Name _____ Date _____

Perceptions of the Turban

Part 1: What events shaped American perceptions of the turban?

Event	Dates	Broader Historical Context	How did this event shape American perceptions of the turban?

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Part 2: Choose two of the events from Part 1. Assess the historical significance of each event.

	Event #1: _____	**Event #2: _____**
Criteria for historical significance	**Does the event meet the criteria for historical significance? (Yes/No + Evidence)**	
Importance: Was the event important to people at that time?		
Profundity: How deeply did the event affect people's beliefs and attitudes?		
Quantity: How many people did the event affect – a few, many, everyone?		
Durability: How long-lasting were the changes?		
Relevance: Is the event still significant to our present lives?		
Overall assessment: The event is/is not (circle one) considered historically significant because…		

Citation: Adapted from NYC Department of Education, Historical thinking tools and analysis strategies Grade 11. https://www.weteachnyc.org/resources/collection/historical-thinking-tools-and-analysis-strategies-grade-11-units-1-7/ (pp. 12-15)

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Part 1: What events shaped American perceptions of the turban? - ANSWER KEY

Event	Dates	Broader Historical Context	How did this event shape American perceptions of the turban?
Large numbers of Sikhs from Punjab migrate to the U.S.	1900-1910	Need for foreign labor	Media and public opinion showed turban as "other." Many white workers were xenophobic and saw Sikhs as threats to their jobs and livelihood.
"Tide of Turbans" article published	1910	Increased immigration of Sikh laborers	Turban portrayed as exotic and foreign, thus became a symbol of foreign threat
Luce-Celler Act	1946	Post WWII, U.S. was friendlier toward India, immigration policy began to move away Asian exclusion	Increased Sikh immigration, established gurdwaras. But turbans still symbolized "perpetual foreigners"
Immigration and Nationality Act	1965	Civil Rights Movement, discriminatory laws reviewed and immigration policy shifted to focusing on professional status and family reunification.	Increased Sikh immigration, established gurdwaras. But turbans still symbolized "perpetual foreigners"
Oil Crisis, Iran Hostage Crisis	1979, 1979-1981	Iranian Revolution, Iran seen as an adversary to the U.S.	Turban became associated with foreign adversaries, as many Americans were unaware of distinctions among different faiths in the Middle East, West Asian, and South Asian regions
9/11 Attacks	2001	U.S. shifts focus to War on Terror and national security	Turban begins to be associated with terrorism as media images portrayed turban as key indicator of terror

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