

# Immigration to the United States

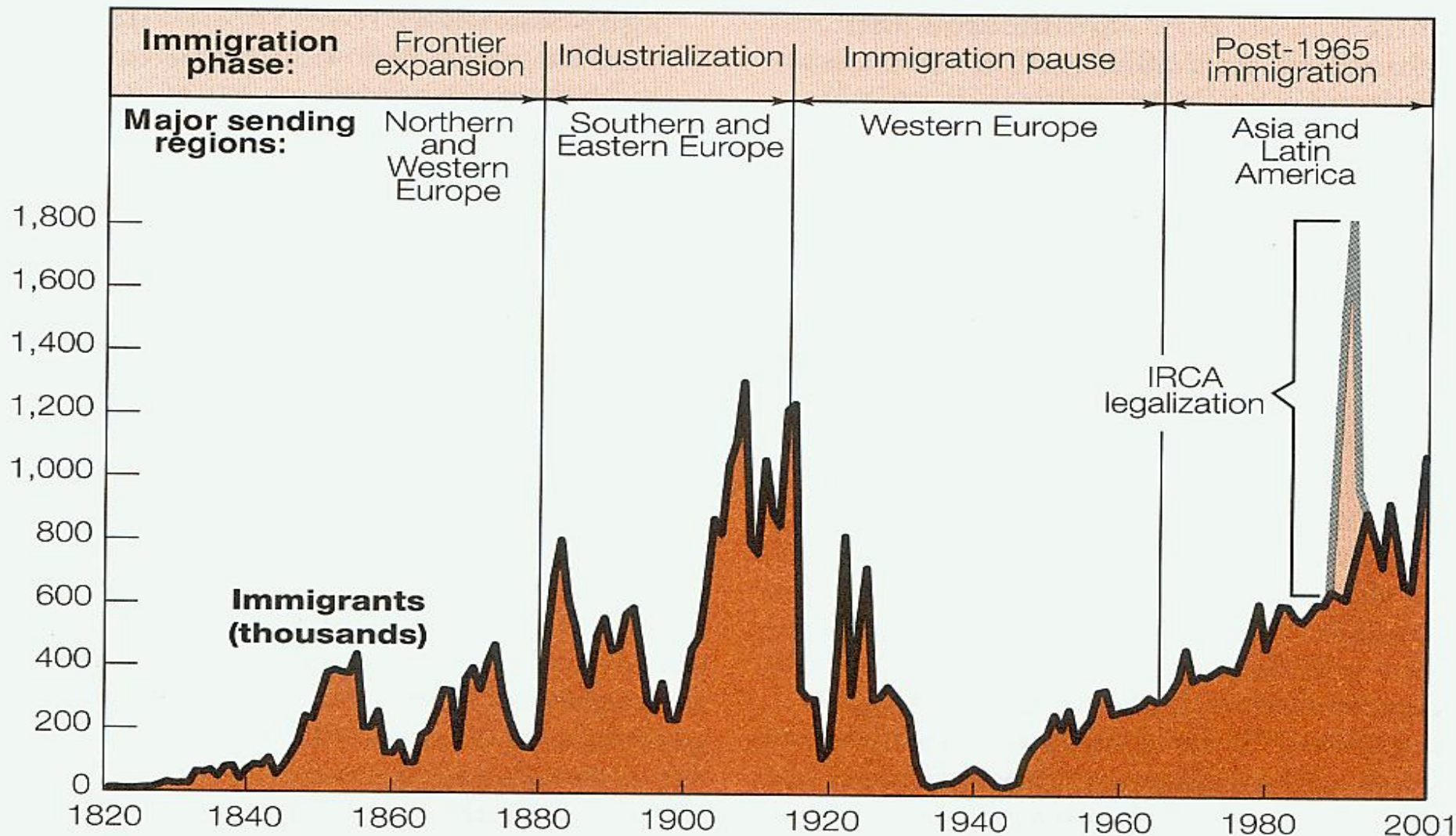
David A. Lanegran Ph.D.  
Macalester college

# Immigration to USA can be classified by era and source area

- Earliest migration was characterized by small groups sponsored by corporations or wealthy individuals with large land grants.
- Forced migration from Africa ended by 1810.

