

# HISTORY OF U.S. ETHNIC POLICY AND ITS IMPACT ON EUROPEAN ETHNICS pdf

## 1: The History of Racial Exclusion in the US Immigration Laws

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This chapter captures the workshop discussions of the effects of immigration and assimilation on social policies and programs, health, and education. Social Policy and Welfare 1 Immigration researchers disagree about many major issues that are essential for revising social policy, including the criteria used to admit immigrants and the extent of social supports required to ensure their successful integration. More specific areas of disagreement include: All analysts agree that reliable answers to all of these questions are necessary for future policy initiatives concerned with employment, schooling, and income maintenance. Despite the many areas of disagreement among immigration experts, there is widespread consensus on three issues: Employment and Income Dynamics One of the most serious deficiencies in the area of immigration and economic inequality is the absence of information about income and employment dynamics among various segments of the foreign-born population. Virtually all national estimates of immigrant employment, poverty, and welfare participation are based on data from the decennial census or the Current Population Survey. Although static measures of poverty status and welfare participation are useful for portraying aggregate trends and differentials in the prevalence of poverty in a given year, they do not illustrate the dynamics of income stratification processes. These tasks cannot be accomplished with currently existing data because administrative records on program participation seldom include nativity identifiers, and because nationally representative longitudinal or cross-sectional surveys seldom provide sufficient detail on type of program participation, much less duration of 1 Page 30 Share Cite Suggested Citation: The National Academies Press. Although the Survey of Income and Program Participation is suitable to address these questions and others about income and employment dynamics, items about immigrant status are now available only on the topical modules i. A review of the Survey of Income and Program Participation by a panel of the Committee on National Statistics Citro and Kalton, recommended a number of changes for improving the survey. Because it is the preeminent source of survey data on the use of public services, information from the survey has great potential for contributing to current debates about the use of welfare, medical care, and other social services by immigrants. But to serve current policy analysis requirements, information is needed on potentially illegal statusesâ€”a difficult challenge for any survey research. Workshop discussion did not address problems of such data collection, but such enhancement of the survey is worth further consideration. A further limitation of these data are the relatively small sample sizes of the Asian and Hispanic populations, which preclude detailed analyses of specific nationality groups. Further advances toward understanding the process of socioeconomic integration of immigrants require a longitudinal analysis of employment and income dynamics. This is essential to determine if rising inequality among various groups of immigrants and their native-born counterparts results from greater numbers experiencing transitory or chronic episodes of joblessness, poverty, and welfare dependence. Studies of employment and income dynamics among immigrants should also help to clarify inconsistencies in current research regarding the relationship between length of U. Longitudinal analyses of income and program participation among the foreign-born population are a necessary adjunct to policy because the program implications of transitory episodes of poverty and welfare participation differ appreciably from chronic dependence. In practical terms, this means that future national surveys of immigrants should not only permit subgroup analysis, but should also represent the social and economic spectrum of communities in which immigrants reside. Whereas assessments of economic well-being based on national samples are worthwhile for broad generalizations about income inequality among nationality groups, they are inadequate for portraying the contexts within which economic integration processes unfold. Widely discrepant conclusions about the extent and nature of labor market competition between native-born and immigrant people illustrate the need to reconcile findings based on specific labor markets and those based on nationally

