

B. Immigration Effects

1. Ethnic Composition

- a) Homestead Act 1862 and immigration from Europe
 - (i) The Homestead Act of 1862 intended to create 160-acre family farms, but things did not work out as planned
 - (ii) Even if land was free, most landless Americans could not afford the cost of moving and purchasing the necessary farm equipment
 - (iii) Factory workers had neither the skills nor the interest to become farmers
 - (iv) Large speculators grabbed much of the land, and private interests destroyed the western forests
 - (v) These corporate “bonanza” farmers made profits, but even commercialized agriculture could not withstand the droughts of the 1880s leading to a slowing of westward movement
 - (vi) However, the news of these farms and the ability to be gifted land reached European populations leading to a large move of European immigration to the United States.
- b) Steamship travel of the 1800’s
 - (i) By the late 1800s, more than 90 percent of the American Immigrant population had arrived by ship
 - (ii) Though it was often an ordeal, after years of improving technology, the trip became less treacherous
 - (iii) The trips could take anywhere from 14 to 20 days to complete, and the majority of immigrants coming to America could only afford steerage accommodations.

(iv) Steerage accommodations consisted of little to no light, little to no food, little to no water, no privacy, and no luxury.

c) Immigration Groups

(i) What European groups made up a majority of the immigration of the 1800s? What general reasoning for each group? What did they experience once they arrived?

2. Labor Market Affect

a) Chinese workers and the railroads 1880's

(i) Railroads were well-established in the eastern part of the country by the mid-nineteenth century, but had not yet become an option for reaching its western states and territories.

(ii) In 1862, Congress passed a bill authorizing the creation of a transcontinental railroad that would connect the West with the rest of the nation.

(iii) This project involved two companies, Union Pacific and Central Pacific, and would take six years to complete.

(iv) Although most of the companies' railroad workers were initially from Ireland, the vast majority of workers for Central Pacific were Chinese immigrants by the time the railroad was finished.

(v) These immigrants faced particularly poor working conditions and fierce discrimination, but their efforts were crucial to the construction of the railroad and to the full development of the West.

(vi) When work on the Transcontinental Railroad began, neither Union Pacific nor Central Pacific wanted to hire these immigrants. This was due to the general prejudices of the time.

- (vii) By the mid 1860s, however, the leaders of Central Pacific had realized that it was difficult to recruit railroad workers and keep them on the job.
- (viii) Central Pacific's part of the project included the Sierra Nevada mountains, which rose to elevations of over 14,000 feet and were very treacherous.
- (ix) The company needed thousands of laborers and had only been able to find hundreds.
- (x) Since Central Pacific's portion of the railroad began in Sacramento, California and there was already a relatively large Chinese population in the northern part of the state, the company decided to begin recruiting Chinese laborers.
- (xi) These workers were willing to lay tracks in dangerous areas for extremely low pay and were also viewed as peaceful and submissive.
- (xii) By the time the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads met in Utah in 1869, Central Pacific had recruited thousands of additional workers directly from China.
- (xiii) When the Transcontinental Railroad was complete, Chinese laborers made up over 90 percent of Central Pacific's workforce.
- (xiv) Although working on the railroad was a risky job for all laborers, Chinese workers faced more challenges than their white counterparts did.
- (xv) The Chinese were subject to suspicion and racial slurs from other workers. They were also subject to certain company policies that their non-Chinese colleagues did not have to face.
- (xvi) For example, Central Pacific offered higher pay to its white workers and provided them with meals and shelter; meanwhile, Chinese laborers received lower wages and were expected to find their own food and tents.

