

# America

## A Nation of Immigrants



# Why emigrate/immigrate?

## Push Factors



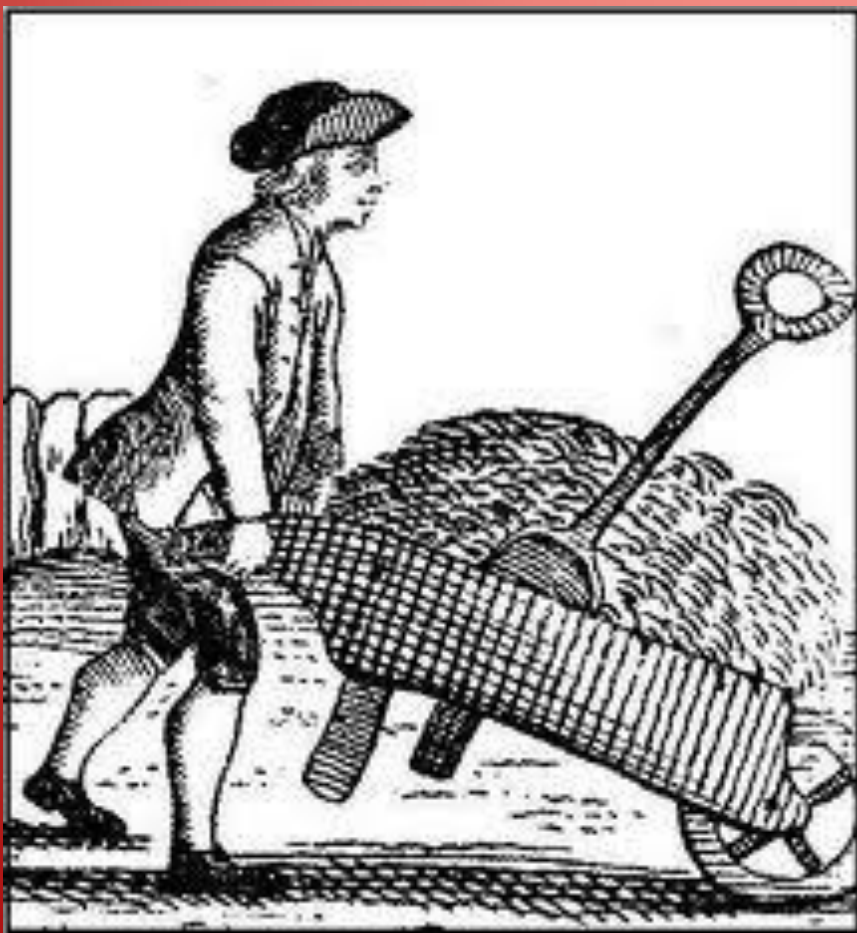
## Pull Factors



# The Land Bridge Theory



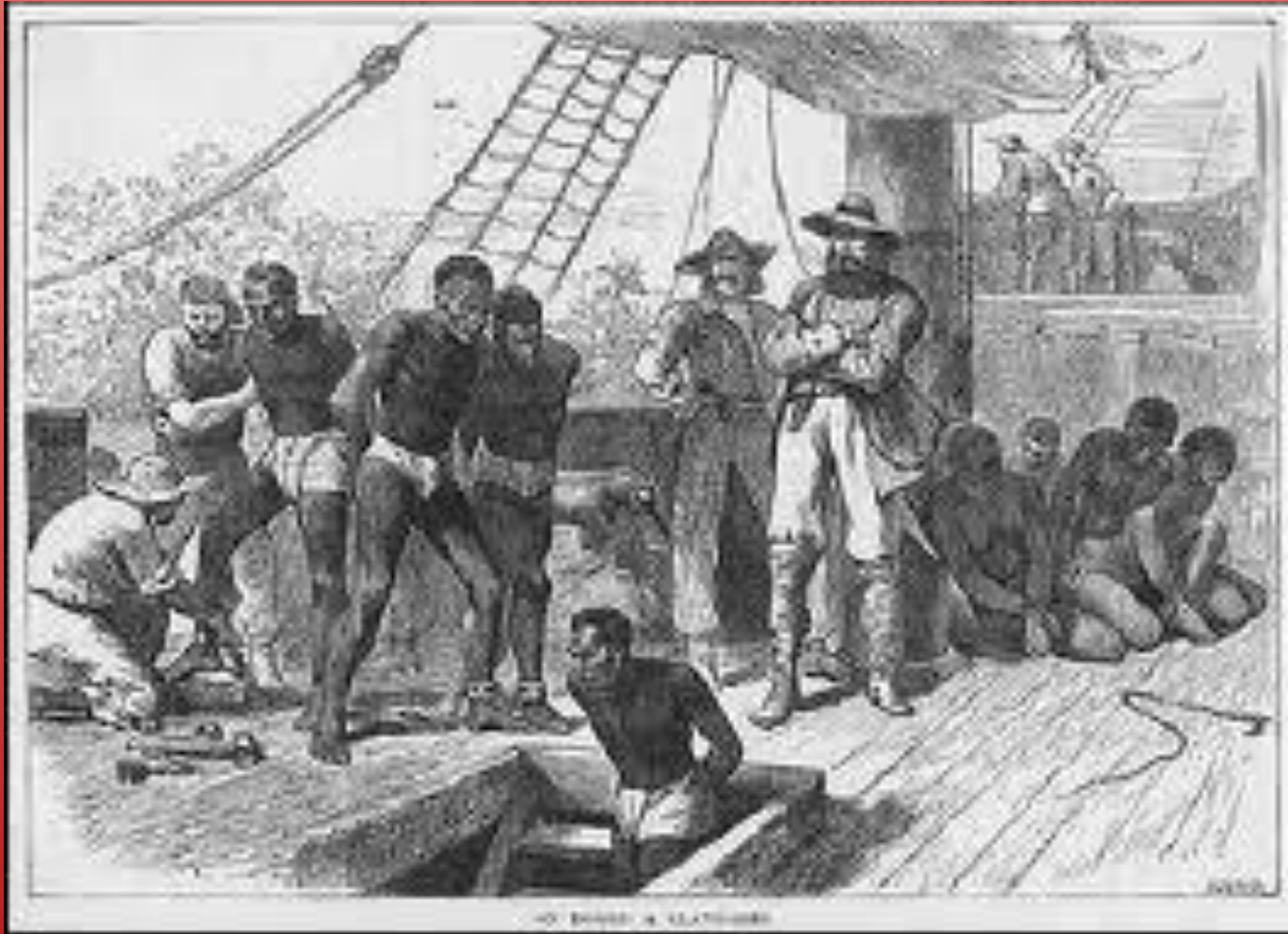
# “Old Immigrants”



Before 1880, most came from countries in western and northern Europe.

Over 50% of early European immigrants arrived as indentured servants.

# The Unwilling Immigrants



# 1790 Census

Recorded about 4 million people living in the colonies

- 700,000: African descent

- 2 million: English descent

- 400,000 Europeans from countries other than England

# 1841-1860

Immigration explodes!

- over 4 million people came to U.S.

- represents a 600% increase over the previous 20 year period

- most came from Great Britain, Germany, and especially...

**IRELAND**

# Irish Immigration





“steerage”



# Nativist Reaction Against the Irish

Discrimination

- Catholicism

Formation of Native American Party

- “nativists”

