

1640-1643

20,000
Immigrants

Puritans

**1704-
1744**

2 million
Immigrants

Germans &
Scots (wars
of rebellion)

Crop failure

1790

First Naturalization
Laws

Restricts
citizenship to
"free white
persons"

1815-1875

9 million
immigrants

End of Napoleonic
Wars

Ireland
Germany
Britain

Potato
famine

1830

Trail of Tears

**1846-
1848**

Mexican-
American
War

Slavery
begins



**1862-
1924**

Chinese
Exclusion

Chinese
contract
laborers
excepted
from
exclusion

1864

Bureau of
Immigration
created

1865

Slavery
abolished

**1875-
1920**

Largest wave
of immigration

Eastern
and
Southern
Europeans

1882

Official Chinese
Exclusion Act

Bars most
Chinese
immigrants
from entering
the U.S.

1917

Literacy requirement
for immigrants.
Mexicans exempted
to provide labor.

**1921-
1965**

Immigration
Quota system

White Europeans
are favored

Prohibits no
more than 3% of
the number of
foreign-born
residents of that
nationality living
in the U.S. in

1924

Congress creates
Border Patrol

Quota system
changed to
favor "certain
desirable
nationalities"

1929

Great
Depression

U.S. deports
thousands of
Mexicans to
Mexico

1934

Tydings-
McDuffie Act

Filipino
immigration
curtailed to
50 per year

1940

Alien
Registration Act

Requires
registration
and finger-
printing of
immigrants
over 14 yrs
old

1943

Bracero Program

Brings 5 million Mexican laborers to US

1945

War Bride Act

1953

Refugee Relief Act

1954

Operation Wetback

3.8 million deported to Mexico

1965

Immigration/Naturalization Act

4.5 million Mexicans

To unite families and attract skilled workers; repeals national origins quota system

1970

4 million Asians emigrate

Vietnam War

1986

Immigration
Reform and
Control Act

Most immigrants
can apply for legal
status; 3 million
given amnesty;
makes it illegal for
employers to hire
undocumented
workers

1990

Immigration
Act

Sets annual
maximum at
700,000

1993

Adjusts Act

Sets
maximum
at 675,000

1996

Illegal Immigration
Reform and
Immigrant
Responsibility Act

Facilitates
deportation

Border
militarization
intensifies and
NAFTA is passed
(1994)

2001-2006

Department of
Homeland
Security

Focus of
immigration
reform is on
enforcement
and border
security