

The Birth of Immigration Law in the United States

By Pamela Ives, MAH

For



August 2019

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Chapter 1: The Peopling of the New World	7
Chapter 2: Revolution in the Air	11
Chapter 3: War and Immigration	14
Chapter 4: U.S. Immigration Law in the Eighteenth Century	19
Conclusion	26
Appendix: Chronology	28
Bibliography	31

Introduction

Some anthropologists believe humans first migrated to the western hemisphere from Siberia about 35,000 years ago via a land bridge; and some anthropologists suggest humans may have followed the northern Pacific coast by boat down to the Americas from Siberia. Regardless of how they got to the continent, it is believed that as these early humans trickled into the continent, and split into branches that spread south and east. By at least 4,200 years ago descendants of these early humans had migrated to populate the entire Western Hemisphere... but why did these early people (who, in the fifteenth century, Christopher Columbus misnamed "Indians") migrate in the first place? ... The answer is quite simple: some were fleeing perceived intolerable living conditions and others were in search of food. In reality, overall, they were evolving and surviving in an unforgiving world.

Fast-forward to the fifteenth century- why did the British, the French, and other Europeans take to sail across the Atlantic Ocean? Were they looking for adventure, or were they purely seeking to escape the ravages of nearly constant warfare in both Europe and Britain in the late 1400's? Well, it turns out it was both. It would not be an easy endeavor, however; the British, the French, and other European's saw promise and opportunity for a better life in a newly discovered land. The first few attempts at establishing settlements in America were

unsuccessful. Sadly, people eager to make a home in the New World- succumbed to the harsh untamed land. Although the actual fates of the earliest colonial settlers in America is not known, this did not deter thousands of others to follow in their footsteps; in fact, in some ways it made those who came later even more determined to succeed.

In the eighteenth century, after the defeat of Britain in the American Revolution (1775-1783), the First United States Congress passed an immigration law titled the "1790 Naturalization Act." This law established a set of rules (or principles) for immigrants to follow if they wanted to become a naturalized citizen of the United States of America. In 1795, the Third United States Congress repealed the 1790 Naturalization Act and replaced it with the 1795 Naturalization Act; this new law built upon the 1790 law; then in 1798 Congress passed the Alien and Sedition Act. Nevertheless, why did the United States of America's government feel compelled to establish any laws related to people coming to the United States of America in the first place? Were the laws an attempt to protect the country, or were they trying to keep certain people out of the country? Furthermore, why did the founders of the Constitution insist on having sovereign borders? To these questions, one must understand why and how the United States of America came to be, as well as understand the extreme hardships and suffering people endured in order to establish the United States of America.

Chapter 1: The Peopling of the New World

“Being now passed the vast ocean, and a sea of troubles before them in expectations, they had now no friends to welcome them, nor inns to entertain or refresh their weatherbeaten bodies, no houses, or much less town, to repair to, to seek for succor... if they looked behind them, there was a mighty ocean which they had passed, and was now as a main bar or gulf to separate them from all the civil parts of the world... What could now sustain them but the spirit of God and his grace?”¹

In essence, Colonial America was the result of a constant cycle of movement of peoples from England and Europe for resettling in a newly discovered land referred to in the fifteenth century as “The New World.” By 1610, hundreds of newcomers had endured harsh conditions in cramped sailing vessels to cross the Atlantic Ocean in search of a new life in a new land. Some of the first Jamestown, Virginia settlers were English farmers who had been driven from their homes in the old country- their desire was to procure land; others were unemployed laborers and tradesmen- they were willing to take a chance on a new life in a new world. Overtime, however, the majority of people coming to Jamestown came as indentured servants; they traded labor for ship passage.

Overall, life in the Jamestown colony was extremely difficult. By the end of its first year of establishment in 1607, two-thirds of its settlers had perished. In 1609,

¹ An excerpt from a narrative written by William Bradford, the man who led the pilgrim settlers when they arrived at Cape Cod in 1630. Retrieved from page 27 of Wilfred M. McClay’s book titled *Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story*. Published by Encounter Books in 2019.

six hundred settlers arrived to replenish the colony; and in 1610, four hundred more arrived; unfortunately, by the end of the 1610 winter only about sixty settlers had survived.² However difficult the trip across the ocean was, people continued to flee their old country. By 1619, Jamestown was firmly established; they had a legislative assembly and their own colonial government.³ By the early 1620's, Jamestown was self-supporting and traded regularly with England.

