

# Researching Immigrant Ancestors to America, 1620-1965

*Coming to America: 400 Years of  
Immigration and Naturalization in  
the United States*

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THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors.<sup>®</sup>  
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# Meet today's presenter



Rhonda R. McClure  
Senior Genealogist

# OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
  - Early years of immigration
  - The introduction of passenger lists
  - Settlement patterns
  - 20<sup>th</sup> century immigration
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**

# Early Years

# 1600s

- This century sees the earliest of immigrants to what would become America:
  - St. Augustine, Florida – 1565
  - Jamestown, Virginia – 1607
  - Plymouth, Massachusetts – 1620

# Why did they come?

- Some came for religious reasons
- Some were motivated by wanderlust
- Some looked forward to a great adventure
- Some were looking for a better life
- Some weren't given the choice, but were sent as a penalty for their crimes in England

# Show Me the Lists

- There are no passenger lists, as we know them, in existence for this early period.
- There are compiled records that show lists of individuals who immigrated to these early settlements and others.
- Throughout the 1600s and 1700s the majority of records proving someone immigrated to the American Colonies come from the countries they left or from other records upon their arrival in the colonies.

# 1700s

- There wasn't a United States of America, but that didn't mean there weren't naturalizations.
- As colonies of the British monarch, all records declaring allegiance were to the King of England.
- After the American Revolutionary War, steps would be put in place that would have a lasting effect on naturalization through the centuries.

# American Independence



# Come to America

- European governments began to impose restrictions
- Normal hazards of the Atlantic crossing
- War conditions prevailing after 1793.



# 1783-1815

- Estimate of arrivals for this time period are 250,000 (no passenger lists were kept until 1820).
- 1783-1793 averaged about 6,000 immigrants per anum.
- 1793-1803 averaged over 10,000 immigrants per anum.
- Napoleonic Wars (1803-15) – dropped to about 3,000 per anum.
- War of 1812 – virtually no immigrants.

# But Still They Came

- Ships that carried indentured servants and redemptioners were still arriving.
- Vile conditions existed on emigrant vessels.
- It wasn't until 1818 that Congress decided to do something about it.

# Age of Lists

# Act of March 2, 1819

- “An act regulating passenger ships and vessels” was the result of the especially high mortality rates on these vessels. Epidemics of typhus, cholera, and smallpox motivated Congress.
- The act limited the number of passengers a ship could carry.
- For those ships leaving the U.S. it outlined the provisions required for each passenger.
- It established the manifesting of all passengers on board.

## The first steps taken...

- These early issues with immigration and naturalization were the building blocks for subsequent laws.
- Two major steps were created during this time:
  - The option to deport an undesirable immigrant
  - The requirement to list on a manifest all persons on board a ship docking at the United States.

# 1820

**DISTRICT OF NEW-YORK.—PORT OF NEW-YORK.**

I *William Maxwell* do solemnly, sincerely and truly *Swear* that the following List or Manifest of Passengers, subscribed with my name, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs for the District of New-York, contains to the best of my knowledge and belief a just and true account of all the Passengers received on board the *Brig May* whereof I am master from *Mantanzas* So help me God.

Sworn to, the *7<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>* 182*0*  
 Before me, *W. Kearney D.C.* *(Sign:)* *William Maxwell*

LIST OR MANIFEST of all the Passengers taken on board the *Brig May* whereof *William Maxwell* is master from *Mantanzas* Burthen *168 99/95* Tons.

NAMES.	Age.		Sex.	Occupation.	The country to which they severally belong.	The country in which they intend to become inhabitants.	Died on the Voyage.
	Years	Months.					
<i>Stillman Pinford</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Mariner</i>	<i>Boston U.S.A.</i>	<i>Boston U.S.A.</i>	

*(Sign:)* *William Maxwell*

# Statistics

- With the advent of the recording of passenger lists, the United States could now keep track of the number of immigrants arriving.
- From 1815 to 1915 there was a total of 30 million immigrants, most during one of the major waves.
- The *Democratic Review* (July 1852) remarked that there was nothing to compare to in appearance “since the encampments of the Roman Empire or the tents of the crusaders.”

# Three Waves of Immigration

- 1815-1860: 5 million immigrants, primarily from the British Isles, Germany, Holland, Scandinavia, and Switzerland
- 1860-1890: 10 million immigrants, primarily from the same countries
- 1890-1914: 15 million immigrants, primarily from Austria-Hungary, Greece, Italy, Romania, Russia, and Turkey.

# Settlement Patterns

# Settlement Patterns

- Southern states had very few immigrants.
- Though there were some large groups of immigrants who went to the Pacific and Great Plains states, the bulk of the foreign-born were still primarily east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio River and Mason and Dixon's line.
- Four states contained almost half the total foreign-born population.

# Four States

- New York: nearly 2.75 million
- Massachusetts: more than 1 million
- Pennsylvania: more than 1 million
- Illinois: more than 1 million



# Differences in Distribution

- Germans:
  - Middle West (esp. Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Minnesota)
  - New York
  - Pennsylvania
  - New Jersey



# Differences in Distribution

- Norwegians, Swedes and Danes:
  - Minnesota
  - Illinois
  - Wisconsin
  - The Dakotas
  - Washington



# Differences in Distribution

- Finns
  - Michigan
  - Minnesota
  - Massachusetts





# Differences in Distribution

- Irish
  - Middle Atlantic states
  - New England
  - Illinois
  - California



# Differences in Distribution

- Italians
  - Middle Atlantic states
  - New England
  - Illinois
  - California



# Differences in Distribution

- Russians and Austrian-Hungarians:
  - New York
  - Pennsylvania
  - New Jersey
  - Illinois
  - Massachusetts



# QUESTIONS?

# 20<sup>th</sup> Century

# Immigration in the 20th Century

- By the 1900s, immigration was running at an all-time high
- The influx of those who looked and dressed differently from the Anglo-Saxons was beginning to cause concerns among some
- Settlement patterns were suggesting a sense of isolation among certain ethnicities

# Why Head to America?

- Unskilled laborers could find many types of jobs in a growing urban community
- Abject poverty in certain countries
- Chain migration of families
- Improved methods of travel, faster ships
- Pogroms against the Jewish population continued to escalate

# Come to America

- Letters
- Emigrant Guidebooks
- Newspaper articles
- Promotional brochures
- Steamship lines & their advertisements
- Railway lines & their advertisements

# “New” Immigrants

- Appeared less likely to assimilate into American life, preferring to congregate together apart from others in America
- Came from southern and eastern Europe with new religions, manners, style of dress
- Unskilled men who often came, not to settle, but to work a few months to make money
- Concentrated in industrial centers

# Too Many Immigrants

- A closing of the "Golden Door" has begun:
  - Immigration Act of 1882
  - Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882
  - Alien Contract Labor Laws of 1885, 1887
- Third Major Immigration Wave, 1890-1914
- Inception of INS Service in 1906
- Dillingham Commission, 1907-1910

# Dillingham Commission

- Act of Congress, 20 February 1907, created a commission, headed by William P. Dillingham, to examine the “immigrant question.”
- The commission consisted of three senators appointed by the President of the Senate; three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House; and three persons appointed by the President of the United States.

# Dillingham Commission

- Senators:
  - William P. Dillingham, chairman
  - Henry Cabot Lodge
  - Asbury C. Latimer (d. 20 Feb. 1908)
  - Anselm J. McLaurin (appt. 25 Feb. 1908; d. 22 Dec. 1908)
  - Le Roy Percy (appt. 16 March 1910)
- House of Representatives:
  - Benjamin F. Howell
  - William S. Bennett
  - John L. Burnett
- Appt. by President:
  - Charles P. Neill
  - Jeremiah W. Jenks
  - William R. Wheeler

