

A low-angle, close-up photograph of the Statue of Liberty's head and crown against a clear blue sky. The statue's green patina is prominent, and the rays of the crown are sharp and pointed.

# The Ledger

Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's Economic Education Newsletter

Fall 2008

## Immigration:

Online Resources  
For our National Conversation

# The Ledger

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# from the Editor . . .

Each new group of immigrants has changed America, and America has changed them. It's been a two-way process that hasn't always been easy or pleasant, but for the most part it seems to have worked.

Based on a lifetime of observing the process in Boston, here's my take on it:

- (a) New immigrants arrive with high hopes and little else.
- (b) They get the cold shoulder from groups that came before them, yet they manage to carve out a place for themselves in the local economy.
- (c) Then, with a few notable exceptions, they and their children turn around and treat new immigrants exactly as they themselves were treated.

It's a pattern that goes all the way back to the Pilgrims, who referred to themselves as the "Saints" and all others as "Strangers." Although they tried their best to keep outsiders at arm's length, the realities of commerce ultimately forced the Saints to deal with the Strangers. And so it has always been, in Boston and every other American community that's ever experienced a sizable influx of immigrants. (Think "Sharks and Jets.")

The tension between economics and ideology continues to play itself out in America's long-running debate over immigration. Every time a new ethnic group enters the mix, the main sources of conflict are broadly the same:

Pro: "Let them in! We need their labor."

Con: "Not so fast! They'll work for less and take our jobs"

Pro: "But they'll bring new energy and ideas!"

Con: "Maybe. But if we let too many of them in, they'll change our culture."

Even after 400 years, we still can't quite decide if we're "a nation of immigrants" or "a nation overrun by immigrants." But then maybe that shouldn't surprise us, given that immigration is so intertwined with issues of economic anxiety and national identity.

Thankfully, you and I don't have to untie that particular knot by ourselves. The difficult task of formulating U.S.

immigration policy falls to Congress and the voters. Our more modest goal in this issue of *The Ledger* is to highlight resources and background information that might help you participate more fully in the national discussion on immigration.

As always, I've tried to identify resources that represent a diversity of opinion. (They're listed in alphabetical order.) If you detect any hint of bias, please be assured that it doesn't represent the official view of the Federal Reserve.

Bob Jabaily, Editor  
*The Ledger*







# **Immigration:** **online resources** **for our** **National** **Conversation**



Digital Vision, Getty Images

### **Becoming American: The Chinese Experience**

Bill Moyers - PBS

<http://www.pbs.org/becomingamerican/>

Eyewitness accounts offer insights into the experiences of Chinese immigrants. There's also an online quiz and a timeline that covers the period from 1800-2000, complete with video clips.

#### **Don't Miss!**

Be sure to check out the 50-page Educator's Guide listed under the Resources section.

### **Blackstone: A Case Study in Immigration**

National Park Service

<http://www.nps.gov/blac/>

People sometimes refer to New England's Blackstone River Valley as the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution, and a significant part of its history revolves around the thousands of immigrants who came to work in its mills and factories. The National Park Service has created a website that will fill you in on much of the story.

#### **Don't Miss!**

Go to the For Teachers section, select the Curriculum Materials link, then go to Immigration Lesson Plan, and you

will come to Blackstone: A Case Study in Immigration, a PDF document with 23 pages of good stuff. (And if all else fails, just type the title into your search engine.)

### **Center for Immigration Studies**

<http://www.cis.org/>

The Center for Immigration Studies is "an independent, non-partisan, non-profit research organization founded in 1985" that is "devoted exclusively to research and policy analysis of the economic, social, demographic, fiscal, and other impacts of immigration on the United States." Its stated mission is "to expand the base of public knowledge and understanding of the need for an immigration policy that gives first concern to the broad national interest. The Center is animated by a pro-immigrant, low-immigration vision which seeks fewer immigrants but a warmer welcome for those admitted."

#### **Don't Miss!**

The Backgrounders/Reports section contains dozens of articles that offer varied perspectives on a broad range of immigration issues.



## Communities & Banking

### Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Communities & Banking, a free quarterly publication from the Federal Bank of Boston, focuses on low- and moderate-income issues in New England and often features articles related to immigration. For a free subscription send an email to [bostonfed.publications@bos.frb.org](mailto:bostonfed.publications@bos.frb.org), or read C&B online at <http://www.bos.frb.org/commdev/c&b/index.htm>

#### Don't Miss!

"Why Boomers Need Immigrants," Summer 2008.

