

Introduction: The Hart-Celler Immigration Act of 1965

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 (also known as the Hart Celler Act) ended the National Origins Formula (enacted in 1921), abolishing the existing quota system. The new law maintained immigration limits per country, but it also included new visa preference categories that focused on skills and family connections with US citizens.

Though the bill included restrictions on the number of Eastern Hemisphere immigrants per year (170,000) and stipulated per-country limits, it also ensured that immediate relative of US citizens and “special immigrants” had no restrictions. The act also included limits on Western Hemisphere Immigration for the first time (120,000). The Hart-Celler Act is the basis for our modern system of immigration and is the basis for our current laws.

Before Hart-Celler (1921 – 1965)	After Hart-Celler (Post-1965)
<i>Ability to get a visa based on “national origin” and race</i>	<i>Ability to get a visa based on family reunification and employment-based immigration (immigrants with valuable skills)</i>
Each country allotted a different number of visas (Northern and Western Europe heavily favored, over Southern and Eastern Europe)	Each country allotted the same number of visas, unlimited visas granted for skilled immigrants and immediate family
Excluded Asians and all other “non-whites” entirely*	Race-neutral
No restriction on Western Hemisphere immigration	Restriction on the Western Hemisphere and ended temporary work programs (including the Bracero Program)

*After the passage of the McCarran Walter Act in 1952 over Truman’s veto, the total ban on Asian immigration ended, but only marginally. Asian countries were given “token quotas” of 100 visas.

Source: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/blog/immigration-and-hart-celler-act-50-years-later>

Think about...

Why might legislators choose to change so many aspects of immigration policy at once?

How might American perceive this massive overhaul of immigration policy? Consider the fact that the previous policy (National Origins Act) had been in place since 1921 – over 40 years.

The 1965 Act to Amend the Immigration and Nationality Act, or the Hart-Celler Act, 1965

Selected Excerpts

The following excerpts are part of the Hart-Celler Act, or public law 89-236, which was passed in the House on August 25, 1965, passed in the Senate on September 22, 1965, and signed into law on October 3, 1965.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Sec 1. That section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act be amended to read as follows:

Sec 201. (a) Exclusive of ... the immediate relatives of United States citizens specified in subsection (b) of this section, the number of aliens who may be issued immigrant visas or who may otherwise acquire the status of an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent resident, or who may, pursuant to section 203 (a)(7) enter conditionally ... shall not in any fiscal year exceed a total of 170,000...

(b) The “immediate relatives” referred to in subsection (a) of this section shall mean the children, spouses, and parents of a citizen of the United States.

...

Sec 2. Section 202 of the Immigration and Nationality Act is amended as follows:

(a) No person shall receive any preference or priority or be discriminated against in the issuance of an immigrant visa because of race, sex, nationality, place of birth, or a place of residence... Provided, that the total number of immigrant visas and the number of conditional entries made available to natives of any single foreign state... shall not exceed 20,000 in any fiscal year.

...

Sec 3. Section 203 of the Immigration and Nationality Act is amended as follows:

(a) Aliens who are subject to the numerical limitations... shall be allotted visas or their conditional entry authorized, as the case may be, as follows:

Visas shall be first made available... to qualified immigrants who are the unmarried sons or daughters of citizens of the United States.

Visas shall next be made available... to qualified immigrants who are the spouses, unmarried sons, or unmarried daughters of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

Visas shall next be made available... to qualified immigrants who are members of the professions, or who because of their exceptional ability in the sciences or the arts will substantially benefit prospectively the national economy, cultural interests, or welfare of the United States.

Visas shall next be made available... to qualified immigrants who are the married sons or married daughters of citizens of the United States.

Visas shall next be made available... to qualified immigrants who are the brothers or sisters of citizens of the United States.

Visas shall next be made available... to qualified immigrants who are capable of performing specified skilled or unskilled labor, not of temporary or seasonal nature, for which a shortage of employable and willing persons exists in the United States.

