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The Immigration Movement From 1880 to Present Day

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The Immigration Movement
From 1880 to Present Day

by

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December 2008

A thesis submitted to the Department of Education and Human Development of the State University of New York College at Brockport in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Education
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Part I

Immigration 1880-1925
The Political and Social Effects
From the Chinese Exclusion Act to the Ku Klux Klan
The late years of the nineteenth century were a period of great change in the United States. As the 1880s approached a "new" wave of immigration swept the country inadvertently adding to the "melting pot" phenomenon the United States would soon begin to embrace. From 1880 through 1925 the drastic influx included immigrants from the Southern and Eastern part of Europe and Asia from places such as China and Japan. These immigrants were "different," as opposed to the immigrants arriving from the Northern and Western portion of Europe, like in years past. The "new" immigrants, as we refer to them today, were different than the "old" generation of immigrants in the fact they had darker hair, eyes, and complexion and spoke many languages other than English. However, one of the most significant differences the "new" wave of immigrants brought with them to the United States was religion. Unlike the predominately Protestant Europeans from the North and West, the Southern and Eastern Europeans often practiced different faiths, for example, Catholicism and Judaism, and the Asians, Buddhism and Shintoism. As a result of the "new" wave of immigration a backlash by those already living in the United States, or "native" Americans, occurred. The hostile response to the incoming immigrants is sometimes referred to as nativism, or the nativist movement, a movement to ensure that native-born Americans received better treatment than immigrants. The sharp rise of the nativist movement sharply prompted a number of political and social effects in the United States. As early as 1883, Edmund James, a famous economist, and founder of the American Economic Association, offered a monetary reward of $150 dollars for the best written essay on "The Evil Effects of Unrestricted Immigration" In response to these views, the United States government took action and passed a number of restrictive laws on immigrants, including, the Chinese
Exclusion Act, the Gentlemen's Agreement, the Immigration Restriction Law of 1921 and 1924, and a number of other laws restricting immigration or the rights of the immigrants. Historians often agree to attribute these occurrences to various circumstances surrounding American society at the time.

The late 1800s were characterized as a time of people on the move. Not only were people moving from farms to the cities, but within a forty year period it is believed that over thirty million immigrants entered the borders of United States.¹ According to historians, in the years prior to 1880, immigration to the United States mostly consisted of white, English speaking, Europeans. Many emigrated from the Northern and Western European states, like the British Isles, Ireland, Germany, and the Scandinavian countries, totaling approximately ten million people.² The characteristics of these immigrants took a drastic shift in the years following the Civil War. Many immigrants now began to arrive from the Southern and Eastern parts of Europe, like Italy, Russia, and Austria-Hungary. Also, for the first time, due to recruitment by large companies, Asians began to arrive in a recognizable number. Their arrival to the United States was oftentimes due to the various situations they were combating in their homelands. Some arrived due to crop failure, others due to religious or political persecution, and others due to the struggle to obtain a secure job. Others were captivated with the success of the Industrial boom and viewed the United States as the land of opportunity, or a means to live out their dreams of becoming wealthy. Despite the number of motives people possessed to arrive in the United States, the large number of immigrants that flooded the United States in a short period of time was surely staggering.

² Ibid.
With the arrival of the "new" group of immigrants the culture of the United States almost immediately began to change. Although, at the time, the landscape of the United States was already illustrated as a land of immigrants, for the first time immigrants were viewed as a distinctive group, a different people. The differences between the existing immigrants and the arrival of the "new" immigrants could no longer be ignored. There were many factors that set apart the "new" immigrant from that of the "old" style immigrant. One of the major obstacles "new" immigrants faced was the language barrier. Most arrived in the United States unable to speak English, creating an obvious disadvantage, and tension between various immigrant groups.\(^3\) Another distinctive difference was religion. Many of the "new" immigrants arriving did not fit the WASP, or white, Anglo-Saxon Protestant, mold. A large number of the immigrants from southern and eastern Europe practiced Roman Catholicism, and many of the Asians practiced Buddhism and Shintoism, religions which strongly contradicted the American "norm".\(^4\) One of the most obvious hurdles the "new" immigrants encountered was their look. The "new" immigrants oftentimes had a darker complexion and a noticeable different look than those of the "old" immigration. The group that had the most different look, the Asians, oftentimes experienced even more discrimination due to the inability to transform or hide their distinctively different look. These various factors combined to influence many of these groups to settle amongst themselves in particular area in which one ethnic or racial group dominated known as ghettos. Settling in ghettos further contributed to emphasizing the differences that the "new" group of immigrants brought with them to the


United States. These differences eventually led to a negative response from the "native" Americans that swept across the United States and influenced legislation to begin to restrict the amount of immigrants that were entering the United States.

As early as 1882, the United States began to pass legislation that would restrict the amount of immigrants entering the United States. 1882 is also considered by some, as far as immigration goes, to be the "Period of Individual Selection." For the first time in American history the United States began to "exercise some control over the immigration stream." Historians believe the restriction of immigration during this time period to be purely of a qualitative nature. The belief emerged "it was not enough to guarantee the high quality of the individual immigrant, regardless of numbers, but that there was a menace in too great a volume of even the best immigrants." In addition, "there also developed, very vaguely at first, a realization that there was a great difference in the quality of the various immigrant groups judged by their assimilability in American life and their effect on American institutions."

One of the first groups to be affected by restrictive legislation was the Chinese. The Chinese originally began flooding into the country in the mid to late 1800s due to the building of the transcontinental railroad. Many American railroad companies recruited the Chinese to assist in building the railroad that stretched across the continent. After the railroad was completed in 1869, the Chinese began to infiltrate various other occupations, causing intermingling with the white Americans. However, the increase of the Chinese in other businesses prompted an immediate response from the natives. Many natives

6 Ibid.
7 Ibid.
8 Ibid.
struggled to see beyond the numerous differences, clothes, food, language and looks, the Chinese brought with them to the United States. Others became frustrated with the low wages the Chinese were willing to work for, that were affecting the pay rates of all workers. There were even others who simply thought because of their physique the Chinese were merely physically and mentally inferior to white Americans. Because of this, racist attitudes began to spread throughout the country resulting in action to be taken. The first legislative measure to take effect was the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. This act was aimed only at the Chinese, and its main component affected the Chinese by barring Chinese laborers from entering the United States. The act provided some leniency by allowing the Chinese already living in the country, and those who had previously established residency, the ability to still enter the country. In addition, those who had family already living in the United States were also still granted access to the United States. As the first immigration law of many that would be passed in the country, the Chinese Exclusion Act paved the way to allow racist attitudes to penetrate and become acceptable in American society.

In the years shortly after, other immigrant groups also began to be targeted. In the years leading up to 1907, the Treaty of 1894 provided that the Japanese were "free to 'enter, travel, and reside' in the territory of America". Although Japanese were free to enter the United States, it was not until after the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed in 1882 that the number of Japanese migrating to the United States surpassed the minuscule

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10 Ibid
amount of one thousand. Many account the sudden increase of Japanese immigrants to the attempt of those on the east coast to recruit a considerable force of imported labor. However, even in the years immediately following the influx of the Japanese, there was little resistance that formed in opposition to their entrance in to the United States.12 Interestingly enough, historians often attribute the rise of the eventual resistance to a famous natural disaster. In 1906, San Francisco, California, was hit with a massive earthquake. Unfortunately, more than half, thirty-six out of seventy-six, school buildings were destroyed. It was at that time that the San Francisco School Board members took the opportunity to enact segregation ordinances that isolated the Japanese immigrants and the Japanese Americans from participating in the same schooling experiences as the white "native" American children.13 Many attribute this occurrence to the manner in which the city dealt with the earthquake. Following the massive ordeal, there was a suspicious shortage in the relief funds that were coming in the city from all over the world. In addition, and coincidently, the small nation of Japan proved their power as the front runner against the mighty nation of Russia in the Russo-Japanese War. A number of people believe the push for segregation was mostly a ploy to take the heat off of the public officials for the wrongdoing, "they sought to shift the focus of the world's attention upon some other object."14 The opportunity for segregation was also provided by the success of the Japanese in the Russo-Japanese War. Historians illustrate that many became afraid of the Japanese, "rumors were spread far and wide to the effect that 'Japan is getting cocky'; 'she is getting smart'; 'she is finding fault with Uncle Sam'; 'she is going to dictate as to what America should do'; 'she is finding provocation to fight the United

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12 Ibid.
13 Ibid, 189.
14 Ibid.
"The above factors combined to provide that "the attention of the world shifted from the "earthquake" in the city administration to the rising power in the Far East" eventually manifesting itself in the Gentlemen's Agreement.\textsuperscript{15}

In 1907, President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, persuaded the mayor of San Francisco to consider withdrawing the segregation attempt on San Francisco city schools. In return, Roosevelt pledged he would look into the mounting issues of immigration.\textsuperscript{16} As a result, on February 24, 1907 the Gentlemen's Agreement was established between the United States and Japan. In exchange, the order to segregate was repealed on March 13, 1907. The Gentlemen's Agreement was not necessarily considered a treaty, but was considered more so an "understanding whereby Japan was to restrict voluntarily the emigration of her laborers to continental United States."\textsuperscript{17} The Gentlemen's Agreement is distinctive in the idea that Japan participated in the Agreement on a volunteer basis. However, the agreement did not necessarily affect all Japanese. Those "previously domiciled of the United States, or parents, wives, or children under twenty years of age of such persons" were exempt from the exclusion to the United States. Historians believe that the Agreement was virtually put into effect in lieu of an internal act of discrimination aimed at the Japanese within the countries borders.

By 1917, the immigration "Period of Group Selection and Restriction" began.\textsuperscript{18} "This new attitude was in part a response to the extraordinary conditions which prevailed in Europe and the virtual certainty of an unprecedented flood of immigrants if the doors

\textsuperscript{15} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{16} Ibid, 191.
\textsuperscript{17} Ibid, 190.
\textsuperscript{18} Fairchild, "The Immigration Law," 656.
were left as wide open as the existing law permitted."¹⁹ As the nativist sentiment began to become more dominant in American society the number of immigrant groups affected continued to increase. As many had turned their attention to the Great War occurring in Europe, there was still a strong enough sentiment here in the United States that enabled Congress to gather enough votes to override the Presidential veto on the Immigration Act of 1917. Historians often agree that the War in Europe speed things up, "probably the war, with its emphasis on nationalism, loyalty, and group solidarity, did more to develop the demand for group selection than for restriction."²⁰ As one of the first of its kind, the Immigration Act of 1917 "represented a notable victory for the restrictionists."²¹ It was also one of the first pieces of legislation to pass that would affect the immigrants actually residing on American soil. It took steps of a restrictive nature by doubling head tax on immigrants, increasing the ability of officials to exclude and deport aliens, and set up a mandatory literary test for aliens over the age of sixteen to gain permanent residence in the United States.²² In the eyes of the nativists, the literacy test had finally passed, after a twenty year fight and four Presidential vetoes; they considered it an answer to the problems of immigration. "It was believed to be at once restrictive and selective in its action, promising not only to limit the number of aliens who could qualify for admission, but also to check the immigration of such undesired classes of aliens as potential public charges, delinquents, and southeastern European laborers."²³ Many historians, when speaking about immigration trends and occurrences tend to omit any reference to the

¹⁹ Ibid.
²⁰ Ibid, 657.
²² Ibid.
²³ Ibid.
passage of the literacy test. For example, "America Pathways to the Present" disregards the Immigration Act of 1917 altogether focusing more on the later immigration acts that were passed. This is often due to the lack of space in a survey style textbook, but is however often misleading to many readers giving them the indication that there was little done in regards to immigration until after World War One. As the decade of the Great War came to a close, for a short period of time, the number of immigrants leaving the United States began to outnumber the amount of immigrants entering the United States.