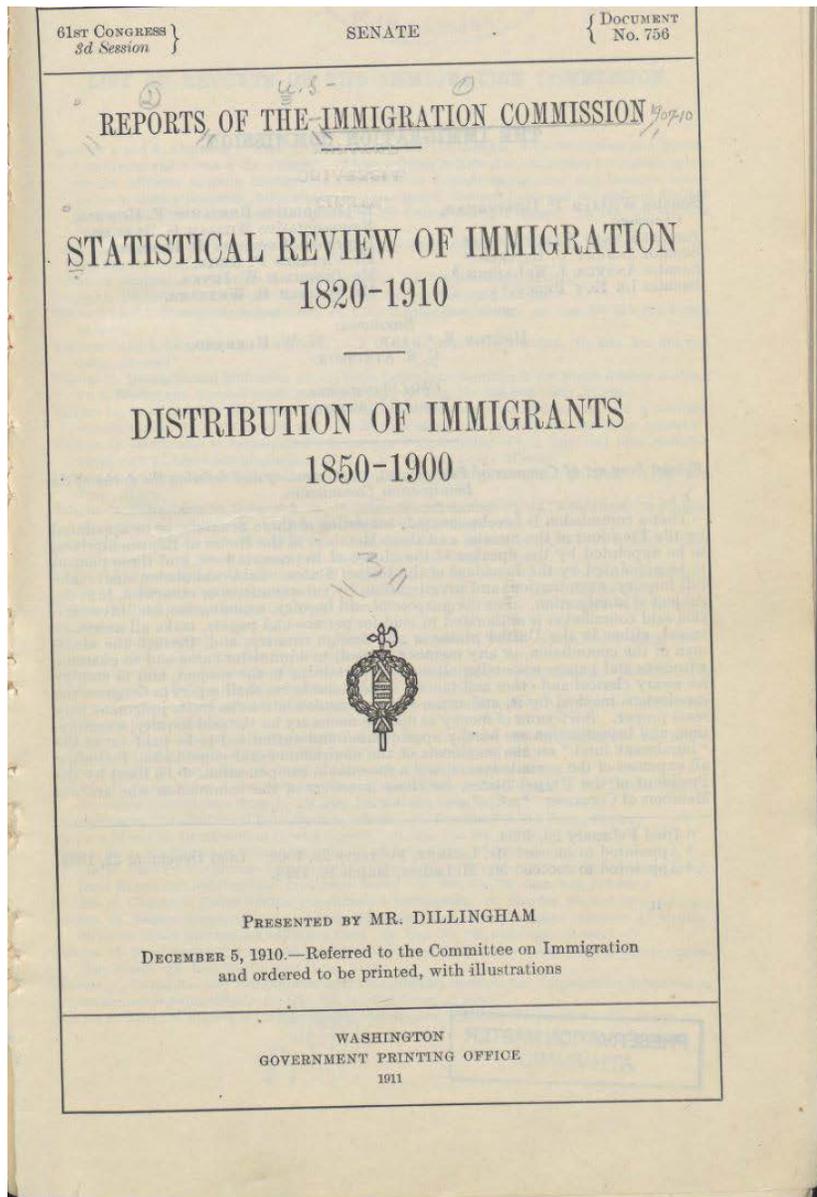


William Paul Dillingham



Henry Cabot Lodge

## Dillingham Commission



- Officially submitted to the Committee on Immigration – December 5, 1910
- Printed in 1911

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## Dillingham Commission Report

TABLE 38.—Number of immigrants whose passage was paid by self or relative, during years 1908, 1909, and 1910, by  
[Compiled from reports of the United States Commissioner-General of Immigration.]

Race or people.	1908.			1909.			1910.		
	Self.	Relative.	Other than self or relative.	Self.	Relative.	Other than self or relative.	Self.	Relative.	Other than self or relative.
African (black).....	3,456	961	209	3,305	863	139	3,831	994	141
Armenian.....	2,301	971	27	2,530	559	19	4,678	811	19
Bohemian and Moravian.....	5,519	4,595	50	3,923	2,891	36	5,463	2,948	51
Bulgarian, Servian, and Montenegrin.....	17,252	957	37	5,662	539	13	14,177	907	46
Chinese.....	786	421	56	1,060	670	111	886	854	30
Croatian and Slovenian.....	16,921	3,432	119	17,160	2,927	94	35,926	3,501	135
Cuban.....	2,654	628	41	2,540	811	29	2,106	1,199	26
Dalmatian, Bosnian, and Herzegovinian.....	3,535	199	13	1,696	190	2	4,507	394	10
Dutch and Flemish.....	5,445	3,982	99	4,706	3,319	89	7,994	4,795	223
East Indian.....	1,641	18	51	315	15	7	1,623	137	22
English.....	31,172	16,547	1,337	25,385	12,629	1,007	35,004	17,097	1,397
Finnish.....	3,806	2,561	379	8,225	3,067	395	10,537	4,671	528
French.....	8,536	3,835	510	10,069	8,838	516	11,917	8,670	520
German.....	43,565	28,381	1,092	36,290	21,176	1,068	47,878	22,567	935
Greek.....	26,155	2,588	65	18,069	1,556	37	37,019	2,078	38
Hebrew.....	39,542	63,492	353	22,537	34,702	312	39,698	44,174	388
Irish.....	21,700	14,241	486	18,348	12,379	458	23,541	14,300	541
Italian, North.....	18,716	5,777	207	19,980	5,008	162	25,774	4,727	279
Italian, South.....	68,875	41,252	420	125,473	38,947	828	147,763	44,092	818
Japanese.....	7,060	9,265	93	848	2,374	53	497	2,265	36
Korean.....	19	7	-----	9	2	-----	14	4	1
Lithuanian.....	7,967	5,639	114	10,092	4,460	102	14,004	8,538	172
Magyar.....	17,373	6,841	164	21,903	6,740	61	19,905	7,333	64
Mexican.....	3,729	1,825	128	8,434	6,988	169	9,438	8,129	193
Pacific Islander.....	1	1	-----	3	3	1	-----	1	60
Polish.....	44,033	23,816	256	56,650	29,320	585	98,745	29,197	472

# Dillingham Commission Report

# Immigrant Restriction League

- Founded in 1894 in Boston by Charles Warren, Robert DeCourcy Ward, and Prescott F. Hall
- All three were Boston Brahmin Harvard alumni of the class of 1889
- Warren & DeCourcy Ward were Mayflower descendants while Hall's ancestors arrived from England in the 1600s
- Believed that immigrants from southern and eastern Europe were ethnically inferior to Anglo-Saxons

# Closing the Door

# Chinese Exclusion Acts

- Act of 5 July 1884: excluded all Chinese regardless of which country they emigrated from
- Act of 1 Oct 1888: Denied re-entry to Chinese laborers who had not returned by that date
- Act of 5 May 1892: Extended all previous Chinese exclusion laws by 10 years
- Act of 29 April 1902: Extended again previous Chinese exclusion laws for another 10 years

# Chinese Exclusion Acts

- The exclusion acts prompted Chinese to create “paper sons.”
- Strict and detailed interrogations resulted in the “paper sons” having to study complete family trees, information about hometowns, and more.



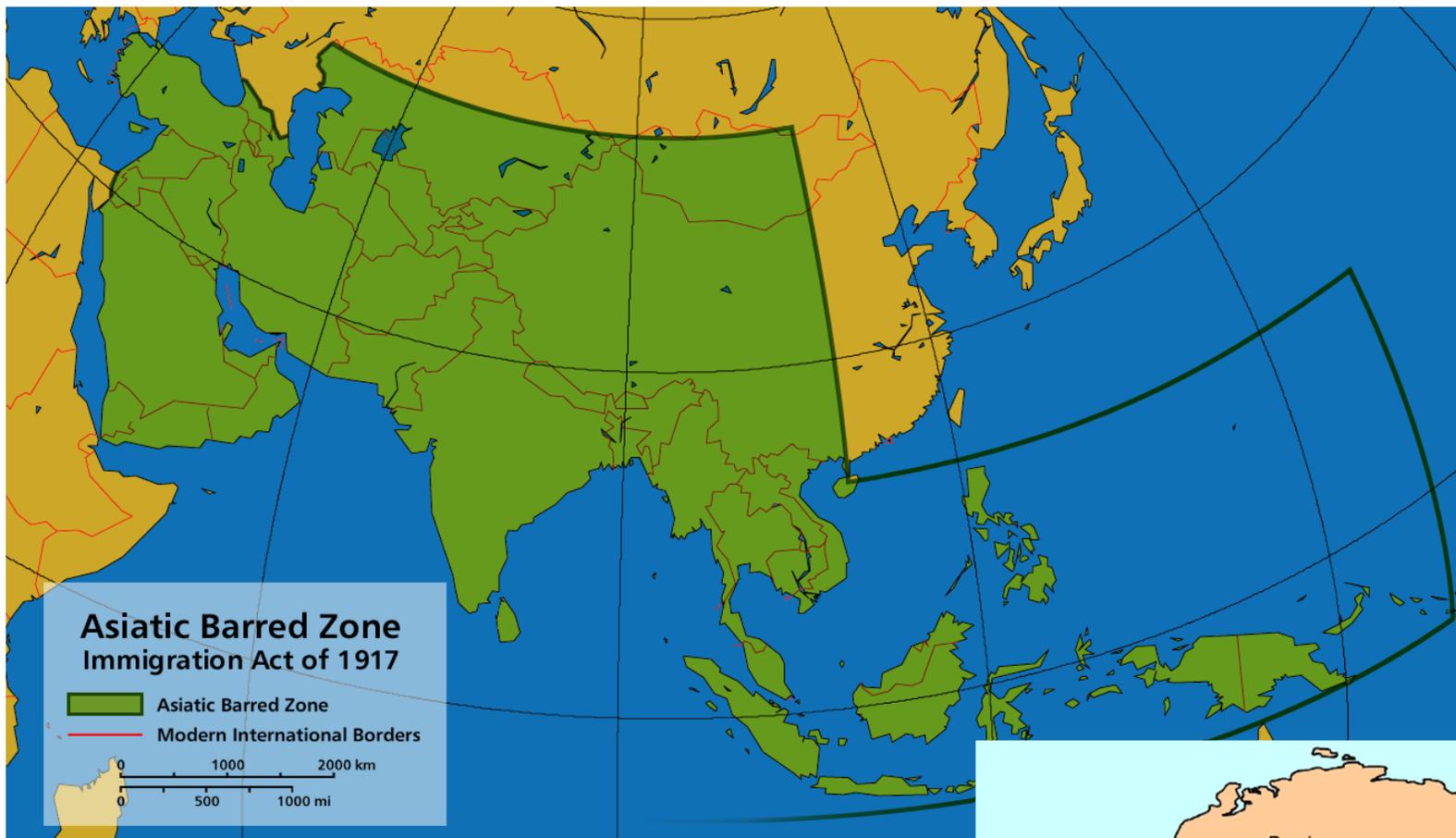
# Angel Island (San Francisco)

