

IMMIGRATION AND ILLEGAL ALIENS BURDEN OR BLESSING?

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Immigration—Almost Four Hundred Years of U.S.

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The history of the United States has been shaped by immigrants. Immigration policy, however, has varied from the unrestricted flow of colonial times to exclusions and restrictive quota systems, to preference systems, and to post-September 11 security consciousness. This chapter outlines the history of immigration in the United States, discussing attitudes toward immigration and the varying demographic characteristics of immigrants up to 1980.

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