As the new century arrived, the number of immigrant arrivals was again on the upswing. The number of immigrants projected to migrate to the United States was as high as twenty five million. With these astronomical numbers, many realized that the once depended on literacy tests provided by the Immigration Act of 1917, was no match for the large scale immigration that was about to occur. Because of this, as the number of immigrants entering the United States was again on the rise, so was a further push for immigration regulation. In the years of 1918 and 1919 alone at least a dozen bills were introduced into Congress. None of the regulations presented were strong enough to be brought to a vote. In the spring of 1920, however there was a limited immigration bill that provided "broad provisions for the exclusion and deportation of anarchist and radical aliens." Finally, in 1921, during the administration of President Warren G. Harding, a supposed temporary piece of legislation, The Immigration Act of 1921, which originated in the House of Representatives as the "Johnson Bill", called for a two-year suspension of immigration. With the rejection of the Senate, the bill was replaced by a fifteen month

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25 Ibid, 42.
plan of restriction of immigration by a quota system. The purpose of the measure was to ensure the reduction of the number of immigrants that had swiftly inundated the United States since the late years of nineteenth century.27 Because there was no comprehensive study done on the issues of immigration, the law of 1921 was initially intended to expire in approximately a years time period from its inception, in May of 1921.28 The law, although slightly complicated, used the census of 1910 to establish its figures. It stated that only three percent of the nationalities represented and residing in the United States, nationality characterized as the country of birth, were permitted entrance into the United States. It was further restrictive, specifying no more than twenty percent of any quota could enter the country within one months time, and as a result was responsible for casting a yearly quota on the amount of immigrants whom could enter the United States in a given time period. The Immigration Act of 1921 made history in the sense that for the first time the borders of the United States were overtly restricted to a number of different immigrant groups. This further intensified, and in a way, was a justification to the negative reaction and fear cast upon the "new" immigrant groups.29 As the mid 1920s approached, additional legislation would further solidify and validate the attitudes and opinions becoming common amongst many Americans.

As the 1920s evolved, the century itself began to embody its very own reputation. The 1920s are often characterized by historians as the years of prosperity and wealth. Moreover, the "roaring twenties", as many refer to them as, were also an era of vast social transformation. The carefree age of the flapper and speakeasies however, brought the attitude of further resistance to the backlash of the "new" wave of immigration. One of

29 "Outstanding Features," 90.
the major portrayals of this increased opposition finds itself in the Immigration Act of 1924. As essentially a continuation of the Immigration Act of 1921, the Immigration Act of 1924, which is also known as the National Origins Act, continued to limit the number of immigrants who were able to pass through the opportunistic gates of the United States. Although similar to the Immigration Act of 1921, the Immigration Act of 1924 served to rectify any vague aspects not addressed in the hastily put together Immigration Act of 1921, and "it should be noted that the Act of 1924 is in addition to, not in substitution for, the previous immigration law.30 Similarly to the previous act, the Act of 1924, utilized a percentage based system to formulate the number of immigrants that could emigrate. However, unlike the preceding act in 1921 which used the census of 1910 to allow three percent of the number of foreign individuals residing in the continental United States to emigrate, the latest act of 1924 used the even further removed census from 1890 and fixed the annual quota of those who could be granted admission to the United States at two percent of that amount.31 This small adjustment reduced the yearly immigration from over 300,000 immigrants to fewer than 160,000 immigrants.32 An additional section includes, that after July 1, 1927, the annual quota of any nationality, "shall be a number in which bears the same ratio to 150,000 as the number of inhabitants in continental United States in 1920 having that national origin...bears to the number of inhabitants in continental United States in 1920."33 Moreover, it was the first immigration policy that had shifted the immigration issues to the root of the "problem" by establishing the restrictions to occur outside the borders of the United States. “Perhaps

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31 "Outstanding Features," 90.
32 Hutchinson, "Immigration Policy," 17.
33 "Outstanding Features," 90.
the greatest reform achieved by the Act is the shifting of control of quotas from domestic ports to our consular offices abroad.\textsuperscript{34}

Of course the restrictions did not equally apply to all immigrants. There was a portion of immigrants that were considered "non-quota" immigrants. These people are considered, "aliens ostensibly desiring to join the American community permanently, whose presence is deemed so desirable that they may enter in unlimited number." \textsuperscript{35}

These people included,

- an immigrant who is the unmarried child, under 18 years of age, or the wife, or a resident citizen, an immigrant who previously lawfully admitted, returning from a temporary visa abroad,
- an immigrant born in Canada or one of the independent Latin American republics, and his wife and unmarried children under 18 years of age, an immigrant who has been a minister or professor in an institution of collegiate rank for two years immediately prior to his application for admission, and who desires to enter solely to follow his profession,
- an immigrant student, at least 15 years of age, wishing to enter solely to study at some institution of higher learning, [and] approved by the Secretary of Labor.\textsuperscript{36}

The notion of non-quota immigrants is often left out of school textbooks, which often falsely portray the number of immigrants grinding to a near halt.\textsuperscript{37} This is simply not the case. The amount of people actually excluded by application of the "non-quota" immigrants were abundant, which in turn often led to the numbers of the "non quota"

\textsuperscript{34} Ibid, 91.
\textsuperscript{35} Ibid, 92.
\textsuperscript{36} Ibid, 93.
\textsuperscript{37} McSeveney, "Immigrants, the Literacy Test," 48.
immigrants entering the country to surpass that of the amount of "quota" immigrants allotted into the United States.\textsuperscript{38} Most also leave out the fact that although the number of "non-quota" immigrants entering the country exceeded that of certain quota immigrants, low immigration numbers from countries with liberal quotas often resulted in legal immigration that did not meet the total quota limits.\textsuperscript{39}

Another feature of the Immigration Act of 1924 was its aim at the "undesirable" immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe as well as the Asian immigrants arriving from China and Japan. The mood of the act strongly echoed the nativist disposition of the nation by favoring those immigrants arriving from the northern and western portions of Europe, "by shifting the quota base back to 1890, [it] still further favored the countries of older immigration and gave to northern and western Europe a quota approximately six times that of southern and eastern Europe."\textsuperscript{40} However, at times, the quotas are misrepresented. They do not account for the fact that neither the Immigration Act of 1921 or the Immigration Act of 1924 restricted "total immigration to the numbers specified in the successive quota plans, primarily because the legislation did not impose immigration quotas on Canada, Newfoundland, and countries in the Western Hemisphere."\textsuperscript{41}

The considerable amount of Immigration restriction legislation passed in the United States between the years of 1880 through 1925 is purely staggering by today's immigration standards. Historians often agree on the numerous motives of the American people of the time period that brought about the fierce nativist reaction to the large

\textsuperscript{38} Hutchinson. "Immigration Policy," 17.
\textsuperscript{39} McSeveney, "Immigrants, the Literacy Test," 48.
\textsuperscript{40} Hutchinson. "Immigration Policy," 17.
\textsuperscript{41} McSeveney, "Immigrants, the Literacy Test," 47.
number of immigrants entering the United States. The response is simple, although used in a number of different perspectives; the characteristic that most often attributes to the nativist reaction is fear. The "native" Americans were in fear of the unknown impact the immigrants would have on a variety of different levels, "most broadly, one might attempt a cultural approach, appraising the clash of native and immigrant folkways and illuminating the American experience by contrast with the traditions and behavior of other nations." There were numerous causes emphasized on a different scale, "none of these causes operated independently, but they had diverse and unequal impacts and deserve separate consideration." 

According to historians, one of the most popular reasons to support the nativist cause was the fear of immigrants taking jobs from the "native" Americans. It seemed to many people, including labor unions, such as the Knights of Labor, that the rise of unemployment was a direct effect on the rise of immigration. Many union officials were upset with the influx of immigration because they considered it a "product of corporate greed." Interestingly enough, however, mostly due to the fact that a large number of union members were foreign-born themselves, the unions blamed the problem not so much on the immigrants themselves, but more so, on the American employers for encouraging the importation of European laborers. Some historians dispute the fact that immigrants were even playing such a significant role in taking jobs, especially those based in skilled labor. Some base the dislike of the "new" immigrants "more on their

43 Ibid.
46 Ibid, 81.
cultural, gender, ethnic, or racial "otherness" than on any threat they posed to the
livelihood and living conditions of skilled workers and their families.\textsuperscript{48} On the other
hand, historians believe that the unskilled laborers were the members of the work force
most directly affected by immigration. Because of the low wages in which immigrants
were generally willing to work for many jobs were given to those immigrant groups
accepting of the low wages. Moreover, the low wages the immigrant groups were
working for affected others by driving down the actual wages that employers were
offering to employees in general.\textsuperscript{49}

In addition to corporate America seeking out immigrant laborers, so were the
plantation owners of the south. Many attribute this to the thought that after the Civil War
the plantation owners were "dissatisfied with both the quantity and the quality of the
Negro labor."\textsuperscript{50} Because the institution of slavery had come to an end, the freed slaves
that remained on the plantations could not be held to the "old discipline", leading the
plantation owners to look elsewhere, places like the North, Europe, and even China for
reliable alternates to their former slaves.\textsuperscript{51} At one point, in 1900, the labor shortage
became so serious that the Governor of North Carolina, Robert B. Glenn, even suggested
the revocation of the Chinese Exclusion Act. As immigrants flooded the South, the
optimism of the plantation owners quickly turned once again to despair when they
realized that, "most of the foreigners attracted to the section proved even less content that

