

Chapter 1 : Waves Of Immigration In America Timeline | Preceden

The Events: Periods that experienced large and enduring increases in immigration to the United States Significance: With each immigration wave that the United States has experienced, the culture and context of life in the United States have changed considerably.

For three decades after , an annual average of , immigrants arrived on American shores, and set a record of 1. This led to the construction of the first federal immigration center, Ellis Island, which served as the main port of entry for American immigration from to . The size and greater cultural diversity of the Third Wave would give rise to a great new Xenophobia fear and hatred of foreigners that would slam the door to new arrivals in the s. High population growth in Southern and Eastern Europe. Lack of jobs and food. Scarcity of available farmland. Mechanization of agriculture, which pushed peasants off the land. Religious persecution of Russian Jews, who fled their villages after pogroms. Other forms of economic opportunity. Booming industries like steel and railroads advertised for workers in Hungary and Poland. These new immigrants helped build new railroads and took jobs in steel mills. Transportation improvements sped immigration: By the late 19th century, regularly scheduled steamships replaced sailing ships, cutting what had been a 3-month voyage across the Atlantic to a mere 2 weeks. Crossing the Atlantic Most poor immigrants traveled in 3rd class or steerage, the open area bellow decks with no private cabin or bed. There, they slept on rough metal bunks and often got seasick. During the day, passengers crowded the deck to breathe fresh air, away from the foul smells of steerage. Welcome to Ellis Island! While First and Second-Class passengers disembarked at Hudson River piers directly into New York City, the Third-Class passengers in steerage had to be processed at Ellis Island, the new federal immigrant processing center. There they waited in long lines clutching their few belongings, their papers that proved they were entitled to gain admittance to the land of liberty. Most only spent a few hours there showing their papers and passing through a barrage of medical and psychological tests to prove they were worthy no illiterates, no anarchists, no contagious disease carriers to gain legal enter to America. By nearly half the population of the US was descended from an immigrant who came through Ellis Island. They set up their own businesses, churches and restaurants. Jews suffered restrictions on their membership in many civic organizations and were kept out of many colleges due quotas that limited the number of Jews admitted. The government provided immigrants no aid, but they could get help from Immigrant Aid Societies of churches or ethnic organizations such as the Sons of Italy or Polish National Alliance. Opposition and Restrictions As the Third Wave grew in numbers, there was a new nativist backlash against immigration. Third Wave immigrants were accused of: Being difficult to Americanize due to their lack of education, their tendency to cluster in urban ethnic ghettos, and their attachment to their own languages and customs. Being racially inferior, according to the theory of Nordic Supremacy that argued Northwestern Europeans were mentally and physically superior. Standards were tightened at Ellis Island in the s when Anarchists were officially banned from entry to America. Japanese immigration was ended in and all immigration from Asia soon after. When World War I began, immigration greatly declined, but nationalist xenophobia increased and German immigrants were persecuted, some even lynched; a new anti-immigrant fear was growing. The End of the Third Wave: Closing the Gates European economic collapse after WWI led to another surge in immigration, from , in to over , in . Americans strongly rejected this new wave. Xenophobia exploded in reaction to the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and the Red Scare bombings of . A revived Ku Klux Klan grew all over the country opposing not only blacks but Catholics and Jews as well. The Klan demanded strict new restrictions on immigration. In , the Republican congress passed the first of a series of new restrictions on immigration. Further revisions of the law in and eventually brought the total of immigrants allowed in the US down to , per year. Moreover, the details of the law reflected widespread prejudice against southern and eastern Europeans, whom most Americans considered to be racially inferior in those bigoted times. These National Origins Quotas sounded fair on the surface, but were deliberately written to restrict southern and eastern Europeans. As there were hardly any Italians or Poles in the US in , their quotas were miniscule, thus keeping out the people who most wanted to migrate to America. Thus, hundreds of thousands of poor Italians

wished to migrate to the USA, but only 3, were allowed in, while the quota for British immigration was theoretically 65, per year of which only 3, was used. The law also changed the racial complexion of the country, banning all immigrants from Asia, while exempting western-hemisphere immigrants from any quotas. So Canadians and Mexicans freely came into the US, while Asians, the majority of humans on the planet, were completely barred. These laws caused a dramatic decline in immigration to America. Thus the middle of the 20th century became the low tide of American immigration history. They found it in the American South, still rural and dirt poor in the early 20th century. Over the course of the century southern farms that had been labor intensive gradually modernized and mechanized throwing millions of poor share croppers, both black and white, out of work. The postwar booms of the s, 50s and 60s only increased the migration from South to North. This would greatly alter the racial makeup of America. For both races a lack of economic opportunity in the South was the biggest reason for leaving. The North was where jobs and opportunity were. They worked in stockyards, slaughterhouses, as railroad porters and as domestic servants. Like the 3rd wave before them they settled into ethnic neighborhoods Harlem and Bedford Stuyvesant in NYC, the south side of Chicago where they established their own restaurants, businesses and churches. They suffered widespread discrimination in living housing and employment legal until the late s and racial resentment from the much of the white majority. Major race riots broke out in northern cities after WW1 and again in the s. The African American population outside the South grew from , in to Many northern cities that had been virtually all-white in developed large black populations and in some cases majorities Detroit, Newark, Washington, DC. Whites began to flee cities for the suburbs in the s and 60s as blacks and other minorities moved in. The poorest inner city neighborhoods evolved into dangerous slums with few opportunities for their residents as low skill jobs fled America or were replaced by technology. Blacks with education meanwhile created a growing African American middle class that was able to take advantage of the s civil rights revolution and climb the ladder of success. The new northern African American voting bloc became key swing vote in elections from the s to the 60s. The desire of both Republican and Democratic politicians for those votes helped push through the civil rights laws of the s. In recent decades as the South has grown more tolerant and prosperous the migration has begun to reverse with slightly more African Americans moving South than North.