Figure 2

## Immigration to the United States, 1820 to 2001



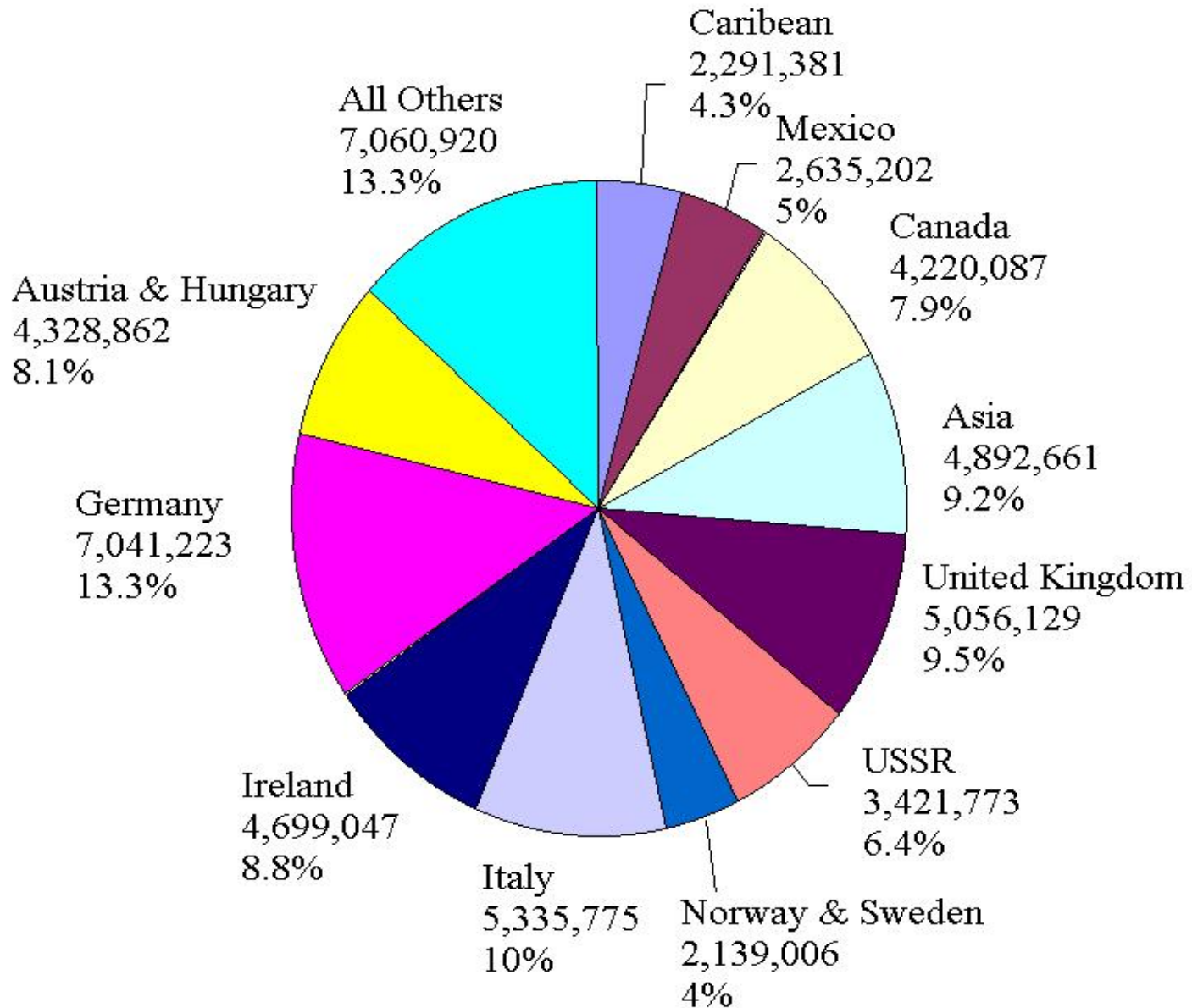
Note: IRCA refers to the amnesty provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, under which 2.7 million unauthorized foreign residents obtained legal immigrant status.

Sources: Immigration and Naturalization Service, *2001 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service* (2003): table 1.

# About 67 million people crossed the Atlantic Ocean between 1500 and 1960

- 60 million were Europeans.
- 65% of the Europeans came to USA.
- About 36 million settled in the USA permanently.

# The Major Sources of Immigration into the US for the Years 1820-1986



# Two Phases in Old Migration

- Up to 1890 migration streams were dominated by British and Germanic populations.
- From 1890 to 1920 people minority groups in the Russian and Austro-Hungarian empires. Between 1901 and 1911 800,000 people came each year. 71% came from South and SE Europe.

# Public opinion has been ambivalent about immigration

- State governments and corporations encouraged immigrants to take up agriculture and work in industries.
- Recruiting offices were established in major European cities.
- Immigrant guides were published in various European languages.
- Immigrants could become citizens.