\textsuperscript{48} Barrett, James R. "Americanization from the Bottom Up: Immigration and the Remaking of the Working
\textsuperscript{49} Cayton, et al, America: Pathways to Present, 471.
\textsuperscript{50} Berhoff, Rowland T. "Southern Attitudes Toward Immigration, 1865-1914" The Journal of Southern
History 17, no. 3 (1951): 328.
\textsuperscript{51} Ibid, 329.
Negroes to remain plantation laborers.\textsuperscript{52} Once again, plantation owners attempted to attract immigrants when the "new" wave of immigration hit the United States in the late nineteenth century, in anticipation that the immigrants from southern and eastern Europe might provide for a better work force than the prior group. In some areas the new immigrants flourished at agriculture. By 1910 thirty-five Italian agricultural communities existed in the South, and were considered to be "supplanting Negroes and to be better workers." However, historians speculate that the overall failure of immigrant labor was greatly connected to the fact that although immigrants were flooding the United States very few migrated to the southern portions of the United States. Unfortunately, "like northwestern Europeans, these occasional groups of "new immigrants" fell far short of the anticipated mass movement into the South."\textsuperscript{53} They furthermore attribute the lack of success to the inability of southerners to adjust to the differences of the immigrants, "in fact, Southerners though they had little experience with immigrants, in this period became as outspoken as xenophobes as those old stock Northerners who objected to the masses of foreigners actually in their midst."\textsuperscript{54}

Another issue surrounding the labor issues with immigrants centered around the considerable number of strikes occurring during the late years of the nineteenth century. Because of the number of immigrants entering the country, "labor organizations striving to organize in the mass immigration also became contexts for acculturation."\textsuperscript{55} Due to the number of immigrants participating in labor unions, many "native" Americans were "not willing to recognize them as indigenous, and unready to deal with them as such,

\textsuperscript{52} Ibid, 331.
\textsuperscript{53} Ibid, 332.
\textsuperscript{54} Ibid, 343.
\textsuperscript{55} Barrett. "Americanization from the Bottom Up," 1008.
many Americans surrendered to the conviction that they came from abroad." 56 Incidents like the Haymarket Riot in Chicago, Illinois, a labor strike which was intended to fight for the eight hour work day, but took a violent turn, emphasized the labor unrest supposedly instigated by the immigrants, "no general stereotype of the immigrant prevailed more widely than that of a lawless creature, given over to violence and disorder." 57 Historians also often accuse the rise of strikes influencing another branch of the nativist movement referred to as the "red scare." The "red scare" is "an intense fear of communism and other extreme ideas" that spread wildly across the United States in 1920 after the Communist takeover in Russia. 58 By the time the year 1920 arrived, the nativist atmosphere of the country was conducive to seeking a scapegoat to account for the negative attitudes towards immigrants seeping across the nation. Many Americans took the "red scare" as an opportunity to further ascertain their position strongly on the nativist side. As a result, during this time period numerous people were imprisoned or deported from the country. Often comparable to the "witch hunt" of early New England, historians believe that many were wrongfully accused and actually innocent of the "crimes" they had committed. 59

Because of the expansive reach of the nativist movement into the work place, historians believe, one of the ways Americans were able to expressed their superior attitude was through the work force. In the work force, "racism was a learned value, deeply ingrained in the world of views of many workers by the end of the nineteenth

57 Ibid.
59 Ibid, 598.
century; it was passed on to immigrants along with values enhancing class solidarity.\textsuperscript{60} This attitude was most likely responsible for the decline in status that labor took in the late nineteenth century, that most people often falsely believe that the "new" immigrants were responsible for.\textsuperscript{61} In reality, the worlds of the "old" immigrants and "new" immigrants often combined, "they might be steeped in their own ethnic cultures, as were the Irish and Germans as late as the early twentieth century. But they also had experience in dealing with other ethnic groups, and though some retained a measure of prejudice, they often recognized the value of interethnic cooperation.\textsuperscript{62} Historians often agree that he workplace really was the epitome of the "melting pot" of America. The place of work became the place that was responsible for "Americanizing" immigrants, and ensuring that they would become as assimilated into American culture as quickly as possible, hence, "immigration historians have emphasized the striking diversity and complexity of American society, demonstrating that there is not one American story, but many of them that must be told in relation to one another."\textsuperscript{63} Against the odds of the nativist atmosphere of the United States at the time period, especially aimed at the many immigrants who made their living as laborers, many of these "American stories" have origins in the workplace that possibly further added to the nativist furor sweeping across America.

Another concern that historians often attribute to the rising attitude of nativism is the belief that the immigrants, of whom most settled in the cities, were contributing to the

\begin{footnotes}
\item[60] Barrett. "Americanization from the Bottom Up," 1002.
\item[61] Ibid, 1001.
\item[62] Ibid, 999.
\item[63] Ibid, 997.
\end{footnotes}
problems of the cities, such as the rise of slums and corruption. The nativists focused on the restriction of the immigrants with various reformers believing that "restriction seemed a relatively easy and painless way of invoking national authority to combat corruption, squalor, and injustice." Many historians agree that the corruption that occurred within the political machines of the cities was facilitated by the immigrant vote. "Immigrants tended to support political machines, because they helped poor people at a time when neither government nor private industry would." Many people accused immigrants of having little knowledge of our democratic form of government, and claimed that the shady politicians were using them for their own benefit. In addition to political corruption, historians also believe that the immigrants were also blamed for the poor conditions that cities began to perpetuate. With the number of immigrants and natives flowing into the urban areas greatly on the rise, many of the cities were unprepared to deal with the number of people that suddenly depended on city life to provide for them. Because a number of immigrants settled in ghettos, or an area in which one ethnic group dominates, it was easy to hold the immigrants responsible for the issues occurring in the cities. Many settled in such ghettos simply for comfort, while others sought out the ghettos to avoid discrimination and threats from the nativists. One resident of San Francisco's Chinatown recalled, "If you ever passed them and went out there, the white kids would throw stones at you." The living standards of the immigrants further added to the discrimination they were already experiencing, "the new immigrants submitted to particularly primitive living conditions--a fact which, in itself,

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65 Higham, "Origins of Immigration Restriction," 79.
67 Ibid. 475.
affronted to competitive, material values of the period."\textsuperscript{68} In particular, "the Italians, who had a lower standard of living than any of the other prominent nationalities, also experienced more prejudice than any of the others."\textsuperscript{69} Many immigrants also contributed to the slum lifestyle by settling in tenements. Tenements, or low-cost apartment buildings designed to house as many families as the owner could pack in, also contributed to the poor conditions of the city. A group of tenements with multiple families packed into a small living space could easily turn a once pleasant neighborhood into a dirty, unkempt, slum.

Although historians often focus on the immigrant arrival and settling in the cities, a considerable amount of immigrants established themselves in the rural Southern states as well. While the immigrants were experiencing a different lifestyle, they still often encountered the discrimination that occurred to the immigrants in the large cities. Some falsely have the belief "that anti-Negro prejudice caused white workers to favor white immigrants to the South".\textsuperscript{70} However, most historians believe that the "new" wave of immigration experienced discrimination in the south as well, "they [Southerners] swung from one attitude to the other, fearing immigrant as well as Negro job competition."\textsuperscript{71} Southerners often reflected the bias of the remainder of the country by hoping only to get the desirable immigrants from the nations of the northwestern Europe. In 1904 the South Carolina legislature went as far as to limit "the appeals of its immigration bureau to 'white citizens of the United States, citizens of Ireland, Scotland, Switzerland, France, and other

\textsuperscript{68} Higham, "Origins of Immigration Restriction," 82.
\textsuperscript{69} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{70} Berhoff, "Southern Attitudes Toward Immigration," 349.
\textsuperscript{71} Ibid.
Meanwhile, in Alabama, the assembly judged that immigrants arriving from "English-speaking and Germanic countries, France and the Scandinavian countries and Belgium" were among the chosen. Interestingly enough, as the "new" immigrants entered the gates of the United States, even though a small number infiltrated the Southern region, the Southerners increasingly became harsh critics of the immigrants. "In part because of its extreme sensitivity to "racial" distinctions and also because of certain economic and political frustrations, though these had small connection with immigration, the South after the 1880's borrowed the arguments of northern opponents of immigration and became more solidly nativist than any other section of the nation."

An additional difference of the "new" wave of immigrants that is often highlighted by historians is the idea that nativists were often of a Protestant background, while the new immigrants entering the United States were mostly made up of Catholics, Orthodox Christians, or Jews. Because the composition of the immigrants changed in the late nineteenth century so did the religious make-up of the United States. The once dominant Protestants began to feel threatened by the arrival of an overwhelming amount of Catholics. The influence of the Roman Catholic Church was on the upswing, "it entered on of its most vigorous decades, a period which brought twenty new dioceses, many parochial schools, the establishment of the Catholic University of America, and the appointment of the first Apostolic Delegate to the United States...these advances touched

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72 Ibid.
73 Ibid.
74 Ibid, 350.
off a wave of Protestant hysteria.\textsuperscript{76} Members of Protestant groups, in addition to being anti-Catholic, were also against foreigners. Historians argue that since "the Roman hierarchy followed the leadership of the Vatican, anti-Catholic crusaders regarded the Church as alien and subversive.\textsuperscript{77} Because of Catholic's allegiance to the Pope, many Americans also believed that the foreign immigrants that were inundating our borders, particularly the Catholics, would never fully be able to be loyal to the United States.\textsuperscript{78} Historians often agree, however, anti-Catholicism began to decline in the late nineteenth century, and "lacked the respectability which it had previously enjoyed."\textsuperscript{79} Many Protestants began to abandon its ties to the cause, in fact, "many Protestant ministers urged a reduction of immigration without mentioning its denominational character."\textsuperscript{80}

Another matter that came into question after World War One was an emphasis on the fact that a number of immigrants had come from volatile parts of Europe, even from the places that World War One had began. This turned many people's focus on the idea that the people coming into the country from the "powder keg" of Europe perhaps would adopt and implement their own dangerous political ideas on the people of the United States.\textsuperscript{81} Fears of many became heightened and "anti-alien sentiments were aroused, together with the fears of allegedly unassimilated foreign-born minorities and 'hyphenated Americans'.\textsuperscript{82} Moreover, not only were people afraid of the political ideas that Europeans might bring over, but the public sentiment was put on even higher alert

\textsuperscript{76} Higham, "Origins of Immigration Restriction," 83.  
\textsuperscript{77} Ibid.  
\textsuperscript{78} Cayton, et al. America: Pathways to Present, 601.  
\textsuperscript{79} Higham, "Origins of Immigration Restriction," 84.  
\textsuperscript{80} Ibid.  
\textsuperscript{81} Cayton, et al. America: Pathways to Present, 601.  
\textsuperscript{82} Hutchinson. "Immigration Policy," 15.
when the public discovered reports that "large numbers of criminals and radicals were among the aliens seeking passage to the United States."\textsuperscript{83}

The influx of immigrants definitely had a drastic influence on legislation in the United States, however, the nativist reaction to immigration also contributed to many different social changes occurring in the country at the time. Historians often attribute the rise of social organizations such as the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan, and the rise of the American Protective Association to the nativist influence in the United States. Historians often blame the restoration of the Temperance movement, which re-established itself as the Prohibition movement, to the effect "new" immigrants had on the United States.

