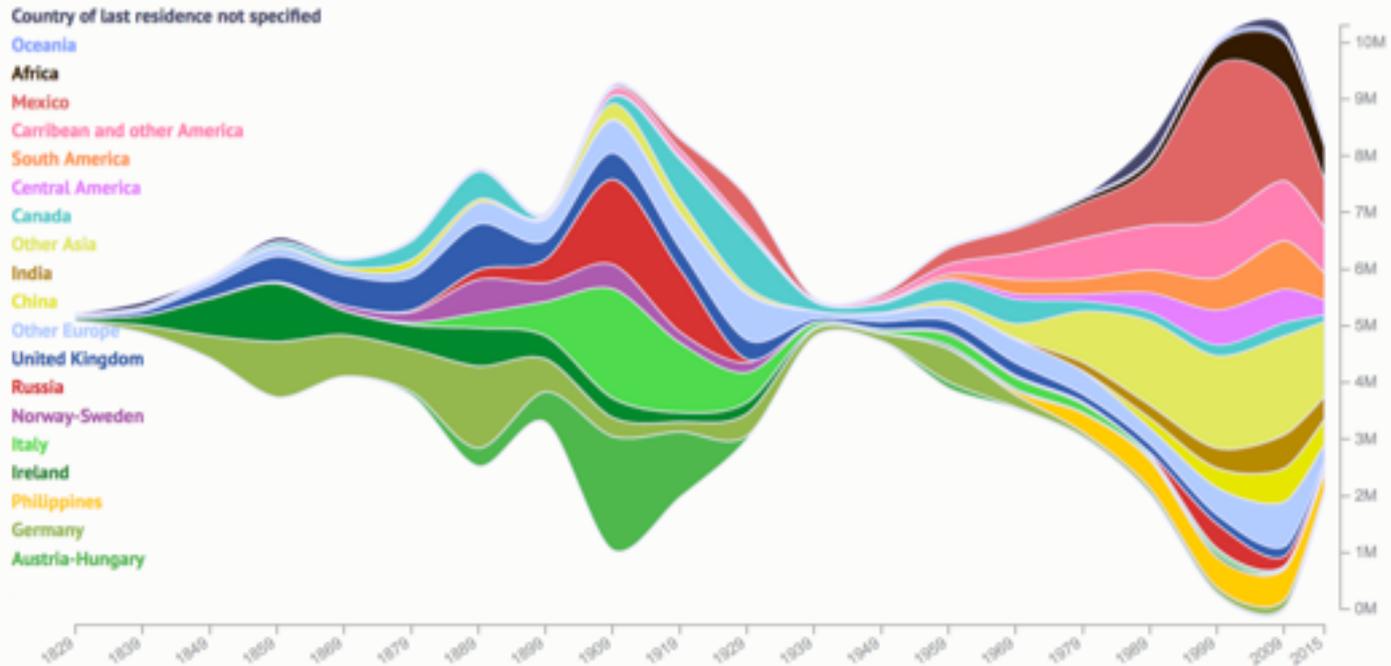


Session 6:
1965 Immigration Act:
Cold War Civil Rights

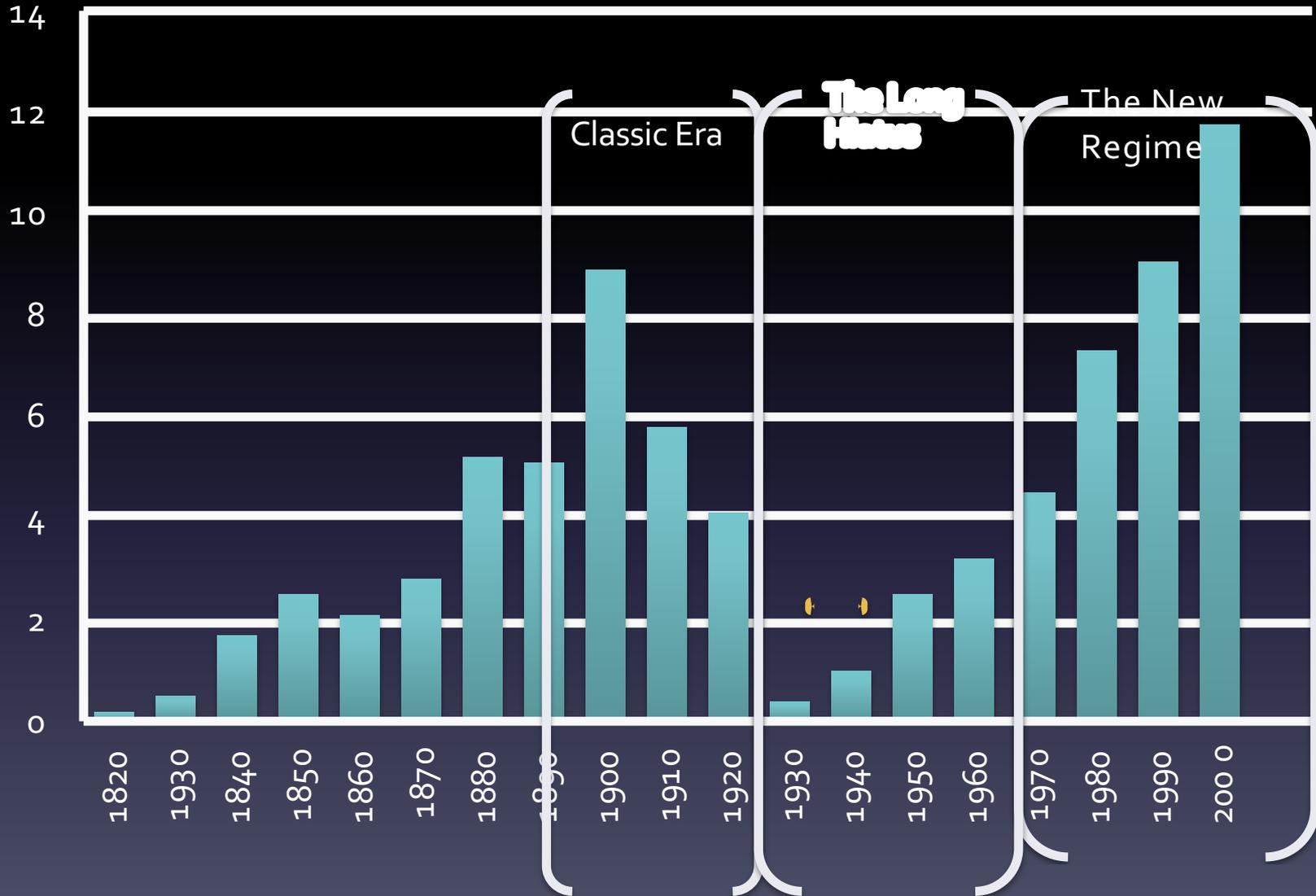
Sept. 1, 2018

completely excluded immigrants from Asia and severely limited the number of immigrants of other nationalities.

People obtaining lawful permanent resident status by region or selected country of last residence: 1820 - 2015. Hover to see details.



Immigration to U.S. (millions)



Truman Doctrine

- Containment: U.S. obliged to contain the spread of communism throughout the world
- Integration: To create a “free world” of capitalist allies

Magnuson Act 1943

- Repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act and allowed Chinese immigration under the quota system established in the 1924 Immigration Act
- Quota excepted Chinese alien wives of American citizens

Walter-McCarran Act

- Average immigrants not to exceed 270,000
- Abolished racial restrictions while retaining quota system
- Preference system based on which ethnic groups were desirable based on labor qualifications
 - Immigrants with special skills or relatives
 - Refugees
- Political assessment to bar subversives, especially communists
- Accept those who were willing to assimilate into US economic, social, and political structures

He must be of good moral character and "attached to the principles of the Constitution". The law states that an alien is not of good moral character if he is a drunkard, has committed adultery, has more than one wife, makes his living by gambling, has lied to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, has been in jail more than 180 days for any reason during his five years in the United States, or is a convicted murderer.

Truman vetoed

Today, we are "protecting" ourselves as we were in 1924, against being flooded by immigrants from Eastern Europe. This is fantastic. ... We do not need to be protected against immigrants from these countries—on the contrary we want to stretch out a helping hand, to save those who have managed to flee into Western Europe, to succor those who are brave enough to escape from barbarism, to welcome and restore them against the day when their countries will, as we hope, be free again....These are only a few examples of the absurdity, the cruelty of carrying over into this year of 1952 the isolationist limitations of our 1924 law.

In no other realm of our national life are we so hampered and stultified by the dead hand of the past, as we are in this field of immigration.

Veto overridden by Congress

Speaking in the Senate on March 2, 1953, Pat McCarran said:
I believe that this nation is the last hope of Western civilization and if this oasis of the world shall be overrun, perverted, contaminated or destroyed, then the last flickering light of humanity will be extinguished. I take no issue with those who would praise the contributions which have been made to our society by people of many races, of varied creeds and colors....