Another colony founded by the English was Plymouth, Massachusetts. Unlike the settlers of Jamestown who were motivated primarily by material considerations, this colony consisted of those who fled Britain because of religious persecution;⁴ the Plymouth settlement was founded in 1620. The main goal of the founders of this colony was to propagate and advance their religion in the new world. Initially, the hard working people of Plymouth did not fair well... in their inaugural year, only fifty out of about one hundred people lived to make it through the first winter. Population wise, Plymouth did not grow as large as Jamestown however; a small

² Dennis Wepman, *An Eyewitness History, Immigration: From the Founding of Virginia to the Closing of Ellis Island* (New York: Facts on File, Inc., 2002), 4.

³ Dennis Wepman, *An Eyewitness History, Immigration: From the Founding of Virginia to the Closing of Ellis Island* (New York: Facts on File, Inc., 2002), 5.

⁴ Wilfred M. McClay, *Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story* (New York: Encounter Books, 2019), 25.

amount of immigrants did join it each year until eventually it was absorbed by another colony in the area in 1691.⁵

In 1630, the Massachusetts Bay Company of England sent seventeen ships filled with passengers that were fleeing war or religious persecution in their country to a harbor north of Plymouth. Similar to Jamestown, this settlement slowly grew in population of which many were laborers and indentured servants (unfortunately, those who arrived as indentured servants sometimes found themselves in conditions similar to that of chattel slavery). This settlement, primarily made up of English immigrants, resulted in the initiation of a massive migration. In the next ten years, approximately 21,000 people fled their old world in search of opportunity and prosperity in America.⁶

Over time, more communities formed and grew into what eventually became thirteen Colonies. The last of these colonies was Georgia; chiseled out of Carolina territory, it was founded in 1732. Although by the end of the third quarter of the eighteenth century a majority of people who populated the colonies was from England, there were immigrants from European countries. For example, the Swedish settled on the Delaware River near present day Wilmington; and the Dutch

⁵ Dennis Wepman, *An Eyewitness History, Immigration: From the Founding of Virginia to the Closing of Ellis Island* (New York: Facts on File, Inc., 2002), 9.

⁶ Dennis Wepman, *An Eyewitness History, Immigration: From the Founding of Virginia to the Closing of Ellis Island* (New York: Facts on File, Inc., 2002), 20.

established fur-trading posts and eventually purchased Manhattan Island from the Indians. Early on in the seventeenth century, conditions were so bad in Germany that thousands of people fled the country; most went to America and eventually established themselves in all of the colonies. Toward the end of the seventeenth century, due to religious persecution and political issues, thousands of people fled France as well; these people risk the sea voyage to start over in America; many of them settled in the areas of Carolina, New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. In addition, in 1699 the French established their own colonies in the region that is now Louisiana and Mississippi; they also established colonies in the Caribbean.⁷ Most importantly, by the end of the seventeenth century, America was no longer dependent upon England for it's peopling.

⁷ Dennis Wepman, *An Eyewitness History, Immigration: From the Founding of Virginia to the Closing of Ellis Island* (New York: Facts on File, Inc., 2002), 22.

Chapter 2: Revolution in the Air

“Too long our patient country wears her chains,
 Too long our wealth all-grasping Britain drains:
 Why still a handmaid to that distant Land?
 Why still subservient to their proud command?”

Philip Freneau, a New York born son
 of a French immigrant.⁸

In general, many of the English immigrants came to America to escape political oppression, or religious intolerance, or economic hardship, or all three. Accordingly, they felt no loyalty to England. Regarding immigrants from other nations, this fact was especially so; in short, those who came to America from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, the Netherlands, Sweden, France, Germany, and other countries had absolutely no ties to the British government nor to England itself. Thus, in 1763 after the British government tried to impose laws and restrictions on America, the colonists reacted with strong animosity. Succinctly, the colonists knew very well that Britain depended on America for its raw materials and manufacturing; they also depended on America’s market for British goods; concisely, one-seventh of England’s trade was with the American colonies.⁹ Added

⁸ Quote retrieved from page 62 of Dennis Wepman’s *An Eyewitness History, Immigration: From the Founding of Virginia to the Closing of Ellis Island*. Published in 2002 by Facts on File, Inc., New York.

⁹ Dennis Wepman, *An Eyewitness History, Immigration: From the Founding of Virginia to the Closing of Ellis Island* (New York: Facts on File, Inc., 2002), 46, 47.

to this fact, there was a sense of national identity developing in America, which to a certain extent united the colonists.