Conditional entries shall next be made available... to aliens who satisfy an Immigration and Naturalization Service officer at an examination in any non-Communist or non-Communist-dominated country, (A) that (i) because of persecution or fear of persecution on account of race, religion, or political opinion they have fled (I) from any Communist or Communist-dominated country or area, or (II) from any country within the general area of the Middle East... or (B) that they are persons uprooted by catastrophic natural calamity as defined by the President who are unable to return to their usual place of abode.

...

Source: 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act, (An Act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act, and for other purposes). H.R. 2580; Pub.L. 89-236; 79 Stat. 911. 89th Congress; October 3, 1965.

The Chinese-American Experience: An Introduction

By William Wei

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From today's perspective, it is difficult to believe that once upon a time in America, Chinese were considered heathens and subjected to widespread persecution and violence. The earlier hostile attitude toward Chinese is a far cry from the contemporary esteem for them as a "model minority" to be emulated by others. But as the pages of *Harper's Weekly* document, in the 19th century, many people considered the Chinese to be unassimilable and therefore unacceptable – hence, their eventual exclusion from America in 1882.

In the mid-19th century, Chinese came to "Gold Mountain," as they called America, to join the "Gold Rush" that began at Sutter's Mill, Sacramento, California. As the lure of gold diminished, they came simply to work. Initially welcomed, they became a significant part of the labor force that laid the economic foundation of the American West. Chinese could be found throughout the region, laboring in agriculture, mining, industry, and wherever workers were needed. They are best known for their contribution to the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad, the completion of which united the country economically and culturally.

In spite of their indispensable role in the development of the American West, the Chinese suffered severe exploitation. They were discriminated against in terms of pay and forced to work under abysmal conditions. White workers viewed them as economic competitors and racial inferiors, thereby stimulating the passage of discriminatory laws and the commission of widespread acts of violence against the Chinese. According to John Higham:

No variety of anti-European sentiment has ever approached the violence extremes to which anti-Chinese agitation went in the 1870s and 1880s. Lynching, boycotts, and mass expulsions... harassed the Chinese.*

Under the racist slogan, "Chinese must go!" an anti-Chinese movement emerged that worked assiduously to deprive the Chinese of a means of making a living in the general economy. The movement's goal was to drive them out of the country. This hostility hindered efforts by the Chinese to become American. It forced them to flee to the Chinatowns on the coasts, where they found safety and support. In these ghettos, they managed to eke out a meager existence, but were isolated from the rest of the population, making it difficult if not impossible to assimilate into mainstream society. To add insult to injury, Chinese were criticized for their alleged unassailability.

Finally, Chinese workers were prevented from immigrating to America by the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Its passage was a watershed event in American history. Besides identifying for the first time a specific group of people by name as undesirable for immigration to the United States, the act also marked a fateful departure from the traditional American policy of unrestricted immigration.

After China became an ally during World War II, the exclusion laws proved to be an embarrassment and were finally repealed by the Magnuson Act in 1943. This bill made it possible for Chinese to become naturalized citizens and gave them an annual quota of 105 immigrants. While the bill ended an injustice that had been committed sixty-one years earlier, the damage to the Chinese community had already been done. Between the 1890s and 1920s, the Chinese population in America declined. But the worst effect was to undermine the one thing that was most precious to the Chinese, their families. Chinese men were forced to live lonely bachelor lives in the almost all-male society that was Chinatown. Meanwhile, wives and children were forced to remain in China, supported by remittances from the United States and rarely seeing their husbands and fathers. Such separations made it difficult to maintain strong family ties.

As the annual quota of 105 immigrants indicates, America's immigration policy was restrictive and particularly discriminatory against Chinese and other Asians. Equality in immigration only came with the enactment of the Immigration Act of 1965, which repealed the iniquitous national origins quota system that had been established earlier. Since the 1960s, Chinese have immigrated to the United States in significant numbers, taking particular advantage of the immigration policy's emphasis on family reunification. At the end of the 20th century, there are an estimated 2.3 million Chinese-Americans.

Today, Chinese-Americans are doing relatively well. They are generally seen as hard-working professionals or small business people, with stable families. Indeed, the most recent census data indicates that they have median household incomes and educational levels higher than their White counterparts. While problems of discrimination still exist, they are mild compared to those reported in *Harper's Weekly* over a century ago.