- Opened in 1910
- Approximately 175,000 Chinese came through here
- Average detention was 2-3 weeks
- Some were held for a few months
- A few were forced to remain here for nearly 2 years



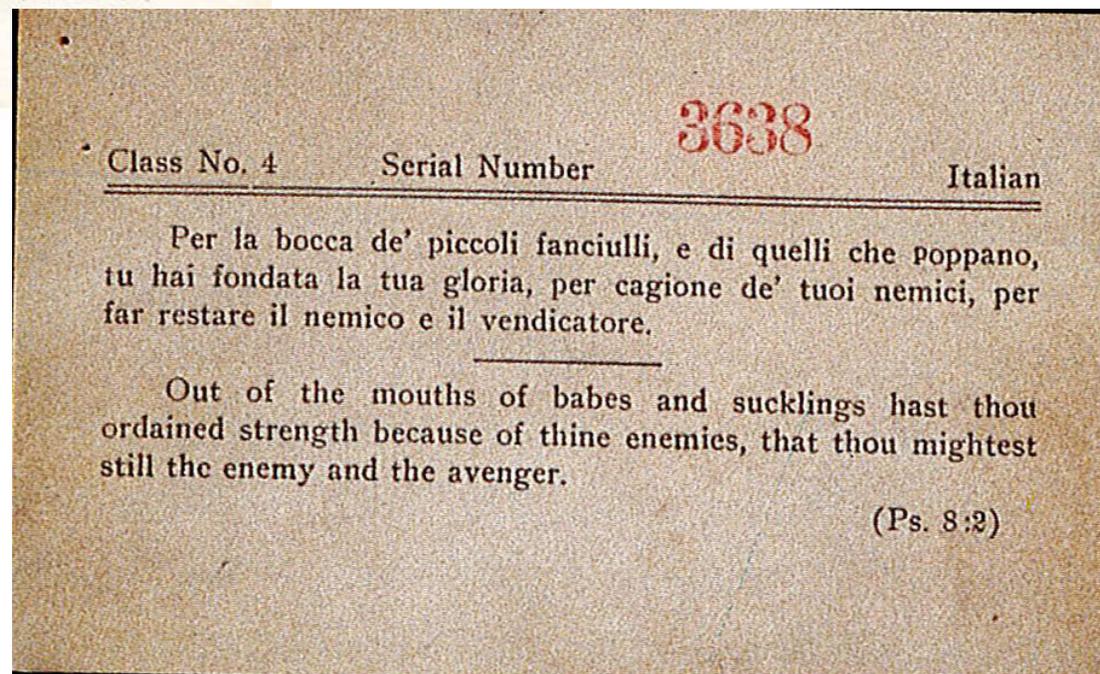
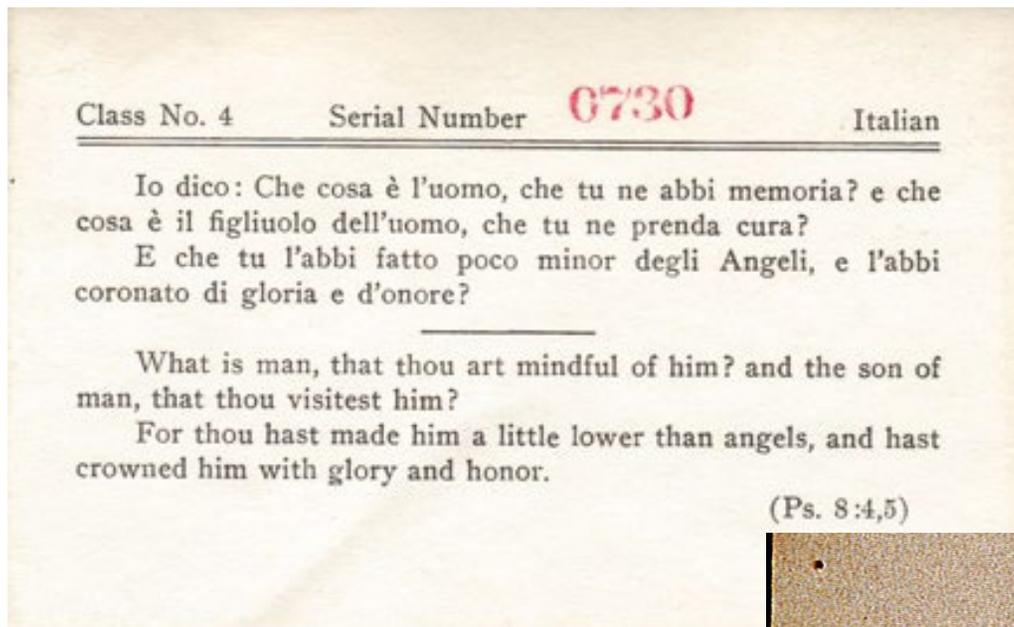
# Immigration Act of 1917

- First to include a literacy test
- Described as the “most stringent general immigration law the country ever passed”
- Expanded the Chinese Exclusion Act, included countries in area called “Asiatic Barred Zone”
- Extended deportation window from one year to five years



# Literacy Tests

- 1891 was the first time that a literacy test was suggested
- Recommended with each act that followed
- Eventually included in the Immigration Act of February 5, 1917
- The Immigration Restriction League heavily lobbied for the changes in the Immigration Act of 1917



# Literacy Test

# The Beginning

- December 1920, House passes a bill to close immigration for two years
- Senate does not support this bill
- Senator Dillingham proposes a compromise
- Became the Immigration Act of 1921

# First Attempt at Quota

- Act of May 19, 1921
- Annual quota for each nationality group, 3% of the number of foreign-born persons of that national origin as enumerated in the 1910 census
- Overall cap of 355,000
- Asiatic barred zone immigrants still denied
- Exempted certain classes of aliens

# Excluded from Quota, Or Not?

- Aliens returning from temp visit abroad
- Professional:
  - Actors, Artists, Singers
  - Lecturers, Nurses, Ministers
  - Professors
  - Learned professions
- Domestic servants
- Allowed in if quota had already been met for the month (20% of total for that specific origin)
- **COUNTED** toward 20% of total if arriving before the cap had been met

## Preference Also To:

- Wives, parents, brothers, sisters, children under 18 years of age, and fiancées of:
  - U.S. Citizens
  - Aliens of the U.S. who have applied for U.S. citizenship
  - Persons eligible for U.S. citizenship who served in U.S. military/naval from anytime between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, who were honorably discharged

# Quota Act of 1921

- Considered an emergency measure
- Supposed to last a year
- Extended May 11, 1922
- Set to expire June 30, 1924
- Prompted new bills to replace it

# The Problems?

- Coming up with a formula that everyone could accept
- Business leaders were afraid of losing their “cheap labor”

# 68<sup>th</sup> Congress

- Met 1923-1925
- Urged modifications of immigration policy
- 6 bills suggested suspension of immigration
- 15 bills suggested additions to the classes of aliens subject to deportation
- At least 8 bills regarding the Quota Act of 1921

# Albert Johnson



- Chair of the House Immigration Committee
- Congressman from Washington state
- 1920 – proposed closing immigration for 2 years
- Co-author of approved act of 1924

