



Immigration



A Nation of Immigrants

- Discrimination
- Emigration
- Push
- Potato Blight
- Push
- American Letters



A Nation of Immigrants

- In a couple of years US population will be 300 million
 - All are immigrants or descendants of immigrants
 - Except for the Native Americans
- In 300-400 years historians will find it hard to believe that immigrants could come together to form a nation.
 - Survived reasonably well
- Wars
 - There still is **discrimination**
 - **Discrimination-treating people in a different way because of prejudice**

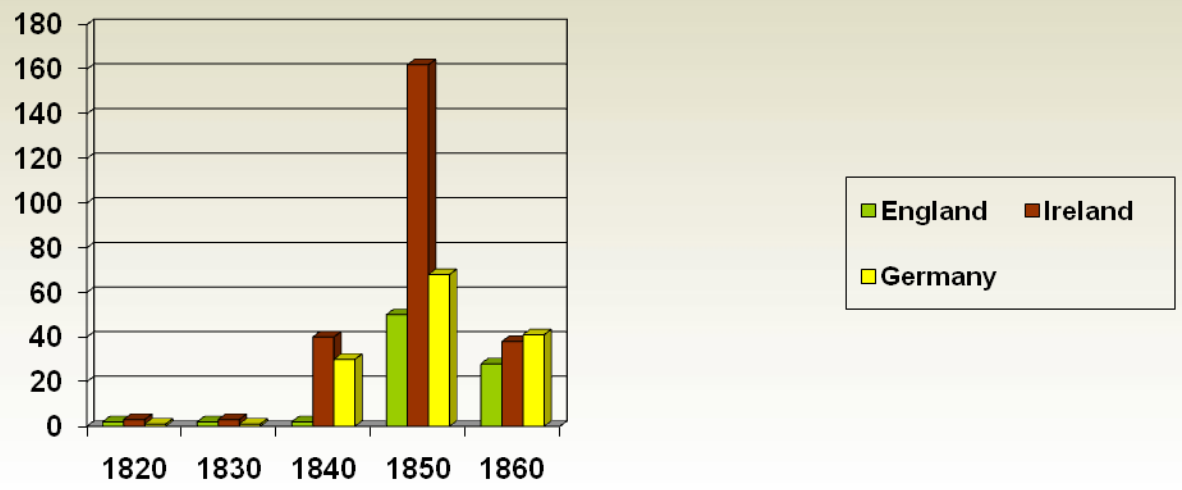


The First European Immigrants

- The first people
 - Settlers in Jamestown, Plymouth, and the Massachusetts Bay Colony
 - 13 original colonies
 - Spanish colonies in the South West
- Most came from Europe
 - England, German, Dutch, Scots-Irish, Swedes Finns, French, Swiss and others
 - Africans brought against their will
- 1700-1820 Immigration slowed to a trickle
 - European countries were at war with each other
 - The warring nations made it difficult for people to leave
 - Some tried to stop **emigration** all together
 - **Emmigration**—leaving one country to live in another



- By the 1830's the trickle became a steady stream and turned into a flood
 - By the 1860 1 in 8 people in the US were born somewhere else.






The push to Emigrate

- Why were people so eager to leave everything?
 - Push and a Pull
- Push
 - The main push was economic
 - 1750-1850 Europe's population doubled
 - Farmland did not
 - Farmers are reliant on good weather and soil for a harvest
 - Germans at near poverty
 - Ireland had 2 major problems
 - Farmland was converted to raising sheep
 - 1 million people thrown off of their land
 - Half of them went to US
 - 1846 potato blight
 - Wiped out the entire crop of potatoes for several years



Other Pushes

- Other countries had another economic push
 - Industrialization
 - Skilled workers were out of work
 - Religious and Political Persecution
 - Protestants
 - Rebels
 - Felt they had to leave because of failed revolutions



The “Pull” of America

- Newspapers and books were two important sources of information that pulled people to America
 - Ads posted by American businessmen looking for cheap labor
 - Books published by European travelers
 - Guidebooks
- Letters written by relatives and friends that already lived in America
 - These letters have come to be called the American Letters
 - These letters led to an outbreak called America fever
 - Not all letters were good.
 - People couldn't get jobs because they didn't know English
 - Things In America weren't as good as they expected them to be.
 - Most people would get another letter with money
 - More than most Europeans seen in years of work



How Many Came?