### Counting on Immigration: Its Impact on the Massachusetts Economy

WBUR - National Public Radio

<http://www.wbur.org/news/local/immigration>

A five-part series produced by one of Boston's public radio stations looks at immigration as "an economic engine in the state of Massachusetts." Segments include changing demographics, immigrant entrepreneurs, undocumented immigrants in the underground economy, the difficulties of cutting ties to home, and a roundtable discussion of what part immigration should play in the economic strategy of Massachusetts. You can either listen to the audio or read the transcripts of each segment.

#### Don't Miss!

The Web Extras section includes photos, an essay, and interactive charts and graphs.

## Destination America

<http://www.pbs.org/destinationamerica>

This site contains background materials from the PBS special that examined why immigrants have come to America: Freedom to worship, freedom from oppression, freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom to create.

#### Don't Miss!

Be sure to check out the collection of compelling personal stories. The Teacher's Guide and the interactive quiz are also worth a look.

### EH.Net Encyclopedia: Immigration to the United States

Raymond L. Cohn, Illinois State University

<http://eh.net/encyclopedia/article/cohn.immigration.us>

EH.Net was created in 1993 to assist economists, historians, and other social scientists through the use of electronic communication and information technology. But even if you are "none of the above," you should check out "Immigration to the United States," by Raymond L. Cohn, of Illinois State University. Professor Cohn's article discusses (1) the basic data sources available, (2) the variation in the volume over time, (3) the reasons immigration occurred, (4) nativism and U.S. immigration policy, (5) the characteristics of the immigrant stream, (6) the effects on the United States economy, and (7) the experience of immigrants in the U.S. labor market.

#### Don't Miss!

Two sections address immigration's economic effects.

## eJournal USA

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa.html>

This online publication is produced by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs.

#### Don't Miss!

Entries from the eJournal archives:

- **Irish Immigrants in the United States**  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0208/ijse/kenny.htm>
- **Immigrants Joining the Mainstream**  
<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa.html#0208>
- **The United States in 2005: Who We Are Today**  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/1204/ijse/ijse1204.htm>

### French Canadian Emigration to the United States, 1840-1930

Claude Belanger, Marianopolis College

<http://faculty.marianopolis.edu/c.belanger/QuebecHistory/readings/leaving.htm>

These days, Americans on the left and on the right threaten to move to Canada whenever they're unhappy with health care, foreign policy, or almost any other aspect of American life. But there was a time when Canadians came to the U.S. in large numbers to look for work.

#### Don't Miss!

Lots of links will take you to charts and illustrations that are well worth a look.

## Historical Atlas of Massachusetts

Richard Wilkie and Jack Tager

<http://www.geo.umass.edu/faculty/wilkie/Wilkie/maps.html>

We should keep a special place in our hearts for those who put their intellectual property online for all to share. The *Historical Atlas of Massachusetts* isn't limited to immigration, but it does contain a few maps/graphics on the topic and is certainly worth a virtual excursion.

#### Don't Miss!

A map/graphic entitled "Boston's North and Ethnic Change, 1880-1925" will give you quick insight into the dynamics of immigration and the evolution of an urban neighborhood.

## Historical Census Browser

<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus>

If you're looking for a site that has historical census data and is easy to navigate, this site, operated by the University of Virginia, is the one. Go to the Ethnicity/Race/Place of Birth section for historical census data, 1790-1960. You can even map some of it.

### Don't Miss!

Check out the links to further historical census resources.

### Immigration . . .

Library of Congress

[http://lcweb2.loc.gov/learn/features/immig/immigration\\_set2.html](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/learn/features/immig/immigration_set2.html)

Primary source materials, prints, and photographs provide an excellent introduction to the American immigration story. And if you've never visited the Library of Congress website, you're in for a treat.

### Don't Miss!

The Resources section has teacher-tested lesson plans and a direct link to the LOC Prints and Photographs Online Collection (see page 10, "Ambivalence Over Immigration is Nothing New"). Also be sure to check out the Potluck section, which has dozens of recipes from around the world – everything from breakfast to special treats. And another section on the LOC website, From Haven to Home, focuses on 350 years of Jewish life in America, with direct links to some fascinating primary source documents. <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/haventohome/haven-century.html>

### Immigration in America

<http://www.americanheritage.com/immigration>

Online articles, links to blogs on the immigration debate, and recommendations for further reading.

### Don't Miss!

A slideshow features images of immigration in American history. One thing that remains constant across the years is the mixture of hope and trepidation on the faces of the immigrants, regardless of where they're from.