Chapter 2 : American immigration (edition) | Open Library

A timeline showing forces behind immigration and their impact on the immigrant experience. Click the time period you'd like to explore. Most scientists believe that human beings first came to America over the Bering Straits about 20,000 years ago. These were the ancestors of the many Native Americans.

Until about 1820, the Roman Catholic population of the United States was a small minority of mostly English Catholics, who were often quite socially accomplished. But when several years of devastating potato famine led millions of Irish Catholics to flee to the United States in the mid 1840s, the face of American Catholicism began to change drastically and permanently. In the space of fifty years, the Catholic population in the United States suddenly transformed from a tight-knit group of landowning, educated aristocrats into an incredibly diverse mass of urban and rural immigrants who came from many different countries, spoke different languages, held different social statuses, and emphasized different parts of their Catholic heritage. Catholics made up only five percent of the total U.S. population. When your students hear the enormity of the demographic and religious shift caused by immigration, they will start to understand why so many American citizens became uneasy about the so-called "Catholic hordes. Why did things change? Why did so many Catholics come to the United States at this time? Why did the country take them? To answer these questions, you might paint for your students a scene or two of the broad Western-hemisphere trend towards economic and social "modernization. A new managerial "middle class" of clerks and bureaucrats was prospering in the cities, but thousands of peasants were displaced from their land and labor by new farming techniques. The country had a growing world reputation for democratic ideals and work opportunity. For these peoples, as well as for French Canadian Catholics to the north of the United States and Mexican Catholics to the south, the chance for a new life free of poverty and oppression was too good to pass up. Millions of sons, fathers, and later whole families left behind their former lives and possessions and boarded crowded ships sailing for New York. America, for its part, docked ship after ship at Ellis Island for both idealistic and practical reasons. The motto on the Statue of Liberty, "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor," exemplified the strong tie between immigration and freedom in the national imagination. Immigration was supposed to be beneficial to the immigrant and to the country, but it also unleashed many fears, insecurities, and troubles on both sides. It might be a good idea to brainstorm with your students about the positive and negative FEELINGS that both natives and immigrants could have experienced at the time. Let them also imagine what it might have felt like for those already living in America, who saw their cities change so quickly: Immigration is, of course, still very much a part of the American reality and public debate. Some of your students may be Catholic themselves and may be surprised to hear of the former low status of the "assimilated" religion they know. Some of your students may know of immigration from firsthand experience, being immigrants or children of immigrants themselves. Others may know about immigration from news reports or experiences with neighbors. Their experience of the present realities can help them understand the past, and vice versa. The immigrants held onto Catholicism for spiritual comfort and group identity. How did the immigrants express their feelings through their faith? How did Protestant Americans use Catholicism as a "substitute" for immigration issues? After several years in America, many Catholic immigrants became sorely disillusioned. For it was the Catholic Church, more than any other organization, that made a concerted effort to welcome the new Catholic immigrants. Catholic citizens helped them find jobs and homes; sisters nuns taught their children English in Catholic schools; priests tried to protect their political interests and shield them from a sometimes hostile Protestant environment; the local church held religious festivals and social events. It is important to stress that for the immigrants, the neighborhood Catholic church was not just a church; it was the focal point of a whole community, a whole way of life. Even if the relationship between the Church and Catholic immigrants was often far from perfect, local parishes provided millions of heartbroken, homesick immigrant men and women the familiar comforts of ritual and belief that gave their world meaning. Students should know what parts of Catholic ritual and belief set it apart from Protestant Christianity, although it should also be emphasized that there is much more continuity than difference between the two forms of Christianity. The reformers of the Protestant Reformation objected

vehemently to these emphases, insisting instead on less hierarchy in church structure, the Bible rather than sacraments as the source of revelation from God, and Jesus himself as the only necessary intercessor with God the Father. For four centuries Catholics and Protestants had waged real and polemical wars against each other about these and other issues that calcified their mutually antagonistic positions. In the context of nineteenth-century America, where Bible-believing, evangelical Protestants constituted the clear majority, the Catholic minority faith, with its elaborate rituals and statues of the saints, seemed to most people very strange, even "wrong. There was nothing strange about them at all. In fact, they thought Protestants were strange and "wrong. Protestants prided themselves on living in a country founded as a Protestant "light unto the world," as the Puritans put it. They felt threatened that America might soon become a "Catholic" country; they worried that the Catholic religion, with its hierarchies and traditions, had made the immigrants unsuitable for democratic and individualistic America. They even mused whether the Catholics were coming in droves in order to colonize America for the pope! The churches could try to protect the immigrants, but they could do little to counter the prejudice Catholic immigrants faced in "mainstream" America every day. Neighbors called Catholics names, employers refused to promote them, landlords rented them their worst apartments, newspapers blamed them for rising crime rates, and banks refused them loans. A popular national organization, the American Protective Association, was founded specifically to promote anti-Catholicism and other prejudices. All this because Catholics believed a different Christianity than Protestants? Partly no, and partly yes. Many people of the lower classes assumed the immigrants represented competition for jobs, homes, and social prestige that rightly belonged to them. On the other hand, anti-Catholic prejudice was about religion. But no matter how hard Catholics strived to prove they were good, upstanding, patriotic American citizens, some Protestants would never accept them, simply because they were Catholic. This instance of naked prejudice may be a hard thing for students concerned about "equality" and "tolerance" to hear. Again, pointing out the continuities with present-day instances of prejudice would only help to illuminate both. Given the social stigma of being Catholic, students might naturally wonder why most Catholic people who came to this country remained Catholic. One reason Catholics stayed Catholic is that they truly believed that Catholicism was the "right" religion, and converting to Protestantism was simply not an option. Another is that Catholicism was an "alternative," "different" religion in America at the time, and some Catholics wore that "differentness" as a badge of pride or a marker of identity in an unfamiliar environment. Finally, some stayed out of habit and culture. Quotas for Catholic countries were set so low that Catholic immigration virtually halted by Historians Debate In some ways, the Catholic immigrants of the nineteenth century faced as much conflict within their churches as without. The proponents of the first view, called "Americanists," tended to be theological liberals and social progressives who were quite optimistic, in the spirit of the "Gilded Age," about the compatibility between America and the Catholic religion. Often the immigrants themselves had their own opinions in the matter, but were caught between warring bishops. Over the long term, both the Americanists and the conservatives "won": Scholars of American Catholic history have universally considered immigration by far the most dynamic force in the nineteenth-century American Church, but they continue to debate the issue of "Americanization. More recent histories by Jay Dolan and Patrick Carey s reconsider the merits of "Americanization" in light of contemporary discussions of "Catholic difference" and "multiculturalism. They also carefully distinguish between religious styles, political leanings, and social status associated with different ethnic groups within Catholicism; for example, the Irish Catholic political machines in New York were much different than German Catholic sodalities in the Midwest, though both kinds of groups grew out of the immigrant Catholic experience. Newly-ordained African-American priests New Orleans, Louisiana, Library of Congress Other studies have taken up the history of African Americans who were themselves Catholics; this minority within a minority persevered with little attention from their Church throughout the period of European immigration Stephen Ochs, Cyprian Davis. Some historians have found the "differences" between Catholics and Protestants in this period overplayed; both groups, for example, were implicated in a broad cultural concern to establish a "domestic" religion alongside church attendance that emphasized religious commodities in the home and family prayer Colleen Mcdannell, Ann Taves. Still other historians have painted in great detail the complex social worlds of the immigrant neighborhoods, raising the question