- (xvii) Chinese workers often had to live in the underground tunnels they were constructing, and more than one thousand died in accidents and avalanches while laboring in the mountains.
- (xviii) Without the work of these immigrants, the Transcontinental Railroad might have never been built. In turn, the West would have remained difficult to settle and might not have become as developed and populated as it is today.

b) Chinese immigrant restrictions 1882 - 1943

- (i) The Chinese had already established a significant presence in the United States before the call for a transcontinental railroad came about.
- (ii) More than 40,000 Chinese immigrants arrived in California during the 1850s. Most came from southern China and hoped to escape the poverty and social unrest that characterized their homeland.
- (iii) Like thousands of native-born Americans and immigrants from other parts of the world, they hoped to strike it rich during the Gold Rush.
- (iv) When they failed to achieve this dream and the scramble for gold had ended, many of these Chinese immigrants remained in California to perform other jobs.
- (v) Some worked in the silver mines, while others worked as cooks and domestic servants in such cities as San Francisco.
- (vi) Despite their hard work, the Chinese experienced discrimination for generations after the completion of the railroad.
- (vii) California laws prevented them from being admitted as witnesses in court, voting, and becoming naturalized citizens.
- (viii) Chinese schoolchildren were also subject to segregation.

- (ix) In 1882, the federal government passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which banned new Chinese workers from entering the United States and prevented Chinese immigrants who were already in the U.S. from becoming citizens.
 - (x) This law remained in effect until 1943.
- c) Japanese workers and sugar plantations and fruit and vegetable farms
- (i) The first group of contract laborers arrive in Hawaii, these people are known as the Gannen-mono or “first year people” in 1868.
 - (ii) Many of these Japanese who came to Hawaii were farmers and peasants from southern Japan, having suffered a series of crop failures at home, eagerly filled Hawai'i jobs promising high wages.
 - (iii) Though these people soon found that plantation life was harsh; involving backbreaking, tedious work, primitive living conditions, and bosses who could be physically brutal. In addition, the pay was poor as person of Japanese descent only got paid \$4.00 a month, which was significantly lower than contract workers of other ethnic groups.
 - (iv) Of the 147 workers sent to Hawaii, only 13 completed their 3-year contracts and 40 returned to Japan without completing their contracts. The project was deemed a failure and it was not until around 20 years later when Japanese were sent to Hawaii again.
 - (v) With the Chinese Exclusion Act, the United States turned to other countries to hire laborers to come be a part of their immigrant workforce. With Hawaii's booming economy mainly based on sugar production, the U.S. turned to Japan and began to hire Japanese to work on Hawaii's sugar plantations.

- (vi) New immigrants who are more suited for hard farm labor arrive in Hawaii as contract laborers on 3-year contracts to work on sugar cane plantations in 1885.
 - (vii) Most of the farmers were from 4 southern prefectures of Japan: Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Fukuoka and Kumamoto.
 - (viii) Life on the plantation was very difficult with extremely poor pay and living conditions. In addition, there was a level of discrimination that occurred on the plantations between people of various ethnicities.
 - (ix) Upon arrival to the plantation, each laborer was given a bango, which was a small metal medallion that was worn around each laborers neck that had their identification number on it. These bango were also made into various shapes according to ethnicity, and the shape determined a different level of pay for each group of workers.
 - (x) Of all of the different ethnicities of people working on the plantation such as Chinese, Filipino, Korea, Portuguese, and African American, the Japanese were paid significantly less for the same amount of work. In spite of the harsh conditions, the migration was a success.
 - (xi) By 1894- 20,084 Japanese migrated to Hawaii, which made up over a third of the overall population in Hawaii. These first-generation immigrants are known as the "Issei" and are people who were born in Japan, but immigrated to the U.S.
 - (xii) Many of the Japanese from the first group of contract laborers who came to Hawaii, stayed in Hawaii and were the Issei pioneers that began to develop a Japanese American community in Hawaii.
- d) Free movement of Mexican workers across borders
1850 - 1910