- Nativist movements began in 1830
- Reached fever pitch in 1850s against Irish
- Chinese exclusion act passed in 1885
- 1890 American Protective Association was formed
- 1915 Northern Ku Klux Klan organized and active

# Many opposed immigration for non economic reasons

- Government had always tried to regulated against objectionable people.
- Conflicts arose between the earlier and later immigrants “Close the drawbridge after me.”

# Wretched Refuse Is Just the Start



New-York Historical Society

A sinister view, by the cartoonist E. S. Bisbee in Harper's Weekly in 1871, of immigrants boarding "The Modern Ark" for America.

# Academics involved

- Emergence of Genetic View of Race.
- American Eugenic Society formed.
- Harry Laughlin “Expert Analysis of metal and dross in America’s melting pot.” –1920
- Expert witness before Congress.

# Non-Economic Argument Wins

- Dramatic restrictions on immigration were established in early 1920s.
- Quota system established that favor people from countries that had been the origin for the earliest immigrants. i.e. Northern Europe

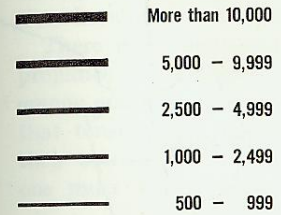
# Need for workers did not end

- Demand for workers in northern cities continues and a major migration of African Americans from South to North is the result of the restrictions on international migration.

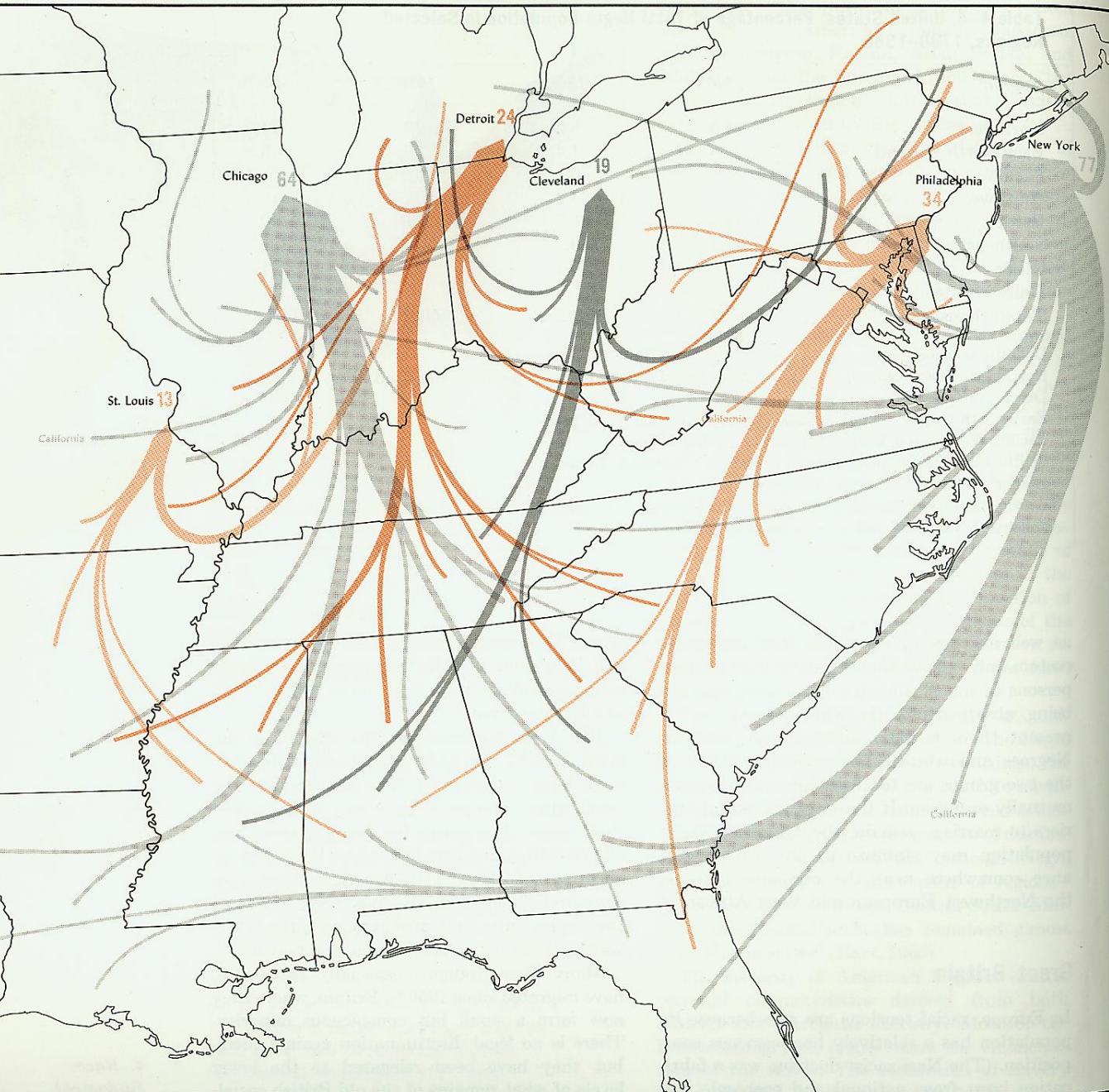
**Figure 4-6. UNITED STATES: NONWHITE MIGRANTS TO SELECTED METROPOLITAN CENTERS**