Overall, in the early days of America most colonists identified more with England than they did with each other; however, over the years, as colonists settled, then established families and had children who were born in America their ties to England waned. Furthermore, as British rule became more oppressive, the colonists bound together in common interests on the land that gave them refuge. Fundamentally, the English approach to the colonization of America was decentralized and autonomous in ways that reflected their fondness of enterprise and commerce. Thus, what the colonists learned and acquired in the New World was the habit of self-rule.¹⁰ Therefore, once Britain became assertive and heavy-handed the colonists pushed back. In 1774 Patrick Henry declared: "The distinctions between Virginians, Pennsylvanians, New Yorkers, and New Englanders are no more, I am not a Virginian, but an American." In 1775, the first open armed conflict between the English Army and the colonial militia took place at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. On July 4, 1776, the colonies finally declared their independence from England. Shortly thereafter England suspended immigration to America.

¹⁰ Wilfred M. McClay, *Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story* (New York: Encounter Books, 2019), 23.

Chapter 3: War and Immigration

America's descent into full-blown revolution against England began with the Sugar Act-which introduced to the colonists, a trade tax. Next was the Stamp Act; this act introduced proposed duties on twelve items commonly used by the colonists. Then came the Quartering Act-which forced colonists to pay for British soldiers accommodations in America. Following the Quartering Act came an increasing number of British customs agents at American ports. Then the Currency Act, which restricted issuance of paper money in the colonies and forced American money to have the same value as the pound that circulated in England.¹¹ The Coercive Acts, which stripped Massachusetts of self-government following the Boston Tea Party, pushed the colonies even more, which in-turn caused them to organize an opposition which then lead to the key battles at Lexington and Concord Massachusetts in the spring of 1775.¹²

When the British Parliament enacted the Stamp Act of 1765, it was the first time Parliament had attempted to directly tax the colonists.¹³ Although many colonists questioned some of the other imposed taxes, "nothing in fact that the

¹¹ William Doyle, *The French Revolution: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), 77.

¹² William Doyle, *The French Revolution: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), 123-135.

¹³ William Doyle, *The French Revolution: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), 31.

parent state (England) had ever done in one hundred and fifty years provoked such widespread fury as the Stamp Act."¹⁴ Economically linked merchants and workers shared similar concerns about the new tax.¹⁵ They combined to adopt and enforce embargoes of British trade vessels; these embargoes were designed to force the British Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act.¹⁶

At their root, the American colonies originated independently from the British government; they were also physically separated by the vast Atlantic Ocean. Thus, they flourished in local self-determination.¹⁷ Overall, it was the British Parliament's desire to dominate the colonies and extract more taxes from them that lead to extreme actions, then war, in America.

Although the Revolutionary War ended the regular flow of English immigrants to America, it did attract foreign adventurers and dreamers from various countries who were keen on joining the war effort however; not all of them originally sided with the Americans. After France recognized American independence in late 1777, more than four thousand French volunteers came to

¹⁴ William Doyle, *The French Revolution: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), 31.

¹⁵ William Doyle, *The French Revolution: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), 35.

¹⁶ William Doyle, *The French Revolution: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), 35.

¹⁷ R. R. Palmer, *The Challenge: The Age of the Democratic Revolution* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989), 190.

the aid of America; in 1781 the French fought alongside George Washington's troops in the Battle of Yorktown. In addition, a French naval fleet prevented the British from providing support to ground troops in this battle which aided in Washington's victory and ended the fighting. Very few, possibly none, of the Frenchmen who survived the battles of this war remained in the American colonies, however.

Two Germans and two Polish also came to the aid of America. The first German was Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben. Von Steuben arrived in America in 1777; he was appointed as inspector general and was assigned to train the American troops that formed the early Continental army. Von Steuben fought with valor during the war; after the war, he became an American citizen and lived in New York until his death in 1794. The second German was Johann Kalb. Kalb fought with distinction and was killed in battle by the British in 1780. Thaddeus Kosciusk was an engineer from Poland; he built fortifications at West Point from 1778 to 1780; he died in Switzerland in 1817. Count Casimir Pulaski, also from Poland, joined the American army in 1777. He received a commission as a general in 1778, and was killed in battle in 1779.

