The 1900s began a wave of restrictions based on classes of people. The Immigration Act of 1903 excluded four classes of potential immigrants: anarchists, people with epilepsy, importers of prostitutes, and beggars. The Naturalization Act of 1906 standardized the naturalization process, required some English, and established the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization.

The Immigration Act of 1907 prohibited immigrations of those with disabilities and diseased people.

The Immigration Act of 1917 overrode President Wilson’s veto and expanded the list of banned “undesirables” from entering the country and included: alcoholics, anarchists, contract laborers, criminals and convicts, epileptics, feebleminded persons, idiots, illiterates, imbeciles, insane persons, paupers, persons afflicted with contagious diseases, persons being mentally or physically defectives, persons with constitutional psychopathic inferiority, political radicals, polygamists, prostitutes, and vagrants. It created Asiatic Barred Zone which prohibited immigration from most of Asia except for the Philippines and Japan. The act also created a small literacy test for those over the age of 14 trying to immigrate to the U.S. which impacted some European immigration and solidified the ban on contract labor immigration.

In 1921 the Emergency Quota Act limited the number of immigrants to 3% of those already in the U.S. based on the 1910 census. This act consequence was a large uptick in illegal immigration especially from Western Hemisphere countries where they’d immigrate to Canada or Medico then slip into the United States.

The Immigration Act of 1924 imposed the first numerical limit on immigration and started a national-origin quota system. The total amount of immigration was capped at 150,000 and broke it into two categories quota origin and non-quota origin. If a nation was in the quota origin that nation was only granted the number of visa’s proportion to the 150,000 spots as the same ratio to the population of that foreign-born population already in the US. Non-quota countries just had to prove having lived in said country for two years before applying for immigration. Most laborers from Asian countries were still prohibited.

Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act of 1943 repealed the ban on Chinese immigrants and allowed Chinese nationals in the US apply for citizenship.