- white Protestant native-born

# 1844 Rioting in Philadelphia



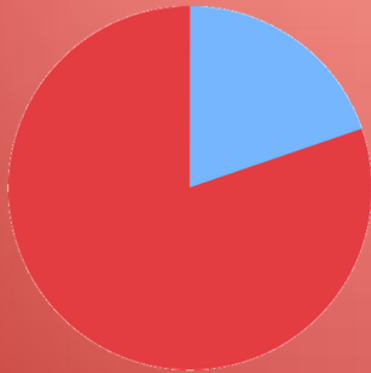
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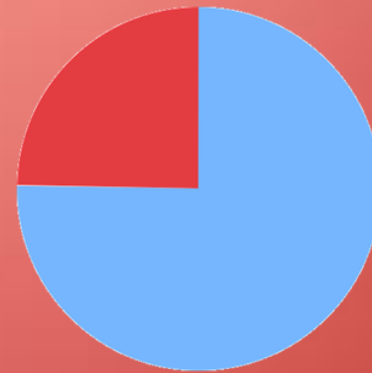
# European Immigration



1881-1890



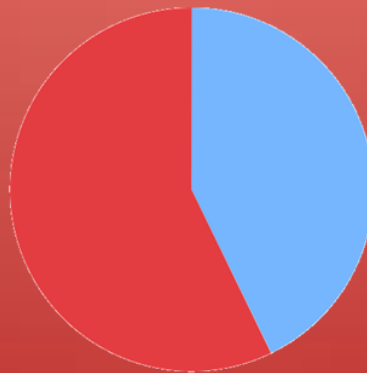
1891-1900



1901-1910



1911-1920



1921-1930



1931-1940

# “The Largest Mass Movement in Human History”

1880-1921

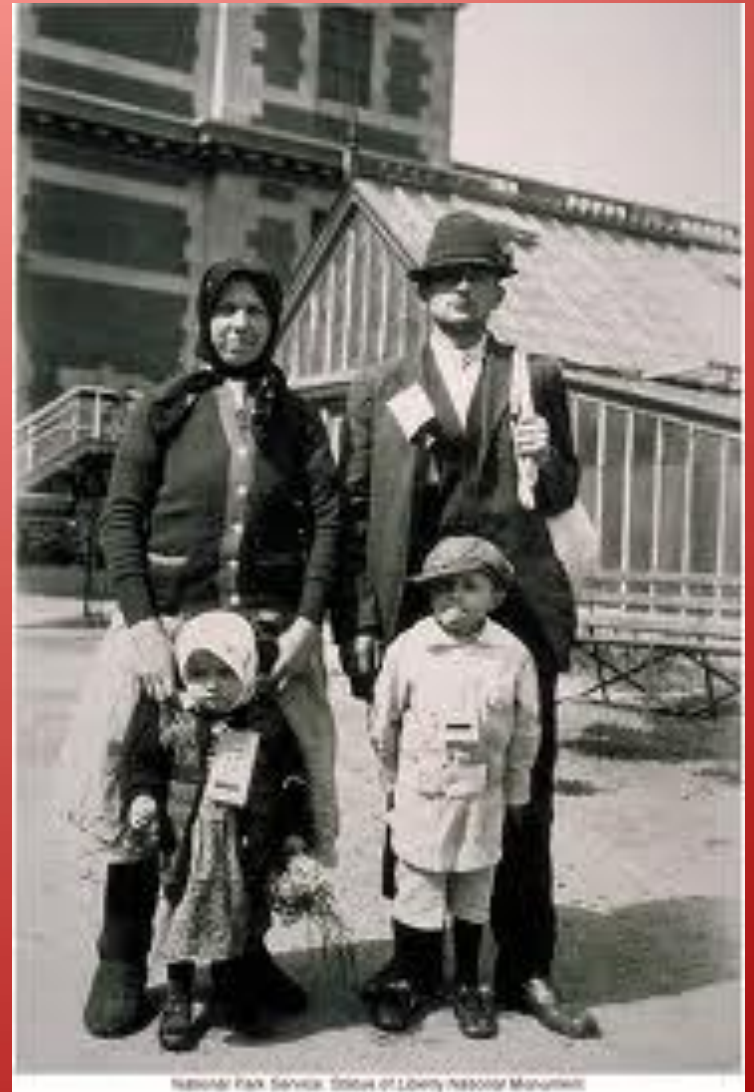
- a record setting 23 million immigrants arrived on America's shores

- almost 45 million people around the world left their homelands to settle in new countries (the majority-over 56%-came to the U.S.)