As for the British army, they heavily recruited German troops to their side. Fortunately for the American colonies, although the Germans were well trained in classical military maneuvers, they were not overly interested in this war and thus

they did not fight with staunch fervor. Nevertheless, the huge number of Germans recruited and brought to America by the British army alarmed the Americans. To induce them to desert the British army, the 1776 American Congress passed a bill that offered free land to any member of the British army who chose to switch sides. Additionally, in December of 1776, after a short but victorious battle with German forces who were aiding the British, General George Washington captured the Germans who survived the battle. Many of these German prisoners chose to support America; and at the end of the war, they joined their fellow immigrants and blended into German communities in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

After the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783, the American Revolution officially ended and to a certain extent normal immigration to the United States of America resumed. However, by this point, not all Americans were thrilled about having open borders or allowing just anyone to become a United States citizen. Some Americans felt strongly about establishing guidance in the form of laws for immigrants who wanted to become a naturalized citizen.

By the time England had enacted new tax laws in the American colonies the colonies themselves had matured. They had grown into an entity of their own; and to such an extent, they had become self sufficient and wanted independence from the English Monarchy. So when Great Britain actively tried to collect the taxes, the colonies rebelled and pushed back; their defense- the authority by which the tax

was levied in the first place.¹⁸ The American Revolution did not start because of one incident; it was a culmination of incidents; and another tax was one of the last straws. Bottom line- the American colonies wanted to be free from ties to Great Britain.

¹⁸R. R. Palmer, *The Challenge: The Age of the Democratic Revolution* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989), 159.

Chapter 4: U.S. Immigration Law in the Eighteenth Century

A few years after the defeat of England in the American Revolution (1775-1783), the First United States Congress passed a law that defined how immigrants coming into the United States of America could become an American citizen. The law, specifically titled the "1790 Naturalization Act," established rules for immigrants to follow or accomplish if they wanted to become a naturalized citizen of the United States of America. Then, in 1795, the Third United States Congress repealed the 1790 Naturalization Act and replaced it with the 1795 Naturalization Act; this new law built upon the first one. In 1798, Congress enacted four more immigration laws collectively known as the Alien and Sedition Acts.

The Naturalization Act of 1790 was the first immigration law in the new United States of America. This law limited naturalization to "free white persons" (they really meant "free white men") and specifically required a period of residency within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for two years before the immigrant could become a naturalized citizen- so long as they demonstrated good moral character and swore allegiance to the Constitution. The purpose behind the period of residency was because the First United States Congressional

Congress felt that foreigners needed to spend sufficient time in the United States to appreciate American democracy.¹⁹

The Naturalization Act of 1795 repealed and replaced the 1790 Act. This act was similar to the 1790 law in that it was limited to “free white persons (mainly men),” it also required allegiance to the Constitution, and the person had to be of good moral character. This act also required a period of residency however; the residency period was extended from two years to five years. The purpose for extending the residency period was partially due to the constant turmoil that was going on abroad. By 1795, France and one of her colonies were in full-blown revolution.

The situation in France in 1792 was as follows: The French Monarchy reacted against the common people of France... the bottom line: the Queen of France- via the Duke of Brunswick, issued a manifesto.²⁰ This manifesto “invited” the good Frenchmen to submit to their King.²¹ Unfortunately for the Monarchy, this proclamation had the opposite effect on the French people, and thus resulted in turmoil, then internal revolution within the forty-eight neighborhood subdivisions

¹⁹ James W. Fox Jr., *Naturalization Act (1790)* (Encyclopedia.com: The Gale Group Inc, 2004), <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/naturalization-act-1790>, accessed 15 July 2019.

²⁰ William Doyle, *The Oxford History of the French Revolution*, 2d ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), 188.

²¹ R.R. Palmer, *The Age of the Democratic Revolution: II The Struggle* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1964), 37.

of Paris.²² In short, the French Revolution was complicated and involved a strong revolt of the commoners against French nobility and aristocrats.²³ French society disintegrated into chaos and America became a haven for those wanting to escape. It is estimated that up to twenty-five thousand French fled to America. The problem with this mass exodus from France to America was that many of the French viewed their situation as being temporary, thus they made no provisions for settling or remaining in the United States.

