Voluntary Immigration

* Members of the dominant group often determine:
  + Who is allowed to immigrate
  + Under what conditions
  + What restrictions will be placed on the social, economic, and political rights and freedoms of new immigrant groups
* The extent to which dominant groups attempt to control immigration, and the methods that they employ to do so, vary considerably across place and time.

**Lil True or False Quiz**

1. The total number of unauthorized immigrants living in the United States has been increasing steadily ever since 1990
   1. True
   2. (Real Answer: False)
2. Illegal immigrants currently make up 15% of the population of the United States
   1. False
   2. (Real Answer: False)
3. The number of unauthorized immigrants from Mexico living in the United States decreased by nearly 10% between 2009 and 2014
   1. True
   2. (Real Answer: True)
4. In 1986, Ronald Reagan signed legislation that granted amnesty to nearly three million undocumented immigrants
   1. True
   2. (Real Answer: True)
5. The crime rate among first-generation immigrants (including legal and illegal immigrants) in the United States is 85% higher than the rest of the populations
   1. False
   2. (Real Answer: False)
6. In 2013, there were more new migrants to the United States from China and India than Mexico
   1. True
   2. (Real Answer: True)
7. Nearly 90% of all unauthorized immigrants living in the United States have come from Mexico
   1. False
   2. (Real Answer: False)

**Total Score: 6 of 7**

Immigration to the US: Overview

* The United States differs from the nation-states of Europe:
  + Throughout its history, the United States has been a destination country for international migrants; rarely, if ever, has the US been a significant source of international migrants
  + The vast majority of Americans can trace their ancestry to persons who migrated to the US (voluntarily or involuntarily) from other continents
  + Citizenship of the United States is much more political than most other places, as we pledge our allegiance to the country

3 Waves of Migration to the United States

* Since the US gained its independence in 1776, there have been three waves of migration to the US:
  + 1840s and 1850s
  + Late 1890s until World War I (1914)
  + 1965 to present
* For each of these waves of migration, we should know…
  + Who was migrating to the States?
  + What was the social, political, and economic context in the sending countries and in the United States?
  + How did the United States react to these new migrants?

Immigration from Europe, 1840s-1850s

* Who were they? Where did they come from?
  + Peasants from Ireland and Southern Germany
* Why did they migrate?
  + Industrialization in the United States
  + Famine in Ireland
  + Failed revolution in Germany
* How did the dominant group of native-born US citizens react to the wave of immigration from Ireland and Southern Germany?
  + We didn’t like that... Since the Irish were Catholic as compared to the dominance of Protestants in America at the time.

Immigration Law After US Independence

* Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution gives congress the power “to establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization.”
* The first Congressional act regarding immigration was passed on March 26, 1790; the Naturalization Act of 1790 stipulated that:
  + “free white persons … of good character” are eligible to apply for US citizenship
    - This excludes slaves, prostitutes, Native Americans, free blacks, Asians
  + Native Americans
    - Native Americans not living on reservations were granted citizenship in 1868
    - Citizenship rights for all Native Americans were not granted until 1924
  + Free Blacks
    - Blacks born in the US were not granted citizenship until 1868
    - Aliens in Africa, and aliens of African descent, were not allowed to become naturalized citizens until 1870
  + Asians
    - People of Asian descent born in the US to permanent US resident parents were granted citizenship in 1898

Regulation and Exclusion: 1880s-1940s

* The **Page Act** (1875) was the first piece of legislation to ban specific populations from entering the United States; criminals, prostitutes, and Chinese contract laborers were prohibited from entering the United States
* The **Chinese Exclusion Act** of 1882 banned all Chinese workers from entering the US for ten years and explicitly prohibited Chinese immigrants from becoming US citizens. Subsequent legislation in 1888 (Scott Act) and 1892 (Geary Act) made these provisions permanent, until their repeal in 1943.
* The 1907 **Gentlemen’s Agreement** between the United States and Japan established a quota for the number of Japanese allowed to immigrate to the mainland US.
* The **Immigration Act of 1917**, also known as the **Asian Barred Zone Act**, prohibited persons from Asia and the Pacific (except for Japan and the Philippines) from immigrating to the United States. This act also barred homosexuals from immigrating to the United States (a ban that was not overturned until 1990) and sought to regulate immigration from Mexico.
* The **Emergency Quota Act of 1921** established numerical limits on immigration and it also introduced a quota system by which the number of new immigrants accepted from any given country each year was set at 3% of the number of people from that country that had been counted in the 1910 US census. These quotas did not apply to professionals, to the countries included in the Asian Barred Zone, or to countries in the Western Hemisphere.
* The 1924 **Johnson-Reed Act** reduced the number of immigrants allowed to enter the US by reducing the annual quota to 2% of the 1890 population. The act also established preferences for skilled agricultural workers and for the parents, spouses, and unmarried minor children of US citizens.

Immigration Reform during WWII

* The **Bracero** program was established in 1942 to facilitate the entry of guest workers from Mexico and elsewhere; by 1964, nearly 5,000,000 workers had entered the US as *braceros****.***
* Also in 1942, the United States began implementing the internment of approximately 120,000 Japanese and Japanese-American persons who lived in the Western United States.
* The United States launched “**Operation Wetback**” in 1954; more than 1,100,000 Mexican immigrants (and a large number of Mexican-Americans) were forcibly repatriated to Mexico
* The **Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965** abolished the national origins quotas that had been established in 1921, but set numerical limits of 170,000 immigrants annually from the Eastern Hemisphere and (for the first time) 120,000 immigrants annually from the Western Hemisphere
  + The current era of US immigration policy began in 1965 with the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act
  + In line with the Civil Rights legislation of the 1960s, the Immigration and Nationality Act eliminated race and national origin as the basis for immigration to the US, and instead instituted a system that gives preference to two categories of visa applicants:
    - The relatives of US citizens
    - Skilled workers, professionals, and investors

Responses to Illegal Immigration

* In 1986, Congress passed the **Immigration Reform and Control Act**, which granted lawful permanent residency to nearly 3 million people who had entered the US illegally prior to 1982, provided they pay certain fines, fees, and back taxes.
* IRCA also sought to limit future illegal immigration by establishing penalties for employers who knowingly hire unauthorized workers
  + Those penalties have proven to be largely ineffective because false documents are easy to obtain and also because not all states require employers to verify workers’ legal status (even after E-Verify was established in 1997)
* California Proposition 187 (1994)
  + The “**Save Our State Initiative**” stated that:
    - The people of California believe they have suffered due to illegal aliens in their state, and want said aliens to leave by restricting them of benefits
  + **Proposition 187** would have excluded illegal aliens immigrants in California from all social services, publicly-funded healthy care, and public education
    - Californians voted yes- How Democratic of them.
  + It later came to a halt in congress due to it being found to be unconstitutional
* 1996 – Congress passed the **Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act** and the **Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act**:
  + Severely limited illegal immigrants’ access to most public benefits
* Since 1996, the US Congress has not passed any major piece of immigration legislation
  + Why? – Cause its fuckin hard dude