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representative analyses. The context for immigration involves the entrance and exit of immigrants. It is relatively easy to see the excellent opportunity for contextual studies presented by a case in which migration takes place and immigrants settle within an ethnic community. Contextual studies are also important, however, when what is called the "quality" of immigrants is being studied. George Borjas compared recent immigration flows with those prior to and found a declining quality of immigrants in terms of assimilation and productivity. But the quality of an immigrant should be related to more than wages. Immigrants who came before, many of whom were Europeans, came during a period of lower rates of immigration. Recent flows are different. Education levels of immigrants vary, and the averages need to be used in context for good analyses to be done. The education and assimilation experiences of these children might have been more positive if they had not settled in Miami. In summary, the context of immigration is important in research. Comparing Political and Economic Immigration Because systematic comparisons of political and economic migrants have not been undertaken, a third important area is improving understanding about whether and how the integration experiences of refugees and legal immigrants differ. Refugees undertake politically motivated migration, whereas immigrants have economic motivation, according to a perspective taken by some. Although the distinction between political and economic migrants has been greatly overstated, there is little disagreement that the reception experienced by these two classes of immigrants is dramatically different. Existing research is inconclusive about the effects of resettlement assistance; it is not clear if such assistance facilitates or retards economic assimilation. A useful experiment to resolve this key policy question would compare two similar cohorts of immigrants who arrived at the same time from the same country. The data needed to conduct even this simple exercise, which is fundamental for assessing the effects of resettlement assistance, are not available. Yet this exercise is particularly critical in the current climate of fiscal retrenchment. The reasoning behind sharply curtailing appropriations for resettlement assistance for refugees, as opposed to extending some form of resettlement assistance to all economic migrants, rests on a thin research base. Page 32 Share Cite Suggested Citation: Nearly 3 million illegal aliens were granted legal status between and , of whom more than 85 percent were from Mexico. Despite great interest within the policy research community in the effectiveness of employer sanctions and tighter border controls, there have been no comparable research initiatives to investigate the experiences of legalized immigrants. How well is the legalized population faring in the labor market relative to other groups of immigrants? Did the change in legal status influence employment and welfare behavior? Although there has been much speculation about likely changes following the amnesty program, research initiatives have not matched the speculative curiosity. Until recently, no data were available to investigate research questions about the behavior of new immigrants under the legalization program. It is a nationally representative survey of immigrants granted amnesty under the Immigration Reform and Control Act. A second part of the survey was in the field in and should provide additional valuable data. This survey should provide essential information about changes in employment and program participation, including the use of several in-kind programs such as food stamps that might be traced directly to a change in legal status. Analysis of these data is a high priority for evaluation of the behavioral consequences of legalization on welfare participation. Research Issues Workshop discussions identified four areas in which better information is needed for the improvement of studies of federal programs and immigrant adjustment. First, improved data are needed about income and employment dynamics. The Current Population Survey could benefit from special-purpose modules that include retrospective questions on changes in economic status. For the Survey on Income and Program Participation, it would be helpful to have a question on immigrant status included in an early wave of the interviewing and to include contextual variables in the survey data. Second, comparative studies are needed on poverty and economic change for immigrants in different areas and cities. Workshop discussion suggested that it would be useful to have a set of comparative studies on immigrant adjustment, conducted with common variables, for a variety of metropolitan areas. Page 33 Share Cite Suggested Citation: Refugees political immigrants are eligible for different federal assistance programs than economic migrants, who enter the United States based on scrutiny of their ability to gain successful employment. A final area that

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warrants attention is the effect of the legal status, especially legalization, on immigrant adjustment. A substantial proportion probably one-fifth or more of the current foreign-born population entered the United States illegally during recent decades, and many of these illegal aliens are seeking legal status under the general and special agricultural workers provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act. Comprehensive studies are needed of the adjustment of this newly legalized population, compared with immigrants who entered legally. Perinatal Health 2 Research is needed to improve our understanding of an important, contemporary public health enigma: Still, pregnancy outcomes as measured either by birthweight or mortality are better among babies born to immigrant than to native-born mothers Eberstein, Similar results have been reported for Spanish-surname mothers in California Williams et al. The risk of low birthweight was about four times higher for second-generation compared with first-generation primiparous women, and two times higher for second-generation compared with first-generation multiparous women. Earlier, Yu reported that Chinese-American women have lower fetal, neonatal, and postneonatal mortality rates than women of European origin and those in other major ethnic and racial groups in the United States. Yu also reported that the superior health profile of Chinese-origin infants was observed at every level of maternal education and for all maternal ages. Page 34 Share Cite Suggested Citation: The results are noteworthy because the Southeast Asians had the highest rates of poverty and fertility in the state, had experienced very high infant death rates prior to their arrival in the United States, lacked English proficiency, and had the latest onset of prenatal care of all ethnic groups. Other Asian groups Japanese, Chinese, and Filipinos and Hispanics mostly of Mexican origin also had lower infant death rates than whites, and much lower rates than those observed for Native Americans and blacks. The groups with below-average infant mortality rates consist largely of immigrants. The evidence indicates that positive perinatal health outcomes among immigrant groups are a real phenomenon, worthy of further investigation. Are immigrant women superior health achievers, even when socioeconomic status is controlled and, if so, why? What are the effects on pregnancy outcomes of a wide variety of sociocultural and biomedical risk factors for foreign-born and native-born women of diverse ethnic and racial groups? There is considerable complexity to carrying out research in an area in which immigration, assimilation, and health interact. Existing vital statistics by themselves will not provide the research answers; alternative sources of data are needed and should include qualitative information as well as new studies based on comparative longitudinal designs e. If we are to add significantly to the store of knowledge and to develop a larger set of intervention options, such research and data are essential. Mental Health Intriguing questions have been raised by research on the mental health of ethnic minorities in the United States, including immigrants. In a review of mental health prevalence rates reported in research over the past two decades Vega and Rumbaut, , studies suggest that rapid acculturation does not necessarily lead to conventionally anticipated outcomes, i. Instead, mental health studies suggest that assimilationâ€”in the various forms it can takeâ€”can itself be a traumatic process rather than a simple solution to the traumas of immigration. Significantly, among Mexican-Americans, immigrants had lower rates of lifetime major depression than native-born people of Mexican descent; and among Mexican immigrants, the higher the level of acculturation, the higher was the prevalence of various types of psychiatric disorder Burnam et al. Furthermore, the native-born Mexican-Americans and non-Hispanic whites were much more likely than immigrants to be drug abusers. Other suggestions for future research emerged from the workshop discussions. Research should take the social and historical contexts of immigrants fully into account, in terms of entries, exits, and assimilation. And among nonimmigrant ethnic and racial groups, studies need to distinguish between different American-born generations how many generations have passed since the immigration? Moreover, research is needed to identify protective factors that appear to reduce mental health problems within diverse ethnic minority groups; recent findings show that certain immigrant groups exhibit lower symptom levels of psychiatric disorders than do majority group natives. Longitudinal studies are especially needed to characterize and investigate stress and its temporal patterning among immigrant groups, including patterns of immigrant adaptation to specific conditions of life change and their psychological or emotional sequence. And, given the unprecedented racial

