**TURNING POINT: NATURALIZATION ACT OF 1790**

*"Doctrine of Natural Rights"*

Concept that people cannot be deprived of certain rights by their “social contract” with government. John Locke defined them as “life, liberty, and property.” Thomas Jefferson changed “property” to “the pursuit of happiness” in the Declaration of Independence.

**Citizenship Law**

The Constitution mentioned “native-born” as well as “naturalized” citizens, implying that people could become citizens through a legal process. Notably, seven out of the 39 men who signed the Constitution were immigrants, including Alexander Hamilton and James Wilson.

**Indentured Servants**

People contracted to work without pay for a specified period of time in exchange for room, board, and sometimes eventual compensation. Many immigrants to the American colonies received passage across the sea as part of indenture contracts.

**Slavery**

A system in which people are treated as property or “chattel,” similar to farm animals. Slave-status in America became hereditary through the mother and race-based instead of religious at the turn of the 19th century.

**Nativists**

People who advocate a policy of favoring “native-born” individuals over immigrants. In the United States, a nativist secret society fearing a “Romanist” conspiracy gave rise to the Know Nothing movement during the 1850s.

**THE PUSH/PULL MODEL**

**Push/pull**

Theory of migration proposed in 1966 by Everett S. Lee in *Demography*, positing that migration is driven by environmental, social, economic, and political factors in a person’s home (push) and target destination (pull).

**Pale of Settlement**

Region of Imperial Russia with varying borders that existed between 1791 and 1917 where permanent residency by Jews was allowed and beyond which Jewish residency was mostly forbidden.

**Pogroms**

An organized massacre of a particular ethnic group from a Russian word meaning “to wreak havoc.” Primarily refers to violent attacks by local non-Jewish populations on Jews in the Russian Empire.

**Peddling**

Selling something, usually by going from house to house or place to place.

**Mexican Farm Labor Agreement**

Signed August 4, 1942. First of a series of laws and diplomatic agreements administered by the U.S. State Department, Department of Labor, INS, and Justice Department promising Mexican laborers (Braceros) decent living conditions and a minimum wage.

**TURNING POINT: CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT OF 1882**

**Opium Wars**

Two armed conflicts in China in the mid-19th century between forces of European countries and the Qing dynasty. The victorious foreign powers gained commercial privileges and legal and territorial concessions, helping to topple the Qing dynasty by 1912.

**Railway Construction**

Civil War veterans and Irish laborers supplied the primary labor force for the Union Pacific railway while Chinese laborers worked on the Central Pacific. Less than three years after the “last spike” joined the railways together at Promontory Summit, Utah Territory, in 1869, Union Pacific went bankrupt.

**Chinese Exclusion Act**

Passed on May 6, 1882. First time a federal law proscribed entry of an ethnic working group on the premise that it endangered the “good order” of certain localities.
1943 Magnuson Act
Repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act and specifically allowed Chinese Americans to become citizens. This act still allowed only 105 immigrants from China per year.

"Asia for the Asiatics"
Idea favored by Imperial Japan after witnessing race-based discrimination in the U.S. and elsewhere. An attempt by the San Francisco school board to arrange a segregated school for Asian children prompted the Gentlemen’s Agreement of 1907 by which Japan agreed to deny passports to laborers seeking to enter the U.S. and President Theodore Roosevelt agreed to officially restrict Japanese immigration.

NATIONAL HEALTH
"Imagined Community"
Concept developed by Benedict Anderson in his 1983 book Imagined Communities which posits that “the nation” is a social construct, imagined by people who perceive themselves as part of it.

Eugenics
Notion that people can engineer “better” humans through purposeful breeding.

Pseudoscientific
Having the trappings of scientific analysis, but based on faulty premises or lacking in proper rigor.

Public Health
The health of a population as a whole, especially as monitored, regulated, and promoted by the state.

