

New Immigrants

- From 1880 to 1921, a record setting 23 million immigrants arrived in the USA. At the time, the USA did not have quotas, or limits, on how many immigrants from a particular country could enter the country. Nor did it require immigrants to have a passport or special entrance papers.
- Where immigrants were coming from changed dramatically. From the colonial era to 1880, most immigrants to America came from England, Ireland, or Germany in Northern Europe. Between 1880 and 1921, approximately 70% of all immigrants entering the USA came from *southern and eastern Europe* (Italy, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Poland).
- These "*new immigrants*" were typically young, male, and either Catholic or Jewish. Most spoke little or no English. The majority were unskilled agricultural laborers with little money or education.