whether ordinary immigrant Catholics really noticed or cared about the "mainstream" Protestant world much at all Robert Orsi. She is the author of *O God of Players*: Address comments or questions to Dr. Byrne through TeacherServe " Comments and Questions.

Chapter 3 : Push/Pull Factors of Immigration by Dilly Bar on Prezi

- *PUSH/PULL FACTORS: Immigrants came for new opportunities because in Europe, peasants displaced from agriculture and artisans were made jobless from the industrial revolution. Some immigrants received "American Letters" which were encouraging friends and relatives to join them in America.*

Thousands of immigrants found work on the trans-continental railroad, settling in towns along the way. Word of the California Gold Rush had spread around the world, drawing immigrants from both Asia and Europe. As one immigrant recalled, "I saw the crop. I smelt the fearful stench—the death sign of each field of potatoes—the luxuriant stalks soon withered, the leaves decayed—" The Great Hunger would leave 1. Rapid population growth, changes in land distribution, and industrialization had stripped many European peasants and artisans of their livelihoods. As in the past, the immigrants of this period were welcome neighbors while the economy was strong. During the Civil War, both the Union and Confederate armies relied on their strength. But during hard times, the immigrants were cast out and accused of stealing jobs from American workers. But it was the pro-immigrant voices of this era that would be most influential. The Republican platform of stated, "Foreign immigration which in the past has added so much to the wealth, resources, and increase of power to the nation—should be fostered and encouraged. Immigrants poured in from around the world: The door was wide open for Europeans. After , nearly all immigrants came in through the newly opened Ellis Island. One immigrant recalled arriving at Ellis Island: Ah, that day must have been about five to six thousand people. Jammed, I remember it was August. Some of these then sent for their wives, children, and siblings; others returned to their families in Europe with their saved wages. The experience for Asian immigrants in this period was quite different. Since earlier laws made it difficult for those Chinese immigrants who were already here to bring over their wives and families, most Chinese communities remained "bachelor societies. For Mexicans victimized by the Revolution, Jews fleeing the pogroms in Eastern Europe and Russia, and Armenians escaping the massacres in Turkey, America provided refuge. And for millions of immigrants, New York provided opportunity. In Lower New York, one could find the whole world in a single neighborhood. But after the outbreak of World War I in , American attitudes toward immigration began to shift. Through the early s, a series of laws were passed to limit the flow of immigrants. Many recent immigrants returned to their native lands, including hundreds of thousands of Mexicans, many against their will. The restrictive immigration policies of the s persisted. In the late s, with World War II accelerating in Europe, a new kind of immigrant began to challenge the quota system and the American conscience. A small number of refugees fleeing Nazi persecution arrived under the quota system, but most were turned away. Once the US declared war against the Axis Powers, German and Italian resident aliens were detained; but for the Japanese, the policies were more extreme: Congress would officially apologize for the Japanese Internment in . After the war, the refugee crisis continued. But millions more were left to seek refuge elsewhere. Between and , the US admitted 38, Hungarians, refugees from a failed uprising against the Soviets. These were among the first of the Cold War refugees. In this era, for the first time in US history, more women than men entered the country. They were reuniting with their families, joining their GI husbands, taking part in the post war economic boom. By the early s, calls for immigration reform were growing louder. Gone was the quota system favoring Western Europe, replaced by one offering hope to immigrants from all the continents. The face of America was truly about to change. Within five years, Asian immigration would more than quadruple. This trend was magnified even further by the surge in refugees from the war in Southeast Asia. On the other side of the world, Cuban refugees told a similar story: My father was in a nervous state. Throughout this period, in a policy that continues to this day, the government has given preferences to professionals like doctors, nurses, scientists, and hi-tech specialists, creating what is often called the "Brain Drain. Their influence is felt from the Imperial Valley to Silicon Valley. Immigrants can enter the country by air, by sea, and by land routes through Canada and Mexico, making it easier than ever to enter the country illegally. Through the 80s and 90s, illegal immigration was a constant topic of political debate. In , the government gave amnesty to more than 3 million aliens through the Immigration Reform Act, but during the recession years of the early 90s,

there was a resurgence of anti-immigrant feeling. Does America have a duty to keep its doors open to the world? Can immigrants keep their own culture and language, and still be called Americans? Is continued economic growth in America dependent upon a liberal immigration policy? The debates will certainly continue, as new immigrants arrive on our shores daily, bringing with them their own histories, traditions, and ideas, all of which broaden and enrich our sense of what it means to be an American. Donate now to help preserve the islands for future generations. Create a free account to search for family arrival records and learn more about Lady Liberty and Ellis Island. Be a part of history!