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and ethnic diversification of the U. Educational Attainment The rapid surge of recent immigration has been accompanied by a rapid growth in the research literature on the educational attainment of immigrants; the research has concentrated predominantly on the educational levels of adult immigrants of working ages. Relatively little study has been given to the educational achievements of the U. The patterns of their educational attainment, language shift, and psychological adaptation cannot be predicted on the basis of their Page 36 Share Cite Suggested Citation: Research on the children of immigrants poses significant but so far unanswered theoretical and empirical questions. What factors account for variations in successful English-language acquisition for the children of immigrants? What is the role of family factors encouragement of regular study and the setting of education and occupation goals, for example for educational attainment? Available results from the limited studies available are suggestive. In a study of students in the San Diego high schools, lower grade point averages were noted for Hispanics, Pacific Islanders, and blacks than for all other students. With the exception of Hispanics, immigrant minority students from non-English-speaking families had higher grade averages than either majority native-born students or immigrant minority students from English-speaking families.

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## 2: National Origins Formula - Wikipedia

- *The history of U.S. ethnic policy and its impact on European ethnics (A Westview replica edition) by John Lescott-Leszczynski.*

If current demographic trends continue, by 2050, the Hispanic population will more than double, the Asian population will double, and the African-American population will grow at a faster pace than non-Hispanic whites. Many of these demographic trends are on display in the Silver State. Nevada has a higher percentage of foreign born than the United States as a whole, and its Asian and Latino populations are higher than the comparable national figures. Nevada is likely to join several other states where non-Hispanic whites are in the minority or will be soon. The present report seeks to provide an overview of immigration and ethnicity in Nevada. After a brief historical overview, the discussion follows the U. S Census data and taps other sources that shed light on situation in Nevada. A caveat is in order: Since more research has been done on immigration and ethnicity in Clark County than in the rest of the state, the main focus of the report will be on the current trends in the Las Vegas Valley. Historical Overview Immigration has been central to U. Except for the Native Americans, the entire U. Africans arrived as slaves until the trade was legally stopped in 1808. Prior to the Civil War, the great majority of immigrants hailed from western and northern Europe. Immigration increased after the war and the sources of immigrants shifted to southern and eastern Europe. Small numbers of Mexicans and Asians, primarily Chinese, complemented the Europeans. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, [http: The pace of immigration has quickened in each decade since the 1950s. In 2000, over 31 million people, or 11.7% of the U. These 31 million people were counted by the U. Several millions entered the country illegally and evaded the census takers. In contrast to the traditional immigration patterns, which involved primarily Europeans, modest numbers of Mexicans, and Asians drawn from only a few countries, recent immigrants have come from around the world. The pull factors emanating from the developed world are a demand for cheap labor, economic opportunity, consumerism, and democratic political systems that minimize repression. Today, instant mass communication brings home to even the remotest communities the yawning gap between life on the periphery and life at the center of the world economy, propelling millions of people onto the route toward a better life. Two important publications reflect the diversification of immigration currents in recent decades. Any such work published today would undoubtedly identify dozens of additional ethnic and immigrant communities. These two publications underscore the inadequacy of U. Census categories for portraying the reality of racial and ethnic groups. They tell us that we are already extremely demographically diverse and that coming changes will be profound. The Hispanic population today, for example, consists of people from every Latin American country, most of which, in turn, are ethnically diverse. The same is true of Asian immigrants and of a new but growing presence in the United States and Nevada, African immigrants. In coming decades, if not now, the number of ethnic and immigrant groups will greatly surpass the identified in American Immigrant Cultures. Immigration and Diversity in Nevada Nevada has been racially and ethnically diverse from its beginnings. The Census found that 18.7% of the population was foreign born. Of the 2 million foreign born, only 1.5 million were found in Nevada as early as 1900. Greeks made up 5.1%. Today, Nevada mirrors national trends in immigration and ethnic diversification, and in some categories, leads the country. Nevada had the fastest growing Asian population in the 1990s: Of the foreign born, 18.7% were Asian. The white populations were essentially equal to the national average. Nevada had just over half the African American population of the United States. 6. Nevada had greater than average American Indian and Alaska Native population. 1. Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders constituted 0.1%. Hispanics or Latinos made up 11.7%. The Nevada state demographer estimates that in 2000, Nevada population was 2.5 million. Not surprisingly, they are the areas that have attracted the greatest number of immigrants and are the most ethnically diverse. In the fifteen counties outside Washoe and Clark, ethnic makeup and immigration status vary as follows: Storey county seat Virginia City has the highest percentage of white population 85%. Pershing Lovelock has the highest percentage of African Americans 5. Mineral has the highest percentage of American Indian and Alaska Native population 1.5%.](http://www.ushistory.org/immigration/actof1882.htm)