### Immigration to the United States, 1789-1930

Harvard University Library

<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/immigration>

The internet can get you into Harvard, or at least partly into the Harvard University Library via the Open Collections Program. Immigration to the United States, 1789-1930, is "a web-based collection of selected historical materials from Harvard's libraries, archives, and museums that documents voluntary immigration to the U.S. from the signing of the Constitution to the onset of the Great Depression."

### Don't Miss!

The interactive timeline has dozens of entries, many of which feature links to primary source materials such as an online copy of *How the Other Half Lives*, by Jacob Riis. And be sure to click on the link for The Naturalization Act of 1791, if only to see that it was once possible to write federal legislation that fit on a single page.

### Mass Moments

Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities

<http://www.massmoments.org/>

Even if you don't live in Massachusetts, your life has been influenced by the state's history. Mass Moments, created by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, features an extensive archive of pivotal occurrences in Massachusetts history, and a number of them are related to immigration.

### Don't Miss!

- **Chinese Workers Arrive in North Adams, June 13, 1870**  
<http://www.massmoments.org/moment.cfm?mid=191>

In 1870, 75 young men from China were brought to North Adams to replace striking shoe workers. Things did not end well.

- **Bread and Roses Strike Begins, January 12, 1912**  
<http://www.massmoments.org/moment.cfm?mid=16>

Few believed that a coalition of immigrants could organize a successful strike. But they did, and they managed to win. . . sort of. Ultimately, the factory owners moved their operations to other states.

- **Flu Epidemic Begins in Boston, August 27, 1918**  
<http://www.massmoments.org/moment.cfm?mid=249>

The flu epidemic of 1918 killed 50-100 million people worldwide. It also created panic and led to some bizarre theories as to its cause: The health commissioner of Denver blamed that city's Italian immigrants.

- **Ku Klux Klan Rallies in Worcester, October 19, 1924**  
<http://www.massmoments.org/moment.cfm?mid=302>

You wouldn't think of Worcester, Massachusetts as a hotbed of Klan activity. In fact, it's one of New England's more diverse cities. But in the 1920s, an





Digital Vision, Getty Images

influx of immigrants had created a degree of ethnic tension in many parts of New England.

- **Massachusetts Executes Sacco and Vanzetti, August 23, 1927**  
<http://www.massmoments.org/moment.cfm?mid=245>  
 Immigration fears may have had an impact.

## The New Americans

Independent Lens

<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/newamericans/index.html>

The program follows immigrants and refugees as they leave their homes and families behind and learn what it means to be new Americans in the 21st century.

### Don't Miss!

The 13-question Immigration Myths & Realities Quiz looks at some of the perceptions and misperceptions regarding immigration and its effects on American society. And the Cultural Riches section is just plain fun, especially The New Americans Cookbook, and the Music section, which features Nigerian legend King Sunny Ade and explores the Bollywood phenomenon.

## NOW on PBS: American Immigration History

<http://www.pbs.org/now/society/immhistory.html>

Contains segments on the immigration debate, immigration history, and a brief but interesting Resources section.

### Don't Miss!

The Voices section features interviews with citizens of Perry, Iowa giving their opinions on how they feel immigrants are affecting their town and what makes a person American.

## Pew Research Center

<http://www.pewresearch.org>

### U.S. Population Projections: 2005-2050

The Pew Research Center describes itself as a “nonpartisan ‘fact tank’ that provides information on the issues, attitudes, and trends shaping America and the world.” Just go to its homepage, type “immigration” in the site search box, and you’ll see a listing for dozens of articles and studies.

### Don't Miss!

Pew Hispanic Center features interactive maps and data bases that provide a wealth of information on Latino demographics and settlement patterns.

## Tenement Museum

<http://www.tenement.org/>

The museum is located in a former tenement on Manhattan’s Lower East Side. Built in 1863, it was home to more than 7,000 immigrants over the years. Six of the former apartments have been restored, and since 1992 the museum has been teaching visitors about the immigrant experience.

### Don't Miss!

The website’s Education section has lesson plans for elementary, middle and high school students. The Play section will take you on a virtual tour of the tenement.

## U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov>

Today’s U.S. Census does far more than count heads, and the Census Bureau’s website is a goldmine of historical and current data on immigration.

### Don't Miss!

The United States Foreign-Born Population section has reports, data tables, multi-media slide shows, and more. <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/foreign/index.html>

## U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

<http://www.uscis.gov>

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is the government agency that oversees lawful immigration to the United States of America.

### Don't Miss!

Go to Education & Resources, and check out the “Immigration Legal History” section, which provides an overview of U.S. immigration legislation from 1790-1996. And if you think it’s easy to become a U.S. citizen, go the Naturalization Self Test and give the questions a try.