The Ku Klux Klan originated in Tennessee in May of 1866. It was initially established as a "social club", but within a short period of time, reared its actual intentions by evolving into a fearful terrorist organization.\textsuperscript{84} Most historians agree it was formed due to the backlash against the freed slaves and African Americans following the Civil War. Most members consisted of Southern men, usually plantation owners, ex-Confederate soldiers, and even politicians. While the intentions of the Klan were to operate as a "secret society", most of the community was fully aware of the identities of the local Klan members.\textsuperscript{85} As the nineteenth century came to a close, the Klan lost the prestige, popularity, and stronghold it had previously possessed, especially in the Southern states. The strong influence the Ku Klux Klan once had benefited from virtually came to a hushed whisper. Most believed the Klan had run its course and had ceased to exist. However, as the "new" immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe

\textsuperscript{83} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{84} Cayton, et al. America: Pathways to Present, 395.
\textsuperscript{85} Ibid.
continued to flood the gates of the United States in the early twentieth century the Klan experienced a revival. In 1915, a Methodist preacher, Colonel William J. Simmons, from Atlanta, Georgia, once again breathed life into the Ku Klux Klan. By 1922 the Klan had grown to over 100,000 people and two million people by 1924. The second Klan not only had a hold on the South, but reached Northerners now too, with the greatest number of members located in Indiana. In addition to spreading its influence towards the North, the Klan additionally spread its hatred towards new groups of people. Now, not only were African Americans the subject of the new Klan's wrath, but also Catholics, Jews, and immigrant groups. Many historians consider this a direct result of the strong nativist, anti-Catholic, and anti-Semitic views clutching the country. The Klan's horrific actions exemplified and brought to life the nativist disposition the country had been experiencing. As the Klan reached its highest membership to date, the head of the Klan was sentenced to life in prison after murdering a young girl. Once again, the Ku Klux Klan faded away from society.

An additional social group that surged during the time of massive immigration was the A.P.A., or American Protective Association. The A.P.A. was founded by a lawyer from Iowa, Henry Bowers. He claims his motivation for starting the A.P.A. came from the influence the Know Nothing political party of the mid nineteenth century and finally came to fruition when the Catholics were held responsible for closing the public schools from Bowers' hometown in Maryland. Although the American Protective Association admitted foreigners, it held a firm grip on the anti-Catholic roots of the

nativist movement and the basis for its existence was centered in the idea to exclude entire existence of the Roman Catholics in the American Government. Historians agree that although the American Protective Association never caught on the extent of the Know Nothing Party or that of the Ku Klux Klan, its militant anti-Catholic ideas further added to the nativist feelings sweeping the United States during the time period.

Another social issue that is oftentimes blamed on the escalation of immigration was the temperance movement. The temperance movement was an organized campaign to eliminate alcohol consumption. Backed by the groups such as the Prohibition Party, and Women's Christian Temperance Union, temperance supporters advocated prohibition, or the ban on the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages. Because immigrants often used saloons as a place to gather socially as well as an opportunity to find out information on jobs, many of the temperance groups were against drinking due to the relationship they believed to exist between "saloons, immigrants, and political bosses." In addition, Prohibitionists believed that saloons were a breeding ground for the immoral behavior the loud, rowdy, and inappropriate immigrants possessed. Some members of the temperance movement even thought that immigrants were planning a take over of the United States and were using the saloons to coordinate and prepare the plan. One prohibitionist in 1908, echoing the feelings of many, wrote, "foreign control or conquest is rapidly making us un-Christian, with immorality throned in power."

Another social idea that was a direct result of immigration is called the social gospel movement. The social gospel movement "sought to apply the gospel (teachings)

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89 Ibid.
91 Ibid.
92 Ibid.
of Jesus directly to society and focused on the gospel ideals of charity and justice, especially by seeking labor reforms." Its founder, Josiah Strong, viewed immigrants as responsible for many of the social vices occurring in the early nineteenth century. However, he directed the methods of correction not on restriction of immigration, like many others chose to do, yet "aimed prohibition and purity campaigns in new directions...instead of blaming immigrants for drinking, gambling, and other behaviors, the churches sought to treat the misfortunes that drove people into such activities." 

As the "new" wave of immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe, as well as China and Japan, entered the gates of the United States in excessive numbers, the differences of the "new" immigrants were strongly emphasized. The numerous differences that existed between the "old" and the "new" immigrants, resulted in a strong and hostile response from the "native" Americans, illustrated in the nativist movement. The social and political effects of the "new" wave of immigration exemplified the mind frame of the United States during the time period of the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. Historians are often in agreement that the nativist movement resulted in the introduction and passage of a number of pieces of immigration restriction legislation, consequentially leading to a number of social changes as well.

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93 Ibid, 481.
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Part II

Immigration
From Ellis Island to the Mexican Border
For so long, for so many, the term immigrant conjured up a vision of a European-looking small child in a black and white photograph standing with the Statue of Liberty in the background. The small child often had what little remnants of their old life still existed in one hand, perhaps a ratted suitcase, and the other hand wrapped around the skirt of their mother. Both Mother and child often shared the same solemn look on their face, and usually were equally afraid and nervous, but anxious to start off life in the "land of opportunity". There are numerous images that echo the same very same sentiment of the time period and that today are a staple of the immigrant experience at Ellis Island from the late 1800s and early 1900s. These very same immigrants, although discriminated against at the time, are the same ones who began to assimilate into American society and helped weave the fabric of American culture today. The Immigration experience of today, however, no longer suggests the rags to riches stories of the past. Ellis Island no longer processes thousands of passengers entering the country via passenger ship, the days of neighborhoods serving as a residence to one specific European immigrant group is no longer commonplace. Clearly, the "new" immigrants of today have a very different reflection on society than the "new" immigrants of yesteryear.

The new, "new" wave of immigration invokes a very different vision from that of years past. When thinking of the image of an immigrant today, many visualize one of Latin American decent, secretly sneaking across the border by river by boat in the still of the night, with the moon as their only source of light, or the image of an East Indian arriving in the United States to further their dreams of becoming a doctor, or even a young person of Middle Eastern descent arriving to fulfill their lifetime aspirations of
going to college. Perhaps stereotypical descriptions, however, still a far cry from the former European stereotype of the young child on a boat, clinging to his mother’s hip. Although the immigration of today is oftentimes compared to the last great wave of immigration of the late 1800s and early 1900s it has clearly taken on a new façade.

As the United States entered the World War I era the number of immigrants entering the United States virtually came to a halt. At its peak, during the great wave of the early twentieth century, the years of 1900 through 1910, the United States was allowing more than nine million immigrants to enter its borders. However, as thousands of men were being shipped off to fight in Europe, the United States began to inch its, at one point very vast, immigration doors closed. For the first time in United States history the number of immigrants entering the United States was determined by tight quotas and governmental legislation. Following the most effective piece of legislation, the Immigration Act of 1924, also known as the National Origins Act, which based the number of immigrants coming into the country on their country of origin, the United States saw a dramatic decrease in the number of immigrants to enter the country. As a result, during the 1930s, the United States saw fewer than one million immigrants enter the borders of the United States.

In 1952, with the passage of the McCarran-Walter Act, immigration standards were again, like the National Origins Act, based on one’s country of origin. Under this particular Act, the quota for the number of immigrants coming from Europe was set at almost 150,000, compared with 2,990 and 1,400 from Asia and Africa.

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97 Ibid.
respectively. The National Origins Act and the McCarran-Walter Act illustrated and echoed the discriminatory stance of American society at the time. From the 1920s through the 1950s the legislation surrounding immigration was largely prejudiced against the non-European nations. As a result, the decades of the thirties, forties, and fifties saw the number of immigrants entering the United States at historic lows.

These lows were significant until 1965, when the Hart-Cellar Act, or the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965, was passed. The Act was aimed at reversing the discrimination towards the non-European groups which was established by the previous two acts of immigration. The Civil Rights Movement had a tremendous effect on immigration legislation. As the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were essentially intended to "rid America of racial and ethnic discrimination," the Hart-Cellar Act was also meant to be a "corrective measure instituted to atone for past history of discrimination in immigration." Instead of basing immigration on one's country of origin, as of 1965, the ability to gain residency was based on skill or the need for family reunification. There are now certain requirements one must possess to gain entry to the United States. They are set up in a preferential manner, and certain groups have supremacy over others. "Unmarried adults whose parents are American citizens, spouses and offspring of permanent residents, gifted professionals, scientists, and artists" are given consideration before "married offspring of American citizens, siblings of adult citizens, skilled/unskilled individuals of occupations lacking workers in American, and refugees from either communist (or communist controlled)

99 Ibid.
countries, or those from the Middle East." Because the previous strict restrictions on immigration becoming more relaxed, the number of immigrants entering the United States began to again increase.

It was not, however, until the 1990s that the level of immigration was once again comparable to the number of immigrants coming into the United States during the turn of the century. Since that time, the number of immigrants entering the country has more than surpassed the number of the early twentieth century. By the year 2000, a staggering twenty-eight million immigrants were residing in the United States, compared to that of thirteen million in 1910, a simply unprecedented amount. The percentage of immigrants, however, compared to the total population of the United States, has slightly decreased from fourteen percent in 1910 to ten percent in 2000. Today it is believed that more than one million immigrants, both legal, and illegal are entering the borders of the United States each year. The number of immigrants entering the country within the last five years has even risen by an incredible sixteen percent. This brings the number of immigrants up to over thirty-five million, a number larger than the population of the state of California. In addition to the immigrants coming into the country, it is estimated that upwards of twenty-three percent of the babies that are being born in the United States are being born to foreign-born mothers. It is widely speculated that the number of immigrants entering the country will not slow down, but more than likely, incoming

100 Ibid, 1.
101 Camarota "Immigrants in the United States," 2.
102 Ibid, 1.
immigrants, both legal and illegal, will continue to increase considerably over the upcoming years.