Ellis Island
Over 12 million immigrants came through this New York Harbor processing station between 1892 and 1954. Angel Island, in the San Francisco Harbor, processed West Coast immigrants between 1910 and 1940. About 175,000 Chinese and up to 85,000 Japanese immigrants were detained there before being allowed entry to the United States.

Inherent
Adjective describing a trait or quality that can be passed down genetically, from person to person, or generation to generation.

Sterilizations
Procedures that render a person incapable of reproducing.

TURNING POINT: IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1924

Emergency Quota Act of 1921
Sponsored by Representative Albert Johnson and signed into law on May 19, 1921, by President Warren Harding, this law restricted the number of immigrants to 357,000 per year and set an immigration quota by which only three percent of the total population of any ethnic group already in the U.S. in 1910 could be admitted after 1921.

Johnson-Reed Act
Senator David Reed joined Representative Albert Johnson in sponsoring a bill which was signed into law by President Calvin Coolidge on May 26, 1924. The law limited the number of available immigration visas to two percent of the total number of people of each nationality in the United States as of the 1890 census and completely excluded immigrants from Asia.

Quotas
Set numbers of people.

Branches of Government

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With the first comprehensive federal immigration law in effect, the Federal Government solidified its relationship with Immigration. The Legislative Branch is responsible for enacting immigration law. The Executive Branch enforces immigration law through agencies such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) overseen by the Department of Homeland Security. The president also sets immigration policy through executive orders. The Judicial Branch hears cases to determine whether existing immigration policy is in line with the U.S. Constitution.

DEFINING THE NATION

Nationhood
The fact or status of being a nation, national identity, or independence.

Colonization
The action or process of settling among and establishing control over the indigenous people of an area; the action of appropriating a place or domain for one’s own use.

Border Control
Measures adopted by a country to regulate and monitor its borders, including entry and exit of people, animals, and goods.
Persecution
Making life difficult for someone, usually purposefully and unfairly.

Third Reich
Nazi designation of Germany and its regime from 1933 - 1945. Historically, the First Reich was the medieval Holy Roman Empire which lasted until 1806, and the Second Reich included the German Empire from 1871-1918.

Refuge
Place of solace, safety, or protection.

This graph charts the use of the terms “alien,” “immigrant,” “refugee,” “emigrant,” and “displaced person” between 1900 and 2008 in printed literature. Notice when “immigrant” surpassed “emigrant” in popularity, and the brief peak in the usage of “displaced person.”

TURNING POINT: DISPLACED PERSONS ACT OF 1948
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA)
Created on November 9, 1943 at a 44-nation conference at the White House, the U.S. funded close to half of the UNRRA budget to provide economic assistance to European nations after World War II and to repatriate and assist refugees who came under Allied control.

Displaced Persons Act of 1948
Temporary law allowing the admission of 200,000 European refugees for U.S. permanent residence status. The U.S. also helped fund temporary Displaced Persons (DP) camps in Europe.

McCarran Walter Act of 1952
Immigration and Nationality Law enacted June 27, 1952. Named after sponsors Senator Pat McCarran of Nevada and Congressman Francis Walter of Pennsylvania, the act was vetoed by President Truman who believed its premise, to protect the U.S. from waves of Eastern European immigrants, was isolationist, cruel, and absurd. McCarran defended the Act in the inflated language of the Cold War, stating that the U.S. was the “last hope of Western civilization, and if this oasis of the world shall be overrun, perverted, contaminated or destroyed, then the last flickering light of humanity will be extinguished.” Although the Act abolished racial restrictions found in U.S. statutes going back to the Naturalization Act of 1790, it left strict nationality quotas in place and allowed for the deportation of immigrants and naturalized citizens engaged in “subversive activities,” which included even suspected association with the Communist Party.

International Rescue Committee (IRC)
A global humanitarian aid, relief, and development organization with its origins in the International Relief Association founded at the suggestion of Albert Einstein to assist Germans suffering under Hitler in 1933. Today, the IRC is central to the work of resettling refugees who arrive in the United States.

NGOs
Non-governmental organizations that aim to provide services.