# What do you think?

## Immigration patterns have changed

There was a time when almost all immigrants to America were white Europeans, who settled mostly in the Northeast and Midwest. Not anymore!

Higher percentages of immigrants now come from Latin America and Asia...

### REGION OF BIRTH OF THE U.S. FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION (percent)

	1850	1900	1960	2000
Europe	92.2	86.0	75.0	15.7
Asia	0.1	1.2	5.1	26.4
Africa	—	—	0.4	2.8
Oceania	—	—	0.4	0.6
Latin America	0.9	0.9	9.4	51.8
Northern America	6.7	6.0	9.8	2.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

And Sun Belt states are experiencing the greatest growth in immigrant population.

### HIGHEST PERCENT CHANGE, FOREIGN-BORN IN THE U.S., 1990-2000

North Carolina	274
Georgia	233
Nevada	202
Arkansas	196
Utah	171

Source: A Profile of the U.S. Foreign-Born Population, Kevin Deardorff, U.S. Census Bureau, December 9, 2003

There are economic explanations for both of these trends. What do you think they are?



Corbis Photography, Veer

# ambivalence over immigration

America's ambivalence over immigration goes way back, and the two sources of our mixed feelings have almost always been the same: economics and national identity. You can see it in these images from The Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Collection.

This 1852 Boston newspaper advertisement (below) expresses anxiety over immigration. At the foot of the hill (on the left of the image) is a gathering of native-

born Americans, including sailors, farmers, soldiers, and a Revolutionary War veteran. They hold banners emblazoned with such mottoes as "The Bible The Cornerstone of Liberty," "Beware of Foreign Influence," and "None But Americans Shall Rule America." The text at the bottom of the ad states that "the American Patriot" favors "protection of American Mechanics Against Foreign Pauper Labor."

At times we've wondered if America should pull in the welcome mat . . .

**AMERICAN CITIZENS!**

We appeal to you in all calmness. Is it not time to pause? Already the enemies of our dearest institutions, like the foreign spies in the Trojan horse of old, are within our gates. They are disgorging themselves upon us, at the rate of HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS EVERY YEAR! They aim at nothing short of conquest and supremacy over us.

A PAPER ENTITLED THE

**AMERICAN PATRIOT**

CONSTITUTION AND LAWS

**IN FAVOR OF**

- The protection of American Mechanics against Foreign Pauper Labor.
- Foreigners having a residence in the country of 21 years before voting.
- Our present Free School System.
- Carrying out the laws of the State, as regards sending back Foreign Paupers and Criminals.

**OPPOSED TO**

- Papal Aggression & Roman Catholicism.
- Foreigners holding office.
- Raising Foreign Military Companies in the United States.
- Nunneries and the Jesuits.
- To being taxed for the support of Foreign paupers millions of dollars yearly.
- To secret Foreign Orders in the U. S.

We are burdened with enormous taxes by foreigners. We are corrupted in the morals of our youth. We are interfered with in our government. We are forced into collisions with other nations. We are tampered with in our religion. We are injured in our labor. We are assailed in our freedom of speech.

**The PATRIOT is Published by J. E. Farwell & Co., 32 Congress St., Boston, And for Sale at the Periodical Depots in this place. Single copies 4 Cents.**



# is nothing new

Images from the Library of Congress

Uncle Sam on the “U.S. Ark of Refuge” welcoming immigrants, 1880.



Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-954

But we've also been committed to the notion that America should be a refuge for the world's oppressed and a land of opportunity for those who seek "a better life."

To view more images from the Library of Congress online collection, go to <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html>, select Search the Catalog, and type "immigration" in the Search box. But be forewarned, some of the images are disturbing. The past wasn't always pretty.

# What do you think?

*Do the words on the Statue of Liberty still ring true?*



Purestock, Getty Images

Ask people to come up with an image that symbolizes America's immigrant heritage, and many of them will choose the Statue of Liberty. A gift from the people of France, she has watched over New York Harbor since 1886, and on her base is a tablet inscribed with words penned by Emma Lazarus in 1883:

**Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!**

To some Americans, the words of Emma Lazarus are our national credo. Others say they're our national curse. What do you think? Credo? Curse? Both? Neither?

You can learn more about the Statue of Liberty and the restored immigration entry station on Ellis Island by visiting these sites:

Statue of Liberty National Monument  
**<http://www.nps.gov/stli/>**

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.  
**<http://www.ellisland.org>**

Ellis Island National Monument  
**<http://www.nps.gov/elis>**