Contrary to the immigrant force of the early twentieth century, the immigrants currently entering the country are largely of Latin American origin. Immigrants from the country of Mexico itself currently make up at least one-third of the foreign-born population in the United States.¹⁰⁵ From Latin America and the Caribbean, following Mexico, at significant, but much lower rates of immigration are: El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Colombia, Jamaica, Haiti, Guatemala, Peru, and Ecuador. The top five countries, however, include Mexico, China, the Philippines, India, and Vietnam.¹⁰⁶ These five countries alone account for over forty-five percent of the current immigrants living in the United States.¹⁰⁷ In recent years, also contrary to the last great wave of immigration, the problem of illegal immigration has entered the scene as yet another issue regarding immigration. At the present time, the number of illegal immigrants entering the border of the United States exceeds the number of legal immigrants coming into the country. Some actually come to the country legally and overstay their visas, however, many others enter the country simply by sneaking over the vast, exposed, borders that exist between Mexico and the United States. Because of the considerably large border that Mexico shares with the United States it is no surprise that more than half of the illegal immigrants in the United States come from the country of Mexico.¹⁰⁸ Although there is a tremendous amount of immigrants currently residing with in the borders of the United States, many of them are making an attempt to establish themselves

¹⁰⁶ Camarota "Immigrants in the United States," 8.
¹⁰⁷ Ibid.
¹⁰⁸ Preston, "Low Wage Workers," 1.
as U.S. citizens. Of the over thirty-five million foreign-born individuals living in the United States currently, it is estimated that over fifteen million of them are naturalized citizens.\textsuperscript{109}

It is true that "each new wave of immigration to the United States has met with some degree of hostility and popular fears that immigrants will harm American society or will not conform to the prevailing "American way of life."\textsuperscript{110} Although the differences are many, this exact quote echoes the similarities between the last great wave of immigration and those immigrants of today. The fear that many immigrants have "different languages, religions, and cultures" and "are reluctant to assimilate to American society and to learn English" is no different today than it was one hundred years ago.\textsuperscript{111} Although these fears are often due to poor judgment and prejudice, it would be ignorant to think that immigrants do not have an effect on American society. There are many similarities between immigrants of today and those of the early twentieth century. As in years past, immigrants are often distinguishable due to their looks, and many immigrants today, like in the early nineteen hundreds, speak a language different than that of English. Moreover, the reasons immigrants come here to the United States have been consistent since the beginning. Like one hundred years ago, many immigrants today come to the United States to take advantage of the great "land of opportunity." Many come with the intention of making money and sending it home to family members. In the year 2005 alone, Mexicans working in the United States sent twenty billion dollars back to their

\textsuperscript{111} Ibid, 1.
relatives in Mexico.112 Others, similarly to years past, arrive with the intention of
securing a job to make enough money to send for their family members. Still, others
arrive to avoid political persecution, "migration from Cuba arose...families fled
persecution and imposition of socialism." Additionally, "there were several waves of
Vietnamese [and] Cambodian refugees following the collapse of American-supported
regimes in Southeast Asia."113 Although it seems each new significant wave of
immigration results in a series of mass objections, immigration is a staple of American
life. Immigration is essentially the foundation of the United States, it is woven into the
fabric of our country. Regardless of continuing opposition, immigrants will continue to
enter our borders and have a significant impact on the people of the United States.

Although there are a number of similarities and differences between the
immigrant groups of years past and of today, one consistent aspect is the controversy and
problems that plagued immigration of the past, and continues to surround current
immigration. The impact of immigration today is truly remarkable. In 1995, twelve
years ago, it was estimated that immigration cost the United States twenty-nine billion
dollars a year.114 A phenomenal amount of money, that has and will continue to rise with
the number of immigrants. Although the focus on immigration often falls on California,
New York, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, and Illinois, as they are the states with the largest
levels of immigration, the problems reverberate throughout the country.

Immigrants of today, both legal and illegal, have an extraordinary effect on the
United States economy. At a rally for immigration rights in New York City in May of

112 Preston, "Low Wage Workers," 2.
2006, Ari Ullah, of Bangladesh, said, “what would happen to this country if tomorrow everyone woke up and all of the undocumented immigrants in this country had disappeared, I mean, first and foremost the economy would collapse…” In 2000, over twelve percent of the nation’s work force was comprised of immigrants and an additional ten percent were self-employed. However, the immigrants also comprised over thirty five percent of the high school dropouts in the workforce. Because of this, eighteen percent of the jobs in the service industry are filled by immigrants, compared with only ten percent of immigrants holding positions in managerial or professional positions. Due to the significantly low education levels of the immigrants, compared with that of the native population, immigrants, collectively, as a group earn considerably less than the native population. As a result, “any effect immigration may have on the wages or job opportunities of natives will disproportionately affect less-skilled workers.”

Many of these low-wage workers consist of the Mexican immigrants who realized there were jobs in the United States that pay better than in Mexico. Even though many of the Mexican immigrants are still working at poverty level, a median three hundred dollars per week, it is still a considerable amount more than they would make in Mexico. Regardless of the nature of the employment, it is still important to recognize the fact that the immigrant segment of the population does have a notable hold on a significant portion of the job market.

The impact on the United States economy does not stop at the immigrant work force. Due to the lack of education and the low-wages jobs, a staggering forty-four

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117 Ibid, 11.
118 Ibid.
percent of immigrants are living at or very near the poverty level. In addition, over thirty percent of immigrant households, including children, do not have health insurance, and almost twenty percent of immigrant-headed households receive welfare.\textsuperscript{120} Even though a number of welfare reforms were introduced in 1996 with the intentions of reducing the eligibility for a number of immigrants, the immigrant welfare use remains consistently higher than that of the native welfare use. Data supports that the levels of immigrant use in all four major government assistance programs, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Supplemental Security Income, Food Stamps, and Medicaid, remains higher than that of the natives, resulting in governmental costs of billions of dollars per year. This however, is not true of all immigrant groups. The immigrant groups coming from countries with higher education levels like China, Korea, and India generally have a reduced welfare rate.\textsuperscript{121} It is true, however, that all immigrant groups, experience a significant problem securing health insurance. It is often attributed to their lower levels of education, “because of the limited value of their labor in an economy that increasingly demands educated workers, many immigrants hold jobs that do not offer health insurance, and their low incomes make it very difficult for them to purchase insurance on their own.”\textsuperscript{122} This often results in Americans paying higher premiums on their own health care to help offset the treatment of the uninsured, and undoubtedly effects taxpayers as the various levels of government strain to provide care to the uninsured. These issues have had a significant impact on the United States health-care system and economy as a whole.

Another issue plaguing the idea of immigration is the impact the immigrants have had on the school systems. Although the dramatic enrollment has often been attributed to

\textsuperscript{120} Federation for American Immigration Reform, 4.
\textsuperscript{121} Camarota “Immigrants in the United States,” 13.
\textsuperscript{122} Ibid, 15.
the number of children of the baby boomer generation, the number of school aged children of immigrants is at a remarkable eight million.\textsuperscript{123} Although only one-third of the eight million are immigrants themselves, they are a direct result of their immigrant parents entering the United States. Although the significant increase in the enrollment is generally not a problem for public schools if the tax revenue increases proportionately, due to the substantial number of immigrants working at or below the poverty level, the taxes are often not offset. In addition, a number of the children who speak English as a second language must be taken into consideration because of the higher costs associated with educating children who do not speak English, and additionally, “communities where immigrants gather face challenges to educate children speaking only Spanish whose parents often had limited schooling at home.”\textsuperscript{124} These issues continue to have an impact on the public school systems and American society itself.

One of the largest and most influential immigrant groups today in the United States are the Mexicans. It is commonly believed that the huge immigration movement from Mexico started with the Bracero Program of the mid nineteen hundreds. In the late thirties and early forties the United States experienced a shortage of manual labor from young American men going to fight in World War II. Coincidentally, at the same time, in Mexico, there was a major crop failure, leaving insufficient means of employment for many young Mexican men. Both the United States and Mexico took advantage of the situation, and in 1942 joined forces and established the Bracero Program. The program was intended to alleviate the work shortage in the United States and the unemployment

\textsuperscript{123} Ibid, 16.
problem in Mexico. Thousands of Mexicans, often times with the false impression of earning a large amount of money, left their hometowns and families to head north of the border. Many arrived in El Paso, Texas, a recruitment site and gathering point for the Bracero Program, signed a contract, and began to work. Unfortunately, the contracts were in English, and many would sign not comprehending any of their rights, or conditions of employment.\textsuperscript{125} When the contract was up, the braceros simply had to turn in their permits and return to their hometowns in Mexico. It is said that, the braceros “became the foundation for the development of North American agriculture.”\textsuperscript{126} However, by 1964 the program was abruptly ended. With the 1960s came “an excess of ‘illegal’ agricultural workers along with the introduction of the mechanical cotton harvester,” which “destroyed the practicality and attractiveness of the bracero program.”\textsuperscript{127} Although the program was over, and “the braceros returned home…Unable to survive in their communities, however, they continued to cross the Rio Grande to work in the farms and ranches of this country.”\textsuperscript{128}

Although a number of these issues have afflicted the United States since the beginning of time, and certainly were a concern during the last great wave of immigration, there is one issue that is particularly exclusive to the most recent and current wave of immigration: illegal immigration. After the Bracero Program was terminated, the 1970s saw a boom in the number of Mexicans coming to the United States. Although, in 1970, the United States was home to about 750,000 Mexicans, the

\textsuperscript{126} Ibid, 2.
\textsuperscript{127} Ibid, 2.
\textsuperscript{128} Ibid, 2.
majority were of legal status. In the years following the number of illegal immigrants took an incredible jump. By 1990, due to the "boom in the economy, particularly in the service and construction industries" the number of illegal immigrants entering the country was rapidly multiplied. Currently, according to the Pew Hispanic Center, "an estimated 6.2 million illegal immigrants from Mexico now live in the United States, about half the total number of all Mexicans residing here." Overall, "more than 10 percent of Mexico's 116 million citizens now live in the United States as legal or illegal immigrants." It is estimated that a shocking eighty five percent of the Mexican immigrants living in the United States entered the country's borders without legal authorization.

Although in recent years illegal immigration has become clearly an obvious problem, now is not the first time that the United States has dealt with the issue of unauthorized immigration. In 1986, the Immigration Reform and Control Act, or IRCA, was passed as one of the "first and most comprehensive legislation in the United States immigration policy to take on the issue of unauthorized migration, utilizing both legalization programs to regularize migrants already in the country and strong enforcement mechanisms to prevent new entry." The major elements of the bill included employer sanctions and made a number of actions taken by employers as illegal: "the knowing and hiring of persons not authorized to work in the United States, the continued employment of persons not authorized to work (though persons previously

130 Ibid.
131 Ibid.
132 Ibid.
employed were not subject to these restrictions); and the hiring of an individual without verifying or correctly documenting the person’s identity and eligibility to work legally in the United States (the so-called ‘paperwork requirements’). Additionally under the IRCA they added a fifty percent increase in the staffing of the Border Patrol, and allotted over two million people to apply for and receive permanent residence to the United States. Although the IRCA initially had sensible intentions, it was plagued with a number of problems that made it nearly impossible for it to be a significant force in controlling the illegal immigrant population. Although the IRCA of 1986 did assist a number of illegal immigrants in obtaining legal status, it did not have a lasting effect on resolving any of the issues surrounding illegal immigration, nor deterring the number of illegal immigrants from breaching the borders of the United States.

