EVENTS THAT SHAPED THE HISTORY OF IMMIGRATION IN AMERICA

1607   The first English settlers arrive at Jamestown, Virginia. This is the beginning of immigration to America. According to Roy Garis, author of *Immigration Restriction: A Study of the Opposition to and Regulation of Immigration into the United States* - "The settlement on the James River in 1607 marked the beginning of a nation--a nation that was certainly English in its foundation. . . . . . 'Foreigners' began early to straggle into the colonies. But not until the eighteenth century was well under way did they come in appreciable numbers, and even then the great bulk of these non-English newcomers were from the British Isles, of Welsh, Scotch, Irish, and Scotch-Irish extraction."

1619   The first shipload of African captives to North America arrive at Jamestown, Virginia aboard a Dutch warship from the West Indies as part of the trans-Atlantic slave trade that lasts until the 1800s. The twenty captives are indentured servants and eventually gain their freedom.

1637   The General Court of Massachusetts orders that no town or person in the colony should receive or host any alien without permission from the authorities.

1700   "In 1700, nearly a century after Jamestown, only about 250,000 white and black inhabitants populated the colonies... The vast majority of the white inhabitants were either born in England or descended from English immigrants. Only about 11 percent [27,500] of the non-Native American population were black." Source: *Hopeful Journeys: German Immigration, Settlement, and Political Culture in Colonial America, 1717-1775*, Aaron Fogleman, PhD.

Massachusetts prohibits lame, impotent, or infirm persons from entering without providing security that the town into which they settled would not be charged with their support.

1717   The Transportation Act 1717 is an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain that establishes a regulated, bonded system to transport criminals to the colonies in North America for indentured service.

1773   England stops emigration to the colonies.

1781   The Articles of Confederation an agreement among the 13 original states of the United States of America is signed. A guiding principle of the Articles is to preserve the independence and sovereignty of the

states including keeping citizenship and naturalization of immigrants under state control.

1790   The first United States Census records the population as of Census Day, August 2, 1790 to be 3.9 million people. The English are the largest ethnic group. Nearly 20% were of African heritage. German, Scottish and Irish residents were also well represented. Census takers didn't count Native Americans.

James Madison argues on the floor of the House of Representatives during debates about the very first naturalization law including prerequisites that America should welcome the immigrant who could assimilate and contribute to society - "It is no doubt very desirable that we should hold out as many inducements as possible for the worthy part of mankind to come and settle amongst us, and throw their fortunes into a common lot with ours." Madison continues, "But why is this desirable? Not merely to swell the catalogue of people. No, sir, it is to increase the wealth and strength of the community."

Congress passes the United States Naturalization Act of 1790, the first federal code for naturalization. by setting the residence requirement at two years. This law sets the residence requirement at 2 years and limits naturalization to immigrants who were "free white person[s] ... of good character." It therefore excludes Native Americans, indentured servants, slaves, free blacks and later Asians. It also provided for citizenship for the children of U.S. citizens born abroad, stating that such children "shall be considered as natural born citizens," the only U.S. statute ever to use the term. It specifies that the right of citizenship does "not descend to persons whose fathers have never been resident in the United States." The Oath of Allegiance requiring applicants to take an oath "to support the constitution of the United States" for prospective citizens originates with this law.

Immigration is relatively low during the 1790s with about 6000 people a year on average, including French refugees from the revolt in Haiti. By 1806, the flow of immigration was reduced to a trickle as hostilities between England and Napoleon's France disrupted Atlantic shipping lanes.

1793   The cotton gin is invented making cotton a major industry and dramatically increases the need for slave labor.

1794   George Washington in a letter to John Adams stresses his opinion that immigrants should be absorbed into American life so that, "by an intermixture with our people, they, or their descendants, get

assimilated to our customs, measures, manners and laws: in a word soon become one people."

