Immigration Basics

Modern American History

I. Naturalization Act, 1790.

a. Free, white, “good character”

b. excluded Native Americans, African-Americans

II. Naturalization Act 1870

1. citizenship for foreign born of “African descent”
2. Asians excluded

III. **Chinese Exclusion Act 1882**

1. Labor-based
2. 1870-1940 western states introduced 13 different bills limiting or excluding Asians
3. Also notable, the Gentlemen’s Agreement severely limiting Japanese immigration.

IV. **Immigration Act 1924**

1. Limited immigration using quota system
2. Aimed to protect white, protestant USA
3. “The time has come when we should shut the door” – Sen. Durant Smith

V. Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act

a. Because China was US ally in WWII

VI. Immigration and Naturalization Act 1952

1. Upheld quotas but banned race as decisive factor
2. Banned “subversives” and suspected communists (Cold War!)

VII. **Immigration Act 1965**

1. Replaced quota system – allowed immigration from Asia, Africa, South America – passed at height of Civil Rights Era
2. Visas for skilled workers and their relatives
3. “Discriminatory provisions against immigrants from eastern and southern Europe, token quotas for Asian and African countries, and implications of race superiority in the Asian-Pacific Triangle have no place in the public policy of the United States. A newcomer should not arrive at our nation’s door, hat in hand, apologizing for his parentage or birthplace. This is the great vice of the national origins quota system.” ~ Sen. Hart (The Hart-Celler Act)

VIII. Immigration Act 1986

1. dealt with undocumented persons

IX. Immigration Act 1990

1. increased limits on skilled workers and families
2. focus on medicine, engineering, science

X. Real ID Act 2005

a. New federal standards for Drivers Licenses and ID cards.