

Sec. 8—Powers of Congress

Cl. 4—Naturalization and Bankruptcies

exclusion of aliens is also inherent in the executive department of the sovereign, Congress may in broad terms authorize the executive to exercise the power, *e.g.*, as was done here, for the best interests of the country during a time of national emergency. Executive officers may be entrusted with the duty of specifying the procedures for carrying out the congressional intent.”¹²⁷⁵ However, when Congress has spelled out the basis for exclusion or deportation, the Court remains free to interpret the statute and review the administration of it and to apply it, often in a manner to mitigate the effects of the law on aliens.¹²⁷⁶

Congress’ power to admit aliens under whatever conditions it lays down is exclusive of state regulation. The states “can neither add to nor take from the conditions lawfully imposed by Congress upon admission, naturalization and residence of aliens in the United States or the several states. State laws which impose discriminatory burdens upon the entrance or residence of aliens lawfully within the United States conflict with this constitutionally derived federal power to regulate immigration, and have accordingly been held invalid.”¹²⁷⁷ This principle, however, has not precluded all state regulations dealing with aliens.¹²⁷⁸ The power of Congress to legislate with respect to the conduct of alien residents is a concomitant of its power to prescribe the terms and conditions on which they may enter the United States, to establish regulations for sending out of the country such aliens as have entered in violation of law, and to commit the enforcement of such conditions and regulations to executive officers. It is not a power to lay down a special code of conduct for alien residents or to govern their private relations.¹²⁷⁹

Yet Congress is empowered to assert a considerable degree of control over aliens after their admission to the country. By the Alien Registration Act of 1940, Congress provided that all aliens in the United States, fourteen years of age and over, should submit to reg-

¹²⁷⁵ 338 U.S. at 543.

¹²⁷⁶ *E.g.*, *Immigration and Naturalization Service v. Errico*, 385 U.S. 214 (1966).

¹²⁷⁷ *Takahashi v. Fish & Game Comm’n*, 334 U.S. 410, 419 (1948); *De Canas v. Bica*, 424 U.S. 351, 358 n.6 (1976); *Toll v. Moreno*, 458 U.S. 1, 12–13 (1982). *See also* *Hines v. Davidowitz*, 312 U.S. 52, 66 (1941); *Graham v. Richardson*, 403 U.S. 365, 376–380 (1971).

¹²⁷⁸ *E.g.*, *Heim v. McCall*, 239 U.S. 175 (1915); *Ohio ex rel. Clarke v. Deckebach*, 274 U.S. 392 (1927); *Sugarman v. Dougall*, 413 U.S. 634, 646–49 (1973); *De Canas v. Bica*, 424 U.S. 351 (1976); *Cabell v. Chavez-Salido*, 454 U.S. 432 (1982). *See also* *Chamber of Commerce of the United States v. Whiting*, 563 U.S. ___, No. 09–115, slip op. (2011).

¹²⁷⁹ Purporting to enforce this distinction, the Court voided a statute, which, in prohibiting the importation of “any alien woman or girl for the purpose of prostitution,” provided that whoever should keep for the purpose of prostitution “any alien woman or girl within three years after she shall have entered the United States” should be deemed guilty of a felony. *Keller v. United States*, 213 U.S. 138 (1909).