1795   The United States Naturalization Act of 1795 repeals and replaces the Naturalization Act of 1790. The 1795 Act differs from the 1790 Act by increasing the period of required residence from two to five years and leaves out the term "natural born." The Act specifies that naturalized citizenship is reserved only for "free white person[s]." It also changes the requirement in the 1790 Act of "good character" to read "good moral character." The Naturalization Act of 1795 adds renunciation of the new citizen's former sovereign to the Oath of Allegiance that must be taken by every lawful permanent resident who wishes to become a citizen of the United States.

1798   The Alien and Sedition Acts give the president power to punish and deport immigrants; increases residency requirement for naturalization from five to 14 years.

1800   Congress reduces naturalization residency requirements to five years.

1808   Foreign slave trade becomes illegal. The Constitution (Article 1, Section 9) protected the foreign slave trade, a major source of immigration, for twenty years. Slave trade continues without interference after 1808 mostly through Florida and Texas, before they were admitted to the Union. The approximately 50,000 slaves smuggled became the first illegal immigrants.

1814   Starting in 1814, Indian tribe after tribe in the south is forced to cede their lands to the federal government and move west of the Mississippi River. Eleven treaties of cession are negotiated with these tribes between 1814 and 1824; from these agreements the United States acquires millions of acres of land.

1820   Slave-trading becomes a capital offense.

1830   The Indian Removal Act is signed into law by President Andrew Jackson. The law authorizes the president to negotiate with southern Native American tribes for their removal to federal territory west of the Mississippi River in exchange for white settlement of their ancestral lands.

1837   A New York state law requiring all vessels docking in New York City to provide a list of passengers and to post security against the passengers from becoming public charges is challenged when the master of the ship "Emily," refuses to comply with the law. The city officials seek to collect a penalty for Captain Miln's failure to file the report. The

defendant argues that the New York law obstructed interstate and foreign commerce. The Supreme Court sustains the law as a legitimate exercise of the state's responsibility to take precautionary measures against the moral pestilence of paupers, vagabonds, and possibly convicts, as it is to guard against the physical pestilence which may arise from unsound or infectious articles imported, or from a ship, the crew of which may be laboring under an infectious disease.

1845   Irish immigration rises steeply as millions flee the Irish potato famine (1845-1849). This wave of immigration triggers a strong reaction by citizens who were born in the United States began to feel resentment at the new arrivals. Those opposed to immigrants became known as "nativists." They fear that the Irish immigrants hungry for work and food would make it harder for native-born American citizens to find jobs. The nativists also criticize the Irish for their social behavior and Catholic religion. Nativism gains popularity as immigration from Europe increases during the 1800s coupled with an increase in the feeling of resentment towards the new arrivals.

1848   Chinese immigrants begin to arrive, entering through San Francisco during the California Gold Rush of 1848-1855.

1849   Massachusetts and New York pass laws taxing and otherwise blocking immigrants. These are appealed to the Supreme Court which strikes them down ruling that Congress alone can regulate immigration.

As Nativists gain popularity, some organize into an anti-Catholic, anti-immigrant political group called the "Know-Nothings," which derived its name from the secrecy of its members. Officially known as the American Party, they believe that native-born Americans are superior to the newly arrived immigrant groups. They advocate against further immigration, favor a 21-year residency requirement to be eligible for citizenships, and do not want foreign born citizens to have the right to vote.

1862   President Lincoln signs the Homestead Act of 1862 intended to encourage westward migration. The opportunity to own 160 acres attracts hundreds of thousands of homesteaders who qualify.

The Chinese Exclusion Act passes prohibiting all immigration of Chinese laborers. This is the first law to prevent all members of a specific ethnic or national group from immigrating.

1863   The Central Pacific railroad hires Chinese laborers and the Union Pacific railroad hires Irish laborers to construct the first

transcontinental railroad from San Francisco to Omaha. The First Transcontinental Railroad is completed when the Central Pacific and Union Pacific lines meet at Promontory Summit, Utah in 1869."

