

Immigration and the “Peopling” of the United States

Theme: Identity

- In what ways and to what extent have gender, class, ethnic, religious, regional, and other group identities changed in different historical eras?

Theme: Peopling

- To what extent and why have people have migrated to, from, and within North America?
- In what ways and to what extent have changes in migration and population patterns affected American life?

Theme: Politics and Power

- In what ways and to what extent have Americans agreed on or argued over the values that guide the political system, as well as who is a part of the political process?

Period 1: 1491-1607

1. The arrival of Europeans in the Western Hemisphere in the 15th and 16th centuries triggered extensive demographic and social changes on both sides of the Atlantic.

Period 2: 1607-1754

2. The increasing political, economic, and cultural exchanges within the “Atlantic World” had a profound impact on the development of colonial societies in North America.
3. Great Migration of Puritans, 1630s and 1640s

Period 3: 1754-1800

4. English population growth and expansion into the interior disrupted existing French-Indian fur trade networks and caused various Indian nations to shift alliances among competing European powers.
5. Migrants from within North America and around the world continued to launch new settlements in the West, creating new distinctive backcountry cultures and fueling social and ethnic tensions.
6. Scots-Irish
7. Alien and Sedition Acts, 1798

Period 4: 1800-1848

8. Efforts to exploit the nation’s natural resources led to government efforts to promote free and forced migration of various American peoples across the continent, as well as to competing ideas about defining and managing labor systems, geographical boundaries, and natural resources.

9. With the opening of canals and new roads into the western territories, native-born white citizens relocated westward, relying on new community systems to replace their old family and local relationships.
10. Migrants from Europe increased the population in the East and the Midwest, forging strong bonds of interdependence between the Northeast and the Old Northwest.
11. Irish immigration, 1840s

Period 5: 1844-1877

12. Asian, African American, and white peoples sought new economic opportunities or religious refuge in the West, efforts that were boosted during and after the Civil War with the passage of new legislation promoting national economic development.
13. As the territorial boundaries of the United States expanded and the migrant population increased, U.S. government interaction and conflict with Hispanics and American Indians increased, altering these groups' cultures and ways of life and raising questions about their status and legal rights.
14. Substantial numbers of new international migrants — who often lived in ethnic communities and retained their religion, language, and customs — entered the country prior to the Civil War, giving rise to a major, often violent nativist movement that was strongly anti-Catholic and aimed at limiting immigrants' cultural influence and political and economic power.
15. nativism
16. Know Nothings

Period 6: 1865-1898

17. The industrial workforce expanded through migration across national borders and internal migration, leading to a more diverse workforce, lower wages, and an increase in child labor.
18. Increased migrations from Asia and from southern and eastern Europe, as well as African American migrations within and out of the South, accompanied the mass movement of people into the nation's cities and the rural and boomtown areas of the West.
19. Immigrants sought both to "Americanize" and to maintain their unique identities; along with others, such as some African Americans and women, they were able to take advantage of new career opportunities even in the face of widespread social prejudices.
20. In a urban atmosphere where the access to power was unequally distributed, political machines provided social services in exchange for political support, settlement houses helped immigrants adapt to the new language and customs, and women's clubs and self-help groups targeted intellectual development and social and political reform.
21. Post-Civil War migration to the American West, encouraged by economic opportunities and government policies, caused the federal government to violate treaties with American Indian nations in order to expand the amount of land available to settlers.

- 22. Increasingly prominent racist and nativist theories, along with Supreme Court decisions such as *Plessy v. Ferguson*, were used to justify violence, as well as local and national policies of discrimination and segregation.
- 23. Old Immigrants
- 24. New Immigrants
- 25. Ellis Island
- 26. assimilation
- 27. Chinese Exclusion Act, 1882
- 28. Jane Addams

Period 7: 1890-1945

- 29. In its transition from a rural, agricultural society to an urban, industrial society, the U.S. offered new economic opportunities for women, internal migrants, and international migrants who continued to flock to the United States.
- 30. Although most African Americans remained in the South despite legalized segregation and racial violence, some began a “Great Migration” out of the South to pursue new economic opportunities offered by World War I.
- 31. As labor strikes and racial strife disrupted society, the immediate period after World War I witnessed the first American “Red Scare,” which legitimized attacks on radicals and immigrants.
- 32. Several acts of Congress during the 1920s established highly restrictive immigration quotas, while national policies continued to permit unrestricted immigration from nations in the Western Hemisphere, especially Mexico, in order to guarantee an inexpensive supply of labor.
- 33. Technological change, modernization, and changing demographics led to increased political and cultural conflict on several fronts: tradition versus innovation, urban versus rural, fundamentalist Christianity versus scientific modernism, management versus labor, native-born versus new immigrants, white versus black, and idealism versus disillusionment.
- 34. Many Americans migrated during the Great Depression, often driven by economic difficulties, and during World Wars I and II, as a result of the need for wartime production labor.
- 35. Many Mexicans, drawn to the U.S. by economic opportunities, faced ambivalent government policies in the 1930s and 1940s.
- 36. Gentleman’s Agreement, 1907
- 37. Palmer Raids, 1919-1920

- 38. National Origins Act, 1924
- 39. Ku Klux Klan
- 40. Sacco and Vanzetti, 1927
- 41. Mexican Repatriation, 1929-1939
- 42. Bracero Program, 1942

Period 8: 1945-1980

- 43. Internal migrants as well as migrants from around the world sought access to the economic boom and other benefits of the United States, especially after the passage of new immigration laws in 1965.
- 44. McCarran-Walter Act, 1952
- 45. Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965

Period 9: 1980 to the Present

- 46. After 1980, the political, economic, and cultural influences of the American South and West continued to increase as population shifted to those areas, fueled in part by a surge in migration from regions that had not been heavily represented in earlier migrations, especially Latin American and Asia. The new migrants affected U.S. culture in many ways and supplied the economy with an important labor force, but they also became the focus of intense political, economic, and cultural debates.
- 47. Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986
- 48. Immigration Act of 1990