

Third Wave Immigration

Contemporary Korean Immigration

1965-present

First Wave Immigration

- Plantation laborers in Hawaii
- Picture Brides
- Immigration restricted after Japanese occupation



Second Wave Immigration

- Post-Korean War
- US relationship to South Korea
- Adoptees/*Amerasians*
- War Brides
- Students



McCarran-Walter Act

- Also known as the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act
- Focused upon denying immigrants who were unlawful, immoral, diseased in any way, politically radical.
- Shift from immigration as a labor issue to immigration as a national security issue.

McCarran-Walter Act con't.

- Preserved the national origins quota system, which favored northern and western Europe.
- Created an Asia-Pacific Triangle, a region of Asian nations that were granted small quotas and their immigrants the right of naturalization.
- Established the racial category of “Asian” regardless of country of birth or origin.

Hart-Celler Act

- Also known as the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965
- Abolished system based on national origin
- Replaced with system that focused on immigrants' skills and family relationships with citizens or residents of the U.S.
- Each Asian country allotted 20,000 visas per year (issued by preference system)
- Immediate family members of U.S. citizens exempt from visa allocation
 - Spouses, children under 18, parents

Preferential Categories

1. Unmarried adult sons and daughters of U.S. citizens.
2. Spouses and children and unmarried sons and daughters of permanent resident aliens.
3. Members of the professions and scientists and artists of exceptional ability.
4. Married children of U.S. citizens.
5. Brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens over age twenty-one.
6. Skilled and unskilled workers in occupations for which there is insufficient labor supply.
7. Refugees given conditional entry or adjustment — chiefly people from Communist countries and the Middle East.

Applicants not entitled to preceding preferences — i.e., everyone else.

Intended and Unintended Consequences

This bill that we will sign today is not a revolutionary bill. It does not affect the lives of millions. It will not reshape the structure of our daily lives, or really add importantly to either our wealth or our power.

President Lyndon B. Johnson, Oct. 1965

Impact on Non-European Immigration

Immigrants from Asia and Africa will have to compete and qualify in order to get in, quantitatively and qualitatively, which, itself will hold the numbers down. There will not be, comparatively, many Asians or Africans entering this country... Since the people of Africa and Asia have very few relatives here, comparatively few could immigrate from those countries because they have no family ties in the U.S.

Rep. Emanuel Celler (D-New York), Aug. 1965

Impact on Asian Immigration

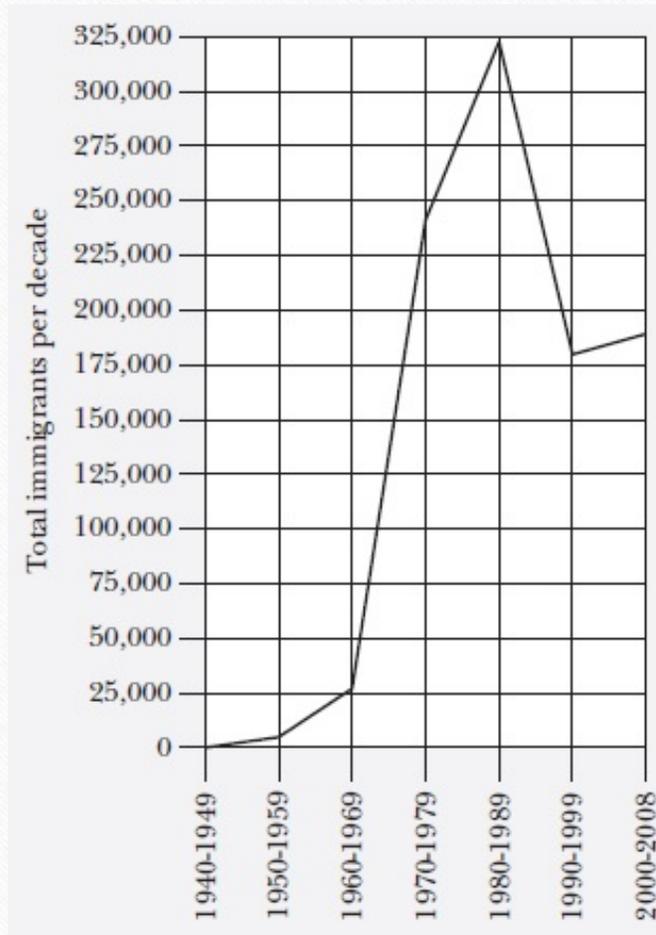
I would say for the Asia-Pacific Triangle it [immigration] would be approximately 5,000, Mr. Chairman, after which immigration from that source would virtually disappear; 5,000 immigrants would come the first year, but we do not expect that there would be any great influx after that.

Attorney General Robert Kennedy
House Immigration Subcommittee, 1964

Third Wave Immigration

- Koreans initially entered through occupational categories
 - Medical professionals, scientists, engineers
 - Regulation of specialists tightened in 1970s
- Then relied on family categories
 - Shifting demographics of Korean immigrants

Korean Immigration to the U.S. 1940-2008



Korean Immigrant Population in the United States, 1980-2013