However, we have in the United States today hard-core, indigestible blocs which have not become integrated into the American way of life, but which, on the contrary are its deadly enemies. Today, as never before, untold millions are storming our gates for admission and those gates are cracking under the strain. The solution of the problems of Europe and Asia will not come through a transplanting of those problems en masse to the United States. ... I do not intend to become prophetic, but if the enemies of this legislation succeed in riddling it to pieces, or in amending it beyond recognition, they will have contributed more to promote this nation's downfall than any other group since we achieved our independence as a nation."

Hart-Celler Act of 1965



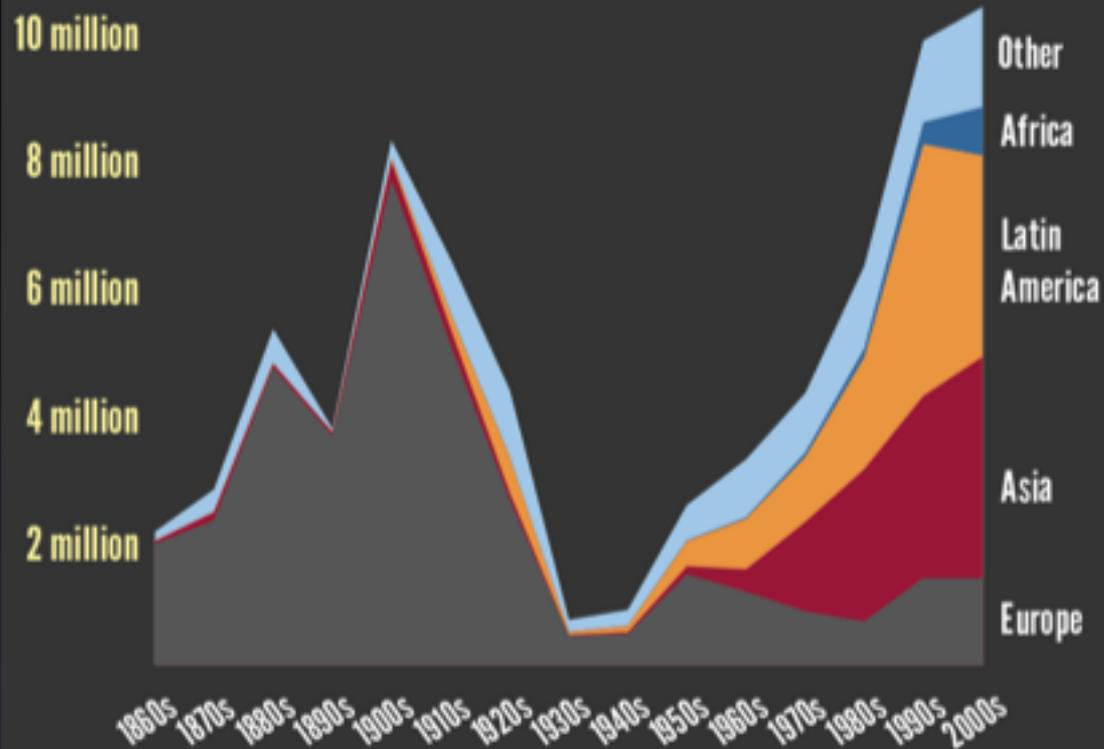
1965 Immigration and Nationality Act

- Overhauled previous legislation by removing national-origins quotas and the Asia-Pacific triangle concept.
- Reorganized immigration system to favor family reunification
 - New preference system which allocated 80 percent of available visas to extended family relatives of U.S. citizens and to immediate family members of permanent residents
 - Extended non-quota status to the parents of U.S. citizens

- A seven-category preference system with priority to relatives of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents
- Priority to professionals and other individuals with specialized skills.
- For the first time, immigration from the Western Hemisphere was limited.
- It added a labor certification requirement, which dictated that the Secretary of Labor needed to certify labor shortages.

Refugees were given the seventh and last category preference with the possibility of adjusting their status. However, refugees could enter the United States through other means as well like those seeking temporary asylum.

The 1965 Immigration Law Dramatically Changed The National Origin Mix of Immigrants



A A P I
D A T A

Source: USCIS Statistical Yearbook 2013

Refugee Act of 1980

Any person who is outside his or her country of residence or nationality, or without nationality, who is unable to return to or unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on the basis of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Capped at 50,000