Chapter 4 : Immigration Now and Then | Federation for American Immigration Reform

The United States experienced major waves of immigration during the colonial era, the first part of the 19th century and from the 1820s to 1880s. Many immigrants came to America seeking greater.

Periods that experienced large and enduring increases in immigration to the United States Significance: With each immigration wave that the United States has experienced, the culture and context of life in the United States have changed considerably. Such changes have continued into the twenty-first century. Library of Congress The first immigrants to settle in what is now the United States were the ancient ancestors of modern Native Americans. The precise routes of those first North American immigrants are disputed, but there is no uncertainty about the fact that every human being on the continent is either a recent immigrant or a descendant of earlier immigrants. Since the first immigrants came here from Asia more than thirteen thousand years ago, there have been four large and easily recognizable modern waves of immigrants into the United States. During the seventeenth century, the first wave of European colonists began arriving. Most of them came from England and northern Europe. This wave peaked shortly before the American Revolution of 1776. The second wave lasted about fifty years, through the mid-nineteenth century, and brought mostly Irish and Germans to the United States. That period was followed by the third wave, which lasted about forty years and brought in millions of Asians and southern and eastern Europeans. It has continued into the first decade of the twenty-first century and has been the largest immigration wave in U.S. history. Native American Origins Whether they came by way of a land bridge between Alaska and Siberia or crossed the ocean in junks or on rafts, it is generally agreed that the first Americans arrived on the continent at least thirteen thousand years ago. Some authorities put that date back as far as fifty thousand years. The ancestors of modern Native Americans either entered North America in more than one location or they migrated widely after arriving. Their descendants were eventually spread out over North, Central, and South America and the West Indies and had a total pre-Columbian population of between 10 and 50 million people. As these first Americans adapted to the changes in their environment brought about by significant climate change and their own travels, they developed rich cultures, and many had what some people have viewed as an almost ideal way of life. Although the frequent presence of wars, slavery, and many other social injustices mar that idealistic view, the more human scale of the problems and the closeness to nature make the life of the early Americans very attractive to many citizens of the modern world. First Modern Immigration Wave, Quests for adventure, flights from religious persecution, and hopes for brighter economic futures induced almost one-half million Europeans to leave their homeland and come to America between 1820 and 1880. Many of these new arrivals were indentured servants, under contract to work for masters from four to seven years merely to pay the costs of their transatlantic passage. The first black Africans to come to America during this period also came as indentured servants. However, almost all the Africans who followed came as chattel slaves. Most immigrants who came during the seventeenth century were from England, with smaller numbers from France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, and other countries. After 1700, the numbers of immigrants from Ireland, Scotland, and Germany increased dramatically, while those from England decreased. Between 1700 and the start of the American Revolution in 1776, the colonial population almost doubled, to 2.5 million. During that period, the principal port of entry was Philadelphia, but immigrants also entered through Baltimore, Maryland, and Charleston, South Carolina. Second Immigration Wave, c. 1820-1880. A majority of immigrants arriving on the East Coast during this second wave were Irish and Germans. The newly arrived Irish tended to remain near the East Coast. Many of them arrived penniless and lacked the resources to travel further inland. Almost equal numbers of Germans arrived during the same period. However, unlike the Irish, they tended to continue inland. Many of them bought farms in the Midwest. Gold was discovered in California in 1848, and the transcontinental railroad was begun in 1862. Both the lure of gold and the prospect of work on the railroad brought a wave of Chinese immigrants to the West Coast of the United States that dried up in 1882, only after the U.S. Congress enacted the Chinese Exclusion Act that year. That law made immigration for practically all ethnic Chinese illegal. Most of them were single men who planned to make their fortunes and return to China. However, a large proportion of them ended up spending

the rest of their lives in the United States, where most of them worked in low-paying jobs. In response to fears of native-born Americans about job competition, concerns about religious and political differences, and simple, blatant racism, a political party was formed called the America Party or the Know-Nothing Party. The state of California, where most of the Chinese immigrants worked, enacted its own laws to discourage Chinese immigration. Thanks to the combination of restrictive legislation and economic problems, immigration went through another period of decline. By the late nineteenth century, transoceanic transportation had become significantly cheaper and less arduous, making it easier for poor Europeans to immigrate to the United States. The period between about and brought more than 23 million new immigrants from all parts of the world, but mostly from Europe, to the United States. The first decade of this period saw most of the immigrants coming from northern and western Europe; after , the majority came from southern and eastern Europe. Like the Chinese immigrants of the previous wave, many of the new immigrants from southern and eastern Europe encountered a good deal of hostility in their new homeland. Again feeling threatened by job competition, and concerned about racial, religious, and political differences, native-born Americans directed their new hostility primarily against Jewish immigrants, Roman Catholics, and Japanese. Before long, a general distrust and resentment of all new immigrants began to grow. Anti-immigrant sentiment found its way into federal government, and the U. Congress enacted a new series of restrictive immigration laws between and The Immigration Act of , for example, required immigrants to demonstrate their ability to read and write. Nevertheless, despite their chilly reception, immigrants continued to pour into the United States in search of better lives. In , the U. Congress passed a new immigration law that set ceilings on the numbers of immigrants permitted from individual countries. Using a formula designed to slow immigration from southern and eastern Europe, the new law had the effect of ensuring that most new immigrants would come from northern and western European nations. During the Depression years, more people emigrated from the United States than immigrated. Between and , only about one-half million new immigrants arrived in the United States. Nevertheless, the third great immigration wave was already over. Fourth Immigration Wave, After In , passage of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act ended the system of quotas based on nationality. In their place was a new, far less restrictive quota system based on hemispheres. The new system permitted , immigrants per year from the Western Hemisphere and , from the Eastern Hemisphere. In , even these quotas were replaced by a single, worldwide quota of , immigrants per year from all parts of the world. From to , this figure was raised to , immigrants before being reduced to , in None of these quotas placed any limits on the numbers of immediate family members of U. As a consequence, the actual numbers of immigrants who entered the United States legally were higher than the quota figures. During the first decade of the twenty-first century, the United States was still in the midst of the largest wave of immigration in its history. One million immigrants entered the country legally every year. By the first decade of the twenty-first century, fully one-tenth of all residents of the United States were foreign born. In addition to these approximately 30 million legal immigrants in the country, the U. Census estimated that about 8. Most new immigrants, both legal and illegal, were Hispanics from Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central America. Between and , the Hispanic population of the United States increased 63 percentâ€”from Indeed, the largest and longest-enduring movement of laborers between any two countries in the world has been from Mexico to the United States. Yale University Press, Comparison of the great wave of Jewish Russian and Italian immigrants to New York City around with the late twentieth century wave of immigrants from Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Russell Sage Foundation, Examines the effect of large-scale immigration on American society and the economy. Lippert, Dorothy, and Stephen J. Native American History for Dummies. Despite its title, this volume offers a very intelligent discussion of the immigration of the earliest Americans. A Guide to Immigration Since Harvard University Press, Collection of descriptive essays on the various immigrant groups that have made up the post- immigration wave and on the key topics concerning this wave. Economic consequences of immigration; Great Irish Famine; History of immigration, ; History of immigration, ; History of immigration after ; Illegal immigration; Immigration and Nationality Act of

