

IMMIGRATION

1. From Mexican-American War until 1930: unrestricted immigration. 1880s first big Mexican migration into Western ag. 1910s - "pull" of WWI labor shortage and "push" of Mexican Revolution. Japanese and Chinese immigrants were restricted, but not Mexican. Most immigrants were from north and west Europe until 1880s when more started to come from south and east Europe. The 1921 and 1924 National Origins Act established quotas to reduce immigrants from south and east Europe in favor of north and west Europe. Mexico and Latin America were exempt from quotas.

2. 1930-41 - Depression - jobs dried up - restricted border. Mexicans returned home or were deported. From 0.5-1 million Mexicans had immigrated over two previous decades. In 1930s, at least 50% returned home.

3. 1942-64 - WWII - new "pull" - U.S. labor shortage. Temporary Mexican labor permitted (bracero program). 1954 - Operation Wetback - massive deportation of more than 1 million Mexicans.

4. 1965 - present - Bracero ended 1964 - New 1965 law provided (1) even distribution between east and west hemispheres, (2) favored family reunification over labor market needs, (3) raised number of visas, (4) limit of 20,000 per nation per year in east hemisphere (extended to west in 1976). Between 1820 and 1960, 80% of all immigrants to U.S. came from Europe. In 1978 (10 years after the law was implemented), 82% of all immigrants came from Latin America and Asia.

How many? Late 1980s, best guess was 3.9 million undocumented migrants from Mexico. Use of apprehension stats? Ill-advised.

Why? "Push" - Mexican population growth; unemployment (40-50% underemployment)

"Pull" - U.S. demand

Do they take jobs of U.S. citizens? Doubtful - are inexpensive.

Do they cost U.S. taxpayers? Doubtful - probably pay more in taxes than benefits from government programs received.

Benefits for Mexico? Employment, send money home (some \$1 billion per year).

Who are they? Young, male

Where are they from? Northwest and central west Mexico
(eight states)

Where do they go? To California, Texas, Chicago, more recently
concentrated in urban areas.

Twin Cities - social networks between sending and receiving
towns.

Makes it harder to stop.

How do they get across? Walk at night - use coyotes

Assimilation problem? No? Speak English by third generation.

Inter-marry

Yes. New migrants continue as Spanish speakers.

Native culture is so close and so continuous - difference with
Euroean immigrants.

Should they preserve language and culture? Pronunciation
Bi-lingual education - Immersion vs. Transition
English only

Simpson - Rodino - Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986

1. employers sanctions
2. amnesty if here since January 1, 1982
3. partial amnesty for ag. workers and guest worker program in
1990-92.

First time to recognize "pull" factors of employer demand.

Success depends on employer sanctions, but not likely to
curb the flow - essentially voluntary compliance - only have to
request papers not verify authenticity.

Amnesty - expected 3.9 million - got 1.7 million - lack of
documentation - fear of authorities. After amnesty still many
undocumented workers.

1990 - GAO finds discrimination in hiring.