The flow lines join states of residence in 1955 to places of residence in 1960. Compiled from data U.S. Bureau of the Census *U.S. Census of Population, 1960, Subject Reports, Mobility for Metropolitan Areas*, Washington, D.C., 1963.

Flow line widths show numbers changing residence 1955-1960



24 Thousands of migrants 1955-1960



# Factors in Migration of African Americans

- Pull of industrial jobs in northern cities.
- Push of changes in share cropping system of agriculture in south.
- Push of restrictions on life of African Americans living in the south.
- Push of lynchings.
- Pull of northern newspapers and radio broadcasts.

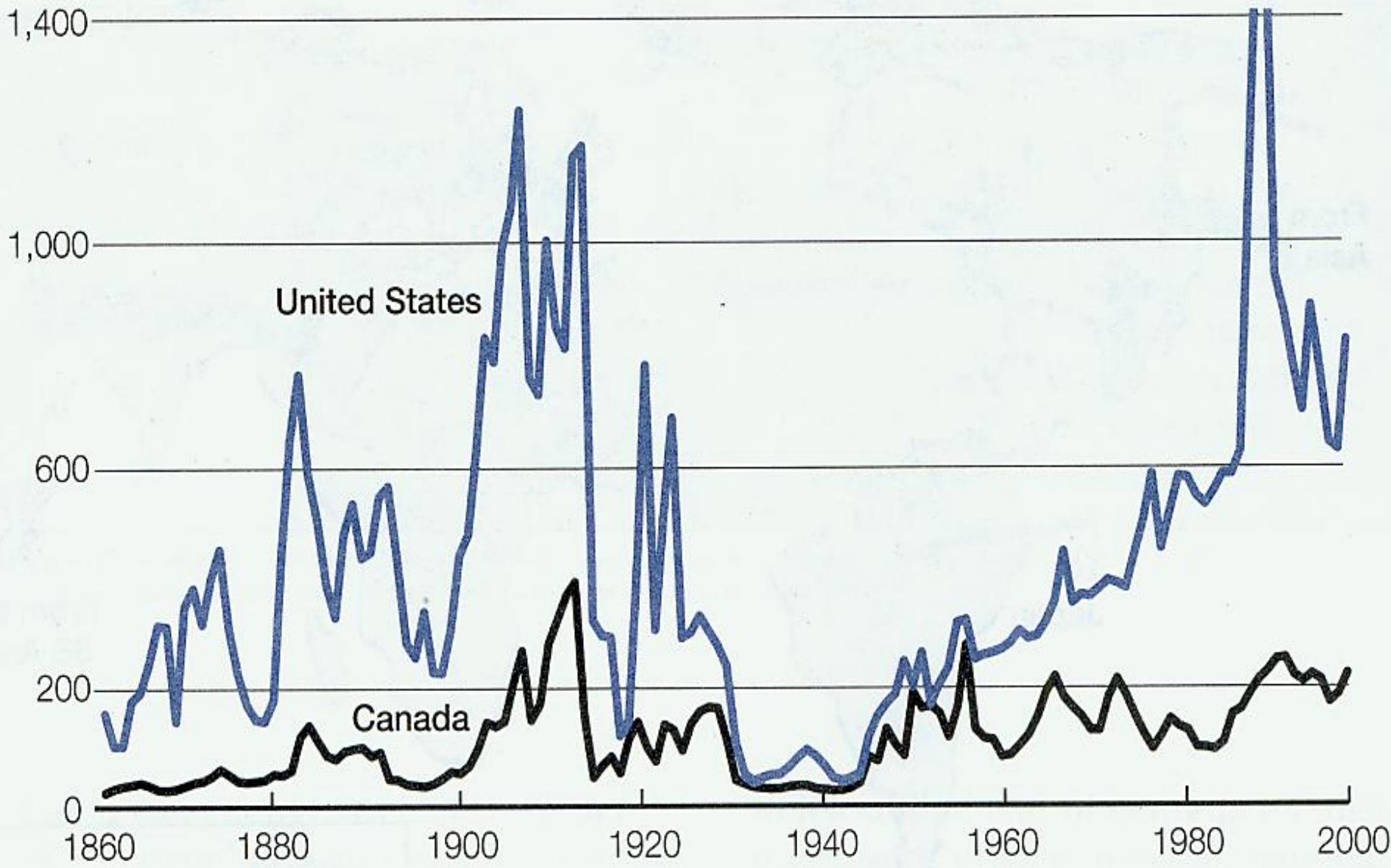