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Churchill Fallon has the highest percentage of Asians 2. Elko Elko has the highest percentage of Hispanics Humboldt Winnemucca has the highest percentage of foreign born The most salient demographic feature of the fifteen counties is the Latino population. Given the large influx of undocumented Mexican and Central Americans to the United States, it is likely that the Hispanic population in these areas is considerably larger than the Census revealed. Service industries, ranching, and mining have attracted Hispanics in growing numbers. One increasingly hears Spanish spoken and sees Spanish language signs in small town and Rural Nevada. School districts in these areas are increasingly challenged by growing enrollments of non-English speaking students. Census figures for and indicate that the Reno MSA, which is defined as Washoe County, is rapidly diversifying. In both years, nearly half the foreign born had immigrated within the previous decade. Of its , residents in , Washoe County was The present diversity of the peoples residing in Las Vegas and Southern Nevada is based on internal growth, migration, and immigration. Las Vegas is a magnet for immigrants, whether the city is their original destination or they arrive via another port of entry " commonly Los Angeles. The uninterrupted boom of the past twenty years has created tens of thousands of service and construction jobs that can be filled by persons without skills or knowledge of English. While beginning salaries rarely exceed the minimum wage in most jobs open to immigrants, and sometimes fail to reach that level, persistence and the acquisition of skills can lead to substantial improvement in salary, although infrequently to benefits. The most prized jobs are in the hotel casinos, particularly those that have contracts with the Culinary Workers Union, local , http: Statistics support the impression of rapid ethnic change. The ethnic diversification that became noticeable in the s exploded in the s. Nevada experienced the greatest percentage growth among the states in its Asian population during the s, and the second highest in Hispanics, with the greatest numerical gains occurring in Clark County. Las Vegas grew by In , Las Vegas was approximately Clark County School District, http: In the school year, of the new students entering the district monthly, did not speak English. The same year, Clark County drew students from foreign countries. The following year, minorities became the majority of students enrolled, reaching Reflecting the impact of immigration, In , Las Vegas ranked twenty 26 th sixth. Naturalization, or the conferring of U. There were 3, immigrants naturalized in Nevada in the s and 24, in the s, a large majority of them in Las Vegas. While the number of naturalizations in the United States tripled during this period, Nevada experienced a sevenfold increase. Between and , persons naturalized in Las Vegas came from 79 countries; in and , from countries. This change in provenance parallels the national trend away from Western Europeans and toward Latin Americans, Asians, Africans, and Eastern Europeans. After representing a major share of naturalized citizens in the s and s, Western Europeans represented only 8. The leading Western European supplier of new citizens, the United Kingdom, ranked 14th in , and only three other European countries " Germany, Italy, and France " ranked in the top A total of court cases per month required interpreters during , and 25 languages were used. In the seven years between and , interpreters were used for 79 languages, including four spoken in Ethiopia, four from the Philippines, Hawaiian, Goshute, and Afghani. Specialized Services The rising presence of immigrants in the Las Vegas population is reflected in the growth of specialized services. Las Vegas had only 1 full-time specialist in immigration law in the early s. In , Las Vegas had 35 members of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, half of whom were dedicated primarily or exclusively to immigration law. In Las Vegas was served 1 week per month by a single immigration judge based in Phoenix. In , Las Vegas got its own immigration court with 1 full-time position, increased the following year to 3 judges. After serving since its inception as a branch of the Phoenix office, the Las Vegas office of the U. Immigration and Naturalization Service INS was upgraded in to a district office, one of 34 in the country. Las Vegas has immigrants from every Latin American country, but Mexico and Central America have contributed the greatest numbers due to proximity and to severe economic problems in Mexico and civil wars and repression in El Salvador and Guatemala in the s. Refugee Resettlement Refugee resettlement has played a major role in the diversification of Southern Nevada population since the s. Under the auspices of several local social service agencies, foremost among them Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, thousands of people

