

Time	Source	People	Push Factors	Pull Factors	Destination in US	Notes		
Colonial/Early America 1607 – 1808	Northern and Western Europe	British	Religious persecution (Pilgrims, Puritans, Quakers, Catholics) Overpopulation	Land Religious freedom	Eastern seaboard; migrating westward as frontier opens	Includes colonists, religious minorities (Puritans, Quakers, etc.), many indentured servants who pledge labor for a set term in exchange for passage and food and shelter in America		
		Scots-Irish	Religious persecution vs. Calvinists by Anglican Church, The Great Frost (38% Irish die)	Land, new textile trade out of Philadelphia	Mountainous interior = Appalachia, piedmont	Presbyterian Irish whose ancestors originated in Scotland, Today most likely to identify as “American” as ethnicity Frontiersmen = Davy Crockett, Andrew Jackson		
		Other	Various	Various	Various	(Germans, Dutch, Swedes, French, etc.) including indentured servants		
	Africa	Africans	Atlantic Slave Trade brings 12 – 15 million (not all to US) people to New World as plantation laborers	FORCED MIGRATION	SE United States	Slave trade banned by U.S. Constitution in 1808. Very high natural increase rate and low death rate relative to other slave-owning societies allowed African pop. to grow 4X from 1810 to 1860. Cotton is king!		
Era of European Immigration 1820 – 1920	Mid-century (1840 – 50s)	Northern and Western Europe	Germans	Failed 1848 rev. for democratic/socialist reforms, anti-aristocracy and feudalism (mostly in south Germany). Overpopulation due to industrialization, stage 2.	Available land (Homestead Act, Railroad companies advertise and sell land). Skilled craftsmen jobs	Midwestern cities Farms from Pennsylvania west across Midwest	Craftsmen, brewers, skilled industrial workers, Germans take leading role in union, socialist and anarchist movements during the late 1800s. S. Germans = Catholics, urban, Democratic; N. Germans = Protestants, rural, Republican. Also includes more affluent, educated Jews.	
			Irish	Irish Potato Famine (1849 – 52) British landowners overtax and evict Irish tenant farmers	Jobs in early American mills, domestic servants, infrastructure jobs in NE cities	NE cities, too poor to move inland and buy land	Irish often compete with newly freed African-Americans for lowest paying entry level, dangerous jobs. Gravitate to Democratic party. Move up through urban politics and patronage. Catholicism sets them apart.	
			1870s – 90	Scandinavians	Population 2X (1750 to 1850), stage 2, arable land scarce, famine, emigration laws eased	Available land (Homestead Act) RR company ads for land sales	Upper Midwest, climate & farming similar to homeland.	Swedes, Norwegians join Germans. Chicago is “the city that the Swedes built” because of the # of Swedish carpenters in post-Chicago Fire 1870s
				Asia	Chinese	High poverty, Taiping Rebellion 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act bans Chinese from immigrating to the U.S. for 10 years (renewed 1892 & permanent in 1902) “unable to assimilate into American culture”	Gold Rush, Railroad work	West Coast
	Turn of century	Southern and Eastern Europe	Italians	Poverty. Heavy taxes after Italy unified. Political unrest and policies imposed on Southern Italy in favor of industrial North. Overpopulation, stage 2 factors.	Factory jobs due to rapid industrialization after the Civil War (recruit cheap labor). Civic projects in NE cities.	NE cities, especially New York (incl. Brooklyn) Area, Long Island, New Jersey	Many Italians (30 – 50%) return home “birds of passage”, “ritornati” and others send heavy remittances. Occupy city neighborhoods usually subdivided by Italian region or village of origin.	
			Russian Jews	Overpopulation, stage 2. Lack of land. Pogroms = “organized repressions often deadly which targeted Jews in Czarist Russian Empire”	Freedom from persecution (religious freedom). Factory jobs	NE cities, especially New York. Later shifts to Florida and California.	Professional trades. US is the other major concentration of Jewish people outside of Israel. Later surge of Jewish refugees after WWII/Arab expulsion	
			Poles	Poland partitioned between neighbors, no country, no political freedom, language /culture repressed, stage 2 overpopulation factors	Factory jobs (meatpacking, steel, etc.)	Industrial cities with a special focus on Chicago.	Za chlebem (“For Bread”) immigrants. Why Chicago? Excellent example of chain migration, immigration waves (incl. 1990s post-communism migration, ethnic Polish community still vibrant and pulling newcomers)	
	1921 Quota Act and 1924 National Origins Act. Goal is to restrict immigration of non-Northern/Western Europeans by setting immigration limit tied to % of pop. in 1890 (which at time was predominantly from Northern and Western Europe). ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 lifted national origin quotas during the Civil Rights movement and allows the entry of large non-European immigration flows from the mid-1960s through today. ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓							
	Post-WWII 1960s – Current	Latin America	Mexicans	Overpopulation, stage 2 until 2000s (not growing as fast now). Displaced farmers due to NAFTA. Political secularism rejected by some Catholics earlier in 20 th century. Current drug cartel violence.	Farm laborer jobs (Bracero program), economic opportunity, chain migration	SW, large cities usually in the Midwest/West	“We didn’t cross the border the border crossed us” = consistent Mexican presence, influence and interaction in the Southwest. Bracero program = Mexican agricultural guest worker program. Slowing population growth, improving economic prospects and stricter border control have slowed Mexican immigration in recent years. Undocumented immigrants = 12 million.	
			Cubans	Political oppression under communist Castro Refugee status	Family reunification, “wet foot/dry foot policy”	South Florida	1980 Mariel boatlift (Castro imbeds criminals/mentally ill with others). Most conservative of Hispanic groups = Republicans. Very well assimilated	
Puerto Ricans			Poverty.	recruited as low wage labor	NYC (Spanish Harlem)	U.S. citizenship allows unrestricted immigration. Dominican Republic and Haiti now larger source countries.		
Central Americans			Current stage 2 overpopulation, drug trade fueled violence, corrupt repressive governments	economic opportunity,	California (L.A.), Texas, Florida	El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Child refugees. Mexico tries to stem flow on its southern border (step migration). Huge remittances > 10% of home country’s economies.		
Asia		Chinese	Political instability, repression, brain drain	Educational visas (skilled worker), political freedom, family reunification	Fairly dispersed, major cities, California	Separate quotas for Taiwan, Hong Kong and mainland. Use educational visas to gain entry.		
		Indians	Overpopulation, until recently stage 2, poverty, lack of economic opportunity. Brain drain	Educational visas (skilled worker), economic opportunity, family reunification	Think gravity model, California, NY, Texas, IL	Top recipients of high-skilled worker visas, use English language skills; better educated, employed and with higher household income than other immigrants.		
		Filipinos	Currently stage 2, overpopulation. Government encourages emigration for remittances	economic opportunity, family reunification	L.A., San Francisco, NY	60% women = 1 out of 4 are nurses. Overall largely service sector jobs. ½ the poverty rate of other immigrant groups with high rates of home ownership		
		Vietnam	Repression under communists after victory in 1975. Until recently stage 2 overpopulation. After years of isolation has become more integrated into world economy	refugee status, economic opportunity, family reunification	California, Texas	Pro-American Vietnamese escape at end of war. Others sent to re-education camps after communist victory. “Boat people” escape in the late 1970s largely Chinese Vietnamese; later Vietnamese Amerasians (children of US servicemen) allowed in as political humanitarian refugees		

