

# **Destruction and Reconstruction of the San Francisco's Chinatown Under the Great Earthquake of 1906**

Chen, Hsin-Shao

After Chinese immigrant to America for more than one hundred years, the United States Senate approved a resolution apologizing for the nation's past discriminatory laws that targeted Chinese immigrants, and the Panama Government also praised the contribution and sacrifice of Chinese immigrants for build the Panama Canal. At the same time, the stage for early Chinese immigrant's contribution and unfair treatment in history have been more seriously treat than before. San Francisco is the oldest Chinatown in America, the shelter for more than 20,000 Chinese immigrants to avoid from persecution at that time. When the Great Earthquake stroked San Francisco in 1906, destroyed and conflagration were attacked this city. The Chinese faced huge losses, and the pressure that the San Francisco's government wanted to relocate the Chinatown. Chinese didn't surrender but break through the difficult situation, and rebuilt the Chinatown at the original site.

Therefore in this thesis, I focus on four subjects to analysis: First, the living circumstances of old San Francisco's Chinatown before the Great Earthquake in 1906. Secondly, how the whole city suffered from the great earthquake and fire at 1906. Thirdly, the America and Chinese governments' relief act and arrange for Chinese victims. Fourthly, discuss that whether the Chinatown site was reconstructed or relocated it. The rise of historical disaster studies, express that human factors played an important role in natural disaster's huge losses and casualties. Therefore, this thesis hopes to observe from disaster views to look inside the destruction and reconstruction of the San Francisco Chinatown under the Great Earthquake of 1906.

**Keywords** : America, overseas Chinese immigrants, great earthquake of 1906, San Francisco, Chinatown