# David Aiken Reed



- Republican Senator from Pennsylvania, 1922-1935
- Lawyer
- Served as a major in field artillery in WWI
- Co-author of approved act of 1924

# Immigration Act of 1924

- Legislative history:
  - 1 Feb 1924: H.R. 6540 Introduced (Johnson)
  - 20 Feb 1924: S. 2576 Introduced (Reed)
  - 17 Mar 1924: H.R. 7995 Introduced (Johnson)
  - 12 Apr 1924: H.R. 7995 Passed the house
  - 18 Apr 1924: Senate suspends indefinitely S. 2576, requests conference with House on H.R. 7995
  - 19 May 1924: H.R. 7995 presented to President for signing
- Signed into law 31 May 1924 by Calvin Coolidge

- Albania.....
- Armenia (Russian).....
- Austria.....
- Belgium.....
- Bulgaria.....
- Czechoslovakia.....
- Danzig, Free City.....
- Denmark.....
- Esthonia.....
- Finland.....
- Fiume, Free State.....
- France.....
- Germany.....
- Great Britain and Irish Free State.....
- Greece.....
- Hungary.....
- Iceland.....
- Italy.....
- Latvia.....
- Lithuania.....
- Luxemburg.....
- Netherlands.....
- Norway.....
- Poland.....
- Portugal.....
- Rumania.....
- Russia.....
- Spain (including C.....
- Sweden.....
- Switzerland.....
- Yugoslavia.....
- San Marino.....
- Andorra.....
- Liechtenstein.....
- Monaco.....
- Palestine.....
- Syria.....
- Turkey.....
- Hejaz.....
- Persia.....
- Egypt.....
- Liberia.....
- Abyssinia.....
- Morocco.....
- Union of South Afr.....
- Australia.....
- New Zealand and I.....
- Total.....

Country or region of birth	Estimated quotas based on 2 per cent of census plus 100	
	Census of 1890	Census of 1910
Albania.....	104	292
Armenia (Russian).....	117	253
Austria.....	1,090	4,994
Belgium.....	609	1,142
Bulgaria.....	100	302
Czechoslovakia.....	1,973	11,472
Danzig, Free City of.....	323	300
Denmark.....	2,882	3,846
Esthonia.....	202	998
Finland.....	245	2,714
Fiume, Free State of.....	110	148
France.....	3,978	3,920
Germany.....	45,229	40,172
Great Britain and North Ireland.....	41,772	34,508
Irish Free State.....	20,886	17,254
Greece.....	135	2,142
Hungary.....	588	3,932
Iceland.....	136	150
Italy.....	4,689	28,138
Latvia.....	217	1,126
Lithuania.....	402	1,852

Estimates per H.R. 7995

# Where Are the Americans?

- Early drafts focused only on immigrants
- Pivot to the “origins” theory
- Required inclusion of those born in America
- Would require a great deal of time to compile statistics

# Defining National Origins Quota

1. Attempt to trace the genealogies of 120,000,000 Americans to determine ethnic background
  
2. Determine weight of each nationality to the American population by statistical process
  - a) This took as its basis the 1790 census
  - b) Traced the additions by subsequent immigration

*Census Bureau's estimates from available data*

	Population	Immigrants preceding decade	Per cent increase of population
1610.....	210	No data.	-----
1620.....	2,499	No data.	1000.0
1680.....	5,700	No data.	128.1
1640.....	27,947	No data.	390.3
1650.....	51,700	No data.	85.0
1660.....	84,800	No data.	84.0
1670.....	114,500	No data.	35.0
1680.....	155,600	No data.	35.9
1690.....	213,500	No data.	37.2
1700.....	275,000	No data.	28.8
1710.....	357,500	No data.	30.0
1720.....	474,388	No data.	32.7
1730.....	654,950	No data.	38.1
1740.....	889,000	No data.	35.7
1750.....	1,207,000	No data.	25.8
1760.....	1,610,000	No data.	33.4
1770.....	2,205,000	No data.	37.0
1780.....	2,781,000	No data.	26.1
U. S. CENSUS FIGURES			
1790.....	3,929,625	No data.	41.3
1800.....	5,308,483	50,000	35.1
1810.....	7,239,881	100,000	36.4
1820.....	9,638,453	100,000	33.1
1830.....	12,806,020	151,824	33.5
1840.....	17,069,453	599,125	32.7
1850.....	23,191,876	1,753,274	35.9
1860.....	31,443,321	2,571,036	35.6
1870.....	38,558,371	2,377,279	22.6
1880.....	50,189,209	2,852,191	30.2
1890.....	62,979,766	5,246,613	23.5
1900.....	76,308,387	3,687,564	21.2
1910.....	91,972,266	5,800,000	21.0
1920.....	105,710,630	3,588,817	14.9

## National Origins Computation

# National Origins Act of 1924

- Heavily weighted to limit the southern and eastern Europeans from gaining entry
- The “national origins” system became fully operational in 1929
- Capped total immigration outside of Western Hemisphere to 150,000
- Averaged out to 5 northwestern Europeans to 1 southeastern European

# Initial 1924 Quotas

*Quotas*

Nationality or country	Present law	2 per cent of 1890 with minimum of 100	National origins under the 150,000 limit proviso
Albania.....	288	100	100
Armenia.....	230	100	100
Austria.....	7,342	999	1,840
Belgium.....	1,563	509	260
Bulgaria.....	302	100	100
Czechoslovakia.....	14,357	1,873	1,320
Danzig.....	301	223	100
Denmark.....	5,619	2,782	1,092
Esthonia.....	1,348	102	221
Finland.....	3,921	145	498
Fiume.....	71	100	100
France.....	5,729	3,878	2,763
Germany.....	67,607	50,129	22,018
Great Britain and Ireland.....	77,342	62,458	91,111
Greece.....	3,063	100	536
Hungary.....	5,747	488	1,259
Iceland.....	75	100	100
Italy.....	42,057	3,889	5,878
Latvia.....	1,540	117	253
Lithuania.....	2,622	302	444
Luxemburg.....	97	100	100
Netherlands.....	3,602	1,637	2,669
Norway.....	12,205	6,453	2,433

# Initial 1924 Quotas

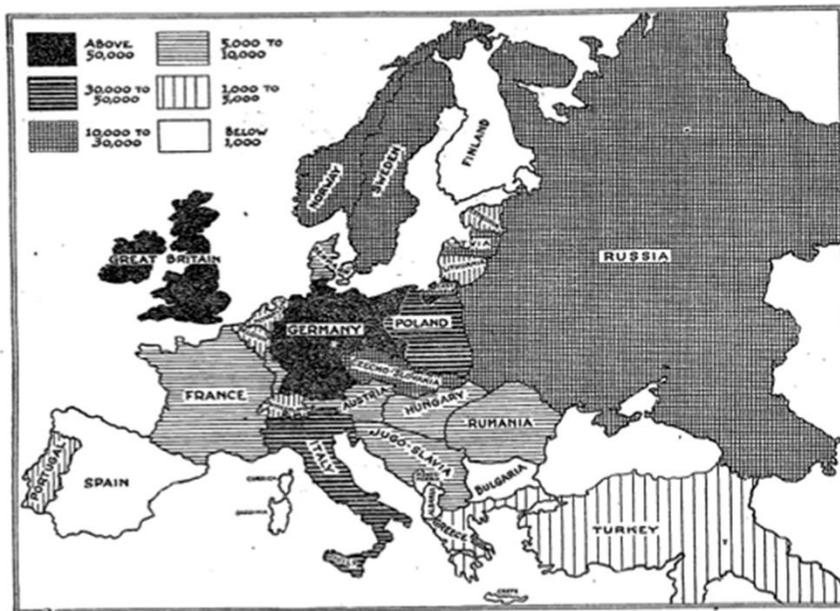
Quotas—Continued

Nationality or country	Present law	2 per cent of 1890 with minimum of 100	National origins under the 150,000 limit proviso
Poland.....	30,979	8,872	4,509
Portugal.....	2,465	474	275
Rumania.....	7,419	631	385
Russia.....	24,405	1,792	4,002
Spain.....	912	124	141
Sweden.....	20,042	9,561	3,707
Switzerland.....	3,752	2,081	781
Yugoslavia.....	6,426	735	602
Other Europe.....	86	125	100
Palestine.....	57	100	100
Syria.....	882	100	162
Turkey.....	2,654	100	119
Other Asia.....	92	100	100
Africa.....	104	100	100
Egypt.....	18	100	100
Atlantic Islands.....	121	100	134
Australia.....	279	120	100
New Zealand.....	80	100	100
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>357,801</b>	<b>161,990</b>	<b>150,903</b>

