Immigration and Migration in US History

30,000-10,000 BC First Peoples

* Asian hunter-gatherers cross Bering Strait land bridge into North America.
* Hundreds of generations found various indigenous cultures throughout the Americas.

1492 – 1700’s Spanish

* Explorers & conquistadors found colonies in Latin America, Florida and US SW,
* bringing Spanish culture, language and Catholicism, destroy indigenous cultures (Aztec,Inca).
* More tolerant than English colonizers – allow some syncretism (combining traditional beliefs with Catholicism) – until Pope’s Rebellion (1680 Indian uprising)/ Pueblo Revolt
* Some intermarriage – creating “mestizo” race (lower than peninsulares (viceroys)

1524 – 1763 French

* Explorers stake claims along the St. Lawrence River in eastern Canada (Quebec), around the Great Lakes, the Mississippi Delta (New Orleans) and Caribbean islands (Haiti).
* French cultural influence = Catholic (esp. Jesuit) missionaries & Huguenots (French Protestants).
* Complex interaction with natives – some violence, thriving fur trade, some intermarriage
* Mostly trading outposts rather than large plantations designed to profit
* After French and Indian War 1763, Acadia renamed Nova Scotia (New Scotland)

English 1607 - 1640

* Seeking freedom from religious persecution in England, Great Puritan Migration established settlements in “New England” (Plymouth Colony and later Massachusetts Bay).
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* Mostly large family groups, patriarchal social structure, longer life span than Chesapeake
* John Winthrop’s “city on a hill” – beacon of Christian religious and political harmony.
* Democratic/quasi-theocratic government, Mayflower Compact in 1620 – self-government, town meetings, but limited religious dissent (expulsion of Roger Williams (RI) and Anne Hutchinson, Salem Witch Trials. Harvard established to train clergy. English focus on conversion
* Some “praying towns” escape unscathed in Pequot War(1630’s) King Philip’s War 1670s

1625 – 1775 Diversity in the Middle and Southern Colonies

* Mix of ethnicities in seaports (English, Dutch, German and African)
* Multitude of religious groups (Quakers, Catholics, Jews and Huguenots).
* Dutch settle New Amsterdam in 1625 (New York)
* Quakers seek haven in William Penn’s Pennsylvania Colony
* Maryland established as haven for Catholics - Religious Toleration Act in 1649.
* Some Jewish merchants along Coast, some French Huguenots in middle colonies.

1619 – 1808 African Slaves

* First slaves in 1619 to Virginia, Triangle Trade - some taken to Brazil, most sold. ~ 12 million, with approximately 2 million dying along the way. 1-2 million brought to US South.
* Slave cultures mixed West African traditions, English Language and Christianity

1710 – 1763 Early wave of Immigration from Europe

* Pennsylvania “Dutch Early German immigrants seeking religious freedom
* Scots-Irish & the Paxton Boys - Early Scottish/Irish immigrants, favored military intervention in native conflicts

1798 – Early Immigration Legislation

* Naturalization Act of 1790 – any free white person of “good character”, 2 years residency req’d
* Alien and Sedition Acts 1798 - Series of 4 laws passed in 1798 amid widespread fear that war with France was imminent. Very controversial, restricted the activities of foreign residents in the US and limited freedom of speech and of the press. --- 1/5 Americans are non-white by 1790

1822 – 1845 Texas Colonization, Independence & Annexation

* After Mexico gains independence from Spain 1821, Stephen F. Austin fulfills land grant and anglo colonists settle b/w Brazos and Colorado river,
* Mexican law 1830 prohibits immigration of North Americans but US purchases TX

1840’s Irish / German – “Old Immigration”, Chinese on West Coast

* Steerage Act of 1819 – requires safer boat conditions for immigrants
* ~5 million Germans – settle on farms in Midwest and some cities (Milwaukee)
* ~2 million Irish after Potato Famine, In 1840’s Irish comprise ½ of all US immigrants
* b/w 1820 and 1860, Irish = 1/3 of all US immigrants. More than 4.5 million b/w 1820-1930
* face discrimination, No Irish Need Apply, take mostly railroad and household jobs,
* Irish and Chinese significant labor force for railroads during Gold Rush (1849
* Many settle as part of Homestead Act of 1862

1830 – 1840 Indian Removal

* Authorized by Pres. Jackson, forced migration of Native Americans to leave their ancestral homelands in the eastern United States (FLA, GA), to lands west of the Mississippi River, specifically to a designated Indian Territory

1840’s Mormon Exodus

* Joseph Smith founds colony in New York in 1830, persecuted for beliefs (e.g. polygamy)
* Smith murdered in Illinois and group migrates under BrighamYoung to Mexican Southwest (Utah)
* More than 100,000 in Salt Lake by 1877

1850s - Nativism — violence against immigrants:

* 1854, New Orleans: vigilance committee vs. Catholics/immigrants, clashed in Jackson Square.
* 1854, Lawrence, MA: Irish neighborhood destroyed.
* 1855, Chicago Lager Beer Riots: mayor’s attempt to close saloons on Sunday met with protests by German, Irish, Swedish workingmen; National Guard, militia called out; martial lawimposed.
* Riots a factor in the creation of urban police forces and attempts to control the volunteer fire companies, which were often ethnic-oriented political gangs (i.e., primary reason behind the 1854 expansion of the city of Philadelphia from 2 to 129 sq. miles, to incorporate the immigrant suburbs of Kensington and Southwark to extend police jurisdiction to these immigrant areas).
* 1845 Philadelphia convention of nativists formed the Native American Party.