*From *Strangers in the Land: Patterns of American Nativism, 1860-1925* (New York: Antheneum, 1963), p. 25

Retrieved from <http://immigrants.harpweek.com/Default.htm>.

Congressional Record, 1965

Selected Excerpts

The following quotes are from the Congressional Record (in both the House of Representatives and the Senate) from August and September of 1965. They are part of the debate that occurred before the chambers voted on the passage of the Hart-Celler Act.

“Just as we sought to eliminate discrimination in our land through the Civil Rights Act, today we seek by phasing out the national origins quota system to eliminate discrimination in immigration to this nation composed of the descendants of immigrants.”

Rep. Philip Burton (D-CA), Congressional Record, Aug. 25, 1965, p. 21,783.

“Mr. Chairman, I would consider the amendments to the Immigration and Nationality Act to be as important as the landmark legislation of this Congress relating to the Civil Rights Act. The central purpose of the administration’s immigration bill is to once again undo discrimination and to revise the standards by which we choose potential Americans in order to be fairer to them and which will certainly be more beneficial to us.”

Rep. Robert Sweeney (D-OH), Congressional Record, Aug. 25, 1965, p. 21,765.

“With the end of discrimination due to place of birth, there will be shifts in countries other than those of northern and western Europe. 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-NY), Congressional Record, Aug. 25, 1965, p.21,812.

“The bill will not flood our cities with immigrants. It will not upset the ethnic mix of our society. It will not relax the standards of admission. It will not cause American workers to lose their jobs.”

Sen. Edward Kennedy U.S. Senate, Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization of the Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, D.C., Feb. 10, 1965. p. 1-3.

“I am aware that this bill is more concerned with the equality of immigrants than with their numbers. It is obvious in any event that the great days of immigration have long since run their course. World population trends have changed and changing economic and social conditions at home and abroad dictate a changing migratory pattern.”

Rep. Sidney Yates (D-IL), Congressional Record, August 25, 1965, p. 21,793.

“Contrary to the opinions of some of the misinformed, this legislation does not open the floodgates.”

Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-RI), Congressional Record, Sept. 20, 1965, p. 24,480.

BECOMING US POLICY

“What I object to is imposing no limitation insofar as areas of the earth are concerned, but saying that we are throwing the doors open and equally inviting people from the Orient, from the islands of the Pacific, from the subcontinent of Asia, from the Near East, from all of Africa, all of Europe, and all of the Western Hemisphere on exactly the same basis. I am inviting attention to the fact that this is a complete and radical departure from what has always heretofore been regarded as sound principles of immigration.”

Sen. Spessard Holland (D-FL), Congressional Record, Sept. 22, 1965, p. 24,779.

Source: The following quotes were originally collected in The City University of New York and La Guardia Community College, Nation of Immigrants Curriculum.

Various Newspaper Articles, 1964-1965

The following articles represent the varied reporting that occurred across the country on the Hart-Celler Act. They include both editorials and letters to the editor.

Improving Immigration Policy

Wall Street Journal, Aug. 18, 1964, p. 10.

“We’re convinced most Americans believe it’s wrong to discriminate against someone simply because he was born in the wrong place. For some reason, though, efforts to get out national immigration laws in line with that ideal have met persistent failure.

A House subcommittee recently held hearings on the latest of many proposals to eliminate the immigration law’s national origins system, which determines a nation’s immigration quota by the proportion of the U.S. population of that national extraction in 1924. The current law also contains specific provisions beyond the national quotas to limit immigration of Orientals.

The latest proposals for change would distribute the overall quota of 165,000 immigrants without regard to national origins. Instead up to half the quota would go to persons with special skills needed here, and up to another half to relatives of U.S. residents not eligible for non-quota status. Within these preferences, which are similar to ones currently used within national quotas, immigration permits would be granted in order of application. The bill contains provisions for moderating the change to a new system, such as retaining partial national quotas for five years.