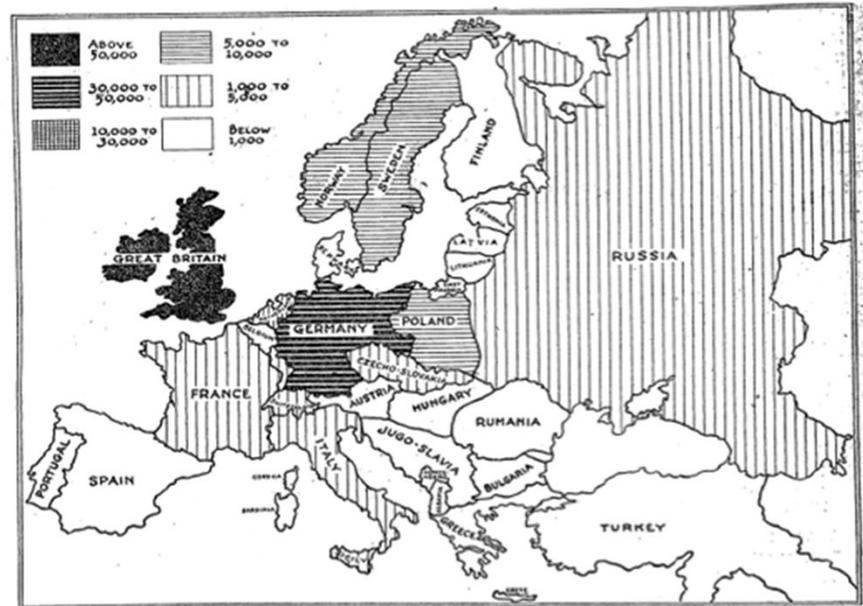
# AMERICA OF THE MELTING POT COMES TO END

Effects of New Immigration Legislation Described by Senate Sponsor of Bill—Chief Aim, He States, Is to Preserve Racial Type as It Exists Here Today

HOW NEW LEGISLATION WILL CHANGE THE FLOW OF IMMIGRATION FROM EUROPE TO THE UNITED STATES

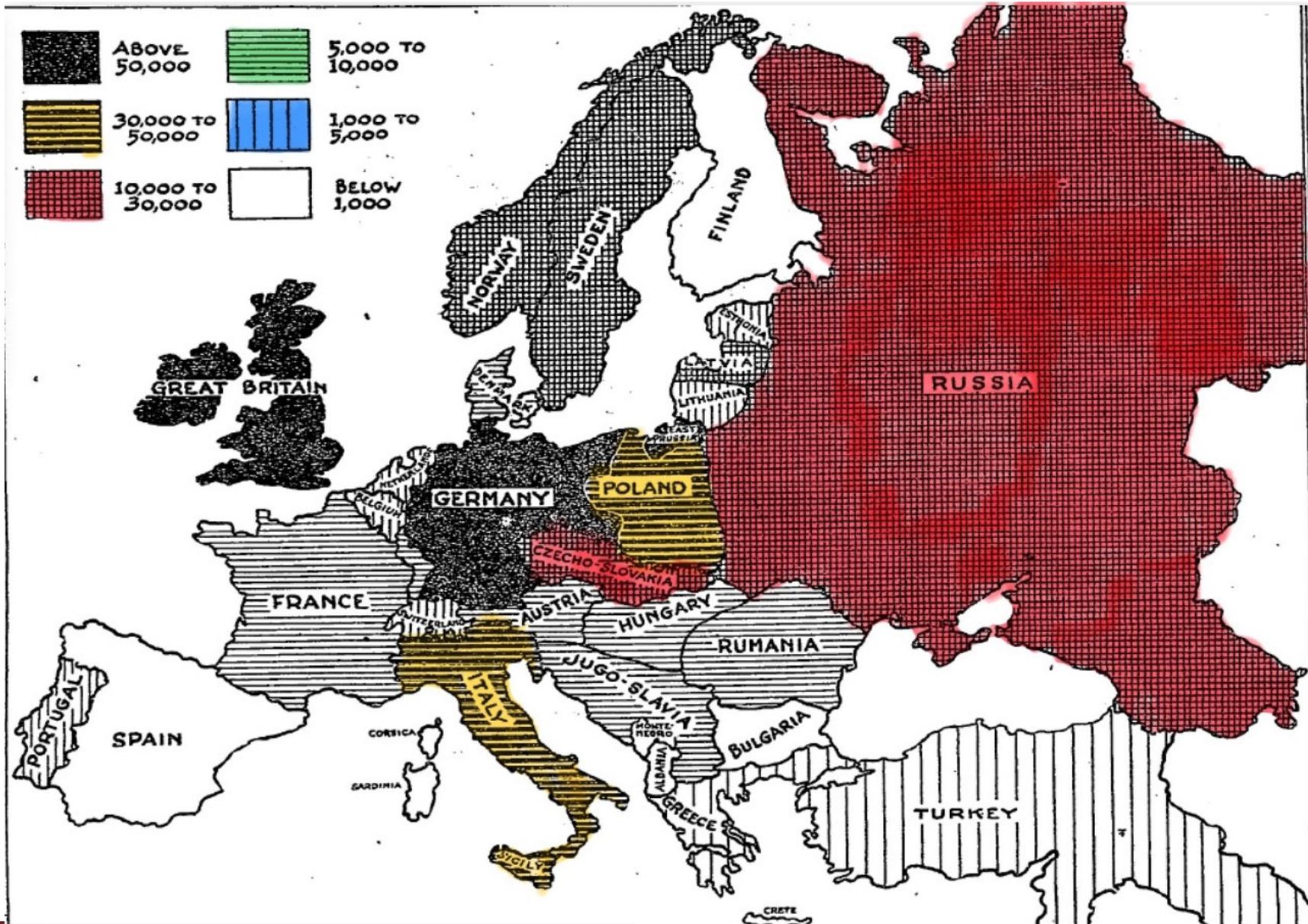


FLOW UNDER THE PRESENT LAW

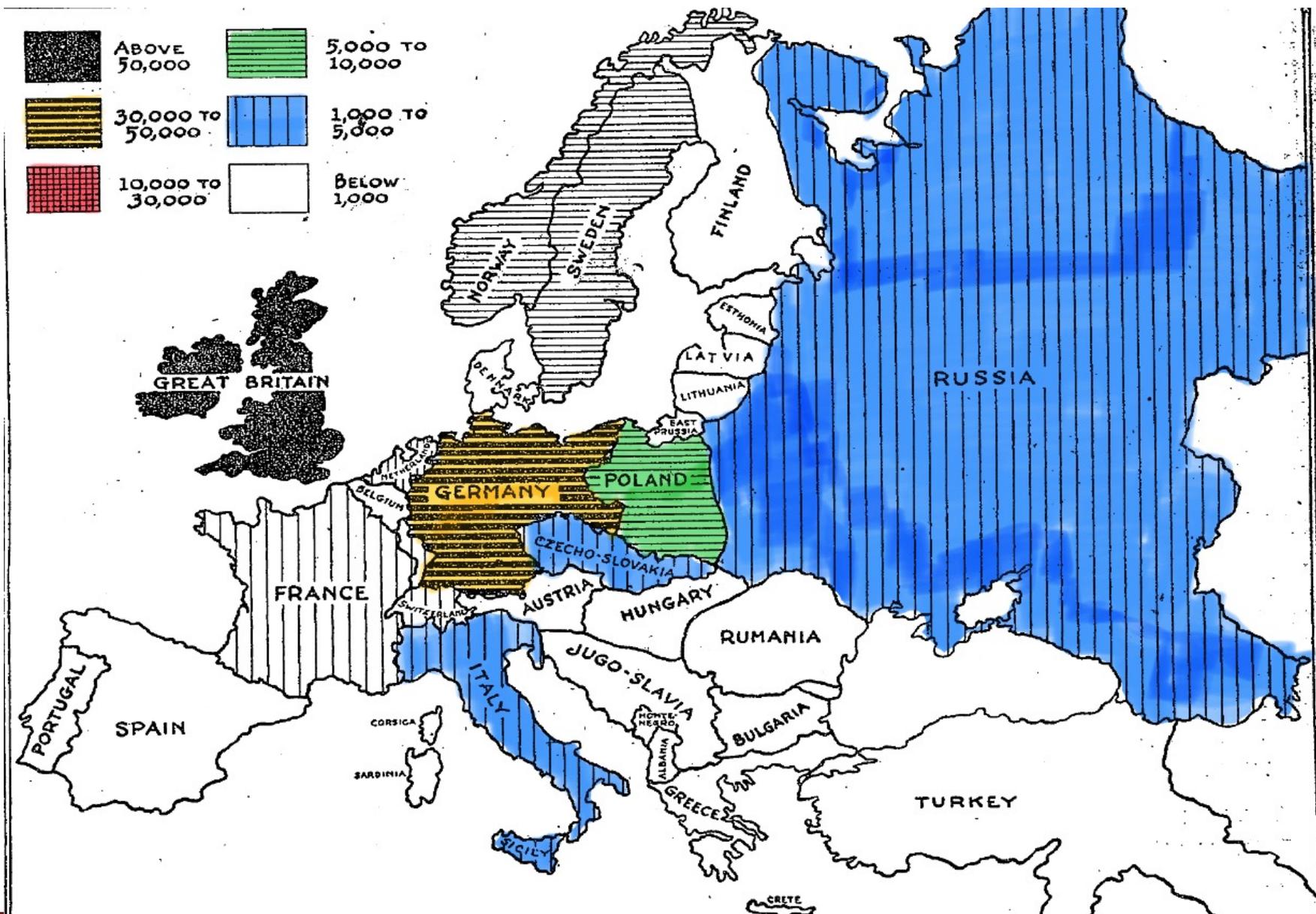


FLOW UNDER THE PROPOSED LAW  
(Under the House Bill 161,990 Would Be Admitted).