The illegal immigrants come to the United States for a variety of reasons. Most of those reasons echo the sentiments of immigrants throughout the years, “better, wages, plentiful jobs, family ties and future opportunity.” However, due to the fact that the number of visas available to the United States is limited, approximately 26,500 per year, or the wait is simply exceedingly long, acquiring a visa to live here is becoming exceedingly more difficult. It is even more difficult for the poverty-stricken Mexicans because the “American government tries to screen out people who are likely to remain here illegally.” Because of this, many see no other option than to enter the United States illegally. Some illegal immigrants rely on border-crossing cards, which give Mexicans the ability to visit the United States for between seventy-two hours and thirty

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134 Ibid.
135 Ibid, 2.
137 Preston, "Low Wage Workers," 1.
days. Because they must stay within twenty-five miles of the border; many use these cards for shopping trips and quick visits. The United States issued more than 732,000 of these border-crossing cards within a one year time period in 2006. It is impossible to know how many of those issued cards did not return to Mexico, but took up illegal residency here in the United States.\textsuperscript{139} However, a considerable amount of them depend on physically sneaking over the border, a tremendous risk, which causes many deaths every year.

It is believed that the number of immigrant deaths related to border crossing has more than doubled between the late 1990s and 2005.\textsuperscript{140} The fatalities that occur due to border-crossing can be attributed to a number of different things. The most common basis for the fatalities during the 1990s was traffic related deaths, but from the late 1990s onwards, heat exposure was the leading cause of death.\textsuperscript{141} Some attribute the increase in the number of deaths on the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and a gauge of how well the new security measures are working. Because of the increased security enforcement between the Mexican border and the United States, people rely on more creative methods to enter the country. Yet, they are still willing to put their lives on the line for a better live in the United States.

Although they put themselves at a tremendous risk illegally entering the country to try to better their lives, oftentimes illegal immigrants experience an unexpected plethora of issues and problems of their own upon their arrival in the United States. They often must resort to an underground secret lifestyle which frequently results in the

\textsuperscript{139} Ibid, 2.
\textsuperscript{141} Ibid, 3.
inability to assimilate into American society. Moreover, regardless of immigration status, "the Constitution does not specifically address the government’s power to control the immigration...immigration law remains founded on the notion that immigrants are not full members of American society."\textsuperscript{142} This is often a tremendous problem and regularly results in the rights of immigrants being trampled upon. According to Peter J. Smith, a special agent for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, "We don’t need warrants to make the arrests".\textsuperscript{143} Immigration officials revealed that more than 1,300 arrests were made across the country last summer alone. Because these arrests were made under immigrant law it was unnecessary for the agents to follow the Constitutional procedures we follow normally in the United States when dealing with law enforcement, and "many protections in place under the American criminal codes did not apply."\textsuperscript{144} This is a true illustration that "foreign residents of the United States, whether here legally or not, answer to a different set of rules."\textsuperscript{145} Additionally, agents also possess the ability to search illegal immigrants as well as their homes, and to question them about their immigration status. Agents are not required the read the Miranda rights generally read by police officers, and moreover, immigrants that are held in custody have the right to an attorney, but receive no sixth amendment right to free counsel, the lawyer is not provided for them, yet "receive" only one they themselves can pay for.\textsuperscript{146} Although current law provides for much pressure and stress put on the illegal immigrants residing in the United States, however, to further add to the anxieties of life here in America, illegal immigrants live in a constant fear that they will get caught.

\textsuperscript{142} Preston, "Low Wage Workers," 1.
\textsuperscript{143} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{144} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{145} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{146} Ibid.
At this point, illegal immigrants that get caught living in the United States are generally deported back to their home country, usually Mexico. After that, most are prohibited from entering the country for at least a ten year time period. Unfortunately, for most Mexicans whose objectives are fixed on entering the United States regardless, that “does not dissuade them from returning but means daunting complications of time and money.”\(^{147}\) Instead of observing the ban on entering the United States, many simply “pay a smuggler to help them cross back into the United States at a cost of thousands of dollars, which can take years to pay back.”\(^{148}\) In addition, most are wiling to suffer the consequences if caught again. Illegal immigrants that are caught after deportation face the possibility of prosecution and perhaps even a prison sentence. Although, in recent years, the United States government has taken a harsh stance on illegal immigration with the intention of setting a precedent for others with the hopes of deterring the number of illegal immigrants still willing to take the risk of sneaking into the country, the immigration policies are still seen as in need of reform. In 2006 alone the Immigration and Custom Enforcement deported 195,000, a record for them.\(^{149}\) Post 9/11 ideals have, however, set off a firestorm of controversy as to the ways that the United States can begin to restructure and develop its immigration policies to further deter the illegal immigrants from entering the borders of our country.

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 have resulted in a number of changes throughout the United States. Although the lives of normal citizens had been interrupted, it was the lives of the immigrants that were most drastically affected by the attacks. Even though, directly after 9/11 the scrutiny fell immediately on the Arab-

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\(^{148}\) Ibid.

\(^{149}\) Preston, "Low Wage Workers," 2.
Americans living in the United States, as time has passed, Mexican immigrants have also become a target of the backlash. One of the major effects immediately post-9/11 was in the ability of immigrants to secure jobs, jobs that once were quite effortless to get. The temporary loss of job opportunities resulted in quite a large, but temporary drop in immigration from Mexico. In the months following September 11, 2001, the number of apprehensions of illegal immigrants in California's two Border Patrol districts dropped an average of fifty-seven percent compared with the previous year. Along with that, the amount of legal immigrants entering the country had also fallen a shocking twenty-nine percent since the year 2000.\textsuperscript{150} Although the decrease in the number of Mexicans crossing the border, legal and illegally was thwarted for a short period of time subsequent to the terrorist attacks, it has since risen to, if not exceeded the pre-9/11 levels. The focus has now shifted to a more permanent problem of the security of the border that exists between the United States and Mexico.

It is widely believed that the September 11, 2001 attacks have "transformed the landscape of global security, none more than borders and immigration,"\textsuperscript{151} A few days prior to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the United States President, George Bush, and Mexican President, Vicente Fox met in order to discuss immigrant reform. The plan initially was to focus on the facilitation of the flow of Mexican workers northward to the United States. The idea of allowing upwards of three and a half million undocumented Mexicans living in the United States to "regularize" their status was at the center of the

\textsuperscript{150} Todd Dayton and Jason Felch. "The Waiting Game," The New World-America's Borders in an Age of Terrorism, 5.

conversations. Since the attacks, this idea has long fallen by the wayside. Because of the fact that all nineteen of the hijackers involved in the terrorist attacks were immigrants, the immediate response following 9/11 was to concentrate on the causes of the attacks, immigration and border security acting as the frontrunner, and chief cause, of the 9/11 attacks. According to Michelle Waslin, a senior immigration policy analyst, “This is affecting huge numbers of people who have nothing to do with terrorism... These measures make it look like the government is doing something, but we haven’t seen evidence that this is helping them catch the bad guys.”

Prior to the attacks, the “pre-September 11 immigration policy debate centered on how many illegal immigrations would be legalized, how to safeguard the lives of those illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexican border, and whether or when to ‘open’ that border entirely”. The discussions mainly focused on the economic effects of the immigrants, “did immigrants fill needed jobs or compete with less educated workers? Did immigration reduce inflation or increase unemployment? Did they raise the cost of government services or add to revenues?” Those economic based questions changed overnight. An overwhelming eighty percent of the American people, polled after September 11, 2001 felt that the United States had “made it too easy” for foreigners to come into the country, another seventy-seven percent believed that the government was not successfully doing enough to “control the border and screen people.” Due to the fact that “people in Washington realize that having so many [undocumented immigrants]

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155 Ibid.
156 Ibid, 8.
living in the shadows gives ample space for terrorists to hide,” the law-makers in Washington, D.C., have begun to concentrate on methods of reforming the current immigration policies.\textsuperscript{157} The Bush administration itself, months after the attacks, sent out a firm message via Attorney General John Ashcroft, saying, “If you overstay your visa-even by one day—we will arrest you. If you violate a local law, you will be put in jail and kept in custody as long as possible.”\textsuperscript{158} Those threats, posed days after the attacks, have been followed by the introduction of a number of pieces of legislation that associate the idea of counter-terrorism with a firm sense of control of immigrants. Ideas proposed include, “a biometric entry/exit tracking system for everyone entering the country, significant increases to the Border Patrol, strict new visa standards, lower legal thresholds for surveillance and detention, and most recently, military tribunals with secret proceedings and no opportunity for appeal.”\textsuperscript{159} Although many of these proposed resolutions apply to immigrants suspected of being involved in terrorism, the affects of such programs and pieces of legislation have the ability to touch all members of immigrant communities, igniting the fear of a return to anti-immigration policies, similar to the policies of the early twentieth century that virtually closed off the doors of the United States to immigrants.

Although the post-9/11 extremist thoughts based on immigration have since calmed to some extent, the idea of immigration reform is still at the forefront of the political realm. Although there have been many suggestions and pieces of legislation introduced regarding the issues of immigration and illegal immigration there has not been a formal all-encompassing bill that has alleviated the concerns that immigration creates.

\textsuperscript{157} Dayton and Felch, "The Waiting Game," 4.
\textsuperscript{158} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{159} Ibid.
Even amongst the tremendous number of bills and various ideas there have not been any that even come close to enacting the stringent standards initiated by the Immigration Act of 1924, which reduced immigration to an essential halt. It seems there has also not been any acts proposed that would slow down the illegal immigration hemorrhaging from the Mexican border. There has however, been a variety of ideas and initiatives taken to try to get immigration, both legal and illegal, more properly managed and under control.

It is not the United States' intention to completely bring immigration from Mexico to an end, however to transform "Mexican migration from the chaotic, dangerous, habitual, and illegal, to the regulated, safe, selective and legal." Tom Ridge, former Director of Homeland Security, admits the Southern border is our most challenging, but to close it down would be detrimental to the United States economy. The United States has long focused on our border as one of the ways to deter illegal immigration to the United States. As early as 1990, "Congress returned to the drawing board...to pass another revision of the U.S. Immigration law. That legislation focused strongly on border control and authorized funds for the hiring of additional Border Patrol Officers." This idea came to fruition with "Operation Blockade" in El Paso. The intentions were to halt illegal immigration completely in that particular area. Within months, the illegal immigration through El Paso’s imaginary wall was practically at a standstill. This success of El Paso was the catalyst for another program, "Operation Gatekeeper" in San Diego. Through this program, an actual eight foot high fence was erected along fourteen miles of the Pacific Ocean, along with a flood lights to illuminate the border to further

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160 Kephart, "Immigration and Terrorism," 5.
162 Ibid.
discouraging the entrance of illegal immigrants. By 1996, Congress passed the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, which again focused on the importance of enforcing our borders. As a result, they built “two additional layers of fencing in San Diego and [began] enacting tougher penalties for smugglers, undocumented migrants, and visitors who entered the country legally but then overstayed their visas.” The bill also provided for hiring approximately one thousand more Border Patrol agents per year until 2001 and included funding for the acquisition of new technology. In the past twenty years alone the budget of the Border Patrol has risen from $474 million to an astonishing $1.6 billion to combat the illegal immigration crisis. This shocking figure has enabled the Border Patrol to grow to triple its 1986 size and has increased the number of hours spent patrolling the borders by eight. Although the budget and size increase of the United States Border Patrol would suggest a marked improvement on border activity, the fact of the matter is despite this increase, the number of immigrants, both legal and illegal arriving in the United States is higher than any other time in history. This leads to the conclusion that “American taxpayers are spending vastly more to achieve little in the way of deterrence and much less in the way of arrests along the border.”