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with official refugee status have made Las Vegas their home. The flow of refugees reflects the spread of war and repression around the globe. It also reflects U.

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## 3: Ethnic groups in Europe - Wikipedia

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Chinese Exclusion and Reconstruction 2. Japanese Internment and *Brown v. Board of Education* B. Modern Racial Exclusion 1. Asylum, Haitian Interdiction, and the Politics of Race 3. Proposition and Race Racism, along with nativism, economic, and other social forces, has unquestionably influenced the evolution of immigration law and policy in the United States. It does not exist in a social and historical vacuum. Foreign and domestic racial subordination instead find themselves inextricably linked. In untangling this history, keep in mind critical differences between traditional immigration law and ordinary public law. Although the Equal Protection Clause generally requires strict scrutiny of racial classifications in the laws, the Supreme Court long ago--in a decision undisturbed to this day--upheld discrimination on the basis of race and national origin in the admission of noncitizens into the country. Similarly, even though discrimination on the basis of alienage status in modern times may mask an intent to discriminate against racial minorities, the Supreme Court ordinarily defers to alienage classifications made by Congress. Because the substantive provisions of the immigration laws historically have been immune from legal constraint, the political process allows the majority to have its way with noncitizens. From Chinese Exclusion to General Asian Subordination The horrendous treatment of Chinese immigrants in the s by federal, state, and local governments, as well as by the public at large, represents a bitter underside to U. Culminating the federalization of immigration regulation, Congress passed the infamous Chinese exclusion laws barring virtually all immigration of persons of Chinese ancestry and severely punishing Chinese immigrants who violated the harsh laws. Discrimination and violence, often rooted in class conflict as well as racist sympathies, directed at Chinese immigrants already in the United States, particularly in California, fueled passage of the laws. The efforts to exclude future Chinese immigrants from our shores can be seen as linked to the deeply negative attitude toward Chinese persons already in the country. The Supreme Court emphasized national sovereignty as the rationale for not disturbing the laws excluding the "obnoxious Chinese" from the United States. In the famous Chinese Exclusion Case, the Supreme Court stated that "[t]he power of exclusion of foreigners [is] an incident of sovereignty belonging to the government of the United States, as a part of [[its] sovereign powers delegated by the Constitution. United States, the Court reasoned that "[t]he right of a nation to expel or deport foreigners The Immigration Act of expanded Chinese exclusion to prohibit immigration from the "Asiatic barred zone. Other aspects of the immigration and nationality laws reinforced the anti-Asian sentiment reflected in the exclusion laws. For example, the Supreme Court interpreted the naturalization law, which allowed "white" immigrants as well as after the Civil War persons of African ancestry to naturalize, as barring Asians from naturalizing. In *United States v. Thind*, the Court held that an immigrant from India was not "white" and therefore was ineligible for naturalization. Similarly, in *Ozawa v. United States*, the Court held that a Japanese immigrant, as a non-white, could not naturalize. This manipulation of the citizenship rights of racial minorities harkens back to *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, in which the Supreme Court held that a freed Black man was not a citizen for the purpose of invoking the jurisdiction of the federal courts. Incorporating the racial discrimination encoded in federal naturalization law, state laws buttressed the racial hierarchy. A number of states, most notably California, passed so-called "alien land laws" early in the twentieth century that barred the ownership of certain real property by noncitizens "ineligible to citizenship. For example, anti-Japanese venom dominated the campaign culminating in the alien land law by initiative in California. Despite the obvious racial overtones, the Supreme Court rejected the contemporary challenges to the land laws. Racism unquestionably influenced the anti-Asian exclusion in the immigration laws. The national climate of opinion, pervaded by racism and a burgeoning feeling of ethnic superiority or what [has been] called the "Anglo-Saxon complex," certainly contributed not just to the violence but also to the virtual unanimity with which the white majority put its seal of approval on anti-Chinese ends if not means. Chinese Exclusion and Reconstruction Congress passed the first wave of