- 1840's the cost to travel to America dropped sharply



Starting Over Word Attack

- Port
- Tenement
- Dilapidation



Starting Over

- Most immigrants had to endure the hardships of the ocean voyage
 - 1-3 Months
 - Ships made for carrying freight
 - Bunk beds
 - 50 bunks for 250 people
 - Provide your own food
 - Community stove
 - Purchase food from the captain at a premium



Moving On

- Where did most immigrants first set foot in America?
 - Ports of New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore
 - Port--a city with a harbor where ships can load and unload
 - Most planned on moving on from the port
 - The city they arrived in
 - Money
 - Skills
 - Where others of their nationality had settled



Where did they go?

- Norwegian or Swedish
 - Owned farms in their homelands
 - Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois
- German
 - ½ entered through New Orleans
 - Made their way up the Mississippi
 - Missouri, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin
- Others went to places based upon their skills
- They would also settle where their relatives and friends were



Remaining in Cities

- Most of the Immigrants that came between 1830 and 1850 remained in the city they landed at.
 - 1/5 were skilled workers
 - 4/5 too poor to buy a farm when they arrived
 - Too poor to travel beyond the city
 - Took whatever work they could
 - Loading and unloading ships, digging ditches, garbage man
 - Women worked as maids or housecleaners
 - NYC 20,000 jobs 19,500 filled by immigrants
- The Irish were the poorest and least skilled
 - They did the heavy construction and hardest work
 - The United states was built by three kinds of power: “water power, steam power, and Irish power. The last works hardest of all.”



Immigrant Life in the Cities

- Living conditions were dreadful
- Description of one tenement with 70 Immigrants.
 - Tenement—an apartment building often overcrowded and poorly kept, usually in a city slum
- 6x10 apartment
 - Widow and 5 children
- Not all of the lives for immigrants were hard
 - Skilled workers had few troubles
 - Those who took up farming; America was a land of opportunity
- It was mostly the poor and unskilled that lived in the dreadful conditions
- They had one thing in America that they didn't have in Europe.
 - A future



This is a three-story building . . . over a stable where an express company's horses are kept. The dilapidation [rundown condition] of this entire building is extreme; its rickety floors shook under the tread, and portions of the wall, black and mildewed, were continually breaking off . . . A poor woman who occupied an apartment on the second floor complained, "The ould [old] ceiling . . . is ould as meself, and its full uv the dhrop it is," i.e., it was soaked with water that entered through the broken roof whenever it rained.



The New Immigration

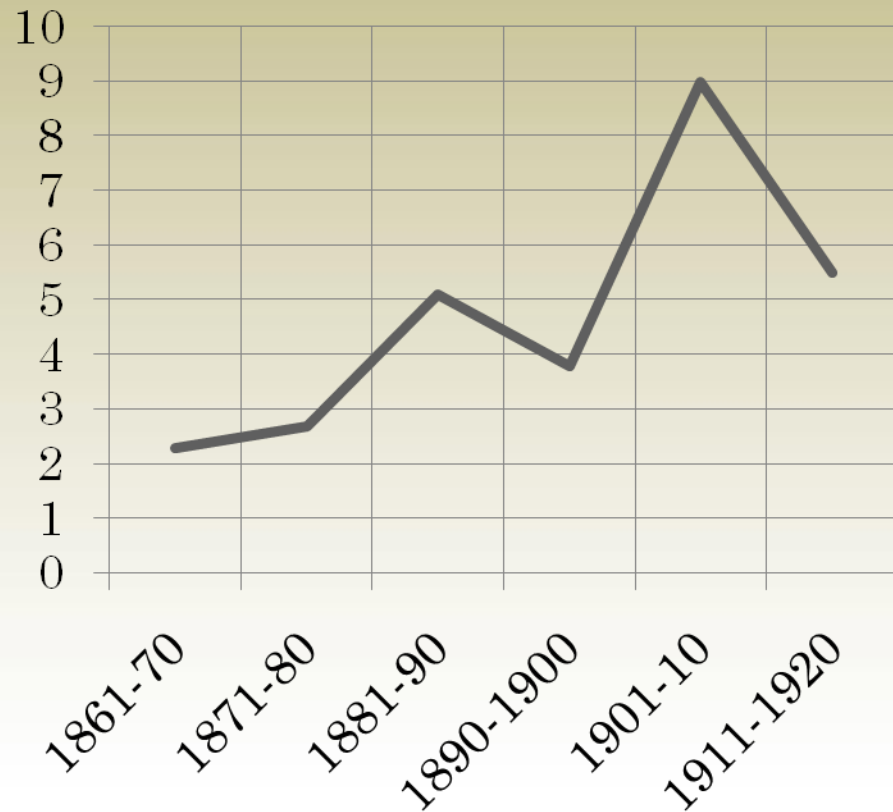
- Birds of Passage
- Persecuted
- Pogrom