1864	The Republican platform of 1864 states, "Foreign immigration which in the past has added so much to the wealth, resources, and increase of power to the nation...should be fostered and encouraged."
	An Act to Encourage Immigration (Immigration Act of 1864) is signed by President Abraham Lincoln to encourage immigration and centralize control including the appointment of a Commissioner of Immigration under the authority of the Secretary of State. Under the law, immigrant workers would pay for their passage with up to a year's wages. Congress repeals this law in 1868 in reaction to protests by labor organizations.
1868	Between 20,000 and 30,000 Irish immigrants are naturalized in New York City courts in the six weeks before election predominantly by Tammany Hall, also known as the Columbian Order, a New York City Democratic Party-political organization. The strategy is to mobilize and motivate large groups of newly naturalized citizens to vote in their favor.
	The Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution is adopted. The amendment considers citizenship rights and equal protection of the laws including granting citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, including former slaves and granting them access to the courts and Constitutional protections as well as the right to own land.
1870	The Naturalization Act of 1870 expands the list of those eligible for naturalization to include all white persons and persons of African descent. Congress rejects a proposal by Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts to open naturalization to all and Asians remain ineligible for naturalization.
1875	State immigration laws become unconstitutional and Congress begins to bring immigration under direct federal control for the first time. States eliminate their immigration commissions and port authorities and the burden of assimilating immigrants and turning away the incapacitated shifts to private and charitable organizations. They quickly become overburdened and petition Congress to do more to manage immigration.

The Page Act bans Chinese women from immigrating to the United States to end the danger of importing Chinese women who would engage in prostitution.

1882   The Chinese Exclusion Act is enacted into law and prevents all Chinese from entering the United States.

1886   The Statue of Liberty, a massive neoclassical sculpture and gift from the people of France to the people of the United States is dedicated on October 28th. The statue is created by French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi as a symbol of freedom. The statue becomes an icon of freedom and of the United States, and a national park tourism destination. It is a welcoming sight to immigrants arriving via shif on the east coast from abroad although it has nothing to do with immigration.

1903   The Immigration Act of 1903 is enacted. It adds four inadmissible classes: anarchists, people with epilepsy, beggars, and importers of prostitutes.

A bronze plaque bearing the text of the poem *The New Colossus*, written by socialist Emma Lazarus in 1883 to raise money for the construction of a pedestal for the Statue of Liberty is mounted inside the pedestal's lower level. The poem is obscure for decades and emerges during the Trump administration deliberations on immigration reform and the invasion at the southern border of the U.S. The poem's most famous line, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore," are often misrepresented and mistaken as immigration policy. This confusion leads many to believe that these words are law and they mean the United States should have open borders and let everyone into the country.

1906   The Naturalization Act of 1906 adds the section of the Oath of Allegiance requiring new citizens to defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; and bear true faith and allegiance to the same.

1907   The Gentlemen's Agreement of 1907, an informal agreement between the United States and Japan is enacted. In this agreement, Japan will no longer issue passports to Japanese emigrants and the United States will allow immigration for only the wives, children and parents of current Japanese already living in the United States. The agreement is

never ratified by Congress and was ended by the Immigration Act of 1924.

1910   Mexican Revolution combined with the building of north-south railroad lines, drives thousands of Mexicans across the U.S. -Mexican border.

1913   The Bureaus of Immigration and Naturalization is created and moved to the Department of Labor.

1914   World War I begins - the Central Powers—Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey—against the Allies—France, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, Japan, and, from 1917, the United States. During the decades leading up to World War I, millions of immigrants arrived in the United States from Italy, Poland, Bulgaria, Greece, Russia, Romania, Serbia, and Turkey. The United States had an "open door" immigration policy up to this point, with no limit on the number of people who could enter the United States. Immigration to the United States slows to a trickle after war breaks out and American opinions about immigration begin to shift. Nationalism and xenophobia escalate along with growing isolationist and nativist sentiments that eventually lead to the closing of America's open-door following the end of the First World War.