Another surge of French citizens that migrated to America occurred in 1794. Specifically, the French colony of St-Domingue experienced a violent revolution. The consequence of this revolution was the demolition of the islands slave society. Nearly all of the white population and about ten thousand former slave owners, businessmen, and artisans made their way to Charleston, Norfolk, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. In the same year, Congress voted and agreed to provide \$15,000 of relief dollars to this wave of immigrants.²⁴

Overall, this surge of French immigrants alarmed Congress. They felt that there could be French Royalists in the surge of immigrants and there was a risk in

²² R.R. Palmer, *The Age of the Democratic Revolution: II The Struggle* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1964), 38.

²³ Pamela Ives, *The American and French Revolutions: A comparative Analysis* (Southern New Hampshire University, March 2017), 5.

²⁴ Dennis Wepman, *An Eyewitness History, Immigration: From the Founding of Virginia to the Closing of Ellis Island* (New York: Facts on File, Inc., 2002), 70.

that they could be a threat to the United States democratic institution. Pressure to protect America from any alien corruption grew, which is why Congress amended the 1790 Naturalization Act in 1795. Not surprisingly, the part of the 1795 amendment related to the extension of the residency period did not wholly satisfy the conservatives in Congress. This is why Congress added to the 1795 Act the requirement that all aliens seeking citizenship in the United States had to “renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty whatever, and particularly, by name, the prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, whereof he was before a citizen or subject.”²⁵ The 1795 Act also required that “in case the alien applying to be admitted to citizenship shall have borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the orders of nobility, in the kingdom or state from which he came, he shall... make an express renunciation of his title or order of nobility...”²⁶ Bottom line, to become a naturalized American citizen immigrants had to show they were going to be loyal to the United States.

In 1798, a French foreign minister attempted to bribe an American trade commission that was in France to negotiate a treaty. After the story of this attempted scandal got back to the United States, it generated very strong

²⁵ United States Congress, “An act to establish an uniform rule of Naturalization and to repeal the act heretofore passed on that subject,” the Naturalization Act of 1795, United States Congress, 1st session (29 January, 1795).

²⁶ United States Congress, “An act to establish an uniform rule of Naturalization and to repeal the act heretofore passed on that subject,” the Naturalization Act of 1795, United States Congress, 1st session (29 January, 1795).

anti-French feelings. Concisely, because the American public saw this scandal as a threat from aliens and alien ideas in the country, the second duly elected president of the United States (President John Adams, 1797-1801) proposed to Congress four laws; these laws were collectively referred to as The Alien and Sedition Act. Congress, when presented, approved this compilation of laws.

The first law that comprised The Alien and Sedition Act was a new Naturalization Act. Congress passed this law on June 18, 1798. In hopes of preventing new arrivals from influencing American law with their vote, this law extended the residency period that was required before applying for citizenship from five years to fourteen years. Passed on June 25, 1798, the second law that made up The Alien and Sedition Act was the Alien Act. This law gave the president power over alien residents. Simply put, at his discretion, the president of the United States could, "order all such aliens as he shall judge dangerous to the peace and safety of the United States, or shall have reasonable grounds to suspect are concerned in any treasonable or secret machinations against the government thereof, to depart out the territory of the United States... And in case any alien, so ordered to depart, shall be found at large within the United States after the time limited in such order for his departure... every such alien shall... be imprisoned for a term not exceeding three years, and shall never be admitted to become a citizen of

the United States."²⁷ Although it was never enforced, this law inflicted terror in the immigrants (especially the French immigrants); so much so that it caused some of them to either go into hiding or leave the country.

The third law that The Alien and Sedition Act consisted of was the Alien Enemies Act. This act, passed on July 6, 1798, stated that if war breaks out "all natives, citizens, denizens, or subjects of the hostile nation or government, being males of the age of fourteen years and upwards, who shall be within the United States, and not actually naturalized, shall be liable to be apprehended, restrained, secured and removed, as alien enemies. And the President of the United States shall be, and he is hereby authorized... to provide for the removal of those, who, not being permitted to reside within the United States, shall refuse or neglect to depart therefrom..."²⁸ This act was passed because everyone expected a war with France. John Adams never enforced this act during his tenure as president because the United States-France never occurred.

