

There's More Online!

- ✓ CHART/GRAPH Illegal Border Crossing Deaths
- ✓ IMAGE Jorge Urbina
- ✓ PRIMARY SOURCE Citizenship Challenged
- ✓ VIDEO A New Wave of Immigration
- ✓ INTERACTIVE SELF-CHECK QUIZ



LESSON 2

A New Wave of Immigration

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS • How have improvements in science and technology helped change society? • How have immigration, technology, and global trade changed the world?

Reading HELPDESK



Academic Vocabulary

- illegal
- resident
- allocate

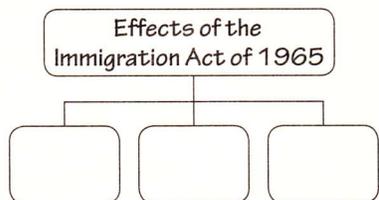
Content Vocabulary

- migration chains
- refugee
- amnesty

TAKING NOTES:

Key Ideas and Details

Determining Cause and Effect As you read the lesson, complete a graphic organizer similar to the one below to list the effects of the Immigration Act of 1965.



IT MATTERS BECAUSE

In the late twentieth century, the number of immigrants to the United States hit an all-time high. Large numbers of non-European immigrants changed the nation's ethnic composition. Immigration, both legal and illegal, became a difficult political issue.

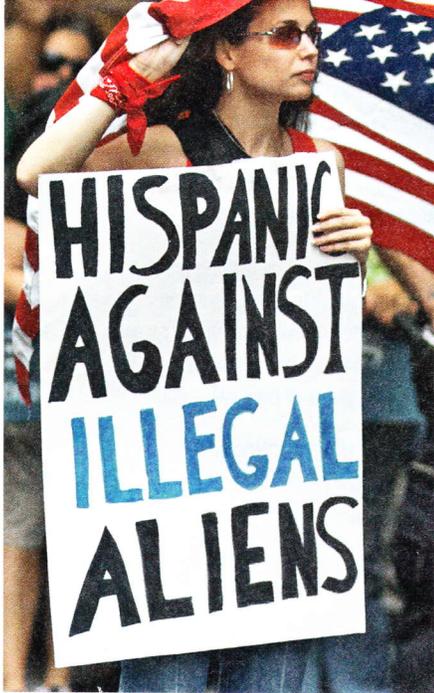
Changes in Immigration Law

GUIDING QUESTION How have important immigration laws affected legal and illegal immigration to the United States?

After the introduction of the national origins quota system in the 1920s, the sources and character of immigration to the United States changed dramatically. For the next few decades, the total number of immigrants arriving annually remained markedly lower. The quota system, which favored immigrants from northern and western Europe, remained largely unchanged until the mid-1960s.

The Immigration Act of 1965 abolished the national origins quota system. It gave preference to skilled persons and persons with close relatives who are U.S. citizens—policies that remain in place today. The preference given to the children, spouses, and parents of U.S. citizens meant that **migration chains** were established. As newcomers became citizens, they could send for relatives in their home country. Also, the legislation introduced the first limits on immigration from the Western Hemisphere. The act further provided that immigrants could apply for U.S. citizenship after five years of legal residency.

At the time of its passage, few people expected that the new law would cause much change in the pattern or volume of immigration to the United States. Supporters of the law presented it as an extension of America's growing commitment to equal rights for all people, regardless of race or ethnicity. As U.S. Representative Philip Burton of California explained:



Illegal immigration has long been a divisive issue.

CRITICAL THINKING

Using Context Clues In what sense is this woman using the term *aliens*?

amnesty the act of granting a pardon to a large group of people

allocate to set apart for something specific

resident one who lives in a place for some length of time

Despite these changes, illegal immigration persisted, and the number of unauthorized immigrants grew. By 1990 an estimated 3.5 million unauthorized immigrants resided in the United States. By the mid-1990s, Congress was debating new ways to combat illegal immigration. It passed the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, which made several changes to American immigration law.

First, it required families sponsoring an immigrant to have an income above the poverty level. Second, it **allocated** more resources to stop illegal immigration, authorizing an additional 5,000 U.S. Border Patrol agents and calling for the construction of a 14-mile fence along the border near San Diego. Third, the law toughened penalties for smuggling people or providing fraudulent documents. Finally, the law made it easier for immigration authorities to deport undocumented aliens.

Another change in immigration law was spurred by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 put immigration under the control of the newly created Department of Homeland Security. It also tripled the number of Border Patrol agents, Customs Service inspectors, and Immigration and Naturalization Service inspectors along the Canadian border.

