

Group 3 Project: Patterns of Immigration

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The History of Immigration In The United States

The United States experienced major waves of immigration during the colonial era, the first part of the 19th century and from the 1880s to 1920. Many immigrants came to America seeking greater economic opportunity, while some, such as the Pilgrims in the early 1600s, arrived in search of religious freedom. From the 17th to 19th centuries, hundreds of thousands of African slaves came to America against their will. The first significant federal legislation restricting immigration was the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. Individual states regulated immigration prior to the 1892 opening of Ellis Island, the country's first federal immigration station. New laws in 1965 ended the quota system that favored European immigrants, and today, the majority of the country's immigrant's hail from Asia and Latin America. Ever since the founding of the United States, immigration laws have been put in place, reformed, and dismantled. These laws reflected the needs of the time, but often represent political statements of peoples' perceptions, which have cycled back and forth from favorable to hostile. This resource looks at the immigration policies and associated rules put in place, from the forefathers' first steps, to the challenges faced in today's globalized world.

Why Migrate?

Some of the reasons why people moved to the New World during colonial times echo some of the reasons that push people to immigrate to the United States. One of the reasons was economic opportunity. Going to North America brought the promise of cheap land and freedom of enterprise. Incoming farmers, fishermen, tradesmen, shipbuilders and craftsman all found work. They set up their own institutions and self-governing bodies with minimal support or interference from the Crown, at least at first. Independence of resources and trade among the colonies and with the indigenous peoples led to prosperity.

The Act of 1965 changed the demographics of the United States. Unexpectedly, instead of seeing an increase in European migration, the majority of the immigrants now come from Asia and Latin America. Now, more than ever, the United States is a mixture of ethnicities, languages, cultures and religions. Legally, there are a variety of ways to live and work in the United States. For a person who was not born in the USA and who does not have American parents, the process can be rather complicated. There are nonimmigrant visas and immigrant visas, there are temporary and more permanent visas, and there are special categories like for Afghan or Iraqis who worked for the US government. To get permanent residence, people can get married to a US citizen, get sponsored by an employer, or go through a naturalization process after 3-5 years of residence (thus to gain American citizenship). Here is even a lottery system. Each year 55,000 Green Cards are randomly given to applicants through the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program, commonly known as the Green Card Lottery, for countries with historically low rates of immigration to the United States.

Many still enter the country illegally. One of the main routes to enter is by crossing the border with Mexico. Measures have been put in place, like a tightening of border control and pressure on cities employers to stop giving work to illegal immigrants. The most visible aspect of this is undoubtedly the Border Wall on the Mexico-USA border. The controversial wall is not only meant to hinder the flow of illegal border crossings but also to stop the thriving drug cartels and the violence they create. It is also seen as a way to control incoming terrorists in the post-9/11 USA. Despite these measures, complacent authorities and the sheer number of people who want to enter the country mean many illegal immigrants still flock in. There are constant calls from the right and left to reform legal immigration and control illegal immigration. It is a complex issue that touches the American identity and many issues remain unresolved (the rights

of immigrant homosexuals for example or of sex slaves illegally smuggled into the country). It is an important debate for all to take part in but one in which all must look at the facts with a conscience clear of prejudice.

Language For Immigrants In The United States

Nowadays language diversity in the United States has grown as the immigrant population has increased and become more varied. Today, about 85 percent of the foreign-born population speaks a language other than English at home. The most prevalent language (other than English) is by far Spanish: 62 percent of all immigrants speak Spanish at home. This is because most of the parents from Spanish country do not speak English.

However, a more accurate measure of language integration is English-language proficiency, or how well people say they speak English. Today, many immigrants arrive already speaking English as a first or second language. Currently, about 50 percent of the foreign-born in surveys report they speak English “very well” or “well,” while less than 10 percent say they speak English “not at all.” I think it is for the reason that nowadays is easier to learn English than before. Nowadays there is so much technology where you can learn English so fast. There are significant differences in English proficiency by region and country of birth: immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean generally report lower rates of English-language proficiency than immigrants from other regions, and they are most likely to say they speak English “not at all.

The second generations are generally acquiring English and losing their ‘ancestors’ language at roughly the same rates as their historical predecessors, with English monolinguals usually occurring within three generations. Spanish speakers and their descendants, however, appear to be acquiring English and losing Spanish more slowly than other immigrant groups. This is

because of the fact that many parents don't teach their children to speak Spanish. Even though the large Spanish-speaking concentration in Southern California, Mexican Americans' transition to English dominance is all but complete by the third generation; only 4 percent still speak primarily Spanish at home, although 17 percent reported they can speak Spanish very well. Many people they really know Spanish but their do not want to speak it.

The Challenges of Immigration In The United States

The United States have been shaped by people from many nations. Some of men considered today to have been the founders of the United States were born far from the thirteen original colonies. All immigrants have had to survive the physical and psychological challenges encountered along the way. To speak about the experiences of all these different people using the same ideas and examples would be quite inaccurate. They all, however had to live through similar situations and deal with similar problems. Moving is not an easy thing to do. A person has to leave all of his or her friends and family behind. There are new schools and new towns. A lot of times, a family will move because an adult has a new job. It is a stressful but an exciting time, too. Immigrants come to this country for a better life. For different reasons, immigrants are sure that things are better in this country. Many immigrants come to find work. There are many jobs in this country. But immigrants who do not speak English have a hard time doing many of them. Instead, they have to take jobs that don't pay as much money. This makes it very difficult for them to afford many of the things in this country that they hoped to have.