Chapter 5 : U.S. Immigration Before - HISTORY

The population of the USA increased from 63 million in 1800 to 100 million in 1860, as immigration hit its peak. For three decades after 1860, an annual average of 1 million immigrants arrived on American shores, and set a record of 1.2 million newcomers in a single year.

Contact Trends in Migration to the U. Under the motto *e pluribus unum* from many, one, U. For its first years, the United States facilitated immigration, welcoming foreigners to settle a vast country. Beginning in the 1820s, an era of qualitative immigration restrictions began as certain types of immigrants were barred: In the 1850s, quantitative restrictions or quotas set a ceiling on the number of immigrants accepted each year. Qualitative and quantitative restrictions were maintained, but national origin preferences that favored the entry of Europeans were dropped. During the 1890s, the origins of most immigrants changed from Europe to Latin America and Asia: Between 1890 and 1920, over three-fourths of the 10 million immigrants admitted were from Latin America and Asia. The first wave of immigrants, mostly English-speakers from the British Isles, arrived before records were kept beginning in 1820. The second wave, dominated by Irish and German Catholics in the 1840s and 1850s, challenged the dominance of the Protestant church and led to a backlash against Catholics, defused only when the Civil War practically stopped immigration in the 1860s. The third wave, between 1880 and 1914, brought over 20 million European immigrants to the United States, an average of 1 million a year at a time when the United States had 75 million residents. Third-wave European immigration was slowed first by World War I and then by numerical quotas in the 1920s. Between the 1920s and 1960s, immigration paused. Immigration was low during the Depression of the 1930s, and in some years more people left the United States than arrived. The fourth wave began after 1960, and has been marked by rising numbers of immigrants from Latin America and Asia. The United States admitted an average of 1 million immigrants a year in the 1960s, 1.5 million in the 1970s, 1.8 million in the 1980s, and over 1 million a year since the 1990s. Almost 1 million foreigners enter the United States on a typical day. Three major entry doors exist: Almost 3 million foreigners a day receive immigrant visas or green cards that allow them to live, work, and become naturalized U. Over 1 million tourist, business, and student visitors arrive; some stay only a few days, while others stay for several years. Finally, over 1 million unauthorized foreigners a day were settling in the United States until the recession reduced their number sharply. Half of the unauthorized eluded apprehension at the Mexico-U. Since then, the immigration debate has centered on preventing the entry of terrorists, controlling unauthorized migration, and dealing with U. Today, unauthorized migration is the main policy concern. The number of unauthorized foreigners peaked at 10 million in 2007. Debates over how to prevent unauthorized migration and deal with the unauthorized already living in the United States are polarized. Many Republicans, especially in the House of Representatives, prefer an enforcement-first approach—more agents and fences on the Mexico-U. In 2005 and 2006, the U. Senate approved comprehensive immigration reform bills that included a path to legalization. Step up enforcement to deter illegal migration. Provide a year path to U. Create new guest worker programs for low-skilled farm and nonfarm workers. Increase the number of temporary work visas available to foreigners with college degrees coming to the United States to fill jobs. The House approved an enforcement-first bill in 2006 and has opted for a piecemeal approach to immigration reform in 2007, with bills that increase border and interior enforcement and expand guest worker programs for farm and information technology IT workers. References Exceptions are Native Americans, slaves, and those who became U. Cambridge University Press, *Immigration in America*, About 55 percent of the 11 million unauthorized foreigners in 2007 were EWIs.

Chapter 6 : Irish immigrants: Immigration During and After the Great Wave

The history of immigration to the United States details the movement of people to the United States starting with the first European settlements from around Beginning around this time, British and other Europeans settled primarily on the east coast.

