

EUROPEAN IMMIGRATION 1820-1920

Immigrant Group	Motives	Peak Immigration	Settlement	Occupations
IRISH	Resented English rule. Catholics resented English taxes to support Anglican Church in Ireland. Tenant farmers resented English absentee landlords who charged high rents.	1840-1869 2 million (during potato famine)	Boston New York	Unskilled workers in factories, mills, construction, canals, railroads
GERMANS	Peasants could not compete with large estates of nobles. Artisans could not compete with machine-made goods. Liberals were discontented with despotic governments.	1830-1890 4.5 million	Midwest on farms and cities of Cincinnati, St. Louis, Milwaukee	Farmers, Skilled workers, Making optical equipment pianos, beer, pharmaceuticals
SCANDINAVIANS (Swedish, Norwegian and Danish)	Migrated to better their economic conditions. Religious minorities feared the policies of the official Lutheran Churches.	1880's over 500,000	Upper Mississippi Valley Region	Farmers, Skilled workers, lumberjacks, carpenters machinists, small businessmen
ITALIANS	Peasants, primarily from Southern Italy, and Sicily, fled poor soil, small farms and high land rents. Artisans and shopkeepers immigrated to better their condition.	1890-1920 Peak -1907 4.5 million	New York City other Atlantic Coast cities, New Orleans "Little Italies"	Workers in highway and railroad construction, building industry, garment trades
GREEKS	Economic Conditions - Peasants who paid high interest on loans and high taxes left to escape poverty	1890-1920 Peak -1907 500,000	Cities of the Northeast	Workers in mines, on railroads, Started small retail businesses- tobacco and candy, flowers, restaurants
POLES	Nationalists resented "Russification", and after 1870 "Germanization". Both programs sought to destroy Polish culture, including Catholicism. Peasants owning small farms or working on the Noble's estates to escape poverty.	1890-1920 Peak -1921 1.5 million	Major cities of the Northeast "Little Polands"	Unskilled workers for Meat packing plants, steel mills, coal mines, textile factories
AUSTRO-HUNGARIANS (Czechs, Slovaks, and Yugoslavs)	Lacked their own governments and were subject to autocratic rule by Austrians and Hungarians. Also fled economic distress.	1880 - 17,000 to-1900- 114,000 Peak - 1907 338,000	Midwest Pennsylvania Ohio Indiana	Factory workers, Farmers
RUSSIANS	Liberals feared Czarist political tyranny. Catholic Lithuanians, Jews, Lutheran Finns faced religious and cultural persecution. Peasants lacked land; workers received low wages	1901-1910	Midwest Kansas, Nebraska, Dakotas, and other Western states	Factory workers Farmers

IMMIGRATION FROM NON-EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (Asia and America 1820-1920)

Immigrant Group	Motives	Peak Immigration	Settlement	Occupations
CHINESE	Came to escape famine and Civil war, to benefit from the discovery of gold in California in 1848 and to receive higher wages.	By 1880's 300,000 Peak-1882	West Coast	Cooks, miners laundrymen, railroad construction workers
JAPANESE	Workers immigrated in search of better pay and work.	By 1907. 100,000 Peak-1907	Along Pacific Coast, Hawaii	Laborers on sugar plantations in Hawaii canning factories, hired hands in agriculture, truck farm owners, fishermen.
CANADIANS	Looking for better agricultural conditions and jobs.	1860-1920 2 million	British Canadians in Midwest, French Canadians to New England, Northern New York	British Canadians, farmers, skilled workers, French Canadians farm laborers, lumberjacks, textile mill workers
MEXICANS	Escape from poor living conditions, poverty; Social and political revolution in which they lost possessions	1900-1920 270,000	Southwest, mainly to Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and California	Farmers, laborers for railroad, construction, migrant workers for citrus fruits, grapes, berries, sugar cane and cotton

ADAPTED FROM:

*A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS*