U.S. officials acknowledge that it is virtually impossible to patrol the borders on their own due to the fact that they are already stretched so thin. They recognize that one of the first steps in successfully controlling the Southern border is getting the cooperation of the Mexican government in helping to control the border existing between our two countries. Recently, one of the Mexican states, Baja California Norte has done just that.

163 Ibid, 5.
164 Ibid, 5.
165 Ibid, 7.
It has begun to establish “zonas de exclusion”, or off-limit areas at particularly hazardous areas of the border. They have also stationed agents along the highway to ban trucks and buses from dropping off immigrants at remote locations where they are likely to attempt a crossing. Although these particular agents are not able to retain immigrants headed across the border their presence surely dissuades some from illegally crossing. U.S. Border Patrol agents say “this is the first time Mexican authorities have stepped up to the plate and shouldered responsibility for their own citizens” Some members of the Mexican government admit to this fact and insist that “Mexico is ‘waiting on’ the bilateral migration discussion.” The U.S. agents feel as though Mexican collaboration would allow for patrols elsewhere, which would redirect the focus to the originally intended idea of border safety instead of the problem of illegal immigration. Moreover, with help from the Mexicans we could create a “smart-border” that enables “pre-clearance for goods, fast lanes for frequent travelers, and modern detection devices.” Although focusing on the security of our borders is definitely not a fool-proof measure, and some even see the attempts to control immigration through the borders as futile and ineffective, it is an important step in beginning to get our borders under control.

There are groups of people who insist that the border between the United States and Mexico should be a “just border that permits the free movement of people and not just goods and capital.” Some people insist that it is simply a contradiction to even have the desire to get our borders under control due to the financial relationship that

167 Ibid.
168 Ibid.
169 Ibid, 5.
exists between the United States and Mexico. NAFTA, or the North American Free Trade Agreement, was enacted January 1, 1994. The intentions of NAFTA were to lower "barriers to the cross-border movement of goods, capital, raw materials, information and services." Consequently, the drastic increase in trade resulted in the drastic increase of cross-border movements of people. Although, according to politicians, they viewed NAFTA as a way to "export goods and not people" the bi-product of "integrating the North American Market" is sure to create a need for the movement of people across the border. Additionally, "few in Washington stopped to consider the fundamental contradiction involved in militarizing a long border with a friendly, peaceful nation that posed no conceivable strategic threat to the country and was, in fact, an ally and a large trading partner." Nonetheless, the security of the border has continued to be at the forefront of many debates on the issue of immigration.

Many agree, however, that the focus can not rest entirely with the border; there are other steps that must be taken in order to manage illegal immigration. The National Immigration Forum argues that in order to be successful immigration reform must be comprehensive and broad. They insist that there are a number of principles that must exist to increase the feasibility of immigration reform: "It must provide a path to citizenship, it must protect workers, it must reunite families, it must restore the rule of law and enhance security, and it must promote citizenship and civic participation and

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171 Massey, "Backfire at the Border," 5.
172 Ibid.
173 Ibid.
help local communities." They also claim that until our laws begin to more closely resemble reality our immigration system will continue to suffer.

Perhaps a proposal that encompasses some of those standards is the consideration of a temporary guest worker program. According to President George W. Bush, America’s immigration system is… outdated, unsuited to the needs of our economy and to the values of our country. We should not be content with laws that punish hardworking people who want only to provide for their families and deny businesses willing workers and invite chaos at our borders. It is time for an immigration policy that permits temporary guest workers to fill jobs Americans will not take, that rejects amnesty, that tells us who is entering and leaving our country and that closes the border to drug dealers and terrorists.175

The temporary guest worker program would provide the opportunity for current undocumented immigrants to become legal, and the ability to accommodate new entrants to the United States. Under program that President Bush suggests, three year work visas would be granted to employers to give them the ability to hire workers from Mexico, and other foreign countries when the Americans available can no longer fill the needs of the work positions. The illegal immigrants living in the United States would pay a one-time registration fee to gain eligibility for the visa, and it would be renewable every three years.176 If during their tenure here in the United States the worker encountered a

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175 Massey, “Backfire at the Border,” 2.
176 Ibid.
situation that would qualify him or her for permanent residency, he or she could apply for a green card.\footnote{177}

Supporters of such guest worker programs insist that “it answers employer demands for low-wage workers and would combat inflation by keeping wages and hence prices low...give Mexico the safety valve of additional jobs and offer migrants from transferable skills [which will] further assist the Mexican economy...[and]would save lives and lift an onus by moving migrants from illegal to legal status.”\footnote{178} Those who do not support the idea of granting the suggested idea of amnesty to illegal immigrants already residing in the United States often encourage the idea of a guest worker program as well. They believe that “individuals who violate America’s laws should not be rewarded for illegal behavior”, but that the guest worker program would give them an opportunity to gain rightful, legal entry to the United States.\footnote{179} In addition, it is argued that such a program would inevitably have positive effect on national security. Currently, “our unrealistic policy guarantees that hundreds of thousands of illegal migrants cross the border every year without background checks of any kind.”\footnote{180} Such a guest worker program would require border-crossers to provide authorities with relevant information such as names, identities, and the location in the event they needed to be contacted. Moreover, a similar type program could possibly cut down on the backlog of naturalization applications which, as of September, 2005, was reported at an outstanding

\footnote{177}Ibid.
\footnote{178}Kephart, “Immigration and Terrorism,” 19.
2.6 million.\textsuperscript{181} Opponents of such programs however, argue that oftentimes "guest workers tend to become permanent residents and stimulate rather than deter illegal migration through chain migration...would discourage mechanization and hold down wages...[and] are inherently exploitative while others worry they will add to welfare tolls."\textsuperscript{182} They further refer to the Bracero Program, which many blame and believe was "pivotal in building a tradition of illegal migration to the United States."\textsuperscript{183} Moreover, opponents argue that such programs are often cumbersome and very difficult to manage.

Another suggested program involves the ability of illegal immigrants to have power over their own legalization status by implementing a system of earned legalization. Participating in such a program would give illegal immigrants the opportunity to earn points based on involvement in American society. Immigrants could receive points based on their ability to assimilate into society by "holding a job, learning English, residing stably in a community, obeying the law, and learning American civic values."\textsuperscript{184} Under this system applicants would not be entitled to government benefits and would be responsible for paying a fee to obtain the legal status. Proponents of this plan argue that it must be in conjunction with employee sanctions as well as shared border responsibility between the United States and Mexico in order for it to be successful. The sanctions would apply to the employer, and "unauthorized migrants not applying for earned legalization would be rejected for their next job. Due to the fact that under this system they would be ineligible to receive government benefits the unauthorized individual would have no other option other than to return home to Mexico. Supporters believe this

\textsuperscript{182} Kephart, "Immigration and Terrorism," 19.
\textsuperscript{183} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{184} Ibid, 5.
program would result in a tremendous decrease in the amount of illegal immigrants in the United States because of the combination of unauthorized immigrants that are either earning their legal status or being forced to return to Mexico. Opponents of this program however, maintain that it must be “sufficiently stringent” in order to prevent illegal immigration.\footnote{Ibid, 5.}

The most recent comprehensive Immigration Reform proposed by President George W. Bush was proposed on June 26, 2007. According to Bush, “I view this as an historic opportunity for Congress to Act, for Congress to replace a system that is not working with one that we believe will work a lot better. In other words, this is a moment for people who have been elected to come together, focus on a problem, and show the American people that we can work together to fix the problem.”\footnote{Comprehensive Immigration Reform. Immigration:Border Security and Immigration Reform, 10 August 2007. (www.whitehouse.gov), 1.} As suggested, Bush takes a number of different aspects relating to the issues surrounding immigration: Border security, interior enforcement, worksite enforcement, streamlining existing guest-worker programs, improving existing immigration, and assimilation and proposes broad-based solutions to each.\footnote{Ibid.} Although this stops short of a complete overhaul to the current immigration policies it is definitely a step in the right direction. It is about time that people realize the United States immigration policies are seriously troubled. For years, “American policy makers have taken the approach of spending ever greater sums of money trying to enforce or broken immigration laws. This approach simply has not
worked." 188 Hopefully comprehensive immigration reform will take the place of the unilateral, unsuccessful, focus of controlling immigration through our borders.

The United States has long carried and celebrated the idea of being a "nation of immigrants". 189 However, that mindset increasingly refers to the good old days of immigration, the ones that, although not at the time, now conjure a vision of nostalgic memories of European ancestors arriving on boats in New York City. Those days of immigration have long since passed. Since then, the United States has survived a tumultuous relationship with its immigration legislation and has in recent years even surpassed the numbers of those memorable days that were once considered the "peak" of immigration. Most often, the reasons immigrants have continued to immigrate to the United States have stayed constant, but the reaction to them and the issues surrounding them have not. The battle the United States has most recently undergone of illegal immigrants infiltrating our borders has lately taken center stage. Although there have been many solutions proposed none have taken hold or become the steadfast solution to the problem. One can only hope we can continue to draw from our past experiences and hope that we will one day look at the immigration of today with the fondness and reminiscences of immigration of the past.

Works Cited


“The Bracero Program” 18 November 2007.(www.farmworkers.org)


Part III

Immigration Through Moodle
Immigration is an important unit of topic for today's New York State Regents level student. It is most closely studied by eleventh graders in Regents level United States History and Government. It is one of the most significant units studied throughout the year and undoubtedly has a firm place on each of the three Regents exam given throughout the year.

Most often, due to time constraints, and the various other topics that must be covered in such a short period of time, students are not able to fully investigate the various aspects of immigration. Furthermore, the subject of recent immigration and the topic of illegal immigration are frequently overlooked altogether. However, it is important that students are given the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the immigration experience. They need to able to grasp the tremendous impact immigration has had, and continues to have on the United States. Immigration has been one of the most influential aspects of American culture and it has truly molded our country into what it is today.