These suggestions seem eminently reasonable, though they received scant attention in the last two sessions of Congress. They would ensure that someone with talents the U.S. can use would not face length delay because of his birthplace. They would eliminate hardships on separated families from Italy or Greece, who now sometimes must postpone reunion while large quotes for England and Ireland go unused.

It may be well to note that no one is suggesting anything as radical as abolishing limits on total immigration. This is obviously impractical, simply because more people would like to enter than we can accommodate without strain. The problem is how to select which applicants to admit.

There may be a certain amount of sense in accepting more immigrants from countries with close ethnic and cultural ties to the majority of our citizens. But it seems even more reasonable and fair to put the emphasis on such other qualifications as skills and kinship. And it seems only fair not to turn down qualified applicants while place in the total allocation go unused.

The national origins system has proved too cumbersome and inflexible to meet these simple tests of equity. The proposed changes might help put our immigration laws on somewhere near a rational basis.”

Immigration Policy Harms U.S. Abroad, Rusk Asserts

Bynum Shaw, The Baltimore Sun, March 12, 1965, p. 5.

“Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, told Congress today the nation’s immigration laws give foreign countries the impression that Americans are a deeply prejudiced people who care more about where a man comes from than what he is.

Rusk said that idea, although erroneous, is a decided handicap in asserting American global leadership. ‘We are concerned to see that our immigration laws reflect our real character and objectives, because what other people think about us plays an important role in the achievement of our foreign policies,’ he said.

As long as the law classifies persons according to national and ancestral origins, Rusk continued, ‘we cannot convince our critics that we judge each other on the basis of ability, industry, intelligence, integrity and such other factors as determine a man’s value to our society.’

Reform Sought

The Secretary testified before a House Judiciary subcommittee in support of the Administration’s bill for immigration reform. Over a 5-year period, that proposal would end the 40-year-old national origin quota system, which was devised to maintain the country’s ethnic balance as it existed in 1920.

Under the quota system, favored nations such as Great Britain and Germany have allowed thousands of immigrant visas to go unused, while the less-favored nations, such as Italy, Greece, and Poland, have had waiting lists filled for years ahead.

Rusk said the quota system as applied to the Asia-Pacific triangle, where allotments are especially meager, ‘is indefensible from the foreign policy point of view. It represents an overt statutory discrimination against more than one half of the world’s population.

Although Congress in the last decade has evolved a liberal immigration policy through permissive legislation, Rusk said, the quota system has been especially vulnerable to alien propaganda. The Communists have been willing to seize on any device to foment racial tension, he said.

Immigration to the United States under the White House plan would increase by an estimated 50,000 persons a year to an annual total of around 350,000. Rusk said he would object to the imposition of that figure as a ceiling, but he contended that numbers are not the real issues.

Priorities Defended

‘We don’t get the impression that there are 3,000,000,000 people at the starting line ready to take off as soon as this bill passes,’ he said.

Immigrants still must meet the qualitative standards of health, morality, and economic sufficiency, he said. The ‘gravemen’ of the issue, he told the committee, ‘is discrimination.’

Rusk defended the bill’s priorities for special skills and training. He said the United States is not attempting ‘to steal talent’ from other countries but to keep the door open to ‘the free flow of ideas.’

The Secretary also urged the committee not to limit immigration from states in the Western Hemisphere, which previously have not been subject to quotas. He admitted that the preference might be interpreted as a kind of discrimination, but he said the United States has never had any complaints from abroad about it.”

Immigration Policy

The Chicago Tribune, August 10, 1965, p. 16.

“Peoria, Illinois – Every American should take the time to study more closely the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act, which the Johnson administration is bent on changing in favor of a more ‘liberal’ immigration policy. The McCarran-Walter Immigration Act is the fairest, most humane, and tolerant policy for any country in the world. Written in 1952, it is based on the census of 1920, which reflects the same percentage of people who migrated from various countries since that time, as reflected in the census of 1960. It provides for the entry of more than 150,000 ‘quota’ immigrants per year. Under other laws, such as those for refugees, about twice that number enter the United States annually.

The nation’s birth rate is adding more than 3 million citizens a year. We have over 4 million unemployed citizens. These facts should deter a more ‘liberal’ policy.