Many immigrants feel the same way about things they leave, they home, family, they land, culture, religions tradition and many more things. Since the 1980s, immigrant children and children of immigrant parentage have become the fastest growing and the most extraordinary diverse segment of America's child population. (Zhou) Until the recent past however, scholarly

attention has focused on adult immigrants to the neglect of their offspring, creating a profound gap between the strategic importance of the new second generation and the knowledge about its socioeconomic circumstances. The purpose is to pull together existing studies that bear directly or indirectly on children's immigrant experiences and adaptation outcomes and to place these studies into a general framework that can facilitate a better understanding of the new second generation (Zhou). Nearly one quarter of children in the United States have at least one foreign-born parent, and this cohort represents the fastest growing group of American children. These families, for simplicity described as "immigrant families," are highly diverse in national origin, socioeconomic status, and educational background. Additionally, they are diverse in their immigration experience, and include different subgroups of documented migrants (e.g. refugees and temporary migrants) as well as undocumented migrants. (Katherine Yun). To conclude immigrant has to front a lot of difficult when they leave their country is not to easy, they not going to adapt to the united states life so fast, its take time for them and many things more that they have to change in oden to be here.

Migrating to the United States could sometimes be dangerous. Many immigrants migrate to the United States in different ways. Some of the come to the United States legally and illegally. Immigrants do whatever it takes for a better future and opportunities. Immigrants Parents sometimes make the difficult decision to migrate so their children can benefit from things like superior education, and plentiful job opportunities. In other cases, people migrate with the knowledge or hope that more opportunities will be available to them in their particular field than at home. Others migrate after employment has already been offered to them. This is why the United States is faced with a massive immigration impact. Many immigrants want to escape their country because they don't have the rights or liberty they could get in the U.S. For the past few

weeks more than 7,000 Central American immigrants are trying to get through the United States border for a better future for them and their family members. On an article name Migrant caravan: What happens if it reaches the U.S. border? It's stated that "This is the largest known caravan of migrants to head toward the U.S. border under the Trump administration." This is showing how many people want to cross over the U.S border for a better future. In this article it also says how the president of the United States will do anything it takes to prevent the people who are coming from long distance countries to enter the United States. It also says in the "That caravan's arrival came around the time the Trump administration began its widely-condemned practice of separating migrant families at the border as part of a "zero tolerance" policy to deter illegal immigration." After the trump administration decided to divide families many other immigrants gained bravery to cross the border. With the "zero tolerance" policy many families were divided and got treated like animals which is unfair for many of them who just wanted to become more stable and escape the reality from their countries. Immigrants play an important role in the U.S. economy. Every American benefits from the taxes that immigrants pay and from the money they spend on consumer goods and services.

Opposition to Patterns of Migration in the United States of America

Human migration is the movement of people from one place in the world to another. This pattern of movement reflects the condition of a changing world. The change and impact on the places the leave behind and the new places they settle. During this process migrants are almost never received opened handed thus face a lot of opposition. This is the case on the issue of Migration to the U.S.A. Even as far back as the founding of the United States of America. The modern American dream, this consist of a home with white picket fence, a dog and 2.5 children that is the depiction of an ideally perfect all American family should be defined. While different

from the founding father's concept, it embodied this. As yesteryear the opposition to Migration and its patterns stem from differences in perspective and opinion. One argument comes from overpopulation, many argue that urban areas cannot adjust to accommodate new residents. Social services would decline under the new strain. Argument have being made to counter this saying these news resident will settle rural areas and create news towns and service which in turn contribute to a more evolved country and stronger government.

Many opposition claim to cone form persons who are American nationalist. Person who see themselves as America with American values and American culture, who don't want to see it eroded by foreign influences. These perspective come from a pair of superiority. Superiority on every level political, economic, religiously, culturally and socially therefore interrelationships on any level will spell downfall for themselves, their way of life and culture.

Another public outcry about immigration pattern and the U.S. is one that is also as old as the first, crime. Immigration had always been a topic in the conversation about the cause or solution to crime. There have been many theories put forth and many studies about correlation between migration pattern and crime. An article by Anna Flagg in the New York Times, March 30 2018, "The Trump administration's first year of immigration policy has relied on claims that immigrants bring crime into America. President Trump's latest target is sanctuary cities. "Every day, sanctuary cities release illegal immigrants, drug dealers, traffickers, gang members back into our communities," he said last week. "They're safe havens for just some terrible people." These are the argument from person who consider themselves nationalist. This is left to opinion in the end as Flagg wrote "As of 2017, according to Gallup polls, almost half of Americans agreed that immigrants make crime worse. But is it true that immigration drives crime? Many studies have shown that it does not.

Immigrant populations in the United States have been growing fast for decades now. Crime in the same period, however, has moved in the opposite direction, with the national rate of violent crime today well below what it was in 1980. This is an argument saying that there is no real proof to support that claim and in other studies with immigration patterns being the same and in some cases increasing overall crime has actually declined. In my view and experience it is the human response to change and the fear of this undefined. It's natural to resist change, is it because we don't readily know where we fit in or if we will fit in, making us obsolete. If that not the case then it about property the only thing that we will be forced to share other than air. The only real solution will need a catalyst, this will come through knowledge, thru education but most needed the WILL to change.

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