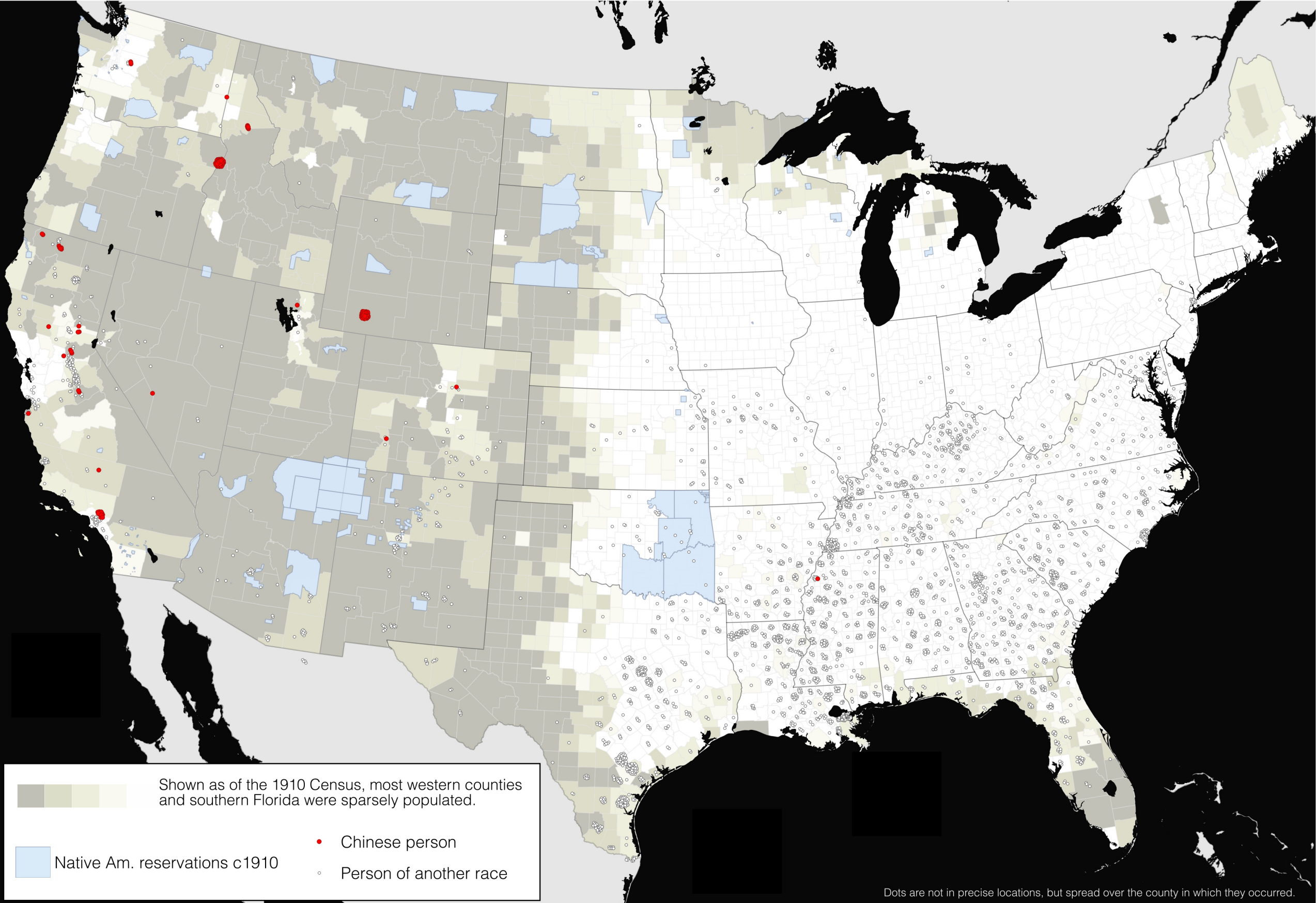


# Lynchings & mob violence to enforce white supremacy: highlighting Chinese victims, 1849-1910



Lynching means more than homicide: it is condemning someone to death by the whims of a mob or an entire community — no judge. Over time, it became racist, common, and brutal.

In the mid-1800s, lynching arose as a crude form of frontier violence done by vigilantes "keeping the peace." But studies have discovered lynching was used more often in towns that had a functioning courthouse. This seems to contradict the idea that it was just a time of lawlessness. Yet lynching was NOT the primary form of violence that was directed at Chinese people. Many more Chinese Americans experienced forced relocation and expulsion from towns who wished to be "whites-only", as well as arson of their neighborhoods and dispossession of their property.

As time went on, lynching became another tool that people engaged in hatred: it was applied viciously as Anglos clashed in tensions with Mexican-Americans on the southwest border. It was an ultimatum leveled against Chinese families who were living alongside white settlers in the middle of California, Oregon, and Washington. Then by the 1880s as Black Americans were becoming successful businessmen, property owners, and elected officials, the defenders of white supremacy in the South escalated lynching to a scale it had never been used before.

Visit [MonroeworkToday.org](https://monroeworktoday.org) to learn the names of people on this map, and explore the history of lynching as it was used to enforce white supremacy across the entire United States.

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