*New York Times, 27 April 1924*



## Under the 1921 Quota Law



# Under 1924 Quota Law

# QUESTIONS?



# Depression Decade

- “Under conditions of current unemployment it is obvious that persons coming to the United States, seeking work would likely become either direct or indirect public charges. As a temporary measure the officers issuing visas... have been ... instructed to refuse visas to applicants likely to fall into this class.”



# Depression Decade

- Early 1930s, those Europeans immigrating were usually relatives of someone already in U.S.
- Beginning 1933, many immigrants were refugees of Nazi Germany
- Refugees all still fell under the quota system – with 250,000 coming 1934-1941
- Refugees, largely Jewish, middle-class, often white-collar workers (included 12 Nobel Prize winners)

# What did Refugees Need to Obtain a US Visa in the 1930s?

As the Nazi regime's attacks intensified in the late 1930s, hundreds of thousands of Jews in Germany tried to immigrate to the United States. To enter the United States, each person needed an immigration visa stamped into his or her passport.

It was difficult to get the necessary papers to leave Germany, and US immigration visas were difficult to obtain. The process could take years.



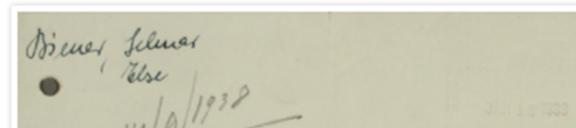
EXPLORE THE SEVEN STEPS THAT WERE REQUIRED FOR THOSE SEEKING TO IMMIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES.

STEP 1



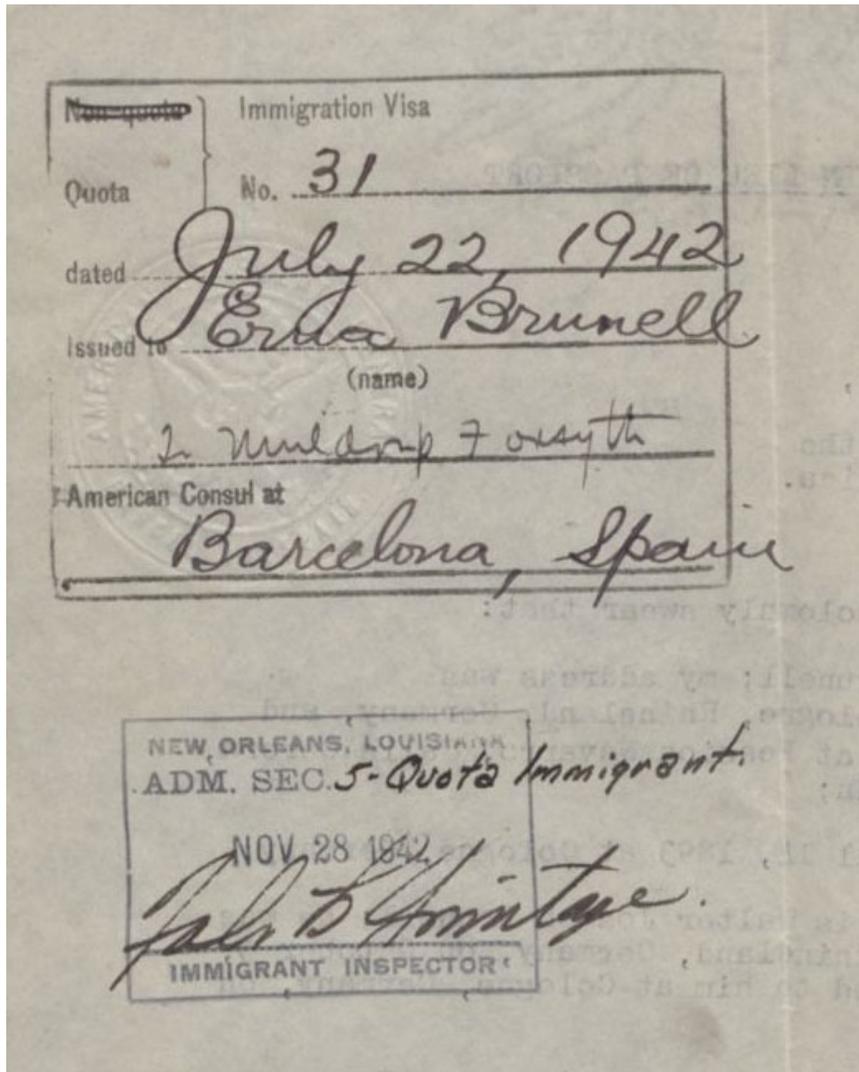
## 1 Register for the Waiting List

Between 1938-1941, US law allowed only 27,370 immigration visas per year to be issued to people born in Germany or

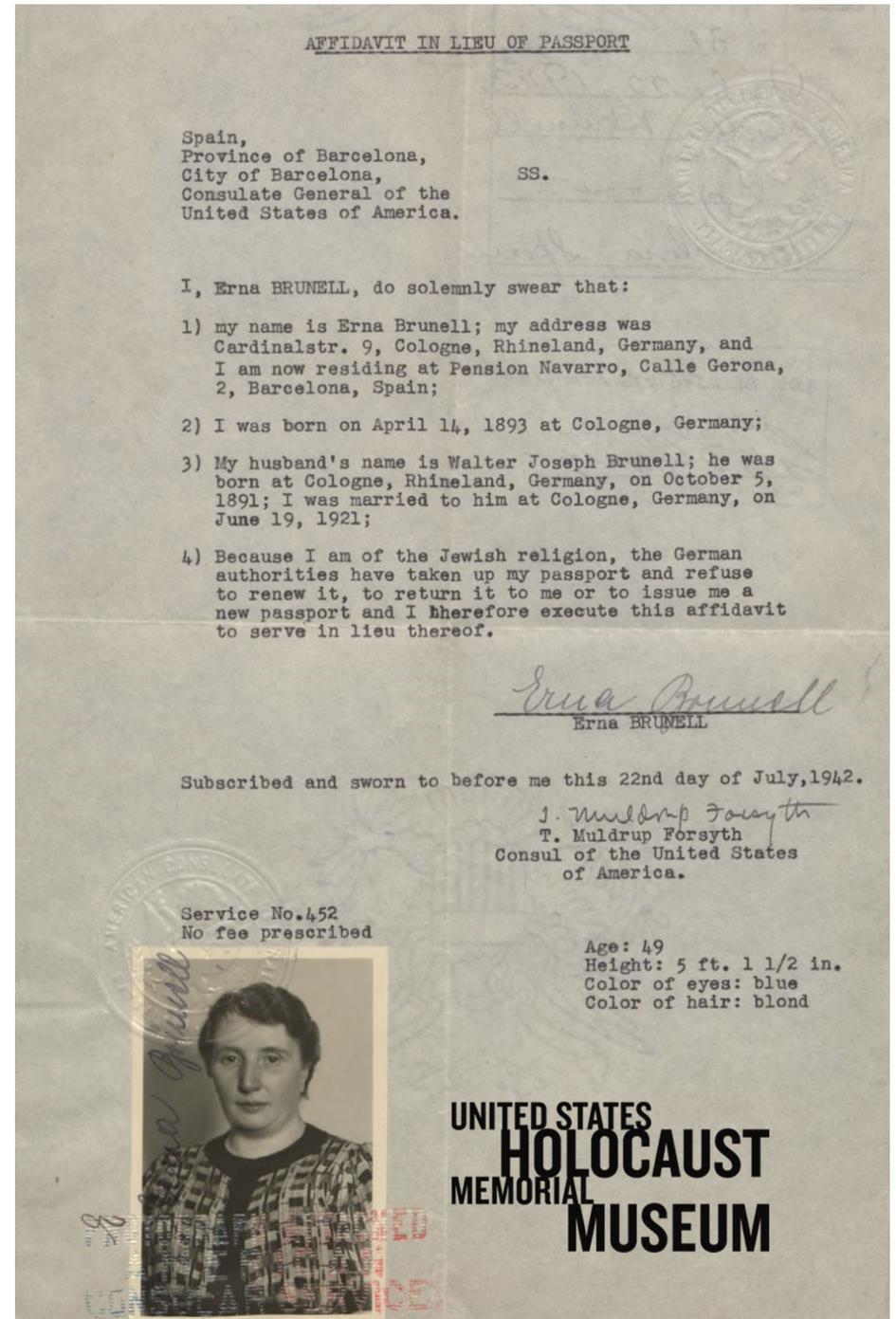


BACK

<https://exhibitions.ushmm.org/americans-and-the-holocaust/what-did-refugees-need-to-obtain-a-us-visa-in-the-1930s>