# Contemporary Immigration

- Immigration laws changed in early 1960s and old quotas favoring Europeans were ended.
- Numbers of immigrants has increased to levels of a century ago.
- New source areas are east and south east Asia, Mexico and rest of Latin America.

Figure 5

# Immigration to the United States and Canada, 1860-2000

Immigrants (thousands)



# Immigration rates since WWII

- Not all immigration is accounted for because of undocumented entrants.
- Spike in 1990 is the result of amnesty granted to illegal aliens who were counted as entering in the amnesty year.

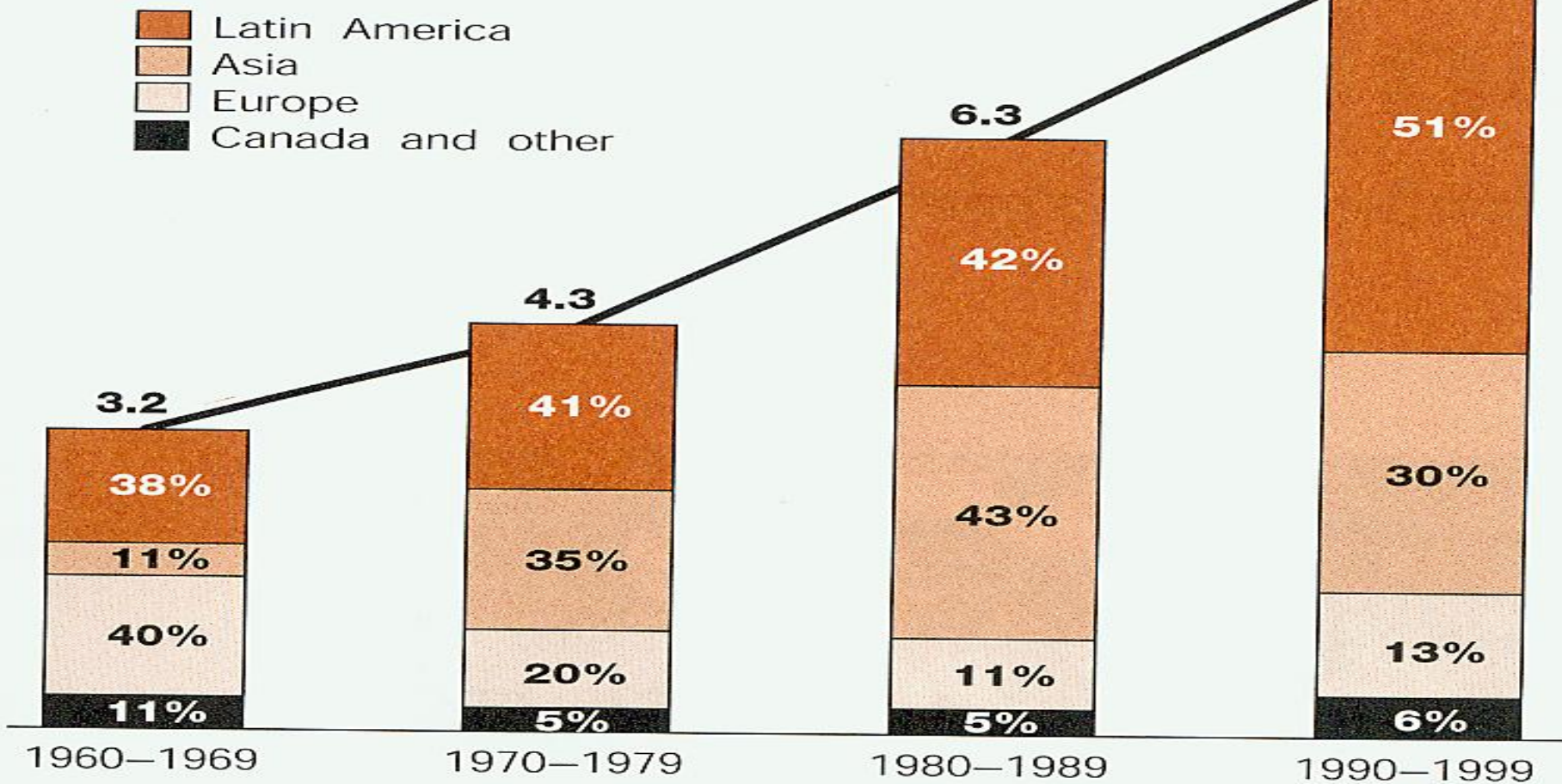
*Table 2***Foreigners Entering the United States, by Category, 2000**