Our present immigration laws are sound and prudent. They protect the security and welfare of both American citizens and new arrivals.”

Beware of the ‘I’m a Liberal, But...’ Clan

The Pittsburg Courier, October 23, 1965, p. 10.

“While Negroes generally are not opposed to the new immigration policy established by the United States or Uncle Sam’s willingness to welcome Cuban refugees from Castroland, there is growing concern among the nations least privileged minority as to how this opening of the population rates will affect ghetto life

and the labor market. If past history can be used as a guideline, then Negroes better maintain a 24-hour vigil to see that they are not shoved farther down the social and economic ladder...

...Negroes are in general among the first to welcome those who seek asylum either to better themselves or to escape religious or political persecution. However, if such immigration is going to add further to the 'national problem' as it exists today, now is the time to establish some priorities in favor of the native born, particularly for those of citizens of color...

...European unions have long kept a careful eye on today's migrants. Not only must the unions do the same thing for the U.S. today, but Negroes who do not enjoy membership in all unions, now have to keep a constant vigil on both the migrants and the union...

...The immigrants, who will be coming to our shores from now on, cannot possibly aid the Negroes' fight for civil rights in the areas of education, housing and employment. Not only will the Negroes continue to be excluded from the main stream of American life, he won't even be a tributary unless he is given full parity NOW! Tomorrow will be too late. This is not to say that immigrants should not be welcomed to this land of ours, but it is to say that they should not be welcomed at the exclusion of Negroes – the majority of whom are native-born, tenth- and eleventh-generation Americans.”

President Lyndon B. Johnson's Remarks at the Signing of the Immigration Bill

Liberty Island, New York

October 3, 1965

Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ambassador Goldberg, distinguished Members of the leadership of the Congress, distinguished Governors and mayors, my fellow countrymen:

We have called the Congress here this afternoon not only to mark a very historic occasion, but to settle a very old issue that is in dispute. That issue is, to what congressional district does Liberty Island really belong – Congressman Farbshtein or Congressman Gallagher? It will be settled by whoever of the two can walk first to the top of the Statue of Liberty.

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.

Yet it is still one of the most important acts of this Congress and of this administration.

For it does repair a very deep and painful flaw in the fabric of American justice. It corrects a cruel and enduring wrong in the conduct of the American Nation.

Speaker McCormack and Congressman Celler almost 40 years ago first pointed that out in their maiden speeches in the Congress. And this measure that we will sign today will really make us truer to ourselves both as a country and as a people. It will strengthen us in a hundred unseen ways.

I have come here to thank personally each Member of the Congress who labored so long and so valiantly to make this occasion come true today, and to make this bill a reality. I cannot mention all of their names, for it would take much too long, but my gratitude – and that of this nation – belongs to the 89th Congress.

We are indebted, too, to the vision of the late beloved President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, and to the support given to this measure by the then Attorney General and now Senator, Robert F. Kennedy.

In the final days of consideration, this bill had no more able champion than the present Attorney General, Nicholas Katzenbach, who, with New York's own "Manny" Celler, and Senator Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts, and Congressman Feighan of Ohio, and Senator Mansfield and Senator Dirksen constituting the leadership of the Senate, and Senator Javits, helped to guide this bill to passage, along with the help of the Members sitting in front of me today.

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This bill says simply that from this day forth those wishing to immigrate to America shall be admitted on the basis of their skills and their close relationship to those already here.

This is a simple test, and it is a fair test. Those who can contribute most to this country – to its growth, to its strength, to its spirit – will be the first that are admitted to this land.

The fairness of this standard is so self-evident that we may well wonder that it has not always been applied. Yet the fact is that for over four decades the immigration policy of the United States has been twisted and has been distorted by the harsh injustice of the national origins quota system.

Under that system the ability of new immigrants to come to America depended upon the country of their birth. Only 3 countries were allowed to supply 70 percent of all the immigrants.

Families were kept apart because a husband or a wife or a child had been born in the wrong place.

Men of needed skill and talent were denied entrance because they came from southern or eastern Europe or from one of the developing continents.