History of immigration to the United States Immigrants on ocean steamer passing the Statue of Liberty, New York City, American immigration history can be viewed in four epochs: Each period brought distinct national groups, races and ethnicities to the United States. During the 17th century, approximately , English people migrated to Colonial America. From to between , immigrated. Only 45, English supposedly immigrated in the period to on Butler, Becoming America, The Revolution before , , p. Over half of all European immigrants to Colonial America during the 17th and 18th centuries arrived as indentured servants. The midth century saw an influx mainly from northern Europe from the same major ethnic groups as for the Colonial Period but with large numbers of Catholic Irish and Scandinavians added to the mix; the late 19th and early 20th-century immigrants were mainly from Southern and Eastern Europe, but there were also several million immigrants from Canada; post most came from Latin America and Asia. Historians estimate that fewer than 1 million immigrants moved to the United States from Europe between and After , immigration gradually increased. From to , over 30 million Europeans migrated to the United States. In the late s, immigration from other Asian countries , especially to the West Coast, became more common. The peak year of European immigration was in , when 1., persons entered the country. The Act was aimed at further restricting immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe, particularly Jews, Italians, and Slavs, who had begun to enter the country in large numbers beginning in the s, and consolidated the prohibition of Asian immigration. The welfare system was practically non-existent before the s and the economic pressures on the poor were giving rise to child labor. Immigration patterns of the s were affected by the Great Depression. In the final prosperous year, , there were , immigrants recorded, [25] but in , only 23, moved to the U. Under the proposed bill, the present level of immigration remains substantially the same. Secondly, the ethnic mix of this country will not be upset. Contrary to the charges in some quarters, [the bill] will not inundate America with immigrants from any one country or area, or the most populated and deprived nations of Africa and Asia. In the final analysis, the ethnic pattern of immigration under the proposed measure is not expected to change as sharply as the critics seem to think. By equalizing immigration policies, the act resulted in new immigration from non-European nations, which changed the ethnic make-up of the United States. In November , California voters passed Proposition amending the state constitution, denying state financial aid to illegal immigrants. The federal courts voided this change, ruling that it violated the federal constitution. Commission on Immigration Reform recommended reducing legal immigration from about , people per year to approximately , They have proved to be the most restless, the most adventurous, the most innovative, the most industrious of people. In , President George W. Bush discussed an accord with Mexican President Vincente Fox. Possible accord was derailed by the September 11 attacks. From to , the US Congress discussed various ways of controlling immigration. The Senate and House were unable to reach an agreement. The per-country limit [7] applies the same maximum on the number of visas to all countries regardless of their population and has therefore had the effect of significantly restricting immigration of persons born in populous nations such as Mexico, China, India, and the Philippinesâ€”the leading countries of origin for legally admitted immigrants to the United States in ; [41] nevertheless, China, India, and Mexico were the leading countries of origin for immigrants overall to the United States in , regardless of legal status, according to a U. Through much of the country and Congress was immersed in a debate about these proposals. President Donald Trump signed an executive order temporarily suspending entry to the United States by nationals of certain Muslim-majority countries. It was replaced by another executive order in March and by a presidential proclamation in September , with various changes to the list of countries and exemptions.

Chapter 7 : Trends in Migration to the U.S. – Population Reference Bureau

The second major wave of immigration to the United States took place between the years of 1880 and 1914. People came for a variety of reasons. Some were pull reasons - reasons that compelled them to move to the United States.

Immigration After The Civil War was enormously destructive, but it also helped to stimulate the American economy and to push the United States toward more industrialization. It also began a dramatic rise in immigration as part of this economic expansion. Sources of immigration also began to shift, from northern and western European countries to southern and eastern European countries. Irish migration actually began to decrease gradually around the turn of the twentieth century, even as overall numbers of immigrants to the United States were rapidly growing. As Irish immigration slowed, the Irish-born population of the United States gradually decreased from its maximum of about 1.5 million people in 1890. The heavy immigration of earlier years still meant that many locations in the United States had large Irish communities at the opening of the twentieth century. By 1900, the Irish-born population of the New York City metropolitan area had grown to an estimated 1.5 million people. Another 1.5 million residents of the New York area were children of Irish immigrants. Nearly 1 million of the people in metropolitan Boston were from Ireland, and another 1 million were children of Irish immigrants. In many cities across the United States, the existence of Irish American communities provided a basis for ethnically based politics and economic activity. Kennedy, for example, arose from the Irish community of Boston. Immigration from Ireland, Source: Figures include only immigrants who obtained legal permanent resident status. Between 1880 and 1914, only 4.5 million Irish immigrants came to the United States. The proportion of foreign-born people living in the United States who were from Ireland dropped from 44 percent in 1880 to 10 percent in 1914. In 1914, 10 percent of all Americans had at least one parent who had been born in Ireland. By 1950, this figure had dropped to 5 percent. Nevertheless, the latter figure meant that even as late as 1950, after decades of heavy southern and eastern European immigration, more than one of every twenty people in the United States was the child of an Irish immigrant. People from Ireland or with family links to Ireland still made up a substantial part of the American population in the early twentieth century. Irish immigration also dropped sharply, both in absolute numbers and as a percentage of all new arrivals.

Chapter 8 : US Immigration History Statistics ***

The second wave of immigration from to was a period where America went from being mainly a rural and agricultural society to the beginnings of an industrial society. It was during this second wave, that many Irish and Norwegians emigrated.

Visit Website Did you know? She had made the nearly two-week journey across the Atlantic Ocean in steerage with her two younger brothers. In , a group of roughly people later known as the Pilgrims fled religious persecution in Europe and arrived at present-day Plymouth, Massachusetts , where they established a colony. They were soon followed by a larger group seeking religious freedom, the Puritans, who established the Massachusetts Bay Colony. By some estimates, 20, Puritans migrated to the region between and Visit Website A larger share of immigrants came to America seeking economic opportunities. However, because the price of passage was steep, an estimated one-half or more of the white Europeans who made the voyage did so by becoming indentured servants. Although some people voluntarily indentured themselves, others were kidnapped in European cities and forced into servitude in America. Additionally, thousands of English convicts were shipped across the Atlantic as indentured servants. Another group of immigrants who arrived against their will during the colonial period were black slaves from West Africa. The earliest records of slavery in America include a group of approximately 20 Africans who were forced into indentured servitude in Jamestown, Virginia, in By , there were some 7, African slaves in the American colonies, a number that ballooned to , by , according to some estimates. Congress outlawed the importation of slaves to the United States as of , but the practice continued. Civil War resulted in the emancipation of approximately 4 million slaves. Although the exact numbers will never be known, it is believed that , to , Africans were brought to America and sold into slavery between the 17th and 19th centuries. Immigration in the Midth Century Another major wave of immigration occurred from around to The majority of these newcomers hailed from Northern and Western Europe. Approximately one-third came from Ireland, which experienced a massive famine in the midth century. Typically impoverished, these Irish immigrants settled near their point of arrival in cities along the East Coast. Between and , some 4. Also in the 19th century, the United States received some 5 million German immigrants. Many of them journeyed to the present-day Midwest to buy farms or congregated in such cities as Milwaukee, St. In the national census of , more Americans claimed German ancestry than any other group. During the mids, a significant number of Asian immigrants settled in the United States. Lured by news of the California gold rush, some 25, Chinese had migrated there by the early s. The new arrivals were often seen as unwanted competition for jobs, while many Catholicsâ€”especially the Irishâ€”experienced discrimination for their religious beliefs. In the s, the anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic American Party also called the Know-Nothings tried to severely curb immigration, and even ran a candidate, former U. Following the Civil War, the United States experienced a depression in the s that contributed to a slowdown in immigration. Ellis Island and Federal Immigration Regulation One of the first significant pieces of federal legislation aimed at restricting immigration was the Chinese Exclusion Act of , which banned Chinese laborers from coming to America. Californians had agitated for the new law, blaming the Chinese, who were willing to work for less, for a decline in wages. For much of the s, the federal government had left immigration policy to individual states. However, by the final decade of the century, the government decided it needed to step in to handle the ever-increasing influx of newcomers. More than 12 million immigrants entered the United States through Ellis Island during its years of operation from to Beginning in the s, the majority of arrivals were from Central, Eastern and Southern Europe. In that decade alone, some , Italians migrated to America, and by more than 4 million had entered the United States. Jews from Eastern Europe fleeing religious persecution also arrived in large numbers; over 2 million entered the United States between and The peak year for admission of new immigrants was , when approximately 1. Within a decade, the outbreak of World War I caused a decline in immigration. In , Congress enacted legislation requiring immigrants over 16 to pass a literacy test, and in the early s immigration quotas were established. The Immigration Act of created a quota system that restricted entry to 2 percent of the total number of people of each nationality in America as of the national censusâ€”a