Category	Number
<b>Immigrants</b>	849,807
Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens	347,870
Other family-sponsored	235,280
Employment-based	107,024
Refugees and aslyees	65,941
Diversity immigrants	50,945
Other immigrants	42,747
<b>Estimated emigration</b>	220,000
<b>Nonimmigrants entering U.S.</b>	33,651,072
Visitors for pleasure/business	30,511,125
Temporary workers/trainees	634,788
Foreign students and dependents	676,283
<b>Illegal immigration</b>	
Alien apprehensions	1,814,729
Aliens deported	184,775
Alien smugglers located	14,406
Unauthorized foreigners (estim.)	8,500,000
Annual increase (1995-2000)	700,000

Figure 1

# U.S. Immigrants by Region of Birth, 1960s to 1990s

Immigrants in millions



Note: The total for 1990 to 1999 includes 2.2 million immigrants who were legalized in 1987 and 1988 and granted immigrant status in the early 1990s. The sum of the percentages may exceed 100 because of rounding.

Source: Immigration and Naturalization Service, *Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service*, 1970 to 2001, selected years.

# Immigrant settlement pattern has clear geographic pattern

- Immigrants settle in areas with economic opportunities – they avoid the empty areas.
- Immigrants settle in urban areas.
- Immigrants concentrate in ports of entry.
- Chain migrations clearly visible.

# Immigrants avoid empty areas

- Today's immigrants are not able to become involved in modern agriculture because they lack sufficient capital to buy into agribusiness and low density areas are dominated with extensive forms agriculture that do not require large inputs of labor.

# Immigrants move to cities

- Immigrants move to centers of urban employment either large cities or smaller cities with demands for industrial labor. The food processing industry employs large numbers of immigrants.
- Northeast Megalopolis, Los Angeles, Chicago, SF Bay Area have large numbers of immigrants.

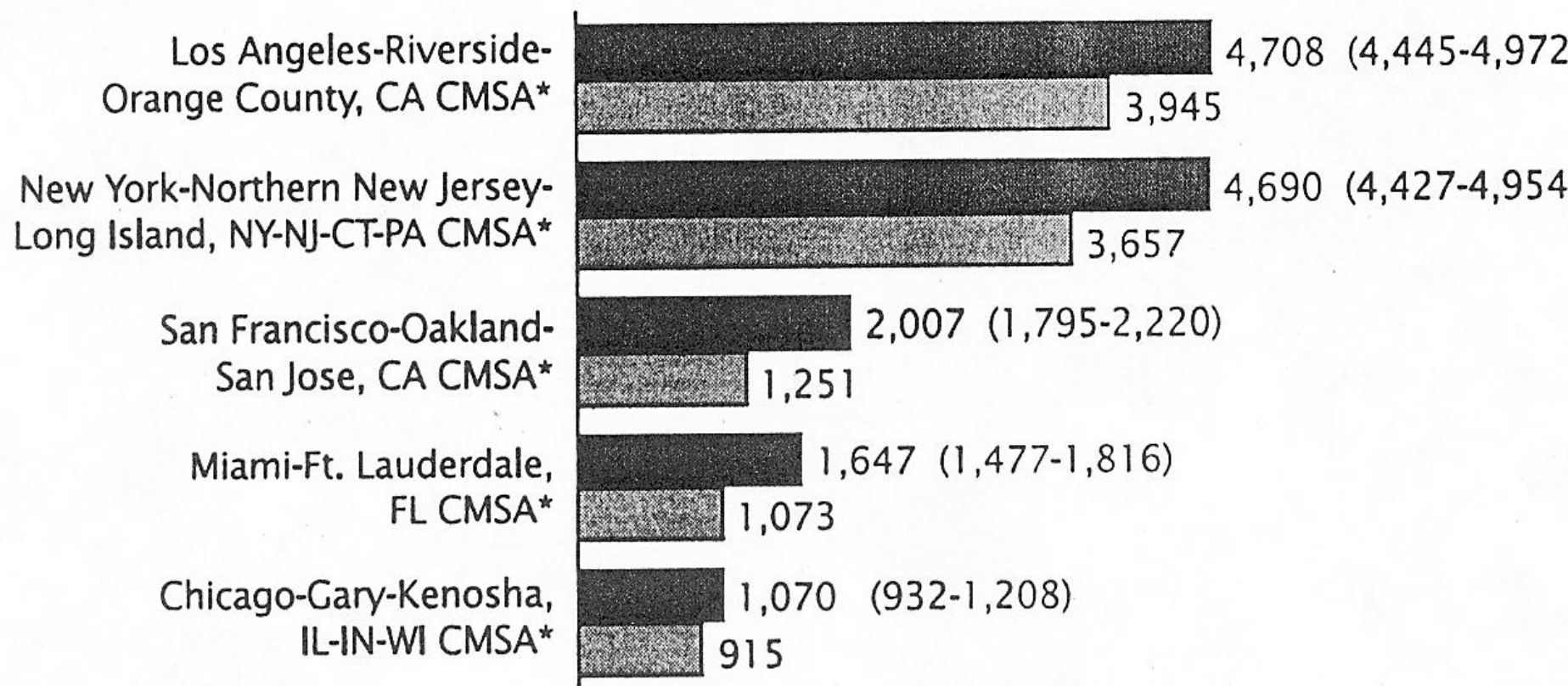
Figure 5-1.

