

Immigration



Read the following document excerpts and answer the questions that follow

1. What class of our citizens most strenuously resist the moral restrains of the community....who among our population give unrestricted and unregulated license to the ten thousand drinking places in the city, which are the chief receptacles of drunkenness, debauchery, villainy, and disease? It is the residuum or dregs of four millions of European immigrants, including paupers, felons, and convicts that have landed at this port within the last twenty years.

Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the New York Association for the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor, 1867

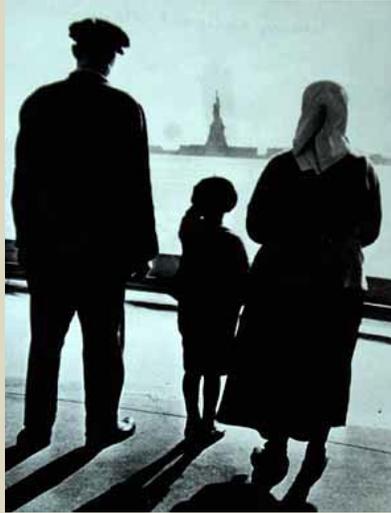
2. The best reason that could be given for this radical restriction of immigration is the necessity of protecting our population against degeneration and saving our national peace and quiet from imported turbulence and disorder.

I cannot believe that we would be protected against these evils by limiting immigration to those who can read and write in any language twenty-five words of our Constitution. In my opinion it is infinitely more safe to admit a hundred thousand immigrants who, though unable to read and write, seek among us only a home and opportunity to work, than to admit one of those unruly agitators and enemies of governmental control, who can not only read and write but delights in arousing by inflammatory speech the illiterate and peacefully inclined to discontent and tumult. Violence and disorder do not originate with illiterate laborers.

President Cleveland's veto of immigration restriction bill

3. 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-tossed, to me:
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.

Emma Lazarus, "The New Colossus"



4. There is no room in this country for hyphenated Americanism...The one absolutely certain way of bringing the nation to ruin, of preventing all possibility of its continuing to be a nation at all, would be to permit it to become a tangle of squabbling nationalities.

Theodore Roosevelt, 1915

- 1. What social evils do critics associate with mass immigration?**
- 2. Which is the goal of American immigration--a "melting pot" or cultural pluralism?**
- 3. What kind of immigration policy is most consistent with the nation's needs and ideals?**

Immigration Statistics

Number of Immigrants	
1820	8,385
1830	23,322
1840	84,066
1850	369,980
1860	153,640
1870	387,203
1880	457,257
1890	455,302
1900	448,572
1910	1,041,570
1920	430,001
1930	241,700
1940	70,756
1950	249,187

1. During which period was immigration greatest?
2. Has wartime or depression increased or decreased immigration?

Impact of Immigration Quotas

Average Annual Inflow		
	Immigrants from Northern and Western Europe	Other Immigrants
1907-1914	176,983	685,531
Quotas under 1921 Act	198,082	158,367
Quotas under 1924 Act	140,999	20,847

1. What impact did quotas have upon immigration?
2. Which groups suffered the most restriction?

Family Characteristics of Major Immigrant Groups, 1909-1914			
Group	Percentage Returning to Europe	Males Per 100 Females	Percent Under 14
Czechs	5	133	19 %
English	6	136	16 %
Finish	7	181	8 %
Germans	7	132	18 %
Greeks	16	170	4 %
Hebrews	2	117	25 %
Hungarians	22	141	16 %
Italians	17	320	12 %
Poles	13	188	10 %
Slovaks	19	162	12 %

1. Which immigrant groups were most likely to leave the United States and return home?
2. Which groups had the most even sex ratio? the least even?
3. Which groups included the largest number of children?

Age of Marriage for Women				
	15-19	20-24	25-29	45-54
German	10	49	77	96
Irish	2	18	46	85
Italian	29	74	93	99
Japanese	51	85	87	93
Polish	15	66	89	99
Russian	7	55	90	99
Urban Blacks	16	57	n.a.	94
Native Whites	13	53	77	91

n.a. = not available

1. Which immigrant groups married earliest? latest?
2. Explain why some groups married earlier than others and why this is significant.



Photo of a typical immigrant ship's passengers



Entering Ellis Island