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discriminatory immigration laws not long after the Fourteenth Amendment, which bars states from denying any person equal protection of law, and other Reconstruction Amendments went into effect. With the harshest treatment generally reserved for African Americans formally declared unlawful, the nation transferred animosity to another discrete and insular racial minority whose immigration status, combined with race, made such treatment more socially acceptable and legally defensible. This issue arose in the congressional debates over ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment when a member of Congress declared that Chinese persons could be treated less favorably than African Americans because "[the Chinese] are foreigners and the negro is a native. Congress enacted the national exclusion laws with the support of southerners interested in rejuvenating a racial caste system as well as self-interested Anglos from California. It was no coincidence that greater legal freedoms for African Americans were tied to Chinese misfortunes. As one historian observed, "[w]ith Negro slavery a dead issue after , greater attention was focused [on immigration from China]. In California, partisan political concerns, along with labor unionism, in the post-Civil War period figured prominently in the anti-Chinese movement. In [the year after the Fourteenth Amendment went into effect] California Democrats launched their offensive against the Chinese. The party laid hands on an issue of enormous potential in its own right--a new issue, uncontaminated by the sad history of the civil war, yet evocative of that entire syndrome of hatreds and loyalties which still could not quite openly be declared. The relationship between the treatment of African Americans and other racial minorities can be seen in a constitutional landmark of the nineteenth century. In his dissent in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, often lauded for its grand pronouncement that "[o]ur Constitution is color-blind," Justice Harlan noted the irony that the "separate but equal" doctrine applied to Blacks, who unquestionably were part of the political community, but not Chinese immigrants, "a race so different from our own that we do not permit those belonging to it to become citizens of the United States" and who generally are excluded from entering the country. Seeking to protect Blacks by denigrating the Chinese, Justice Harlan left no doubt about his sympathies on the question of racial superiority: The white race deems itself to be the dominant race in this country. And so it is, in prestige, in achievements, in education, in wealth and in power. So, I doubt not, it will continue to be for all time, if it remains true to its great heritage and holds fast to the principles of constitutional liberty. Some might contend that this analysis fails to recognize that the courts at various times invoked the law to protect Chinese immigrants. A most prominent example is *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, in which the Supreme Court held that discriminatory enforcement of a local laundry ordinance against "aliens and subjects of the Emperor of China" violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Though often cited for the proposition that a facially neutral law enforced in a racially discriminatory manner violates the Constitution, the decision, rather than a commitment to racial equality, represented an early foray by the Supreme Court in invalidating economic regulation, which reached its high-water mark during the *Lochner* era. The Supreme Court ruling in *Korematsu v. United States* shows how, absent the protection of law, disfavored racial minority citizens might be treated. In that case, the Supreme Court allowed U. This decision reveals the inherent difficulties in drawing fine legal distinctions between noncitizens and citizens who share a common ancestry. In attempting to defuse the Japanese threat to national security, the U. Government refused to distinguish between noncitizens who immigrated from Japan and citizens of Japanese ancestry. Lumped together as the monolithic "Japanese" enemy, all were interned. Government classified all persons of Japanese ancestry, regardless of their immigration status, as "foreign. As in the nineteenth century, Asian American exclusion from the national community was combined with some improvements for African Americans. *Korematsu* is an infamous case, while *Brown v. Board of Education* , which vindicated the rights of African Americans, is much revered. Though close in time, these cases reveal the very best and worst of American constitutional law. While persons of Japanese ancestry were rebuilding the remnants of their lives after the turmoil of legally sanctioned internment, African Americans saw hope in being told that "separate but equal" was no longer the law of the land. Ultimately, some of the harshest aspects of the anti-Asian laws were relaxed. Pressures to end exclusion of Chinese immigrants to the United States grew during World War II as it became increasingly