Visa – Erna Brunell

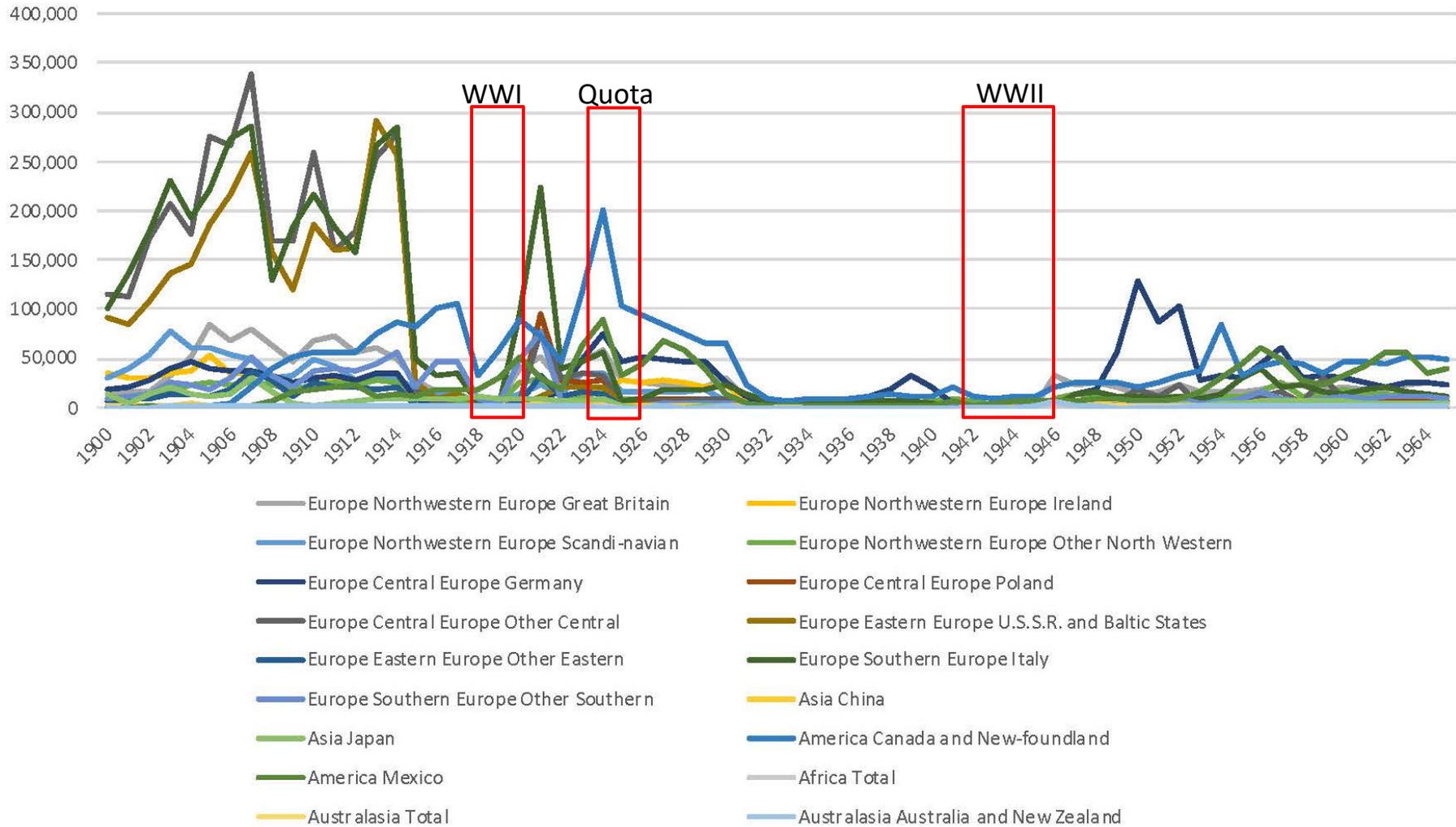


# World War II

- Immigration was at the lowest seen since the early 1930s.
- Most Europeans were conscripted into the military.
- Many of the ships that had previously carried passengers to the United States were now carrying troops to Europe.



## 20th Century Immigration



## 1900-1965 Immigration

# Chinese Immigration

- Act of December 17, 1943 repealed all prior Chinese Exclusion Acts
- It also allowed Chinese to become naturalized citizens
- Was the result of how World War II saw a change in how the Chinese were viewed by America

# War Brides Act

- December 28, 1945
- Established brides and children of veterans as non-quota status immigrants
- For the purpose of the Act, established that WWII began December 7, 1941 and ceased “upon the termination of hostilities as declared by the President or by a joint resolution of Congress”
- Race could not bar an alien spouse from entry

**LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES**

ALL ALIENS arriving at a port of continental United States from a foreign port or a port of the insular possessions of the United States, and all aliens arriving at a port of said insular possessions from a foreign port, a port of continental United States, or a port of the insular possessions of the United States.

S. S. QUEEN ELIZABETH Passengers sailing from SOUTHAMPTON on 17 FEBRUARY, 1947

1	2	3		4		5	6	7	8			9		10		11		12		13		14		15	
		No. on List	HEAD-TAX STATUS	Family name	Given name				Yes	Sex	Age	Calling or occupation	Yes	Nationality	Race or people	Country	City or town, State, Province or District	Place	Date	Country	City or town, State, Province or District				
H.T.P.	1		FREISSER	HERMAN	36	M	M	TAILOR	YES	GERMAN	POLISH	POLAND	LNOW	SEC. 6(a)(5)		28 OCT. 1946	ENGLAND	LONDON							
H.T.P.	2		SPANIER	IRISNE, J.	49	F	S	SOCIAL WORKER	YES	GERMAN	STATELESS	GERMANY	WICKRATH	SEC. 6(a)(3)		16 OCT. 1946	ENGLAND	BIRMINGHAM							
H.T.P.	3		TRUKA	EMIL	47	M	M	PROFESSOR	YES	GERMAN	AUSTRIA	AUSTRIA	VIENNA	SEC. 6(a)(3)		28 OCT. 1946	ENGLAND	LEAMINGTON SPA							
H.T.P.	4		TRUKA	MARIANNE	44	F	M	H. WIFE	YES	GERMAN	AUSTRIA	AUSTRIA	VIENNA	SEC. 6(a)(3)		28 OCT. 1946	ENGLAND	LEAMINGTON SPA							
H.T.P.	5		TRUKA	HENNY, E.	25	F	S	STUDENT	YES	ENGLISH	AUSTRIA	AUSTRIA	VIENNA	SEC. 6(a)(3)		28 OCT. 1946	ENGLAND	LEAMINGTON SPA							
H.T.P.	6		HOLWERT	ANDRE	47	M	M	PAINTER	YES	FLEMISH	YES	BELGIUM	MEESEN	SEC. 6(a)(3)		7 FEB. 1947	ENGLAND	LEAMINGTON SPA							
H.T.P.	7		HOLWERT	ANDRE	47	M	M	PAINTER	YES	FLEMISH	YES	BELGIUM	MEESEN	SEC. 6(a)(3)		7 FEB. 1947	ENGLAND	LEAMINGTON SPA							
H.T.P.	8	U. S. CIT.	CLYMAN	OSCAR	28	M	M	FARMER	YES	U. S. A.	U. S. A.	WARMINSTER	WARMINSTER	SEC. 6(a)(3)		30 DEC 1946	ENGLAND	WARMINSTER							
H.T.P.	9		CLYMAN	PHYLLIS	21	F	M	H. WIFE	YES	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLAND	HILTON	SEC. 6(a)(3)		5 FEB 1947	ENGLAND	ASSKX							
H.T.P.	10		BULLOCK	DORCINE J.	24	F	S	CLARK	YES	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLAND	ROTHERHAM	SEC. 6(a)(3)		31 OCT 1946	ENGLAND	ROTHERHAM							
H.T.P.	11		COOPER	MARGRET	56	F	S	NONE	YES	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLAND	ROTHERHAM	SEC. 6(a)(3)		31 OCT 1946	ENGLAND	ROTHERHAM							
H.T.P.	12		TAYLOR	ELIZABETH	21	F	S	FACTORY	YES	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLAND	ROTHERHAM	SEC. 6(a)(3)		31 OCT 1946	ENGLAND	ROTHERHAM							
H.T.P.	13		KVAM	OLAV	28	M	S	CHEMIST	YES	NORWEGIAN	YES	NORWAY	ABERDEEN	SEC. 6(a)(3)		31 OCT 1946	SCOTLAND	ABERDEEN							
H.T.P.	14		JONES	ANNIE	23	F	M	H. WIFE	YES	ENGLISH	YES	ENGLAND	ROTHERHAM	SEC. 6(a)(3)		31 OCT 1946	ENGLAND	ROTHERHAM							
H.T.P.	15	U. S. CIT.	JONES	STANLEY	29	M	M							SEC. 6(a)(3)		7 FEB. 1947	ENGLAND	ROTHERHAM							
H.T.P.	16	UNDER 16 SEC. 105.1(B)	JONES	MICHAEL	5	M	S	CHILD	No	CHILD	No														
H.T.P.	17	UNDER 16 SEC. 105.1(B)	JONES	CAROLE	2	F	S	CHILD	No	CHILD	No														
H.T.P.	18	U. S. CIT.	EDDY	RAY	29	M	M																		
H.T.P.	19		EDDY	JOHN	25	F	M	H. WIFE	YES	ENGLISH	YES	ENGLAND	WARMINSTER	SEC. 6(a)(3)		30 DEC 1946	ENGLAND	WARMINSTER							
H.T.P.	20	UNDER 16 SEC. 105.1(B)	EDDY	JOHN	18	M	S	INFANT	No		No														
H.T.P.	21																								
H.T.P.	22																								
H.T.P.	23																								
H.T.P.	24																								
H.T.P.	25																								
H.T.P.	26																								
H.T.P.	27																								
H.T.P.	28																								
H.T.P.	29																								