Students need to be able recognize the importance and the place immigration has in shaping American history. They need to understand that immigration has been the basis on which this country has been found. It has been a consistent force throughout different time periods in American history and it continues to influence the American culture of today. These ideals can be addressed using the Moodle page I have created on Immigration.
The information I have gathered throughout my research process for my thesis has been abundant. This range of topics and materials has provided me with a basis of significant information to include on my Moodle page.

Moodle is a program being implemented in my school district for teacher and student use. It is an interactive web program comparable to "angel" at SUNY Brockport. My Moodle page includes information and provides students and other teachers the necessary tools for a unit on immigration. It includes excerpts, magazine articles, worksheets, cartoons, websites, and other supplementary materials intended to enrich the learning of students. It is my intention that I will be able to help fellow teachers and colleagues facilitate the learning of an immigration unit to Regents level United States History and Government students. The topics included on my Moodle page ranges from old immigration of the nineteenth century to the new and more recent immigration of the 21st century.

Because I teach United States History and Government at the high school level my intent is for my Moodle page to be able to be actually implemented and utilized in a high school classroom. In addition, I look forward to being able to share my findings with my colleagues and hope that they too will benefit from some of the materials I have put together.

My Moodle page will undoubtedly have a positive impact on student learning as it embodies Jean Piaget's idea of Social Constructivism. Social Constructivism takes into account the nature of the learner, the role of the teacher, and the nature of the learning.¹ Constructivism acknowledges that each learner is a unique individual, comes from a

¹ http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/constructivism/index.html
different background, and has different motivations for learning.\(^2\) In Constructivism, the teacher serves more as a facilitator than an instructor and assists the student in acquiring their own understanding of the learning, which is an active, ongoing process that often involves a collaborative effort.\(^3\) My Moodle page gives students the tools and lets them formulate their own method of learning, an essential part of Constructivist learning.

Another theory applicable to my Moodle page is Bloom's Taxonomy. Bloom's Taxonomy creates a classification of levels of cognitive thinking ranging from the lowest level, knowledge, to the highest level, evaluation.\(^4\) It is believed that a variety of teaching strategies focus on the lowest level of thinking: knowledge. My Moodle page gives students a variety of opportunities to apply the information they have acquired at the various levels of Bloom's taxonomy and to utilize the upper levels: comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

Differentiated Instruction is another theory that has notably become a fixture in today's educational arena. Differentiating instruction is an approach that takes the learning differences and various levels of students into account. In differentiation students have "multiple options for taking in information and making sense of ideas."\(^5\) My Moodle page allows students to do this by learning at their own level of readiness and allowing student to create their own path of learning. The possibilities with my Moodle page are abundant. It does not pigeonhole my students into a "one-fits-all" curriculum. In addition, the various options presented provide for a number of enrichment activities for the students as well.

\(^2\) http://www.funderstanding.com/constructivism.cfm
\(^3\) http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/constructivism/index.html
\(^4\) http://officeport.com/edu/blooms.htm
\(^5\) http://www.cast.org/publications/ncac/ncac_diffinstruc.html
Another theory that is incorporated into my Moodle page is the idea of Gardner's Multiple Intelligences. The Multiple Intelligences theory provides for the fact that all students learn differently. According to Gardner, there are eight different intelligences: linguistic, logical-mathematical, spatial, body-kinesthetic, musical, interpersonal, intrapersonal, and naturalist. My Moodle page gives students the ability to recognize and investigate their various learning strengths. It allows them to focus on their strengths and utilize the activities that involve the intelligence that most fits their particular learning style.

I am hoping my Moodle page will bring history alive for students and that in utilizing the information and material found on the page the students will take a more active role in their own learning. I have included resources and material that will appeal to multiple learning styles and material that can be differentiated to reach the learning needs of all students. In addition, because my Moodle page includes information beyond a unit on immigration, I hope teachers and students alike can use this information to further enrich their own learning of a variety of U.S. History topics.

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6 http://www.thomasarmstrong.com/multiple_intelligences.htm
Works Cited

http://officeport.com/edu/blooms.ht

http://www.funderstanding.com/constructivism.cfm

http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/constructivism/index.html

http://www.thomasarmstrong.com/multiple_intelligences.htm

http://www.cast.org/publications/ncac/ncac_diffinstruc.html
The following pages are excerpts from my Moodle page. To view my page in its entirety please follow the instructions below:

Access to Moodle:

1. Go to www.spencerportschools.org
2. Under "quick links" click on "Moodle"
3. Enter the information below:
   
   Username: trainer00
   Password: password

4. Under "Wilson HS" click on "Social Studies"
5. Click on "Mrs. Grizzanti's Social Studies Class"
6. To view information on immigration go to: Unit 4-The Progressive Response to Industrialization.
Welcome to Mrs. Grizzanti’s Moodle page!

Unit 1: Introduction

Course Information
- Course Expectations
- Course Timeline

Geography
- Map of United States
- Map games
- Geography Powerpoint
- Geography Powerpoint

Unit 2B: Foundations of Government

Important Documents
- Declaration of Independence
- Articles of Confederation
- Constitution

Activities
- Constitution Pamphlet
- Bill of Rights Activity

http://moodle.spencerportschools.org/course/view.php?id=236
12/7/2008
3 Branches of Government

The Bill of Rights and Supreme Court Cases

Unit 2B: Constitution Tested

Unit 3: Industrialization of the US

Unit 4: The Progressive Response to Industrialization
Immigration 1920-Present

- Quota Cartoon
- Immigration statistics
- Take a tour of Ellis Island
- Immigration Stories
- Ellis Island
- Statue of Liberty
- Nativism
- Chinese Exclusion Act
- Immigration Overview (1880-1914)
- Immigration Timeline
- Chinese Exclusion Act
- How the Other Half Lives
- Gilded Age Powerpoint
- Old Immigrant Stories
- Gentleman's Agreement 1908
- Take a journey as an immigrant!
- Immigration Political Cartoons

- Manifests of Alien Arrivals at Buffalo, Lewiston, Niagara Falls, and Rochester, New York, 1902-1954
- Illegal Immigration Links
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
- Interview an immigrant
- Jerry Mangione-Mount Allegro
- Immigration Issues Chicago Tribune
- New Immigrant Stories
New Immigration Stories Assignment
Growing Divisions Letter
Immigrant terms

Immigration Lesson Plans

- Immigration and Nativism Lesson
- Lewis Hine Lesson
- Nativism Lesson
- Immigration Lessons

8 Unit 5: At Home and Abroad: Prosperity and Depression

9 Unit 6: The U.S. in an Age of Global Crisis


Unit 7B: The World in Uncertain Times: 1980-present
Relive a Boy's Journey: In 1920 Seymour Rechtzeit left his home in Poland to settle in New York City (click to read story)

In 1933 seven year old Li Keng Wong left her small Chinese Village to settle in Oakland, California (click to read story)
Joseph Keppler (1880)

1. What is the main idea of the above political cartoons. How is the message of the cartoons drastically different?

Thomas Nast Political Cartoon (1869) "Pacific Chivalry"
The following are some immigration statistics:

Percentage of immigrants from different continents

Immigration by continent of residence

Total number of immigrants by year

Total number of immigrants by year (line graph)

Immigration by country, 1820-1998

Suggested Assignment:

Analyze the data located in the above charts.

1. Identify immigration trends and patterns. Why did these trends and patterns occur?

2. How have the immigration statistics changed over the years? Explain.
Welcome to Immigration

Interactive Tour of Ellis Island

An Interactive Tour of Ellis Island

Start the Journey Now!

You will need RealPlayer® version 7.0 or higher to play. Get RealPlayer for free.

Eastman House Lesson Plan

Unit: Progressive Era

Time Frame: early 1900s

Grade Level: 11

Standards:
CDOS

1-Career Development
2-Integrated Learning
3a-Universal Foundation Skills
3b-Career Majors

Social Studies

1-History of the United States and New York
4-Economics

ELA

Language for Information and Understanding

Objective:
LWD analysis by creating a document of their own to fit into the unit on Progressivism

Essential Question:
How would you define and describe the Progressive Reform movement?

Procedure:
1. Teacher will provide students with DBQ: “How would you define and describe the Progressive Reform movement?”
2. Students will get with a partner and look over DBQ documents.
3. Students and teacher will go to the Library together.
4. Students will use eastmanhouse.org (go to Education, click on discovery kits, go to the Lewis Hine/Progressive Era collection.)
5. Students will browse the collection to find a picture that could be used in the DBQ already provided.
6. Students will create a DBQ scaffolding question using the picture they found in the collection.


12/7/2008
to fit into the DBQ provided.

Closure:
Students will create an answer key for their document and use it as their “ticket out the door”.

Eastman House-Lewis Hine Photos
Name: 
Immigration Unit

Directions: Click on the link "New Immigrant Stories." Read through the stories of the various ethnic groups. For each group record three (3) things you learned (L) and one (1) question (Q) you still have.

English:
L-
L-
L-
L-
Q-

German:
L-
L-
L-
L-
Q-

Italian:
L-
L-
L-
L-
Q-

Irish:
L-
L-
L-
L-
Q-
African:
L-
L-
Q-

Japanese:
L-
L-
L-
L-
Q-

Chinese:
L-
L-
L-
L-
Q-

Jewish:
L-
L-
L-
L-
Q-
Name: Immigration Unit

Directions: Using the immigration resources, explain how the terms/concepts below relate to immigration.

Ellis Island:

Statue of Liberty:

Nativism:

Chinese Exclusion Act:

Gentlemen's Agreement:

Optional Thematic Essay: In a well developed essay pick two (2) of the above terms and explain how each relates to immigration.
Click on the link below to view "How the Other Half Lives" by Jacob Riis.

How the Other Half Lives

Click on the link below to view pictures from "How the Other Half Lives" by Jacob Riis.

Pictures

Suggested Assignment:

Analyze two (2) of the pictures from "How the Other Half Lives."

* Compare and Contrast the pictures. How are they the same? How are they different?

* Create a new caption for the pictures.

* Create two (2) well developed questions to accompany the picture.

Last modified: Sunday, 30 November 2008, 03:55 PM
The following is an article from The New York Times on January 18, 1943.

"Old Wine, New Bottle"

Optional Assignment:

Read Jerry Mangione's Mount Allegro

Write a letter to a book publisher explaining why Mount Allegro should be published. Include excerpts from the book. Remember, be as convincing as possible, you are trying to sell a book!
Resources

http://library.thinkquest.org/20619/Comics.html

http://www.csub.edu/~gsantos/cat15.html


http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,802598,00.html?promoid=googlep

http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-immigration-storygallery,0,3573987.storygallery

http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis

http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/immigration/northern-ny-state-arrivals.html#roll

http://lcweb2.loc.gov/learn/features/immig/native_american8.html

http://library.thinkquest.org/20619/Past.html

http://lcweb2.loc.gov/learn/features/immig/interv/toc.php


http://immigrationcounters.com/


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