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Sequencing How did the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 attempt to control illegal immigration?

Recent Immigration

GUIDING QUESTION How has the federal government addressed immigration reform in the twenty-first century?

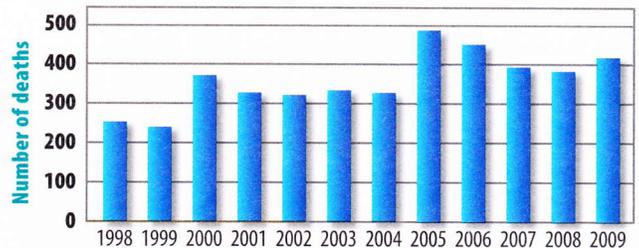
Certain states experienced a larger influx of immigrants than others. In 1990 California, Texas, New York, New Jersey, and Florida had the largest populations of foreign-born **residents**. High numbers of immigrants also increased the ethnic diversity of these states, as their Latino and Asian populations grew. Among the immigrants who arrived during the 1990s, just over 10 percent came from Europe. More than half of new immigrants came from Latin America, while about another 25 percent came from Asia. By 2001 the top five countries of origin for legal immigrants to the United States were Mexico, India, China, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

Refugees added to the growing immigrant population. In the 25 years following the Cuban Revolution of 1959, more than 800,000 Cubans arrived in the United States. So many settled in the Miami, Florida, area that the only city that is home to more Cubans is Havana, Cuba. Also, the Vietnam War

CHARTS/GRAPHS

ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSING DEATHS

After the attacks of September 11, 2001, border security became a greater concern for many Americans.



Source: United States Government Accountability Office, Congressional Research Service.

- Analyzing Information** What year saw the most people die while crossing the border illegally?
- Determining Cause and Effect** Why do you think the government's attempts to control border crossings have not reduced the number of deaths?

created refugees. Some 600,000 immigrants from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia arrived in the decade after 1974.

Other immigrants arrived without official permission. The largest number of unauthorized immigrants came from Mexico, El Salvador, and Guatemala. The amnesty program established in 1986 had been designed to solve the problem of illegal immigration. Yet, over the next 20 years, the number of unauthorized immigrants more than tripled. Americans were divided over whether unauthorized immigrants should be able to obtain driver's licenses or send their children to public schools and receive other government services.

Some believed that unauthorized immigrants should be deported. Others favored allowing them to apply for temporary work visas so the government could keep track of them. Some supported permitting them to earn permanent residence if they learned English, paid back taxes, and had no criminal record.

In 2006 President George W. Bush made immigration reform a top priority, but members of Congress strongly disagreed over how to solve the problem. A bipartisan majority of the Senate favored legislation that blended tougher enforcement of immigration laws with some form of earned citizenship.

The Senate bill included a provision that allowed undocumented aliens who grew up in the United States and graduated from high school to apply for citizenship. Conservative Republicans who held the majority in the House objected that this would reward illegal behavior. "Granting amnesty to people who broke the law penalizes the millions of people who are waiting to come to America legally," argued Republican senator Phil Gramm of Texas.

The House rejected any form of amnesty and called for the United States to build a wall along its Mexican border. By this time, the United States had already tripled the size of its border patrol without reducing illegal immigration. As Congress debated a bill that would subject undocumented aliens to criminal prosecution, Latinos held rallies across the country, carrying signs that read: "We are not criminals."

Advocates of immigration reform promoted alternatives such as expanding quotas through a guest-worker program and establishing a legalization process for those already in the country. Some undocumented immigrants had lived in the United States for years and had raised families. Deporting them would mean separating husbands, wives, and children. Some had arrived as children and had lived in the United States most of their lives. Their own children, born in the United States, were native-born citizens even though their parents lacked legal status. Among those who became legal citizens, most wanted other family members to join them.

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Hypothesizing How would you solve the problem of illegal immigration?

LESSON 2 REVIEW



Reviewing Vocabulary

- 1. Defining** Why were people who came to the United States as a result of World War II and the Cold War considered refugees?
- 2. Explaining** How might migration chains affect the immigration patterns or numbers of immigrants entering the country?

Using Your Notes

- 3. Summarizing** Review the notes that you completed during the lesson. Then write a paragraph summarizing the effects of the Immigration Act of 1965.

Answering the Guiding Questions

- 4. Evaluating** How have important immigration laws affected legal and illegal immigration to the United States?
- 5. Describing** How has the federal government addressed immigration reform in the twenty-first century?

Writing Activity

- 6. ARGUMENT** After reading about the problem of illegal immigration, write a letter to your representative in Congress explaining what you feel he or she should do about the problem.