- (i) Border Security was extremely lax after the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In reality, it was nonexistent as there was so much border and not a lot of resources.
 - (ii) Though travel between the United States and Mexico was very easy and constant, an official agreement was still made.
 - (iii) Known as the Bracero Program, it was an agreement between the United States and Mexico that allowed free migration between the Countries for the purpose to increase the Mexican Labor force in the Western United States
 - (iv) It guaranteed that all workers would be paid a minimum of 30 cents an hour, and have access to all human needs such as food, shelter, and sanitation
 - (v) Along with the Bracero program, Mexican workers were granted free movement across the US-Mexico border
 - (vi) It was intended to cut the labor gap in the Western United States
- e) Migrants and work
- (i) Between 1866 and 1915, about 25 million immigrants entered the United States
 - (ii) The demand for labor created by industrial expansion drew immigrants, and steamships made the Atlantic crossing safe and speedy
 - (iii) Labor leaders feared competition for jobs. Employers were not disturbed by the influx of workers, but many became alarmed by the supposed radicalism of the immigrants.
- f) Industrial and occupational concentrations
- (i) The industrial sector, as late as 1870, consisted primarily of small firms and workshops that relied on artisan technology to produce tools, furniture, building materials, and other goods for local markets.

- (ii) The decades surrounding 1900 were not only the age of industrialization in the United States, but were also the age of urbanization and immigration.
- (iii) From 1880 to 1920, population growth was concentrated in cities—the urban fraction expanded from a little more than one quarter of the national population to more than one half.
- (iv) From 1880 to 1920, the number of foreign born increased from almost 7 million to a little under 14 million.
- (v) These figures, however, underestimate the economic and demographic contribution of immigration.
- (vi) Immigrants inevitably lead to a second generation. Counting the 23 million children of immigrants in addition to the 14 million immigrants, means that over one-third of the 105 million Americans in the 1920 population belonged to the “immigrant community,” defined as inclusive of the first and second generations.
- (vii) The rapid growth of manufacturing from 1880 to 1920 relied heavily on immigrant labor.
- (viii) In the early decades of the 20th century, the rapid growth of these industries became increasingly dependent on “new immigrants” from Southern and Eastern Europe.
- (ix) More than the net growth of 7.5 million workers in manufacturing from 1880 to 1920 was due to the increase of first and second-generation workers over this period.
- (x) The immigrant share was significant in all manufacturing industries, but proportionally less in wood and mineral products and a few other categories.

- (xi) Immigrants provided the majority of added workers in the rapidly growing iron and steel industry, machinery manufacturing, and textiles and apparel. The dominance of the Eastern European immigrants in apparel manufacture (and trade) in New York City is well known, but immigrants were also over-represented in mining and construction and throughout the heavy industries in the Northeast and Midwest.

- g) Bringing new skills, labor camps, dilution of wage levels, unionization
 - (i) Immigrants brought new skills as tradesmen and tradeswomen from their country of origin to the industries in America
 - (ii) Besides new skills, immigrants also brought new ways of doing things that were currently being done in American industry
 - (iii) Immigrants had a prevalence to find themselves with others from their country of origin in settlements, enclaves, ghettos, boroughs, and even specified labor camps as companies and industries would provide basic housing to new immigrants hired.
 - (iv) Much push back from American born citizens was prevalent as immigrants worked to bridge the labor gap, but also that their presence worked to dilute wages.
 - (v) Dilution of wages is when businesses and industries are able to lower the wage amount due to the fact that there were so many individuals looking for the same job opportunities.
 - (vi) This dilution of wages as well as the work philosophies of new immigrants, especially from the Eastern European countries, the idea of unionization began to spread and gain steam.

- (vii) Unionization happened with immigrant workers, without immigrant workers, and because of immigrant workers.
- (viii) Some unions looked to exclude immigrant workers to help their members continue to hold higher jobs. Some were created by immigrants for immigrants. Some were even created to call strikes in response to the hiring of immigrant workers to industries.

