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IMMIGRATION
HISTORY & POLICY
OF THE
UNITED STATES
1820 TO 2002

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Native Americans were the first people to settle in what is now known as the United States of America.

In 1492 Christopher Columbus traveled from Spain.

In the 1600's people from England came to live in America.

They settled in the East Coast.

These settlers were called Pilgrims.

Today people who travel for very similar reasons are called immigrants.

We all come to America looking for a better life.

New Words

Legislation

Commissioner

Quota

preference

Hemisphere

Bracero program

persecution

Bibliography

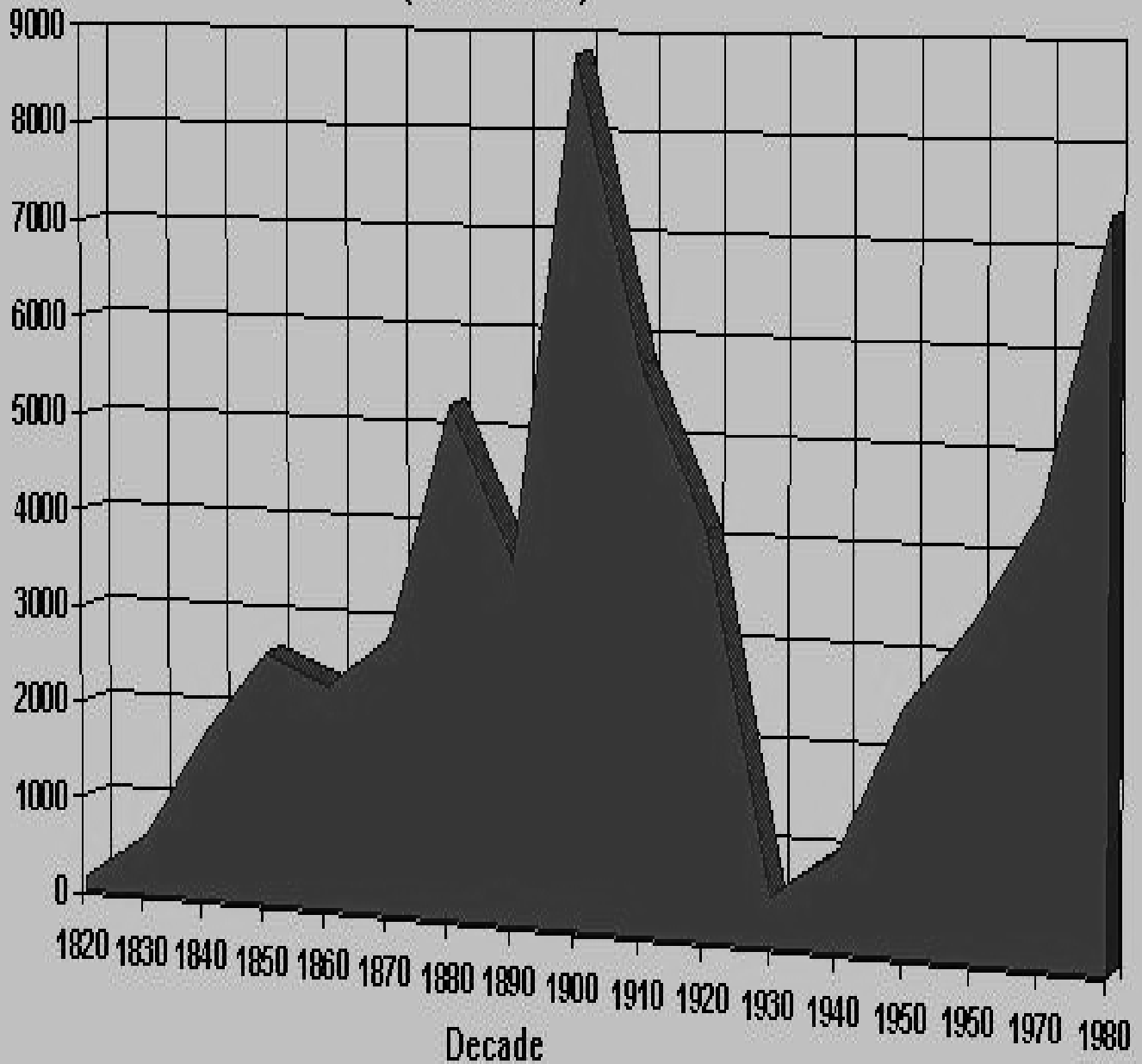
THE information used in this presentation was gathered from the U. S. census,

The Federation for American Immigration Reform:US Immigration History

The Urban Institute, Immigrant Families and Workers

MSU webpage, The United States Immigration History and Historiography

Number of Immigrants to the U.S. Per Decade: 1820-1990 (thousands)



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1993.

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Immigration Legislation

- 1864 Congress first centralized control over immigration under Secretary of State with a Commissioner.
- The contracting of foreign laborers was legalized in this legislation.

Immigration Population 1840-1880

European	8,387,085
Asia :	230,598
Americas:	707,840
Africa:	935
Oceania:	112,022

Immigrants from north and western Europe came to the big cities of the northeastern United States, the rural middle west and the western countryside.

Immigration Legislation

- *1882* The Chinese exclusion law curbs Chinese immigration. Law also placed a head tax on each immigrant.
- *1888* Provisions adopted for the expulsion of immigrants.
- *1924* The first permanent immigration quota law established a preference quota system, established Border Patrol
- *1929* Annual quota of 1924 Act made permanent favoring western hemisphere.

Immigrant population 1881-1930

- Europeans: 23,131,957
 - Americas: 3,488,169
 - Asians: 827,642
 - Africans: 23,304
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- This period was part of the Great Migration of African-Americans from the southern U.S. to northeastern and upper mid-western urban industrial areas.
 - At the end of this period the depression had an impact on immigration quotas.

Immigration Legislation

- 1943 Legislation provided for the importation of agricultural workers from North, South and Central American.
- This was the basis for the Bracero Program.
- The Chinese Exclusion laws were repealed.
- 1946 Legislation that provided for foreign-born wives, fiance(e)s, husbands, and children of U.S. armed forces personnel.
- 1948 First U.S. policy to admit persons fleeing persecution. Permitted 205,000 refugees to enter U.S over two years.

Immigration Legislation

- 1950 All immigrants were required to report their address annually.
- 1952 Multiple laws included the following:
 - A) reaffirmed national quota system
 - B) limited immigration from Eastern Hemisphere while unrestricted immigration from Western Hemisphere
 - C) established preferences for skilled laborers and relatives of U.S. citizens and permanent resident aliens
 - D) tightened security and screening standards and procedures

1953 The 1948 law was increased to admit over 200,000 refugees above the existing quota

Immigration Population 1931 to 1960

- European: 2,294,440
- Asia: 206,872
- Americas: 1,511,785
- Africa: 23,209
- Oceania: 42,643

Immigrant Population 1961 to 2002

Europe:	4,400,632
Asia:	8,214,086
Americas:	12,753,268
Africa:	747,909
Oceania:	270,625

The most important groups include Mexican, Latin American, and Caribbean peoples; also immigrants from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and the former members of the Soviet Union.

Destinations include areas in the Northeast, the Southeast, the West Coast, and Midwestern cities.