system that favored immigrants from Western Europe and prohibited immigrants from Asia. After the war, Congress passed special legislation enabling refugees from Europe and the Soviet Union to enter the United States. Following the communist revolution in Cuba in 1959, hundreds of thousands of refugees from that island nation also gained admittance to the United States. In 1952, Congress passed the Immigration and Nationality Act, which did away with quotas based on nationality and allowed Americans to sponsor relatives from their countries of origin. As a result of this act and subsequent legislation, the nation experienced a shift in immigration patterns. Today, the majority of U.

Chapter 9 : 4 Waves of Immigration - Mr. Cunneen's Web Site

Immigrants from Europe came in massive waves until the era of open immigration ended with the passage of the Emergency Quota Act (Figure 1). 1 By the end of the first three decades of immigration, the census of finds that almost 10% of Americans was foreign-

The total number immigrating in each decade from to are estimates. The number of foreign born in and decades are extrapolations. Starting in , some federal records, including ship passenger lists, were kept for immigration purposes, and a gradual increase in immigration was recorded; more complete immigration records provide data on immigration after . Though conducted since , the census of was the first in which place of birth was asked specifically. The foreign-born population in the U. By , most of the immigrants who arrived before the American Revolution had died, and there had been almost no new immigration thereafter. An additional approximate 2, foreign born California residents also become U. California became a state in with a population of about 90, Between and , 3. Before most Irish immigrants were Protestants. After , Irish Catholics began arriving in large numbers, largely driven by the Great Famine. In addition, the expansion of a railroad system in Europe made it easier for people to reach oceanic ports to board ships. Meanwhile, farming improvements in Southern Europe and the Russian Empire created surplus labor. Young people between the ages of 15 to 30 were predominant among newcomers. This wave of migration, constituting the third episode in the history of U. Italians, Greeks, Hungarians, Poles, and others speaking Slavic languages made up the bulk of this migration. Destinations[edit] Each group evinced a distinctive migration pattern in terms of the gender balance within the migratory pool, the permanence of their migration, their literacy rates, the balance between adults and children, and the like. But they shared one overarching characteristic: Their urban destinations, numbers, and perhaps an antipathy towards foreigners, led to the emergence of a second wave of organized xenophobia. In a group formed the Immigration Restriction League, and it, along with other similarly inclined organizations, began to press Congress for severe curtailment of foreign immigration. It was empowered by popular fears that the country was being overwhelmed by Catholic immigrants, who were often regarded as hostile to American values and controlled by the Pope in Rome. Active mainly from 1856, it strove to curb immigration and naturalization , though its efforts met with little success. There were few prominent leaders, and the largely middle-class and Protestant membership fragmented over the issue of slavery , most often joining the Republican Party by the time of the presidential election. Considering the fact that the population of Quebec was only , in , this was a massive exodus. A large portion of them have ancestors who emigrated from French Canada , since immigration from France was low throughout the history of the United States. During the same period almost 4 million other Canadians immigrated to the U. Shortly after the U. Civil War , some states started to pass their own immigration laws, which prompted the U. Supreme Court to rule in that immigration was a federal responsibility. By excluding all Chinese laborers from entering the country, the Chinese Exclusion Act severely curtailed the number of immigrants of Chinese descent allowed into the United States for 10 years. During this period, Chinese migrants illegally entered the United States through the loosely guarded U. Late 19th Century broadside advertisement offering cheap farm land to immigrants; few went to Texas after . The Dillingham Commission was set up by Congress in to investigate the effects of immigration on the country. It was, however, apt to make generalizations about regional groups that were subjective and failed to differentiate between distinct cultural attributes. Over two million Italians immigrated in those years, with a total of 5. They settled mainly in the Midwest, especially Minnesota and the Dakotas. Danes had comparably low immigration rates due to a better economy; after many Danish immigrants were Mormon converts who moved to Utah. In this Rosh Hashana greeting card from the early s, Russian Jews, packs in hand, gaze at the American relatives beckoning them to the United States. Over two million Jews fled the pogroms of the Russian Empire to the safety of the U. Lower East Side , circa . Over two million Central Europeans , mainly Catholics and Jews, immigrated between and . Immigration of Eastern Orthodox ethnic groups was much lower. Lebanese and Syrian immigrants started to settle in large numbers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The vast majority of the immigrants from Lebanon and Syria were