1850 - Know Nothing Party First anti-immigration political party, backlash to German and Irish immigrants

American Party (1850; popularly known as Know-Nothings; grew out of the 1849-50 Supreme Order of the Star-Spangled Banner in NY):

* + Grew to 1,500,000 by 1854.
  + Attracted anti-immigrant Whigs, anti-Catholics.
  + Membership restricted to native-born, white Protestants, who were sworn to secrecy.
  + Accused immigrants of plotting with Catholics to overthrow U.S. democracy; disliked Catholic Church’s opposition to liberal European revolutions of 1848.
  + Thought immigration was responsible for rising crime and rising rate of relief for the poor.
  + Supported extension of period for naturalization from 5 to 21 years; ban on naturalized citizens’ holding of public office; use of Protestant Bible (King James version) in public schools; head tax to inhibit immigration; literacy test for voting; restriction on the sale of liquor.
  + Popular in MA (1854, elected 11 congressmen, governor, all state officers, all state senators), PA, NY, DE; made gains in 1854 congressional elections (74 Know-Nothing congressmen); 1855: won MD, KY, TX, and won candidates in NY, CA, TN, VA, GA, AL, MS, LA.
  + Western members of party did not oppose naturalized Protestants because of German voters.
  + Split over antislavery into northern & southern wings in 1855; party declined by 1856.
  + 1856: ran Millard Fillmore for president (polled 22 percent of popular vote; 8 electoral votes).

1850’s – 1882 Chinese and Japanese

* Tunnels, railroads, entire groups brought by boat into San Francisco by Chinese “mafia-type” groups, begins trade system with China

1880 – 1920 The “New” Immigration

1910s–1920s

* + Some Progressives favored immigration restriction as a way to solve urban problems (poverty, overcrowding, social unrest, unemployment, drug use); temperance was partly an expression of the belief that immigrants’ use of liquor had to be “disciplined”; some Progressives saw Americanization as a way to break immigrants’ ethnic culture.
  + *Great Migration of African Americans –* to the North
  + Popularization of ideas of racial hierarchy: eugenics; Madison Grant, *The Passing of the Great Race,* 1916; army IQ tests administered during WWI seemed to suggest that blacks and new immigrants had inferior intelligence to native, white Protestants.
  + Popular concepts of degrees of “whiteness” started to change into “absolute whiteness” and “absolute colored”; for example, the Irish were no longer a variation of “whiteness” but instead they were white; new thinking greatly simplified dividing the world’s peoples into desirable and undesirable groups.
  + Dillingham Commission Report, 1911 (federal commission began in 1907): argued that newer immigrants were less assimilable than earlier immigrants.
* Fear of immigrants during WWI:
  + Anti-German, anti-Irish sentiment.
  + Demand for “100 percent Americanism,” particularly by Committee on Public Information.
  + Some states and towns burned German books, music, language instruction (16 states by end of the war).
  + Popular renaming of German items, e.g., “liberty cabbage” for sauerkraut, “liberty steaks” for hamburgers.
  + Vigilantism against German Americans and German aliens; many in the Midwest were particularly vulnerable.
    - ♣  Milwaukee: Loyalty League convinced school board to ban teaching of German, closed German theaters and music halls.
    - ♣  American Protective League: sought to purge radicals and reformers, wiretapped phones, intercepted private mail, burglarized union offices, broke up German-language newspapers, harassed immigrants.
  + 1917 Trading with the Enemy Act: postmaster general authorized to suspend mailing privileges of foreign-language periodicals and newspapers deemed offensive to the government.
  + 1918 Alien Act: deportation of any noncitizen who advocated revolution or anarchism.
* 1917 Immigration Act:
  + Required literacy test (earlier attempts to pass literacy tests had been vetoed by Cleveland in 1896, by Taft in 1913, and by Wilson in 1915; in 1917 Wilson vetoed yet another such bill; this act was passed over his veto).
  + Created an “Asiatic Barred Zone” (Japan and Korea left out of it, but prior limitations on laborers from China and Japan still applied).
  + Mexicans exempted temporarily.
* Some western states forbade Asian immigrants to own or lease land.
  + CA 1913 Alien Land Act: “aliens not eligible for citizenship” could not purchase or lease land or longer than three years.
  + CA 1920 Alien Land Act: no rentals of land by aliens ineligible for citizenship or by corporations with stock held by aliens ineligible for citizenship.

Red Scare, 1919-20 (Palmer Raids): linked Bolshevism, socialism, radicalism with immigrants.

