A Brief History of Immigration in the United States

1864—Congress

centralized control

over immigration.

contract laborers

Importation of

was legalized.

~2.6 Million

1860

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

1840

1850

1790—Uniform rule for naturalization sets residence requirement at two years. Please note:

1819—Congress enacted frst significant federal legislation relating specifically to immigration.

U.S. Immigration policies are drawn in three colors: Red suggests the main intent of the policies in this year was to restrict immigration. Green suggests the intent may have been to increase immigration. Yellow denotes neither or both. Feel free to disagree.

Numbers have been rounded for ease of comprehension. ~72 Million is easier to make sense of than 72,066,614. If you prefer more specific numbers, please treat yourself to the original source: http://www.fairus.org/site/PageServer? pagename=research research9c29

Finally, immigration laws do not tell the whole story about immigration. Consider what effect on immigration World War I, World War II, the Great Depression, hyperinflation in foreign countries, or relative differences in per capita income may have.

immigrants increased. People with physical defects, mental defects, tuberculosis, and children unaccompanied by parents added to the exclusion list. Japanese immigration restricted.

1907—Head tax on 1917—Illiterates, persons of psychopathic inferiority, men and women entering for immoral purposes, alcoholics, stowaways, and vagrants added to the exclusion list.

1953—Law passed in 1948 increased to admit more refugees.

1952—National origins quota while Western Hemisphere unrestricted. Preferential

1989—Granted permanent status to certain non-immigrants nurses.

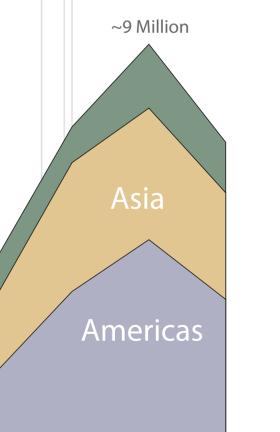
1986—Legalized previously illegal aliens residing in the United States. Prohibited employers from hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee, unauthorized aliens. Provided for the legalization of certain workers as temporary agricultural workers. Established a Visa Waiver pilot program allowing the admission of certain

non-immigrants without visas. Immigrants whose status was

based on a marriage required to apply for permanent status

within 90 days after their two-year anniversary.

1990—Increased total immigration under an overall flexible cap over several years. Created separate admission categories for family-sponsored, employment-based, and diversity immigrants. Revised and established new nonimmigrant admission catego-ries. Revised all grounds for exclusion and deportation, significantly rewriting the political and ideological grounds and repealing some grounds for exclusion. Authorized the Attorney General to grant temporary protected status to undocumented alien nationals of designated countries subject to armed conflict or natural disasters. Revised and extended Visa Waiver Program. Revised



2000

2006

1990