S.S. Queen Elizabeth - 1947

# Displaced Persons Act

- June 25, 1948
- Created a non-quota status for certain displaced person as a result of World War II
- Admitted some 400,000 people over four years
- President Truman felt that this act took quota spaces away from others already on the quota waiting list



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

**ORIGINAL**  
(To be retained  
by Clerk of Court)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
**PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION**

No. 323945

To the Honorable U. S. District Court, Los Angeles, Calif.  
The \_\_\_\_\_ Court of 316a at \_\_\_\_\_

This petition for naturalization, hereby made and filed under section \_\_\_\_\_, Immigration and Nationality Act, respectfully shows:

- (1) My full, true, and correct name is ALDO BANOVA  
(Full, true name, without abbreviation)
- (2) My present place of residence is 8206 Birchcrest  
(City or town)  
Downey, (Apt. No.) Calif. 90240  
(Number and street) (City or town)
- (3) I was born on 10-21-28  
(Month) (Day) (Year)  
Gimino D'Istria Pola Italy  
(City or town) (Country)
- (4) I am \_\_\_\_\_ married, and have 2 living children.
- (5) I was lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence on 6-14-56, 19\_\_\_\_, and have not abandoned such residence.
- (6) My present nationality is Italy ALIEN REGISTRATION NO. A10 005 650 ca
- (7) I have not heretofore made a petition for naturalization.
- (8) I pray that my name be changed to none

WAR RELIEF SERVICES-  
NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

APPLICATION FOR EMIGRATION  
REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE  
NEW YORK CODE No. NO SPONSOR

Photograph of Individual or Family Group  
(Please Print Name on Back of Photo and Clip Photo to this Form)

Family Name: BANOVA Field Office: Trieste, F.T.T.  
Address: Salita di Greta 4, Trieste, F.T.T. Date of Application: 29 September 1954

FAMILY COMPOSITION

Relationship	Name	Date / City / Country of Birth	Religion	Physical Disability or Illness	Nationality
1. PA	<u>Aldo</u>	<u>21 October 1928 Gimino, Yug.</u>	<u>R.C.</u>		<u>Italian</u>
2. Wife	<u>Maria</u>	<u>16 September 1930 S. Lucia Pirano, Zone B R.C.</u>	<u>R.C.</u>		<u>Italian</u>

**Aldo Banova**

# Immigration & Naturalization 1952

- Act of June 27, 1952
- Act from which all present-day immigration and naturalization laws stem
- Vetoed by Pres. Truman, but Congress over-rode his veto
- Had 407 sections in four titles (compared to 44 sections of 1907 Act)
- Current Immigration & Naturalization Act has 507 sections in five titles

# Truman's Veto

- “... that Americans with English or Irish names were better people and better citizens than Americans with Italian or Greek or Polish names... It violates the great political doctrine of the Declaration of Independence that ‘all men are created equal.’”



# Truman's Comments

## Alien Act of 1798

- Gave the Attorney General many powers in determining what immigrants could come into the country.
- “Seldom has a bill exhibited the distrust evidenced here for citizens and aliens alike...”

## Act of 1952

- Gave the President power to deport any alien deemed “dangerous to the peace and safety of the United States.”
- “Aliens were ... frightened and citizens much disturbed by that threat to liberty.”

# Walter-McCarran Act - 1952

- Established a preference system that determined which ethnic groups were desirable immigrants
- Placed great importance on labor qualifications
- Defined 3 types of immigrants:
  - Immigrants with special skills or relatives who were U.S. Citizens
  - Average immigrants (number not to exceed 270,000)
  - Refugees

# Imm. & Nat. Act of 1965

- October 3, 1965
- Eliminated the national-origins quotas that began in 1924
- Also known as the Hart-Celler Act
- Established a new immigration policy based on reuniting immigrant families and attracting skilled labor to the U.S.

# Hart-Celler Act - 1965

- Policies put into effect in 1965 would dramatically change the demographic makeup of the American population
- Three decades following passage saw more than 18 million legal immigrants enter the U.S.
- That was more than three times the number admitted the previous 30 years

## End of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

- Hart-Celler Act of 1965 changed the face of the American population
- In the 1950s more than half of all immigrants were European and 6% were Asians
- In the 1990s only 16% were European and 31% were Asian
- Between 1965-2000 highest number of immigrants (at 4.3 million) came from Mexico

# Immigration Reform & Control Act

- Became law 6 November 1986
- Was intended to address illegal immigration
- Made it illegal to hire illegal immigrants
- Legalized certain seasonal undocumented migrants who had entered the U.S. before 1 January 1982
- Did not appear to curb illegal immigration

# Homeland Security Act of 2002

- Created the Department of Homeland Security
  - Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) fell under new DHS
  - INS became U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service (USCIS)
- Still allows two legal methods of immigration:
  - Temporary (non-immigrant) admission
  - Permanent (immigrant) admission (gets a green card)

# QUESTIONS?

**Hire Research Services**

*research@nehgs.org*

**Chat with a Genealogist**

*AmericanAncestors.org/chat*

# Consultations

Book a one-on-one  
consultation with  
a genealogist and  
receive help with your  
family history research!

[AmericanAncestors.org/  
Expert-Help/Consultations](https://AmericanAncestors.org/Expert-Help/Consultations)





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Give

10 Million Names

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Tools

Signature Projects

Centers & Initiatives

# Researching Immigrant Ancestors to America, 1620–1965

**Thank you for registering for the online course, *Researching Immigrant Ancestors to America, 1620–1965!***

For centuries, people have immigrated to America to escape religious or social persecution, claim a better life, or seek adventure. No matter what century your ancestors arrived in America, this five-week online seminar will provide you with the historical context, records, resources, and research strategies for understanding immigration and naturalization in the United States since 1620. From passenger lists and border crossings to naturalization records and alien files, our instructors will explain how various records can be used in your family history research. We will also provide several case studies demonstrating how to uncover immigrant origins and next steps in taking your research back to the old country.

[www.americanancestors.org/researching-immigrant-ancestors-america-1620-1965](http://www.americanancestors.org/researching-immigrant-ancestors-america-1620-1965)



# THANK YOU!

[AmericanAncestors.org/Education](https://AmericanAncestors.org/Education)



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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