1917   The Immigration Act of 1917, also known as the Literacy Act is passes with the purpose to restrict immigration by imposing literacy tests (read at least 40 words in their native language for anyone over age 16), creating new categories of "undesirables," and barring immigration from the Asia-Pacific zone which includes India, Afghanistan, Persia (now Iran), Arabia, parts of the Ottoman Empire and Russia, Southeast Asia, and the Asian-Pacific islands.

The act required all ships carrying immigrants to provide detailed information about each passenger's name, age, sex, physical description, literacy, nationality, destination, occupation, mental and physical health, and criminal record. Immigration inspectors, medical examiners, and Boards of Special Inquiry were authorized to carry out these regulations and decide on the admissibility of immigrants.

1920   U. S. census indicates population of 106,021,537. A growth of 15% since last census.

1921   The Immigration Act of 1921, also known as The Emergency Quota Act is enacted to handle the widespread concern about the influx of communist and other radical political ideas. It adds two new features

to immigration law - numerical limits on immigration (357,000 per year) and the use of a quota system (3 percent of the total population already in the U.S. in 1910) for establishing those limits. This suggests that people from northern European countries have a higher quota and are more likely to be admitted to the U.S. than people from eastern Europe, southern Europe, or other, non-European countries.

1924   The Immigration Act of 1924, or National Origins Act makes immigration quotas stricter and permanent with country-by-country limits to maintain America's character. The act sets a total immigration quota of 165,000 for countries outside the Western Hemisphere, an 80% reduction from the pre-World War I average. Quotas for specific countries are based on 2% of the U.S. population from that country as recorded in 1890. Consequently, populations poorly represented in 1890 were prevented from immigrating in proportionate numbers—especially affecting Italians, Jews, Greeks, Poles and other Slavs. According to the U.S. Department of State Office of the Historian, the purpose of the act was "to preserve the ideal of U.S. homogeneity." After decades of unskilled mass immigration, the lower levels of immigration in this Act will allow those earlier immigrants to assimilate, learn new skills, and move up the economic ladder, creating the conditions for mass affluence in the post-war era.

Indian Citizenship Act designates all Native Americans born in U.S. territory as citizens.

The Labor Appropriation Act of 1924 establishes the U.S. Border Patrol for the purpose of securing the borders between inspection stations on both the northern and southern borders and later in 1925 its duties are expanded to patrol the seacoast along the Gulf of Mexico and Florida.

1927   The U.S. Labor Secretary estimates that over 1,000,000 Mexicans are in the United States illegally.

1929   The Registry Act is passed requiring non-naturalized citizens or "enemy aliens" to register with U.S. authorities in the interest of national security.

1930   U. S. census indicates population of 123,202,624. A growth of 16.2% since last census.

1932   The U.S. Border Patrol is divided under two directors - one in charge of the Mexican border, the other in charge of the Canadian border.

1940   U. S. census indicates population of 132,164,569. A growth of 7.3% since last census.

1941   December 7, 1941, surprise aerial attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor on Oahu Island, Hawaii, by the Japanese that leads to the entry of the United States into World War II. America officially enters World War one day after the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

1942   World War II creates a labor shortage in the U.S. and influences Washington to look abroad for recruits to support a wartime economy. Bilateral talks with Mexico result in the Bracero Program (from the Spanish term bracero, meaning "manual laborer"), a series of laws and diplomatic agreements permitting migrant laborers to work on U.S. farms and railroads. After trying unsuccessfully to discourage Mexicans from migrating for half a century, the U.S. government now begins to organize and channel the importation of 5,000,000 Mexican temporary laborers to work in U.S. farms and railroads during a 22-year period that is terminated in 1962.