3. Immigration Patterns

a) Immigration from Central, Southern, and Eastern Europe

- (i) Between 1866 and 1915, about 25 million immigrants entered the United States.
- (ii) Economic disruption in many European countries, political upheaval, and religious persecution pushed this wave of immigrants to America's shores.
- (iii) Majority of these "new immigrants" settled into ethnic enclaves

b) Immigration from Mexico

- (i) Following the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, thousands of Mexican citizens suddenly found themselves living in the United States.
- (ii) In addition, the American Dream and promise of successful Farming lured many more thousands across the border once it was formed.
- (iii) For the Last half of the 19th Century, Immigration from Mexico increase close to 237%

c) Newlands National Reclamation Act of 1902

- (i) The Newlands Reclamation Act, also called the U.S. Reclamation Act, authorized the federal government to commission water diversion, retention and transmission projects in arid lands, particularly in the far west. Roosevelt believed that the land should be usable and settled by farming families and that the water in western rivers, if not being used to help people, was wasted.
- (ii) The Theodore Roosevelt Dam on the Salt River in Arizona was one of the first projects authorized by the Reclamation Service following the passage of the Newlands Reclamation Act of 1902. Construction began in 1903 and Theodore Roosevelt dedicated the dam on March 8, 1911.
- (iii) Roosevelt felt strongly about the welfare of the west, and indicated the importance he placed on helping it flourish in his 1902 message to Congress at the beginning of the second legislative session of the Fifty-seventh Congress. The bill had already been signed into law and the irrigation projects were in the planning stages.
- (iv) “The sound and steady development of the West depends upon the building up of homes therein,” he wrote. “One hundred and sixty acres of fairly rich and well-watered soil, or a much smaller amount of irrigated land, may keep a family in plenty, whereas no one could get a living out of one hundred and sixty acres of dry pasture land capable of supporting at the outside only one head of cattle to every ten acres.”
- (v) Those words resonated with people looking for a new life as many immigrants came to America looking for a way to start anew. The homestead act acted to entice people to come to America, the Reclamation Act helped them find success.

- (vi) The Reclamation Act irrigated the west through a series of dams on waterways, and is considered second in significance only to the Homestead Act of 1862. While the Homestead Act allowed farmers to claim land for agriculture, the Reclamation Act allowed them access to irrigation. In many cases, this irrigation was the only thing that made cultivating the land possible.
- (vii) Sixteen arid and semi-arid states were included in the original bill: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Texas was added to Reclamation states in 1906.
- (viii) Once the bill was signed into law, the newly-formed Reclamation Service (later renamed the Bureau of Reclamation), under the Roosevelt administration, moved quickly to put water reclamation projects into place. Within a year, five projects were authorized. Just five and one-half years later, in 1907, 24 projects had been authorized.

d) Mexican Revolution

- (i) Essentially in the modern context, how we understand Mexican migration, begins in 1910 with the Mexican Revolution.
- (ii) The Revolution, which lasted between 1910 and 1920, spurred the first major migration from Mexico.
- (iii) Estimated approximately one million people coming into the United States from Mexico during that period. Of course, there was no way to document everybody, but with the crisis and the chaos and the economic upheaval with the war, people were displaced, so that number may be quite conservative.

- (iv) In addition, the United States was very much in an industrial revolution at the time, and was clamoring for labor from all parts of the world, including Mexico. So, there was also that pull factor during the 1910s.
 - (v) Ironically, what's interesting about that period is that it's also the era of some of the most restrictive immigration policies in American history. A series of policies passed in the 1910s, most notably in 1917, which was one of the most comprehensive immigration restrictive laws we've ever had. .
 - (vi) How it affected Mexican migration is that included with these policies was a head tax. An \$8 head tax, which was a sizable amount of money, especially for agricultural workers or laborers. That was one of the first major policies to affect Mexican migration and is that it also spurred on the idea of illegal entry.
 - (vii) The 1917 law formalized that every immigrant should come through a legal port of entry. So, in order to avoid the tax, or in order to avoid de-lousing baths, many migrants were forced underground or sought unauthorized entry.
- e) Settlements, ghettos, and restrictive covenants
- (i) Immigrants were steered toward particular settlements both by the government and by choice as a way to group people with similar lifestyles and backgrounds.
 - (ii) However, these settlements often turned into ghettos as immigrants were often poor and without the means to take care of their residences.
 - (iii) On the off chance, they were able to afford proper housing, they were often met with restrictive covenants.

