

Humanities
Moyer
Theme: Diversity & the National Identity

Notes-Asian Americans (1940s-Present)

Prejudice & Discrimination:

- deep roots in U.S.
- 1790 law about how immigrants could naturalize - only "whites" could be naturalized citizens (so Asians could not)
- many laws cut off immigration from Asia in late 1800s - 1900s
- things begin to change during WWII & The Cold War

Population Increases:

From 1960-1985, Asian Americans popul. ↑ed 577%

- Post WWII/Cold War Era - laws that showed prejudice toward Asians were embarrassing to U.S. gov't
- McCarran-Walter Act: 1952
- allowed immigr. from most of Asia - pressure grew to change those laws
 - also overturned the 1790 law - only "whites" - citizens
 - yet Congress kept strict limits on immigr. from Asia

Immigration Act of 1965:

- major shift in immigr. policy for Congress
- did away w/ the huge differences b/t how many immigr. from Europe & Asia could enter the U.S.
 - about 20,000 immigr. from each Asian country could enter the U.S. each yr. → immigr. from Asia began to rise
- before the act, As-Am made up less than 1% of U.S. popul. - by 1990 - 3% ; by 2050 - 10%
- 1960, 97% of Asian immigrants came from just 3 nations - Japan, China & the Philip. - by 1990, lg. #s of immigr. from Vietnam, Cambodia, Korea, India, Laos had come to U.S.
- in earlier times, mostly men / Now, whole families - earlier times - planned on returning to home country

You will be given a short reading on a particular group of Asian Americans.

Answer the questions provided for your particular reading. You will each present the information that you found to your group members who will provide you with information on their assigned readings. You will find the questions on the back of this sheet.

- now, many plan on staying & bldg. lives here

Chinese Americans

Chinese immigration remained low during the 1950s. Why?

- a law kept Chinese immigration low
- civil war in China ended w/ communist China in 1949

Describe the conditions new immigrants from China found when they arrived in the United States?

- run-down housing
- crowded
- very expensive

Japanese Americans

Explain the financial losses interned Japanese Americans suffered during World War II.

- lost homes & businesses
- many had to start all over again in low-paying jobs

Describe the significance of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

- approved payments to the internees

Why has immigration from Japan declined since the end of WWII?

- J's economy has boomed
- plenty of jobs

Korean and Filipino Americans

What led many Koreans to move to the United States after World War II?

- the split
- Korean War
- S. Korea - one of the most densely populated countries & jobs did not pay well

Where have most recent Korean immigrants to the United States chosen to live?

Why do think they have chosen these cities?

LA & NYC

- open shops & businesses

Why have many Filipinos come to the United States in recent years?

- political reasons
- economic reasons (cannot find jobs in Philippines)