The fourth and final law that made up The Alien and Sedition Act was the Sedition Act. Passed on July 14, 1798, this law was extremely controversial because

²⁷ "Alien and Sedition Acts: 1798." *Great American Trials*. . *Encyclopedia.com*. (August 7, 2019). <https://www.encyclopedia.com/law/law-magazines/alien-and-sedition-acts-1798>

²⁸ "Alien and Sedition Acts: 1798." *Great American Trials*. . *Encyclopedia.com*. (August 7, 2019). <https://www.encyclopedia.com/law/law-magazines/alien-and-sedition-acts-1798>.

its main aim was at journalists and pamphleteers in the United States, most of which were foreign born. Specifically, the law made it a crime to “write, print, utter, or publish, or... cause or procure to be written, printed, uttered, or published,... any false, scandalous and malicious writing or writings against the government of the United States,...or the President of the United States, with intent to defame the said government, or the said President, or to bring them... into contempt or disrepute; or to excite against them... the hatred of the good people of the United States.”²⁹

The purpose of this law was to silence the anti-government press. The enforcement of this law resulted in the arrest and imprisonment of ten newspaper writer/editors. Overall, the Alien and Sedition Act and the previous Acts did not strengthen American feelings toward immigrants; however, they did entice animosity toward the government.³⁰

²⁹ "Alien and Sedition Acts: 1798." Great American Trials. . *Encyclopedia.com*. (August 7, 2019). <https://www.encyclopedia.com/law/law-magazines/alien-and-sedition-acts-1798>

³⁰

Dennis Wepman, *An Eyewitness History, Immigration: From the Founding of Virginia to the Closing of Ellis Island* (New York: Facts on File, Inc., 2002), 75.

Conclusion

From the start, immigrants- people who left their birthplace because they were unsatisfied and unwilling to settle for the condition from which they were born occupied the western hemisphere. Filled with hope, they were tugged by the prospect of a new beginning, the lure of freedom, and an opportunity to pursue their ambitions in ways they could not have achieved in their old world. For many, America was the land of second chances for those who were willing to take a chance.³¹

In the early years of America, the continuous cycles of immigration are how the country sustained itself. However, over time American citizens became concerned that certain populations of immigrants would swamp the country's unique culture and society of which the earliest American settlers had worked hard to establish. Some Americans even felt that certain immigrants would not be able to adapt to the American way of life. Nevertheless, many of them did. Despite the hardships immigrants faced in the New World and later the young United States of America, they held fast to their decision to make a go of it in America. In deed, early immigrants rose to become significant contributors to the American way of life. Over time, they created cultural legacies such as Mardi Gras, Saint Patrick's Day, and Cinco de Mayo.

³¹ Wilfred M. McClay, *Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story* (New York: Encounter Books, 2019), 6.

The bottom line is, from the sixteenth century onwards, immigrants who entered the New World that eventually become the United States of America developed this nation; and in doing so, generations of those early immigrants who built the country from the ground up are now rooted in the American way of life.

Appendix A: Chronology

- **1578**
 - Queen Elizabeth of England granted Sir Humphrey Gilbert a patent to explore and colonize North America. Gilbert died on his second return trip from North America.
- **1585**
 - Sir Walter Raleigh founded the Roanoke colony on Roanoke Island. This colony was abandoned in 1586.
- **1587**
 - A second attempt to settle a colony on Roanoke Island by 117 people, a dozen, or so were women. This group of people disappeared by 1590.
- **1606**
 - The Queen of England granted charters for English companies to establish settlements in North America.
- **1607**
 - Three ships carrying about 100 men drop anchor in the James River. These men founded Jamestown, Virginia- the first English settlement. By the end of the first year almost two-thirds of the men died from disease.
- **1608**
 - Captain John Smith published his book *True Relation of Occurrences in Virginia*. This book encouraged colonial immigration.
- **1609**
 - 600 English immigrants arrive in Jamestown, Virginia.
 - Henry Hudson discovered the Hudson River.
- **1610**
 - Under the leadership of Lord Delaware, 400 new immigrants arrive in Jamestown, Virginia.
- **1614**
 - Dutch settlers establish a fur-trading post near the head of the Hudson River near present day Albany, New York.
- **1616**
 - Captain John Smith published his book *A Description of New England*. This book drew many immigrants to the New World.
- **1618**
 - To attract immigrants, The Virginia Company of Jamestown, Virginia started a policy of granting 50 acres per worker or per family unit to those who came to the New World.