## Metropolitan Areas With a Foreign-Born Population of 1 Million or More in 2000: 1990 and 2000

(Numbers in thousands. 90-percent confidence intervals in parentheses for 2000 estimates. For 1990, resident population. For 2000, civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post.

Metropolitan areas as defined June 30, 1993; see text, footnote 1)

2000  
1990



\*Change from 1990 to 2000 is statistically significant.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1999, Table 16 and 2001, Table 5-2A.

# Ports of Entry

- A large fraction of immigrants stay in the cities or states where they first arrive.
  - ◆ Asian immigrants concentrated in pacific coast cities and states.
  - ◆ Mexican and Latin American immigrants concentrated in southwest.
  - ◆ Cuban immigrants in Florida.

# Immigrants by state

- California 28% of national total
- New York 12%
- Florida 9%
- Texas 9%
- New Jersey 5%
- Illinois 4%
- These states have 68% of nation's immigrants but 40% of total pop.

# Chain Migrations

- Immigrants encourage family and friends to follow them.
- New immigrants require a sponsor.
- New immigrants move to be near family and friends.
- Thus once a flow begins it has a strong tendency to maintain itself.

# Importance of Immigrants

- By historical standards number of immigrants in USA today is unprecedented.
  - ★ 33.1 mil today
  - ★ 13.5 in previous peak year 1910

- **Immigrants account for 11.5% of population of the United States. If rates continue the percentage will surpass the previous peak % year of 1890.**

# Impact on population growth

- The arrival of 1.5 million immigrants per year, combined with 750,000 births to immigrant women accounts for 2/3 of annual population growth in the United States.

# Poverty

- Poverty rate for immigrants compared to native born is 17.6 versus 10.6
- Immigrants and minor children comprise about 25% of the total population living in poverty.