This system violated the basic principle of American democracy – the principle that values and rewards each man on the basis of his merit as a man.

It has been un-American in the highest sense, because it has been untrue to the faith that brought thousands to these shores even before we were a country.

Today, with my signature, this system is abolished.

We can not believe that it will never again shadow the gate to the American Nation with the twin barriers of prejudice and privilege.

Our beautiful America was built by a nation of strangers. From a hundred different places or more they have poured forth into an empty land, joining and blending in one mighty and irresistible tide.

The land flourished because it was fed from so many sources – because it was nourished by so many cultures and traditions and peoples.

And from this experience, almost unique in the history of nations, has come America's attitude toward the rest of the world. We, because of what we are, feel safer and stronger in a world as varied as the people who make it up – a world where no country rules another and all countries can deal with the basic problems of human dignity and deal with those problems in their own way.

Now, under the monument which has welcomed so many to our shores, the American Nation returns to the finest of its traditions today.

The days of unlimited immigration are past.

But those who do come will come because of what they are, and not because of the land which they sprung.

When the earliest settlers poured into a wild continent there was no one to ask them where they came from. The only question was: Were they sturdy enough to make the journey, were they strong enough to clear the land, were they enduring enough to make a home for freedom, and were they brave enough to die for liberty if it became necessary to do so?

And so it has been through all the great and testing moments of American history. Our history this year we see in Viet-Nam. Men there are dying – men named Fernandez and Zajac and Zelinko and Mariano and McCormick.

Neither the enemy who killed them nor the people whose independence they have fought to save ever asked them where they or their parents came from. They were all Americans. It was for free men and for America that they gave their all, they gave their lives and selves.

By eliminating that same question as a test for immigration the Congress proves ourselves worthy of those men and worthy of our traditions as a Nation.

So it is in that spirit that I declare this afternoon to the people of Cuba that those who seek refuge here in America will find it. The dedication of America to our traditions as an asylum for the oppressed is going to be upheld.

I have directed the Departments of State and Justice and Health, Education, and Welfare to immediately make all the necessary arrangements to permit those in Cuba who seek freedom to make an orderly entry into the United States of America.

Our first concern will be with those Cubans who have been separated from their children and their parents and their husbands and their wives and that are now in this country. Our next concern is with those who are imprisoned for political reasons.

And I will send to the Congress tomorrow a request for supplementary funds of \$12,600,000 to carry forth the commitment that I am making today.

I am asking the Department of State to seek through the Swiss Government immediately the agreement of the Cuban Government in a request to the President of the International Red Cross Committee. The

request is for the assistance of the Committee in processing the movement of refugees from Cuba to Miami. Miami will serve as a port of entry and a temporary stopping place for refugees as they settle in other parts of this country.

And to all the voluntary agencies in the United States, I appeal for their continuation and expansion of their magnificent work. Their help is needed in the reception and the settlement of those who choose to leave Cuba. The Federal Government will work closely with these agencies in their tasks of charity and brotherhood.

I want all the people of this great land of ours to know of the really enormous contribution which the compassionate citizens of Florida have made to humanity and to decency. And all States in this Union can join with Florida now in extending the hand of helpfulness and humanity to our Cuban brothers.

The lesson of our times is sharp and clear in this movement of people from one land to another. Once again, it stamps the mark of failure on a regime when many of its citizens voluntarily choose to leave the land of their birth for a more hopeful home in America. The future holds little hope for any government where the present holds no hope for the people.

And so we Americans will welcome these Cuban people. For the tides of history run strong, and in another day they can return to their homeland to find it cleansed of terror and free from fear.

Over my shoulders here you can see Ellis Island, whose vacant corridors echo today the joyous sound of long ago voices.

And today we can all believe that the lamp of this grand old lady is brighter today – and the golden door that she guards gleams more brilliantly in the light of an increased liberty for the people from all the countries of the globe.

Thank you very much.

Source: Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States: Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965. Volume II, entry 546, p. 1037-1040. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1966.

Image 1

President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the 1964 Civil Rights Act in the East Room, White House, Washington, D.C.