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embarrassing for the nation to prohibit immigration from a valued ally, China, in the war effort. In the end, foreign policy concerns, not humanitarian ones, caused Congress in to allow China a minimum quota of immigrant visas and to allow Chinese immigrants to naturalize. In this way, the United States relaxed the Chinese exclusion laws for foreign policy reasons similar to those that helped bring about *Brown v. The Vietnam War* also reveals a relationship between Asian subordination and improvements for African Americans. While the civil rights movement of the s achieved improvements for African Americans, the escalation of the war in Vietnam during this time was accompanied by the growth of racism directed at the Vietnamese people, which lingers to this day. Seeing the racial roots of the war, as well as the impact on domestic people of color, two of the most prominent African American leaders of their generation, Martin Luther King, Jr. As this sad history demonstrates, Asian Americans--whatever their immigration status and however long they or their ancestors have lived in the United States--historically have been treated as foreigners in this land. Some claim that the immigration laws discriminate against Asians to this day. Besides suffering from efforts to exclude persons who shared their ancestry from the national community, Asian Americans stood accused of the high crime against the American "melting pot" mythology of refusing to assimilate. Ironically, the law prevented full assimilation and equal citizenship. For example, due to the bar to naturalization, immigrants from Asia as non-whites were disenfranchised and prohibited from exercising political power as citizens, which in the long run detrimentally affected Asian American political involvement. Barred from the political community, Asian Americans were denied the possibility of more fully assimilating into the mainstream and then suffered criticism for failing to assimilate. The National Origins Quota System In , Congress established the much-reviled national origins quota system, a formulaic device designed to ensure stability in the ethnic composition of the United States. Specifically, the system served to prefer white immigrants. It initially permitted annual immigration of up to two percent of the number of foreign-born persons of a particular nationality in the United States as set forth in the census. In operation, the quota system "materially favored immigrants from Northern and Western Europe because the great waves from Southern and Eastern Europe did not arrive until after A House report offers a clear articulation of the purposes of the national origins quota system: If immigration from southern and eastern Europe may enter the United States on a basis of substantial equality with that admitted from the older sources of supply, it is clear that if any appreciable number of immigrants are to be allowed to land upon our shores the balance of racial preponderance must in time pass to those elements of the population who reproduce more rapidly on a lower standard of living than those possessing other ideals. It is hoped to guarantee, as best we can at this late date, racial homogeneity In effect, southern and eastern European immigrants, commonly thought of today as white ethnics, were "racialized" as non-white, and therefore unworthy of joining the national community. A heavy dose of anti-Semitism fueled the demand for the national origins quota system. Proponents hoped to limit the immigration of Jewish persons to the United States. This anti-Semitism mirrored the discrimination suffered by Jewish Americans in this country. Other "races" also were affected by the quota system. Although Asian Americans were excluded from immigrating to the United States well before , an oft-overlooked impact of the quota system was that it discouraged immigration from Africa, historically the source of precious little immigration to the United States. Despite persistent criticisms, including claims that it adversely affected U. President Truman vetoed the INA a veto that Congress overrode because it carried forward the discriminatory quota system. A Senate report concluded that the national origins quota system "preserve[d] the sociological and cultural balance in the United States," which was justifiable because northern and western Europeans "had made the greatest contribution to the development of [the] country" and the nation should "admit immigrants considered to be more readily assimilable because of the similarity of their cultural background to those of the principal components of our population. The system was based on the desire to limit the immigration of inferior "races" from southern and eastern Europe. Domestic discrimination accompanied the exclusion in the laws. Long-standing anti-Semitism, as well as prejudice against other immigrant groups, existed in the United States.

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## 4: The White Ethnic Revival | History News Network

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*Further reading. Michael Lemay and Elliott Robert Barkan, eds., U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Laws and Issues: A Documentary History Greenwood Press, John Lescott-Leszczynski, The History of U.S. Ethnic Policy and Its Impact on European Ethnics Westview Press,*

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