Evian Conference
1938 meeting of 32 countries at a French resort to discuss mounting numbers of people seeking to flee the Third Reich, organized at the request of President Franklin Roosevelt, but not attended by a high level U.S. official. After the conference the German government was able to state how “astounding” it was the foreign countries criticized Germany for their treatment of the Jews, but none of them wanted to accept more of them when “the opportunity offered.”

SS St. Louis
1939 Cuba-bound ship carrying many Jewish refugees from Germany who had applied for U.S. visas and hoped to wait in Cuba until the visas came through. Although many had been issued landing permits from the Cuban government, anti-Jewish and anti-immigrant propaganda and demonstrations successfully convinced government officials to rescind the permits before the refugees arrived. The ship returned to Europe where about 1/3 of the passengers would ultimately die in the Holocaust.

Wagner Rogers Bill
Senator Robert Wagner of New York and Representative Edith Rogers of Massachusetts introduced a bill in February 1939 to permit the entry of 20,000 refugee children from the “Greater German Reich” to the United States, but it died in committee in the summer of 1939.
CREATING COMMUNITY

Community
Group of people living in the same place or having common characteristics; a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.

Intersecting
Crossing at a particular point; Intersectionality, a term coined by legal scholar Kimberle Crenshaw in 1989, emphasizes the "complex, cumulative manner in which the effects of different forms of discrimination combine, overlap, or intersect."

Assimilate
To make similar; To absorb into the cultural tradition of a population or group.

Acculturation
The process by which a human being acquires the culture of a particular society either from infancy or by adapting to or borrowing traits from another culture (often a host culture).

Settlement Houses
Popular institutions in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that provided inner-city residents educational, recreational, and social services.

Landsmannschaften
Immigrant benevolent organizations formed and often named after the members’ birthplace.

Reconstruction
Period after the U.S. Civil War when the U.S. Congress attempted to transform and re-absorb ex-Confederate states, granting citizenship and civil rights to former slaves.

White Supremacist
Belief that the “white race” is inherently superior to other races and that white people should have control over people of other races.

Interfaith
Different religious communities working in concert.

TURNING POINT: IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT OF 1965

Civil Rights
Rights of citizens to political and social freedom and equality.

Human Rights
Fundamental rights to certain standards of treatment that all people should have simply because they are human. Adopted by the U.N. General Assembly on December 10, 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights includes such rights as “equal protection before the law,” “the right to seek asylum,” and the right to “freedom of expression.”

Hart-Celler Act
1965 immigration law introduced by Senator Philip Hart and Representative Emanuel Celler, signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson who had advocated for immigration reform in his first State of the Union Address saying, “We must... lift by legislation the bars of discrimination against those who seek entry into our country, particularly those who have much needed skills and those joining their families.”

Family Reunification
Process by which U.S. citizens can sponsor family members from other countries for permanent residence visas.

Undocumented Immigrants
People who are within the borders of a country without legal rights to be there either by means of a valid temporary visa or “green card.” In her book, Impossible Subjects, Mae Ngai, argues that the United States has long relied on a sub-class of “illegal immigrants” who do essential jobs but can be treated poorly and scapegoated when needed.

Refugee Act
Signed into law in 1980 by President Jimmy Carter, this law responded to an influx of refugees in the aftermath of the Vietnam War by codifying U.S. refugee policy and raising the annual ceiling for refugees from 17,400 to 50,000. The law allowed for an emergency review of the ceiling to meet emergencies and brought the U.S. definition of “refugee” in line with the United Nations definition of a person with a “well-founded fear of persecution.”

Diversity Visa Program
Also known as the “green card lottery” this system was established by the Immigration Act of 1990 to make 50,000 immigrant visas available annually to immigrants from countries with lower numbers of immigrants in the previous five years. Around 20 million people apply for the lottery each year.

World Trade Center
The World Trade Center was more than a building. It was erected in 1973 with the lofty goal of bringing the world together through trade. It came to symbolize American political hegemony and economic globalization and thus became a target for those seeking to shake the foundations of American power.