Japanese internment camps are established by President Franklin Roosevelt through Executive Order 9066 shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japanese forces with the intention of preventing espionage. From 1942 to 1945, it was the policy of the U.S. government that people of Japanese descent would be interred in isolated camps. The Japanese internment camps are considered one of the most atrocious violations of American civil rights in the 20th century. Executive Order 9066 affected the lives about 117,000 people—the majority of whom were American citizens.

1943   The Magnuson Act, also known as the Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act of 1943 is enacted. This bill makes it possible for Chinese to become naturalized citizens and gives them a token annual quota of 105 immigrants.

1950   U. S. census indicates population of 150,697,361. A growth of 14% since last census.

The Internal Security Act of 1950, also known as the Subversive Activities Control Act of 1950 is enacted over President Harry Truman's veto requires Communist organizations to register with the United States Attorney General and establishes the Subversive Activities Control Board to investigate persons suspected of engaging in subversive activities or otherwise promoting the establishment of a "totalitarian dictatorship," either fascist or communist. The Internal Security Act adds the text about bearing arms and performing

noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States to the Oath of Allegiance that must be taken by every lawful permanent resident who wishes to become a citizen of the United States.

1952   Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) reorganizes the structure of immigration law and upholds the national origins quota.

1960   U. S. census indicates population of 179,323,175. A growth of 18.5% since last census.

1965   The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 abolishes the National Origins Formula (originally established in 1921 and modified in 1952). The act removes de facto discrimination against Southern and Eastern Europeans, Asians, and other non-Northwestern European ethnic groups from American immigration policy. Immediate relatives are not subject to numerical restrictions making family reunification a foundation of U.S. immigration policy. Also, "special immigrants" including ministers, former employees of the U.S. government, foreign medical graduates are not subject to numerical restrictions. After a slow start, the law's preference for relatives including married brothers and sisters created a chain effect called "chain migration" because the first immigrant acts as a link to many others to follow legally resulting in elevating the number of annual legal newcomers back to levels not seen since before World War I. Babies born to illegal alien mothers within U.S. borders are called "anchor babies" because under the 1965 immigration Act, they act as an anchor that pulls the illegal alien mother and eventually a host of other relatives into permanent U.S. residency.

The Armed Forces Naturalization Act allows aliens who have served in the United States Armed Forces for at least of 12 years to be granted special immigrant status. Immigrants who have served for 6 years may also obtain special immigrant status if they re-enlist so their total service commitment is 12 years.

1968   The Armed Forces Naturalization Act gives U.S. military veterans who served in active-duty capacity in Vietnam or other "military hostilities" the ability to become naturalized citizens.

1970   U. S. census indicates population of 203,302,031. A growth of 13.4% since last census.

1979   The Los Angeles Police Department issues Special Order 40 authorizing that, "officers not initiate contact solely for the purpose of establishing a person's immigration status." This administrative

action results in a dramatic increase of illegal immigrant population and is one of the first examples of how a city government is directly involved in the enablement and promotion of illegal immigration with impunity.

1980   U. S. census indicates population of 226,545,805. A growth of 11.4% since last census. It is the first census in which a state – California – recorded a population of 20 million people, as well as the first in which all states recorded populations of over 400,000. The 1980 census estimates 1-2 million undocumented immigrants from Mexico with the total number from all countries falling in the range of 2-4 million. Finally, the estimates indicate a high proportion of recent arrivals, and very few who entered the United States prior to 1960

The Cuban government announces that all Cubans wishing to emigrate to the U.S. are free to board boats at the port of Mariel west of Havana, launching the Mariel Boatlift and 125,000 Cuban refugees reach Florida the next day. The boatlift is triggered by housing and job shortages caused by the ailing Cuban economy. Of the 125,000 who land in Florida, more than 1,700 are jailed and another 587 are detained until they could find sponsors. The exodus ends by mutual agreement between the U.S. and Cuban governments in October 1980. In 1984, the United States and Cuba negotiate an agreement to resume normal immigration and return to Cuba those persons who had arrived during the boatlift who were "excludable" under U.S. law.