- **1619**
 - The Virginia Company brought women to Virginia to encourage single men to establish families.
 - A Dutchman arrived in the New World with 19 Africans. The Africans were indentured servants and had the same rights as white indentured servants.
- **1620**
 - A group of people from The Church of England received a charter to establish a settlement in Virginia however on their journey over the Atlantic Ocean they were blown off course and landed in the Cape Cod area of what is now Massachusetts. These people established the Plymouth colony.
- **1621**
 - The Dutch West India Company received a charter to establish a colony in the New World.
- **1622**
 - Native Americans (Indians) massacre 347 settlers in Jamestown, Virginia.
- **1623**
 - Colonists settle in New Hampshire and Maine.
- **1625**
 - The Dutch establish a fur-trading post on Manhattan Island.
- **1628**
 - The settlement of Salem Massachusetts is established.
- **1630**
 - The Great Migration to the New World begins.
- **1634**
 - The Maryland colony is founded by George Calvert.
- **1636**
 - Roger Williams founded Providence, Rhode Island.
- **1638**
 - Under the authority of the Dutch, the Swedish establish a settlement on the Delaware River, near present-day Wilmington, Delaware.
- **1654**
 - The first group of Jewish immigrants arrive in the New World.
- **1663**
 - Carolina is established.
- **1681**
 - William Penn founds Pennsylvania.
- **1683**

- The first group of German immigrants arrive in Pennsylvania.
- **1709**
 - Due to a war between France and Germany, many Germans flee to the New World.
- **1718**
 - Due to the high cost of living in Ireland, many Scotch-Irish peoples immigrate to New England, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.
- **1729**
 - Carolina is divided into North and South Carolina.
- **1733**
 - James Oglethorpe founded Georgia.
- **1750**
 - The population of the 13 colonies is estimated to be at 1, 260,000.
- **1752**
 - Georgia officially becomes a colony.
- **1770**
 - The population of the American colonies is estimated to have reached 2,312,000.
- **1776**
 - The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress.
- **1790**
 - The first census of the United States is conducted and reports nearly 4 million inhabitants.
 - The Naturalization Act of 1790 is passed by Congress.
- **1795**
 - The 1790 Naturalization Act is amended. The residence requirement is extended from 2 years to 5 years.
- **1798**
 - Seeking opportunities, a wave of Irish immigrants come to the United States.

All information in this chronology was derived from sources listed in the Bibliography.

Bibliography

SECONDARY SOURCES

Doyle, William. *The Oxford History of the French Revolution*. 2d ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

-----, *The French Revolution: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Ewing, Walter A. "Opportunity and Exclusion: A Brief History of U.S. Immigration Policy." Immigration Policy Center, American Immigration Council (January 2012): https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/opportunity_exc_lusion_011312.pdf. Accessed 28 July 2019.

Fox Jr., James W. *Naturalization Act (1790)*. Encyclopedia.com: The Gale Group Inc, 2004. Accessed 15 July 2019. <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/naturalization-act-1790>.

Gerber, David A. *American Immigration: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Ives, Pamela. *The American and French Revolutions: A comparative Analysis*, Southern New Hampshire University, March 2017.

Mann, Charles C. *1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created*. New York: Random House, 2011.

McClay, Wilfred M. *Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story*. New York: Encounter Books, 2019.

Migration Policy Institute. "Timeline: Major US Immigration Laws, 1790 - Present." <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/timeline-1790>. Accessed 3 August 2019.

Tarlach, Gemma. "The Peopling of the Americas: Evidence for Multiple Models." Discover: Science for the Curious, 8 August 2018.

<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/deadthings/2018/08/08/peopling-of-the-americas/#.XUJjei2ZO7N>. Accessed 3 August 2019.

Palmer, R.R. *I The challenge: The Age of the Democratic Revolution*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1959.

----- *The Age of the Democratic Revolution: II The Struggle*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1964.

Wepman, Dennis. *An Eyewitness History, Immigration: From the Founding of Virginia to the Closing of Ellis Island*. New York: Facts on File, Inc., 2002.

PRIMARY SOURCES

United States Congress. "Alien and Sedition Acts: 1798." Great American Trials. *Encyclopedia.com*. Accessed August 7, 2019.

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/law/law-magazines/alien-and-sedition-acts-1798>

United States Congress, "An act to establish an uniform rule of Naturalization." The Naturalization Act of 1790. United States Congress, March 26, 1790.

United States Congress. "An act to establish an uniform rule of Naturalization and to repeal the act heretofore passed on that subject." The Naturalization Act of 1795. United States Congress, 1st session, January 29, 1795.

©2019 RapidVisa Incorporated | All rights reserved. | This essay may be sourced and cited with appropriate hyperlink attribution to [rapidvisa.com](https://www.rapidvisa.com).