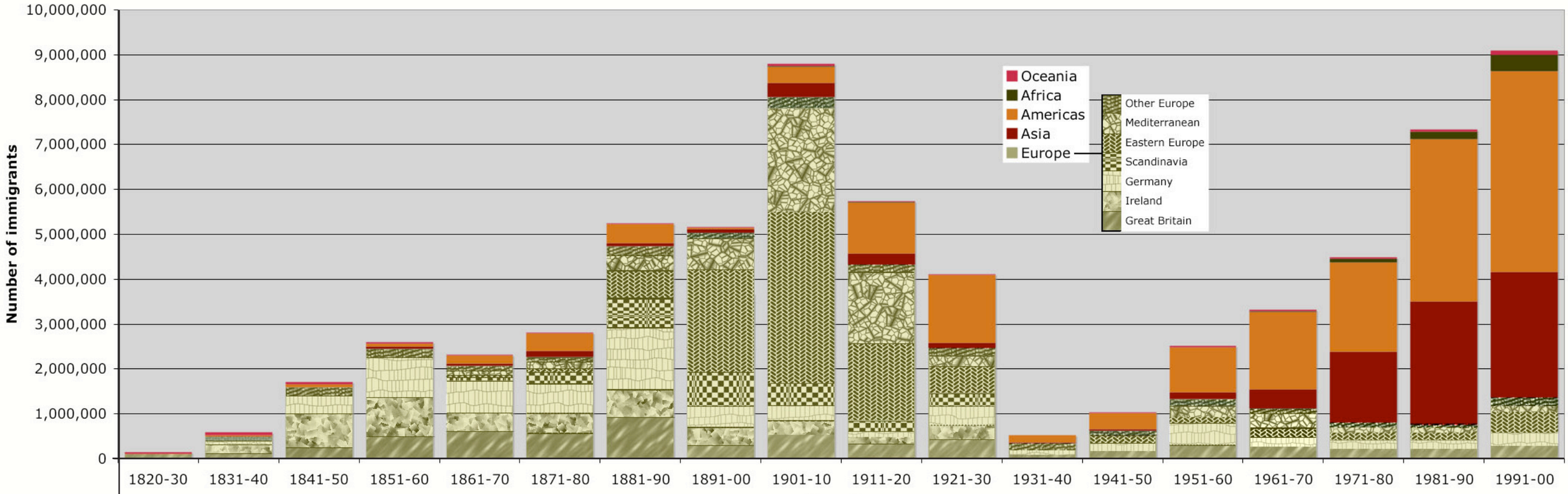
US Immigration by Region and Decade: 1821-2000



PUSH
World Trends and Events (outside America)

EUROPE: Unprecedented population growth plus social, political, and religious conflict, leave many peasants without enough land to raise food for survival. Many migrate to find jobs in cities, which aren't able to handle the influx economically or physically.

IRELAND'S potato crop is destroyed by blight. Starving peasants leave for America, at the expense of Irish and British landowners (sending them away was cheaper than feeding them).

GERMANY: Farmers and craftsmen suffer a worsening economy and forced military service.

EUROPE: Serfdom ends everywhere in 1848 freeing peasants to move to cities and the U.S.

CHINA: Civil wars cause economic and political chaos.

ENGLAND: Unemployed escape crowded cities during slump in British industrial revolution.

POLAND: Foreign rule, rebellions, and civil war

SCANDINAVIA: Low wages, crop failure, massive unemployment, and religious restrictions.

EUROPE: Agricultural depression

ITALY: Peasants have little left after paying rent on their land and heavy taxes. Earthquakes, volcanoes, political upheaval, and vineyard blight make life worse.

ARMENIANS systematically killed by Turks.

RUSSIA: Poor peasants and persecuted Jews

CANADA Industrial collapse leaves many unemployed.

MEXICAN Revolution sends many peasants to the U.S. border to find jobs.

GERMANY, ITALY, SPAIN: Fascist dictatorships take over during economic hard times.

CUBA: Refugees flee after Castro's Communist Revolution

RUSSIAN JEWS receive help from relief organizations to resettle in the U. S.

COLD WAR ends with the fall of Communism in Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

HONG KONG is turned back over to China after 154 years of British rule.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: War and Communist takeovers cause a flood of political refugees.

WORLD WAR I **WORLD WAR II** **THE COLD WAR**

PULL
American Trends and Events

WORLD WAR I **GREAT DEPRESSION** **WORLD WAR II** **KOREAN WAR** **VIETNAM WAR** **GULF WAR**

AMERICA has a chronic labor shortage. Cheap, fertile land makes it possible for most Americans to own farms. After the Revolution, indentured servitude is outlawed, as well as slavery in northern states. In 1808, importing slaves was no longer legal in the South.

AMERICAN SHIPS exporting raw materials to Europe returned with finished goods that took less space. They filled their holds with paying immigrants on the way back.

CIVIL WAR ends slavery in the U.S. and fuels growth of new industries.

ECONOMY: Panic of 1873

STEAMSHIPS cross the oceans in 2 weeks, compared to 6 to 10 weeks by sailing ship. Cost of crossing drops.

CALIFORNIA Gold Rush

RAILROAD BOOM: Cheap labor needed to lay track connecting the East to the western frontier. Railroad allows settlers to move west more conveniently than before. Railroads offer land at bargain prices to encourage new settlements that will need rail service.

CHINESE Exclusion Act 1883

SPANISH AMERICAN War 1898

INDUSTRIAL BOOM: Fast-growing U.S. manufacturing industries have an unending demand for cheap labor.

AFRICAN AMERICANS migrate north to fill industrial jobs after World War I cuts off the flow of immigrants.

JOHNSON-REED ACT (1924) creates annual immigration quotas based on the U.S. population in 1890 to limit the numbers of immigrants from eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, Mexico, and Asia.

MEXICANS encouraged to migrate to fill wartime farm labor shortage. The Bracero Program continues until 1964.

DISPLACED PERSONS ACT opens American doors to 200,000+ Europeans who could not return to their homes after the war.

ASIANS: Token quotas extended, but they can finally become U.S. citizens.

CUBAN refugees admitted under special quotas.

NEW IMMIGRATION LAW (1965): race, creed, and nationality restrictions to immigration lifted. No more quotas. Preference given to professionals.

VIETNAMESE refugees are rescued and resettled through special funds passed by Congress.