

US History

Turn of Century America

Learning Target:

I can identify the origins of many American immigrants and examine challenges these immigrants would face.

4. Immigration

Origins of Immigrants

Europeans –

- Before 1890 most immigrants came from western and northern Europe
- After 1890 most immigrants came from southern and eastern Europe
- Primarily Italy, Austria-Hungary, and Russia

Chinese & Japanese –

- Chinese immigrants strong until 1882 (Limited by congressional act)
- Japanese immigration increased after annexation of Hawaii

West Indies & Mexico –

- 1880-1920 – 260,000 immigrants arrived from Caribbean islands
- After 1910 over 700,000 Mexicans came to the U.S.

Ellis Island & Angel Island

Ellis Island –

- Entry into the U.S. in New York
- 20% of immigrants detained for one day but only 2% denied entry into the country
- Had to pass physical examination, could not have committed a felony, proof of money (\$25)
- Estimated 17 million immigrants entered through Ellis Island

Angel Island –

- Asians gained access to the country in San Francisco
- 1910-1940 over 50,000 immigrants entered here – Treated harsher than Ellis Island

Challenges with Immigration –

Ethnic Neighborhoods –

- Immigrants often sought out familiar people to help them adjust to their new country
- Neighborhoods shared cultural values, religion, and language
- Challenge between learning new culture and hanging on to old one

Nativism –

- Struggle between melting pot concept vs keeping cultural identity
- Nativism – overt favoritism toward native-born Americans
- Good immigrants – British & German / Bad Immigrants – Slavic, Asian, Catholic, Jewish

Legal Challenges to Immigration –

- 1917 – Literacy test for immigrants passed
- 1882 – Chinese Exclusion Act – Banned all Chinese labor immigrants (taking jobs)
- Gentlemen's Agreement – U.S. agreed to desegregate San Francisco schools for Japanese students; in return Japan would limit emigration of unskilled workers