Christians, but smaller numbers of Jews, Muslims, and Druze also settled. In the 1850s and 1860s, a large number of these immigrants set out West, with Detroit getting a large number of Middle Eastern immigrants, as well as many Midwestern areas where the Arabs worked as farmers. From 1880 to 1920, around two million Jews moved to the United States, mostly seeking better opportunity in America and fleeing the pogroms of the Russian Empire. After Jews, along with any other above-quota immigration, were usually denied access to the United States. Congress passed a literacy requirement in 1890 to curb the influx of low-skilled immigrants from entering the country. Congress passed the Emergency Quota Act in 1906, followed by the Immigration Act of 1907, which was aimed at further restricting the Southern Europeans and Russians who had begun to enter the country in large numbers beginning in the 1880s. This ultimately resulted in precluding all "extra" immigration to the United States, including Jews fleeing Nazi German persecution. Nativists feared the new arrivals lacked the political, social, and occupational skills needed to successfully assimilate into American culture. This raised the issue of whether the U.S. The National Origins Formula of 1924 and its final form in 1926 not only restricted the number of immigrants who might enter the United States, but also assigned slots according to quotas based on national origins. A complicated piece of legislation, it essentially gave preference to immigrants from Central, Northern and Western Europe, severely limiting the numbers from Russia and Southern Europe, and declared all potential immigrants from Asia unworthy of entry into the United States. The legislation excluded the Western Hemisphere from the quota system, and the 1920s ushered in the penultimate era of U.S. Immigration. Immigrants could and did move quite freely from Mexico, the Caribbean including Jamaica, Barbados, and Haiti, and other parts of Central and South America. This era, which reflected the application of the legislation, lasted until 1954. During those 40 years, the United States began to admit, case by case, limited numbers of refugees. Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany before World War II, Jewish Holocaust survivors after the war, non-Jewish displaced persons fleeing Communist rule in Central Europe and Russia, Hungarians seeking refuge after their failed uprising in 1956, and Cubans after the revolution managed to find haven in the United States when their plight moved the collective conscience of America, but the basic immigration law remained in place. Equal Nationality Act of 1906 [edit] This law allowed foreign-born children of American mothers and alien fathers who had entered America before the age of 18 and had lived in America for five years to apply for American citizenship for the first time. Until 1934, national origin quotas strictly limited immigration from the Philippines. In 1934, after revision of the immigration law, significant Filipino immigration began, totaling 1,000, by the Armed Forces to immigrate to the United States. In 1935, the Luce-Celler Act extended the right to become naturalized citizens to those from the newly independent nation of The Philippines and to Asian Indians, the immigration quota being set at 100 people per year per country. After the war, there were jobs for nearly everyone who wanted one, when most women employed during the war went back into the home. From 1945 to 1954, 1,000,000 people immigrated to the U.S. Truman signed the first Displaced Persons DP act on June 25, 1948, allowing entry for 100,000 DPs, then followed with the more accommodating second DP act on June 16, 1950, allowing entry for another 100,000. This quota, including acceptance of 55,000 Volksdeutschen, required sponsorship for all immigrants. The American program was the most notoriously bureaucratic of all the DP programs and much of the humanitarian effort was undertaken by charitable organizations, such as the Lutheran World Federation as well as other ethnic groups. There was little U.S. Significant Korean immigration began in 1952 after revision of the law, totaling 100,000, by 1954. In 1952, the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act affirmed the national-origins quota system of 1924 and limited total annual immigration to one-sixth of one percent of the population of the continental United States in 1952, or 100,000. This exempted the spouses and children of U.S. In 1953, the Refugee Relief Act extended refugee status to non-Europeans. In 1954, Operation Wetback forced the return of thousands of illegal immigrants to Mexico. It is estimated that before Operation Wetback got under way, more than a million workers had crossed the Rio Grande illegally. Cheap labor displaced native agricultural workers, and increased violation of labor laws and discrimination encouraged criminality, disease, and illiteracy. The United States Border Patrol aided by municipal, county, state, federal authorities, and the military, began a quasi-military operation of the search and seizure of all illegal immigrants. Initially, illegal immigrants were repatriated through Presidio because the Mexican city across the border, Ojinaga, had rail connections to the interior of Mexico by which workers could be quickly moved on to Durango. The forces used by the government were relatively small, perhaps no more than 100 men, but were

augmented by border patrol officials who hoped to scare illegal workers into fleeing back to Mexico. Ships became a preferred mode of transport because they carried illegal workers farther from the border than buses, trucks, or trains. It is difficult to estimate the number of illegal immigrants that left due to the operation—most voluntarily. The INS claimed as many as 1,, though the number officially apprehended did not come anywhere near this total. The program was ultimately abandoned due to questions surrounding the ethics of its implementation. Citizens of Mexican descent complained of police stopping all "Mexican looking" people and utilizing extreme "police-state" methods including deportation of American-born children who were citizens by law. From to , the U. The Cuban revolution led by Fidel Castro drove the upper and middle classes to exile, and , families immigrated to the U. The measure had not been intended to stimulate immigration from Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere in the developing world. Rather, by doing away with the racially based quota system, its authors had expected that immigrants would come from "traditional" societies such as Italy, Greece, and Portugal, places that labored under very small quotas in the law. The law replaced the quotas with preferential categories based on family relationships and job skills, giving particular preference to potential immigrants with relatives in the United States and with occupations deemed critical by the U. After , however, following an initial influx from European countries, immigrants from places like Korea, China, India, the Philippines, and Pakistan, as well as countries in Africa became more common. IRCA, as proposed in Congress, was projected to give amnesty to about 1,, workers in the country illegally. In practice, amnesty for about 3,, immigrants already in the United States was granted. Most were from Mexico. Legal Mexican immigrant family numbers were 2,, in , 4,, in includes IRCA , and 7,, in Census, are shown below. Blank entries mean that the country did not make it into the top ten for that census, not that there is no data from that census. The numbers are from immigration statistics as listed in the Year Book of Immigration Statistics. The census is the first census that asks for place of birth.