The New Immigration

- Immigration dropped sharply between 1850-1860
 - Civil War
- 1865 immigration began to increase again.
- Peaks and Valleys
 - Due to the conditions in Europe and the US

Immigration to the United States





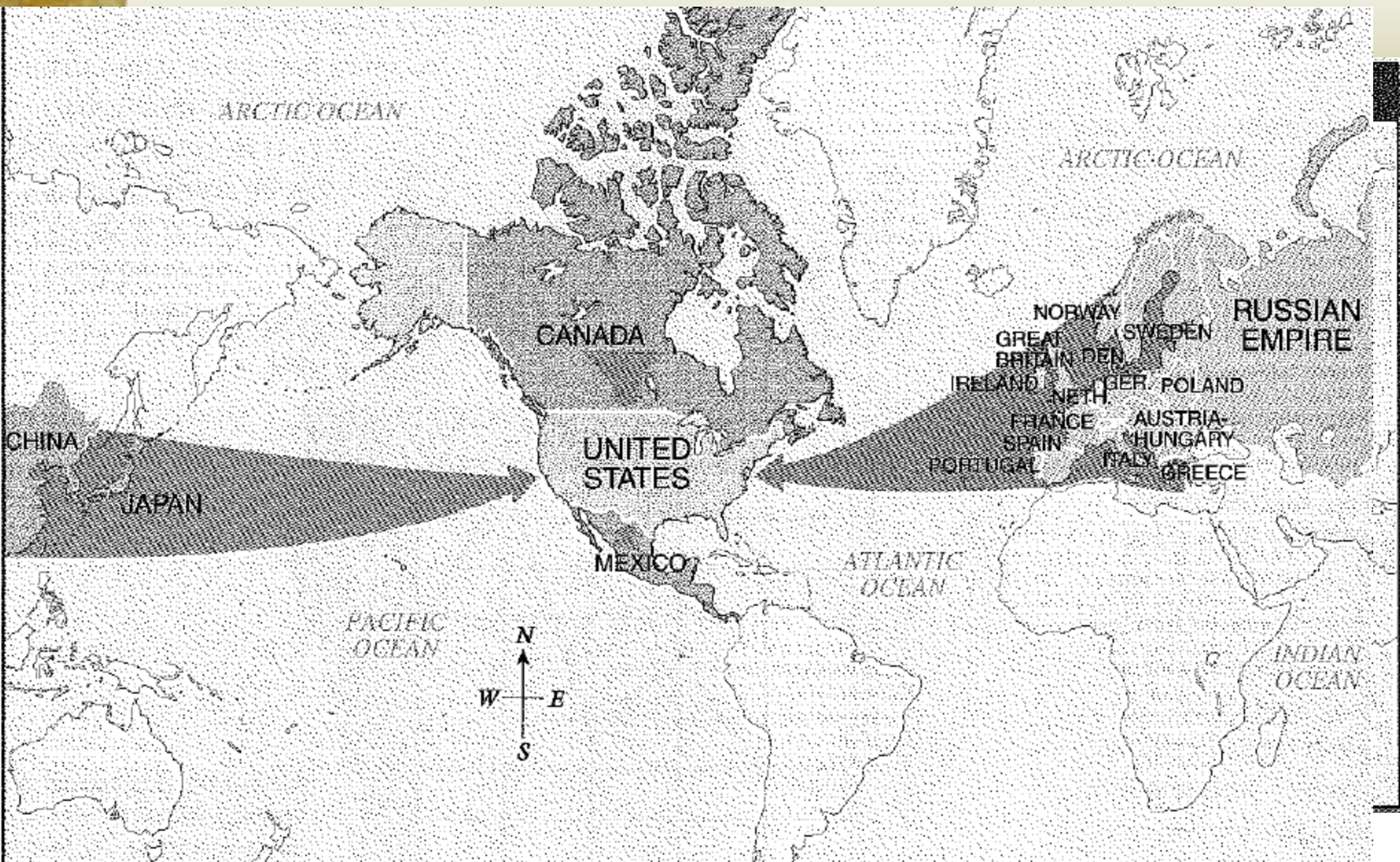
Reasons for the Increase

- Crossing the Atlantic became faster, cheaper, and easier.
 - Steamships
 - Six weeks-six days
 - 10-15 dollars to cross the Atlantic
 - Ships made for carrying passengers



Where They Came From

- 1860-1880
 - Came from the same countries
 - Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, and Scandinavian countries
- 1870 immigrants began to arrive from the countries of southern and eastern Europe
 - Italy, Greece, Russia, Poland, and Austria-Hungary
- 70,000 from Japan
- 200,000 from China
- Canada and Mexico





Why They Came

- Pretty much the same reasons
 - Peasants and poor farmers
 - Could not make a living in their home countries
 - Not enough land to go around
- Not all people wanted to stay
 - 1 in 3 wanted to earn enough money to return home and buy land
 - These people became known as birds of passage
- For some there was no thought of returning
 - They had been **persecuted** in their native lands
 - **Persecute- to treat people harshly or cruelly and deny their rights**
 - Poles, Slovaks, Slovenes
 - Not allowed to have newspapers or books in their own languages or get far in school unless they would give up their language
 - Russia
 - Millions of Jews were persecuted for their religious beliefs



Pogroms

- Anti Jewish Riots
 - Actually encouraged by the Russian government
 - “They would set out to kill the Jews. They attacked them with knives and clubs and scythes and axes, killed them or tortured them, and burned their homes.”
- Once the Jews left Russia there would be no return.



The Immigrant and the City

- There was one more big difference between the Old and New Immigration
 - Dreams of America
 - Great open spaces and plenty of land for farming --Old
 - Great cities and well-paying jobs in factories—New