- (iv) Restrictive covenants (also called residential racial covenants) are a form of residential segregation practiced by groups of homeowners in a given district.
 - (v) They consist of reciprocal promises by the homeowners, usually included in the deeds to the homes, not to sell or rent their property to certain classes of buyers, most often members of specified racial or other minority groups such as blacks, Native Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Jews, and/or Armenians.
 - (vi) These promises are then made perpetual by obliging any future buyers to sign the covenants as an express condition of sale to them.
 - (vii) While the origins of restrictive covenants date at least as far back as the 19th century, they became a widespread method of racial discrimination only after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Buchanan v. Warley* (1917) that state or city governments could not legally segregate neighborhoods by race under the Fourteenth Amendment.
 - (viii) The U.S. Supreme Court then upheld the constitutionality of restrictive covenants in *Corrigan v. Buckley* (1926). Because the covenants were technically private agreements, the Court held, they did not violate the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment, which prohibited only state action.
- f) National Origins Act 1924
- (i) A law that severely restricted immigration by establishing a system of national quotas that blatantly discriminated against immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe and virtually excluded Asians. The policy stayed in effect until the 1960s.
- g) Great Society

- (i) Great Society was a political slogan used by U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson to identify his legislative program of national reform.
 - (ii) In his first State of the Union message after election in his own right, delivered on January 4, 1965, the president proclaimed his vision of a “Great Society” and pledged to redouble the “war on poverty” he had declared one year earlier.
 - (iii) He called for an enormous program of social-welfare legislation, including federal support for education, hospital care for the aged through an expanded Social Security program, pledged to improve immigration legislation, and continued enforcement of the Civil Rights Act (1964) and “elimination of the barriers to the right to vote.”
 - (iv) A majority of the new Congress, elected with Johnson in a Democratic landslide in November 1964, shared the president’s vision, and almost all of the Great Society legislation was passed.
 - (v) With the promise of this Great Society, Immigration grew as the Immigration Act of 1965 was a part of the Great Society legislation.
- h) Immigration Act 1965
- (i) The Immigration and Nationality Act removed the immigration quotas established in the National Origins Formula (in place since the 1920s), which privileged immigrants from Northern and Western Europe.
 - (ii) While the National Origins Formula had restricted immigration on the basis of country of origin (favoring immigration from Northern and Western Europe), the new Act focused on immigrants' skills and family relationships with citizens or U.S. residents.

- (iii) This act was sponsored by New York Representative Emanuel Celler and Michigan Senator Philip Hart.
 - (iv) This bill was unpopular with the American public but received bi-partisan support in Congress.
 - (v) Passage of this bill resulted in broad demographic changes in the United States as immigration from Latin America, Asia, and Mediterranean Europe increased.
- i) New Refugees post WWII
- (i) The integration of the millions of refugees in their countries of arrival was not easy. European states were, in the main, too preoccupied with the sufferings of their own citizens and with the tasks of reconstruction to have much compassion to spare.
 - (ii) Post - War Europe left every country with people seeking asylum as well as looking outward for asylum.
 - (iii) Over two million Soviet citizens were returned by the western Allies to areas under Soviet control.
 - (iv) The international response to the refugee crisis took both legal and organizational form.
 - (v) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 guaranteed a '... right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution', and forbade the arbitrary deprivation of nationality.
 - (vi) The Geneva Convention on Refugees of 1951 defined refugees, accorded them specific rights, and prohibited their forcible return from countries of refuge.