# Education

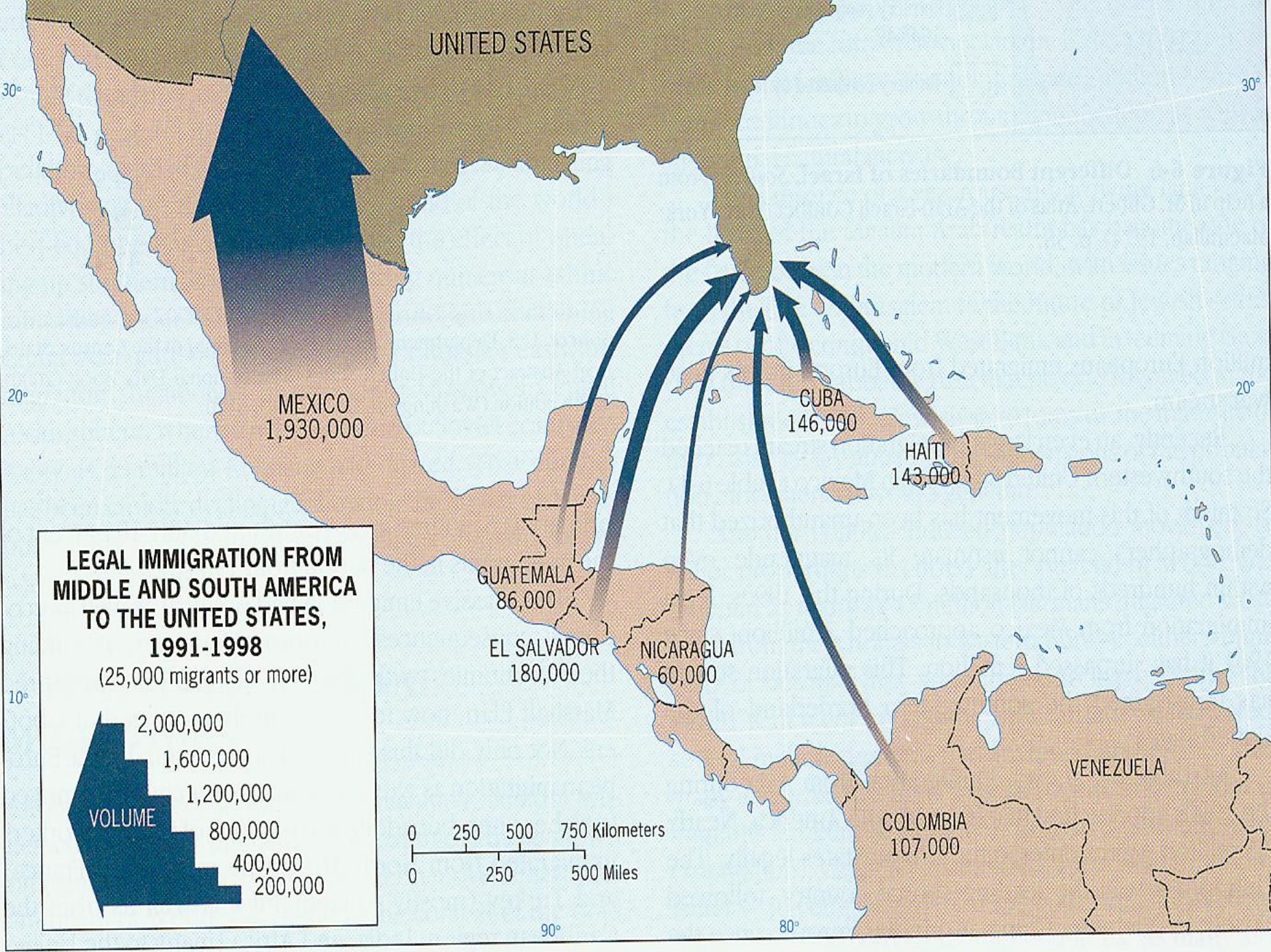
- Immigration accounts for nearly all the growth in public school enrollment.
- 30% of immigrants do not have a high school diploma.

# Countries of Origin

- Mexico accounts for 30% all immigrants 9.7 million living in United States.
- More than number of immigrants from any other area in the world.
- This is what the models would predict.

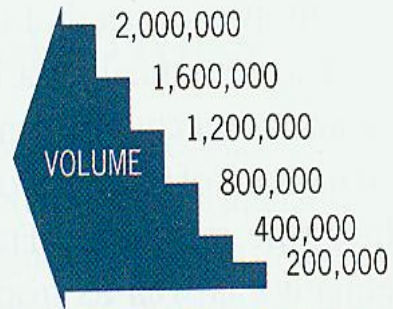
# Regions of Origin

- Immigrants from Mexico, Central and South America, and East Asia comprise 70% of total.
- Europe and Africa south of the Sahara make up 15.9 % of the total, but only 13.9% of those coming after 1990.



**LEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM  
MIDDLE AND SOUTH AMERICA  
TO THE UNITED STATES,  
1991-1998**

(25,000 migrants or more)



# Settlement pattern close up

- There has been a shift in where the immigrant population concentrated.
- Northeast and Midwest no longer the primary destination regions.

# People move to jobs and jobs move to people

- Because the majority of the migration from Mexico is for economic reasons, if the economy in Mexico changes the push factors will be reduced.
- NAFTA has resulted in huge growth in manufacturing jobs in Mexico.
- New jobs should slow down migration.

Figure 6

# Mexico-U.S. Migration With and Without NAFTA

Number of migrants