* Increased immigration was blamed for post-WWI depression and unemployment; AFL proposed to halt immigration for two years; fear that immigrant workers raised unemployment and lowered wages.
* Prohibition, 1920: drinking associated with Catholic immigrants, particularly urban ones; seen as a way to “discipline” new immigrant population; brewing industry connected to German immigrants.
* Fear of “new immigrants” from southern and eastern Europe (associated with radicalism, genetic and cultural inferiority).
* Campaign in early 1920s by CA congressmen and senators to ban Japanese “picture brides” from immigrating to the United States.
* Trial of *Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, 1921*, and execution, 1927: showed fear and association of immigrants with political radicalism.

Ku Klux Klan of 1920s.

* “100 percent Americanism.”
* White supremacy (slogan: “Native, White, Protestant Supremacy”):
  + Became a force in Democratic Party politics, particularly in Midwest and small-town America.
  + Systematic terror against blacks, Jews, Catholics, foreigners.
  + Faded after Stephenson affair, Indiana, 1925.

1921 Immigration Act (Emergency Quota Act):

* + Established overall maximum of 357,000 immigrants per year.
  + Quotas based on national origins: 3 percent of each country’s nationals residing in U.S. in 1910.
* 1922 Married Women’s Act (Cable Act): “any woman citizen who married an alien ineligible for citizenship shall cease to be a citizen of the U.S.”; women could not acquire citizenship by virtue of spouse’s status; rather, they had to apply on their own.
* *Ozawa v. U.S.* (1922): Japanese immigrants were unassimilable aliens and racially ineligible for U.S. citizenship; Supreme Court ruled that the definition of “race” was not a scientific one but instead based on the “understanding of the common man”; therefore “white persons,” the phrase in the law, meant northern and western Europeans.
* *U.S. v. Thind* (1923): Asian Indian immigrants were unassimilable aliens and racially ineligible for U.S. citizenship.

1924 Johnson–Reed Immigration Act (National Origins Act) — established National Origins Plan to begin in 1929:

* + Cut maximum annual immigration to 164,000 and reduced European quotas to 2 percent of each nationality in U.S. in 1890, thereby discriminating against southern and eastern Europeans.
  + Excluded “aliens ineligible for citizenship” (east and south Asia, Japan; Chinese were already excluded by laws of 1882, 1892).
  + Filipinos, Mexicans, and Canadians (western hemisphere) were exempted from the 1924 act.
  + Prevented Asian women from joining their husbands in the U.S.
  + Allowed all other foreign-born wives and children of U.S. citizens to enter as non-quota immigrants.
  + Divided balance of world into “five colored races” (black, mulatto, Chinese, Japanese, Indian).
  + Created a new category: “illegal alien.”
* *Hidemitsu v. U.S.* (1925): forbade naturalization of Japanese (to maintain distinction of race and color in naturalization laws).

U.S. Border Patrol established in 1925; made border crossing from Mexico more difficult (head taxes, visa fees, literacy tests, document checks).

1927 revised National Origins Act:

* + Established new quotas to begin in 1929.
  + Set annual limit of 150,000 immigrants; completely excluded Japanese.
  + European quotas were decided in proportion to “national origins” (country of birth or descent) of continental U.S. inhabitants in 1920.
  + Immigrants from western hemisphere (except “potential paupers” as defined by Labor Dept.) were excluded from quotas.
* Mexicans subjected to discrimination:
  + In employment and residence patterns.
  + Often confined to barrios.
  + Legal restrictions in some states on employment, such as teaching, legal profession, public works projects.
  + Agribusiness interests tried to keep borders open, using racial stereotyping as their weapon (only Mexicans could perform physically demanding work “owing to their crouching and bending habits”).
  + School systems were segregated.

1929 Anti-Filipino riots in CA resulted in 1934 legislation to eliminate immigration from the Philippines.

1930’s – Dust Bowl – from KS, OK, to CA –

* away from dust bowl and loss of farms, towards “Land of Mlk and honey”
* Great depression keeps families trapped in poverty, many family farms lost, leads to industrialization of farming and agriculture

1933 – Jewish Holocaust refugees – some turned away from New Orleans in WW2

1942 – 1946- Japanese American Internment in California, Aleut Internment in Alaska –

* 125,000 Japanese families interred in camps to prevent defection to Japan, aid to enemy, lands transferred from Japanese to white families
* 800 Aleuts taken from Aleutian islands and transferred to camps in SE Alaska, 10% mortality horrific conditions because of their similarity to “Japanese” invaders. Internment continues after Japanese leave.
* Reparations paid to both groups decades after, govt apologizes for race prejudice and wartime hysteria

1941 – 1970 – Second Great Migration of African Americans – to cities

1952 – McCarran Walter Act

1959 – 1980’s – Cuban migration

1965 – Immigration and Nationality Act

1960s – present – Mexicans, S. Americans, Central Americans

1975 – 1980s Vietnamese

1986 – Immigration Reform and Control Act

2000’s Dream Act Proposals (children brought by non-citizens)