arrival of Sirdar Jagjit Singh and other activists proved to be one of the most influential times in American history regarding immigration. This source will allow me to connect the terrible conditions of the past with the new and improved ones of the future. This article allows me to see the effect of this act more clearly.

Pardon Our Interruption. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

This article is from the Daily News archives. This article serves as propaganda for the Luce-Celler Act. At the time, lawmakers proposed laws based on what the government wanted, or what the people want. The media (newspapers at the time) were the voice of the people, and was very important on Capitol Hill. When Capitol Hill saw so many articles published regarding this issue, they had no choice but to consider it. JJ Singh's marketing skill persuaded the newspaper to write columns for him; which in turn helped him build his case when he would eventually arrive on the Hill.

The Pluralism Project. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

This article is a timeline of the immigration of Sikhs to America and the effect afterwards. The Pluralism Project is a research project conducted by students at Harvard University who are interested in exploring and sharing information regarding culture and religions from all around the world. The article allows me to learn about the people before the 1946 Luce-Celler Act and how the act affected them. I am able to see the ripple effect of the Luce-Celler act in the Immigration Act of 1965. This timeline will aid my project as it will help me ensure that my project flows in a proper chronological order.

"PUNJABI MIGRATION TO UNITED STATES." PUNJABI MIGRATION TO UNITED STATES. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

This article provides an insight on the work that had been done leading up to the Luce-Celler Act and how all the effort put in by countless men resulted in the end of a "statutory discrimination against the Indians" as President Roosevelt called it. This article starts in the very beginning of the 20th century and ties it to the impact created today. The article allows me to have a deeper understanding of the lifestyle and the conditions the original men had to face at this time. However, the article does not talk in detail about how Sirdar Jagjit Singh's work shaped history. This article goes into detail about the work leading up to the Luce-Celler act and eventually the work of Dalip Singh Saund. The author focuses on many of the crucial events during this time period including the Bhagat Singh Thind v. United States case which sparked outcry in many small Indian communities. Jasbir Singh Kang (author) highlights on the importance of the Gurudwara built in Stockton, California as it served as safe place to hold political meetings. A Gurudwara is a place of worship for Sikhs, but at the time, it was used for other purposes as well. During this time period, an Indian could not buy land for business purposes, only for places of worship. When the Sikhs bought land to build a Gurudwara, they decided to use the land not only for religious purposes, but for political and social purposes. The article goes into depth to explain how the sleepless nights of the founding fathers, regarding Indian immigration, paid dividends.

Relyeakrelyea@bhamherald.com, Kiel. "A Century Later, Sikhs Want Memorial of Anti-East Indian Riots in Bellingham." Bellingham herald. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

This article is a short but important piece of writing as it is a summary of all the terrible events that happened in Bellingham in 1907. The article focuses on the memorial that Sikhs in Bellingham want, but also provides a clear description of the events that occurred in Bellingham. I am able to build my knowledge regarding the situation of the first group of Sikhs in America and compare it to the condition of the second wave of immigrants. This article allows me to build my knowledge of the early immigrants.

Shaffer, Robert. "J. J. Singh and the India League of America, 1945-1959: Pressing at the Margins of the Cold War Consensus." Cite Web - World Web Citation Database. N.p., n.d. Web. 14 Feb. 2017

In this source, I was provided with a dense about information regarding every aspect of Sirdar Jagjit Singh and his work for Indian immigration and naturalization. There is an extensive amount of information packed into a fairly short paper. With this information, I was able to fill in many of the gaps in my paper that I did not have an answer for. I was able to use this paper to broaden my knowledge of Sirdar Jagjit Singh's work from the time he was born to his final return to India. I was able to create a continuous timeline in my head that didn't have any gaps in it. Using this paper, I could enhance the content of my own paper significantly.

"Smithsonian Distorts Sikh American History | SikhNN, Sikh News Network. "Smithsonian Distorts Sikh American History | SikhNN, Sikh News Network. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

This article published by the South Asian American Digital Archives (SAADA) provides a clear and concise summary of Sirdar Jagjit Singh and his work in the field of Indian immigration to the United States. The article describes in a vague manner how Sirdar Jagjit Singh's work influenced the US government to open the doors for Indian immigration. One of the highlights of this article is that it answers the sixty-four thousand dollar questions: Why did Sirdar Jagjit Singh chance stances from Indian Independence to Indian Immigration? I was able to use a link provided in the article to view the official speech that Sirdar Jagjit Singh gave to Congress along with his proposed bill. My analysis of the 43-page document can be seen in the next annotation. This article provides other resources for me to use in the references section of the webpage.

"They Also Fought for Freedom." They Also Fought for Freedom. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

This source broadens my knowledge on the timeline leading up to Sirdar Jagjit Singh and his work and the result of it. This timeline is fairly descriptive and easy to understand allowing me to build my paper on some of the foundational information this timeline

provides. This timeline helps me create a cause and affect chart of Sirdar Jagjit Singh's work. I am able to compare Indian Immigration from when the Luce-Celler Act did not exist, to the effects of it. I can grasp plenty of knowledge from this article as it is very dense and rich in information that will allow my paper to read as more professional.

"Timeline." Open Collections Program: Immigration to the US, Timeline. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Feb. 2017.

This webpage is a timeline of key dates in US history regarding Immigration and Naturalization. In the article, the Luce-Celler Act does not appear, but I am able to use this source to enhance the introductory section of my paper. The first few paragraphs of my paper are background information and introduction to the heart of my story. In these paragraphs, I reference numerous immigration acts which all appear in this timeline and am able to use the brief yet direct descriptions of each act to my advantage. This article has proven to be one of the key articles in my research.