  - no quotas (limits) at this time

# “New Immigrants”

Between 1880 & 1920,  
approx. 70% came from  
southern & eastern  
Europe.



# Typical “New Immigrant”

Young

Male

Catholic or Jewish

Spoke little or no English

Unskilled agricultural laborer with little money or education

\*Brought hopes, hard work, and unique contributions to American society



# Ellis Island-The “Golden Door” to America



# The “Isle of Tears”

Main purpose of Ellis Island: weed out immigrants who were seen as undesirable

- detained & eventually deported (about 2%)

Great difference in way people were treated at Ellis Island:

- First & second-class passengers: briefly examined & given landing cards aboard ship in the harbor

# Steerage Passengers

Before they arrived: tagged with a number  
-interpreters formed immigrants into groups  
of 30 by yelling out numbers in various  
languages

“six-second physical”



# Chalk Symbols

X	Suspected mental defect	F	Face	P	Physical and Lungs
⊗	Definite signs of mental disease observed	F+	Foot	P <sub>g</sub>	Pregnancy
B	Back	G	Golfer	Sc	Scalp (Furva)
C	Conjunctivitis	H	Heart	S	Sensility
CT	Trachoma	K	Hernia		
E	Eyes	L	Lameness		
		N	Neck		

# Federal Immigration Inspectors



Inspectors in early 1900s:

-9 a.m.-7 p.m.

-7 days/week

-each questioned 400-500 immigrants a day

-had about 2 minutes to decide whether an immigrant was “clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to land”

# Life for the New Immigrants

## Ethnic enclaves

- able to maintain customs, eat food they were used to & speak their own language

Concern grew among some Americans that new immigrants would not become part of American society.

- a new nativism arose

# Ethnic Enclaves





# Living Conditions



# Working Conditions



# A New Nativism

- Why?
  - Concern that new immigrants would not become part of American society
  - Immigration Restriction League
    - Senate commission blamed nation's problems on new immigrants & recommended a literacy test & other restrictions on immigration
    - And then there was...

# The Ku Klux Klan



# From China to Chinatown

As you watch the story of one Chinese immigrant, take notes on his experience as an immigrant in America.

\* Compare/contrast his experience with that of European immigrants.

# Immigrants and the Transcontinental Railroad

**Union Pacific-Irish**

**Central Pacific-Chinese**



# Chinese Exclusion Act

**HIP! HURRAH!**  
**CHINESE EXCLUDED**  
Immigrate Chinese Exclusion Bill  
Our Democratic President  
HORTON HOUSE PLAZA  
**To-Night**  
COME OUT AND RATIFY:  
**NO MORE CHINESE!**

The Chinese Exclusion Act was approved on 6 May 1882 -- the first significant law restricting immigration into the United States.



# Japanese Immigration



1880-Hawaii

1898-annexation

1920-West Coast





Gentlemen's  
Agreement  
(1907-1908)