LBJ Library photo by Cecil Stoughton



Image 2

President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act in the President's Room, U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C.

LBJ Library photo by Robert Knudsen



Image 3

President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Hart-Celler Act into law, with New York City skyline behind, 1965

LBJ Library photo by Yoichi Okamoto



Image 4

President Lyndon B. Johnson delivers remarks at Liberty Island, New York, before the signing of the Hart-Celler Act, 1965

LBJ Library photo by Yoichi Okamoto



BECOMING US POLICY

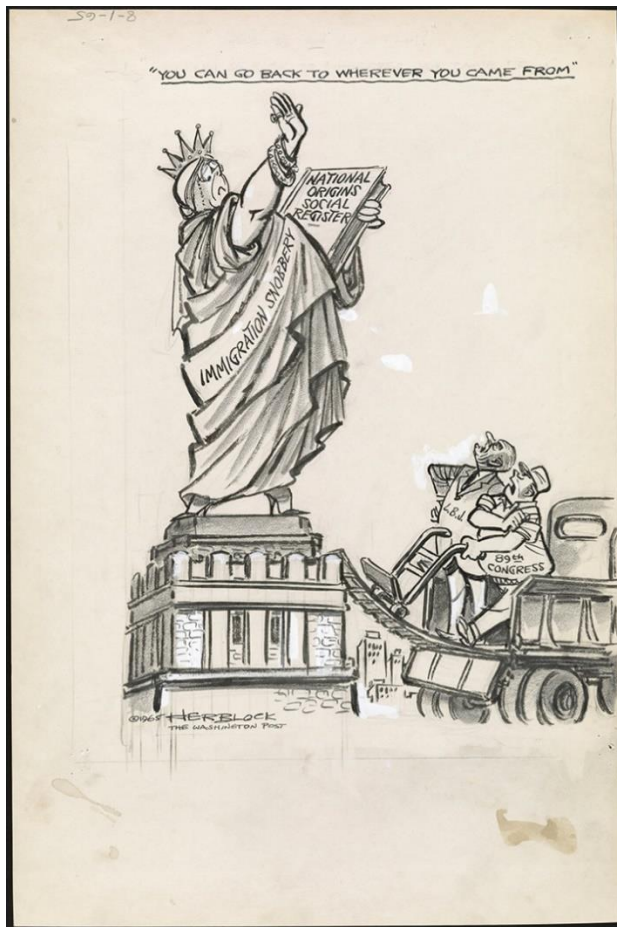
Cartoon 1

“You Can Go Back to Wherever You Came From,” *Washington Post*, August 1, 1965

India ink, graphite, and opaque white over graphite underdrawing. Herbert L. Block Collection, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress (005.09.00)

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<http://www.loc.gov/resource/hlb.06374/>



BECOMING US POLICY

Cartoon 2

“Speaking of National Origins -,” *Washington Post*, January 15, 1965

India ink, graphite, and opaque white over graphite underdrawing. Herbert L. Block Collection, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress (005.08.00)

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<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/hlb.06239>



Photo Analysis worksheet [HANDOUT A]

Step 1: Observation

Study the image. Look at the whole image and at the individual parts. List your observations below.

People	Objects	Activities

Step 2: Making Inferences

Based on what you have observed, make three inferences. List three things you believe are true based on the information from this image.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Step 3: Asking Questions

What questions does this photograph raise in your mind?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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Name:

Directions

Answer the following question using evidence from today's texts:

How do our immigration laws reflect or contradict American values and liberty traditions?

Name:

Directions

Answer the following question using evidence from today's texts:

How do our immigration laws reflect or contradict American values and liberty traditions?

What Side of History? Worksheet [HANDOUT C]

Directions

Read a variety of primary sources related to the Hart-Celler Act of 1965. Notice who the speaker is and what position they take on the question of immigration reform. Do they support or oppose Hart-Celler? What arguments or reasons do they put forth to defend their position?

Use the chart below to take notes on who is speaking and the reasons they give for why they hold that position.

Support the law		Oppose the law	
<i>Who?</i>	<i>Why?</i>	<i>Who?</i>	<i>Why?</i>