- Immigrants image of America had changed because America had changed
- New immigrants poured into cities in greater numbers
 - New York around 1900
 - More Italians than anywhere but Rome
 - More Greeks than anywhere but Athens
 - More Germans than anywhere but Berlin
 - More Irish---except Dublin
 - More Jews



A Foreign Flavor

- People in American cities wanted to be next to their people
 - Created neighborhoods
 - Little Italy, Greektown
- Making a living still was not easy for the New Immigrants
 - No skills, no English
 - Worked the hardest jobs, longest hours and lowest pay.
 - Wage Discrimination
 - White 1.30-1.50/day
 - Black 1.25-1.40/day
 - Italian 1.15-1.25/day
 - “In America, the streets are paved with gold”
 - “First, the streets were not paved with gold; second, the streets were not paved at all; and third, the immigrants were expected to pave them”
 - And they did
- Life was still better than it would have been in their native lands.
 - Learned skills and improved their earnings
 - Free public education



An Uncertain Welcome

- Statue of Liberty
- Emma Lazarus
- Ellis Island
- Nativism
- Chinese Exclusion Act

An Uncertain Welcome

- July 4, 1884 the US received a gift
 - 151 ft high—15 story building
 - 225 tons—214 crates
 - Torch in one hand
 - Tablet on the other—with the date of American Independence
- The gift was from France
 - Built by the sculptor Frederic Bartholdi
 - Paid for by contributions of the French people
 - Celebration of the friendship with the United States and the American Revolution
 - Symbol of their belief of liberty
 - Something they hadn't completely achieved
- The Statue of Liberty
 - Liberty Enlightening the World





A Symbol of Welcome

- The Statue of Liberty was the symbol of America's welcome to newcomers
 - Emma Lazarus
 - Disturbed by the pogroms
 - Appreciated her religious freedom and liberty
 - Wrote "The New Colossus"
 - Give me your tired, your poor,
your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
the wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!
 - Written on the base of the Statue of Liberty after her death