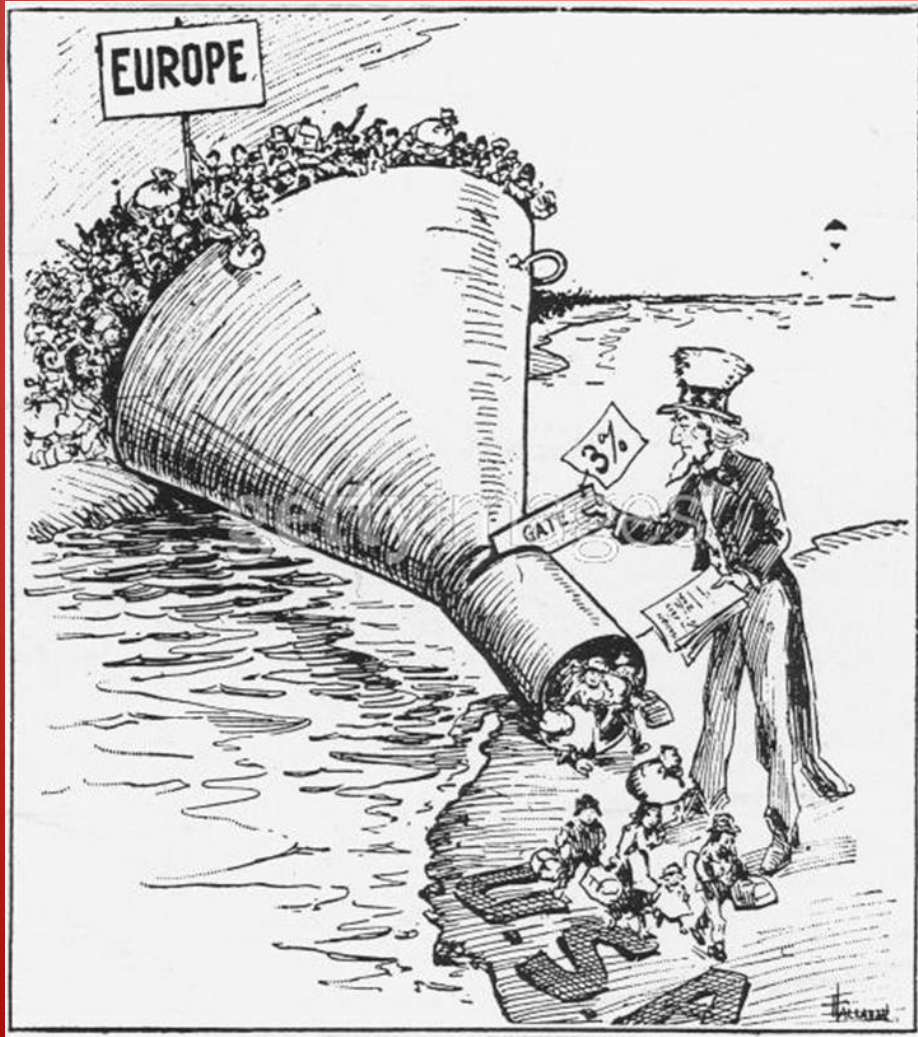
# America as a Melting Pot

Melting Pot or...



Salad Bowl?





Emergency Quota  
Act of 1921 →  
quota system



# Mexican Immigration to the United States

1. What is the overall trend of Mexican immigration to the U.S. in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?
2. What push/pull factors that you have learned about explain the rise and fall of Mexican immigration to the U.S. in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?
3. Which factors that you read about contributed to the rise of undocumented immigration from Mexico?

# The DREAM Act

1. What is the need or problem that the DREAM Act is trying to solve?
2. What are the main arguments supporting the DREAM Act?
3. What are the main arguments opposing the DREAM Act?

# Korean Immigrants Build New Lives in the U.S.

First wave-early 1900s

- about 8,000 to Hawaii

WWII leads to a divided Korea

- North Korea: Communist

- South Korea: free enterprise

Korean War (1950s)

- after the war, S. Korea began to change to a modern, industrial power (one of the most densely populated)

Immigration Act of 1965

- in less than 15 yrs. Korean popul. in U.S. grows from less than 10,000 to over half a million

# Most Recent Asian Immigrants

- China
- India
- Philippines
- Korea
- Vietnam



# Top-Five Countries for Documented Immigration to the U.S.

- Mexico
- India
- People's Republic of China
- Philippines
- Vietnam

# How has America accommodated so many immigrants?

1. U.S. has been a nation of immigrants from the beginning.
2. America's commitment to freedom has encouraged toleration of different religions & traditions.
3. Upward mobility has kept ethnic groups from being left in poverty.
4. The U.S. two-party system has helped prevent political fragmentation along ethnic lines.
5. American ideals proclaim an openness to immigrants.