- (vii) Over two million Soviet citizens were returned by the western Allies to areas under Soviet control. They were moved in batches, generally in return for equivalent numbers of citizens of western countries, an equivalence insisted upon by the Soviet authorities.
- (viii) Many of the Soviets departed willingly. But others did not, and their forcible return conflicted with the '*non-refoulement*' principle. Many citizens of east European states that were taken over by Communists also resisted repatriation. Most sought refuge in western Europe, the United States, Canada, or Australia.
- (ix) The creation of the State of Israel in 1948 finally provided a secure refuge for Jews who had been hounded from their homes in central and eastern Europe. But the buoyant United States economy held out the most tantalizing hope to refugees.
- (x) American refugee policy in the post-war period was driven by conflicting tendencies towards isolationist restrictions and Cold War internationalism.
- (xi) The former approach was staunchly advocated by powerful figures in Congress and important organs of public opinion, for example, the *Chicago Tribune*.
- (xii) The deepening of east-west conflict in the early years of the Cold War provided the context for subsequent US legislation.
- (xiii) In 1948 the Displaced Persons Act, primarily inspired by anti-Communism, finally led to a relaxation of US immigration policy. The US Escapee Program was established in the same year, and offered sanctuary to a limited number of refugees from Communist countries.

- (xiv) The Refugee Relief Act of 1953 provided for the admission over three years of 214,000 refugees - of these, it was laid down that 186,000 should be from Communist countries.
- (xv) By 1959 some 461,000 had been accepted by the USA, and a further 523,000 by other countries. But many 'hard-core' refugees still remained in camps.
- (xvi) At that point, the United Nations launched an ambitious effort to resolve the refugee problem once and for all.
- (xvii) World Refugee Year, in 1959-1960, was designed as a 'clear the camps' drive. It achieved some significant results - at any rate in Europe. By the end of 1960, for the first time since before World War Two, all the refugee camps of Europe were closed.

j) Refugee Act 1980

- (i) The primary goal of the Refugee Act of 1980 was to bring U.S. law into compliance with the requirements of international law.
- (ii) Though domestic U.S. law has long contained provisions designed to protect certain persons fearing persecution, U.S. accession to the 1967 Refugee Protocol created certain specific legal obligations pursuant to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.
- (iii) The act contains a definition of the term "refugee" derived from the 1951 convention.
- (iv) The definition includes, in brief, any person unable or unwilling to return to his or her country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

- (v) The definition excludes those who have "ordered, incited, assisted or otherwise participated in [such] persecution." The act sought to prohibit the use of so-called "parole" power to admit groups of refugees, prescribing a complex formula and various procedures for refugee admissions that involves both the president and the Congress.
- (vi) In the late twentieth century over 100,000 refugees were authorized for admission pursuant to the act.
- (vii) In addition, the act permits individuals within the United States and at the U.S. border to apply for "asylum" or "restriction on removal," formerly known as "withholding of deportation."
- (viii) Asylum seekers, among other statutory and discretionary requirements, must qualify under the refugee definition. Applicants must prove a threat to life or freedom.
- (ix) Both refugees and those granted asylum may apply for lawful permanent residence status after they have been physically present in the United States for at least one year.

4. Religious Composition

a) Immigration and religious diversification

- (i) Since the start of European settlement religious diversity has been an important and prominent reason for traveling to America.
- (ii) Religious freedom was a major reason for the first settlers in the original colonies, and continues to this very day as a major reason for immigrating to the United States.
- (iii) However, at the height of immigration in the 1800s, religion was also a source of discrimination and mistreatment.

- (iv) Many religious groups that were not part of the major original settlers or colonies now showed up looking for safety from religious persecution in their parent countries.
- (v) This influx led to a large amount of sudden diversification of religious beliefs present in numerous parts of the country.
- (vi) Though many groups attempted to stay confined adjacent to each other, that sometimes was not possible
- (vii) Regardless of whether the groups could stay in proximity to each other, discrimination was present from other groups who looked to subvert their beliefs.

b) Importance of Judaism, Catholicism, varieties of Protestantism

- (i) What religious groups made up a majority of the immigration of the 1800s? What general reasoning for each group? What did they experience once they arrived?