1985   Chicago's Mayor Harold Washington signs Executive Order 85-1 asserting - "In order to assure that all residents of the City of Chicago, regardless of nationality or citizenship, shall have fair and equal access to municipal benefits, opportunities and services..." This is followed by a similar action taken in New York City by Mayor Ed Koch a "memo" to city departments requiring them to provide city services to all, including aliens. These high-level administrative actions result in a dramatic increase of illegal immigrant population.

San Francisco passes the "City and County of Refuge" resolution, as hundreds of thousands of refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala seek asylum. The resolution is followed by an ordinance that prohibits the use of city funds and resources to assist federal immigration enforcement –the defining characteristic of a sanctuary city in the U.S. This legislation is one of the first sanctuary laws of its kind in the United States.

1986   The Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) signed by President Reagan in response to the rapidly growing illegal alien population in the U. S. It included a massive amnesty program for those who had lived in the U.S. since 1982 and worked in agriculture between 1985 and 1986.

1990   The Immigration Act of 1990 is passed with bipartisan support and signed by President George H. W. Bush. The legislation establishes the Diversity Visa (DV) program, also known as the "green card lottery" where 55,000 immigrant visas are available in an annual lottery. The purpose of the lottery is to diversify the immigrant population by selecting applicants mostly from countries with low numbers of immigrants to the United States during the previous five years.

1996   The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996 is passed. Among other changes, IIRIRA gives the U.S. Attorney General broad authority to construct barriers along the border between the United States and Mexico.

2001   The 9/11 terrorist attacks prompt the U.S. Department of Defense to expand military support along the borders and persuade some lawmakers to reevaluate the extent and type of military support needed to protect the homeland.

2002   The Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act orders that all internal Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) databases are linked to improve information sharing and regain control over our borders and our ports of entry.

Homeland Security Act creates the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), within which all immigration enforcement and adjudication .

2006   The Secure Fence Act passed Congress on a bi-partisan basis authorizing and partially funding the construction of 700 miles of fencing (border wall) along the Mexican border. The Act was signed into law on October 26, 2006, by President George W. Bush, who stated that the Act would "help protect the American people," would "make our borders more secure," and was "an important step toward immigration reform."

2010   U. S. census indicates population of 308,745,538. A growth of 9.7% since last census.

2012   President Obama signs the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) executive branch memorandum to allow some undocumented

immigrants who came to the United States as children to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and become eligible for a work permit in the U.S. According to the memorandum, the Department of Homeland Security will no longer initiate the deportation of illegal immigrants who came to the United States before age, have lived here for at least five years, and are in school, are high school graduates or are military veterans in good standing, and must also be under 30 and have clean criminal records. There is no direct path from deferred action to lawful permanent residence or to citizenship and it can be revoked at any time.

2013   The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act is a proposed immigration reform bill introduced by Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) in the United States Senate and co-sponsored by the other seven members of the "Gang of Eight", a bipartisan group of U.S. Senators who wrote and negotiated the bill - Michael Bennet (D-CO), Dick Durbin (D-IL), Jeff Flake (R-AZ), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), John McCain (R-AZ), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), and Marco Rubio (R-FL). The bill is passed by the Senate and was not considered by United States House of Representatives and died in the 113th Congress. If enacted, the bill would have repealed the Diversity Visa Lottery in favor of granting legal status and eventual citizenship for many undocumented immigrants already in the United States.

2018   President Trump deploys 5,200 Troops to the U.S.-Mexico Border to secure it and contain the migrant crisis.

2019   The Supreme Court Blocks a citizenship question from being added to the 2020 Census.

President Trump declares a National Emergency Concerning the Southern Border of the United States (Proclamation 9844), citing the National Emergencies Act, and orders the diversion of billions of dollars of funds that had been appropriated to the U.S. Department of Defense for military construction.

President Trump signs a Presidential Memorandum directing his administration to curb the ongoing asylum abuse occurring at our borders.