Ellis Island

- Most immigrants after 1892 first landed at Ellis Island
 - Receiving station could handle 5000 people/day; enlarged to 15,000
 - 16 million people passed through Ellis Island
 - Closed in 1954
 - Physical Examinations
 - Those who failed were sent back to Europe
 - Some people called Ellis Island the Island of Tears
 - Name Examination
 - Wallenchinski—Wallace
 - Other questions



The Rise of Nativism

- The American's had two different minds about immigration
 - Favored because it helped settle the land and build up the country
 - Troubled by those that were different in nationality, language, customs, or religion
- Many Americans feared that immigrants were changing America for the worse.
 - They were willing to take down the welcome sign
 - Anti-immigration is called nativism
- 1850's
 - Against Catholics from Ireland and Germany
 - Most of America was protestant and thought that Catholics would be a threat to American culture
 - Civil War approached and not much happened



After the Civil War

- The mood of immigration turned back to one of welcome except for the West
- **Against Chinese Immigrants**
 - Ridiculed and discriminated against
 - Victims of robbery, beatings, and murder
- **The US passed two laws**
 - 1870—made it impossible for immigrants to become American Citizens
 - 1882—The Chinese Exclusion Act
 - Put an end to all Chinese immigration
 - Remained a law for 60 years
- 1880's Welcome again
- 1890's Flare up again



1890's Nativism

- Target—New Immigration
 - People from Eastern Europe
 - Catholics, Jews, Greek, or Russian Orthodox
 - From lands that never knew democracy
 - No experience in a representative government
 - They will ruin America
 - Another reason was that new immigrants would work for lower wages and leave native-born workers unemployed.
- Not much happened despite the efforts of the Nativists



Immigration Quiz 3

1. This statue was sculptured by Bartholdi
 2. Wrote the *New Colossus*
 3. Anti-Immigration
 4. The law that was passed to end Chinese Immigration
 5. The first stop in the trek to America
1. Statue of Liberty
 2. Emma Lazarus
 3. Nativism
 4. Chinese Exclusion Act
 5. Ellis Island



Becoming American

- Israel Zangwill
- Melting Pot
- E Pluribus Unum



Becoming American

- 1909, a British author named Israel Zangwill wrote a play called the Melting Pot about the immigrant experience in the US
 - One of the characters in the play said “America is God’s crucible, the great Melting Pot where all the races of Europe are melting and reforming”
 - The melting pot description has been used since then to describe the process in which immigrants became American
- E Pluribus Unum
 - “Out of many, one”
 - Out of many different people, one people: the American people
- The melting process didn’t happen immediately
 - It took several generations



The First Generation

- Most of them were not in a hurry to “become American”
 - Most people clustered together in neighborhoods
 - They tried to recreate the familiar ways of their old world life
 - Religious life
 - Religion was a priority
 - Built their own churches
 - Place where they could be with their own people
 - Hoped that their children would marry their own kind.
 - Made their own cemeteries
 - Orphanages, old age homes, and hospitals
 - Foreign Language newspapers
 - 1900 more than 1000 in the US
 - Contained current events in the US as well as their homelands
 - Created little need for them to learn English



Concerns

- Many people were concerned that immigrants were moving too slowly towards becoming Americans
- Americanization Programs
 - Clubs, businesses, and various organizations printed millions of pamphlets to teach immigrants about American Government and society.
 - Many of these organizations set-up classes where immigrants could learn English
- Not handled too well
 - “Forget your native land, forget your mother tongue, do away in a day with your inherited customs...become in a day an American”
 - Either become an American or get out
 - They did not want to do either



The Second Generation

- Succeeded in crossing the bridge to the American side
 - Children of Immigrants—born in America
 - Public education played a large role.
 - Taught to speak and write English
 - Taught about American History and government
 - They were also becoming accustomed to American ways, tastes, habits, dress, and beliefs.
 - Created problems at home
 - Parents wanted to hold on to traditional values and beliefs
 - One language at home, another at school
 - The children saw their parents as old fashioned.



The Third Generation

- Finally felt comfortable with being American
 - Many had moved away from the old neighborhoods
 - Most of the foreign language newspapers no longer existed
 - Few of the 3rd generation spoke the language of the old country
 - They just wanted to be themselves