Nativism

Many native-born Americans viewed the new immigrants with a combination of fear, hostility and suspicion. ***Nativism*** was based on the belief that immigrants posed a threat to native-born Americans and their way of life. Nativists had deep-seated prejudices about immigrants based on ethnicity, religion, political and social beliefs.

Many American workers accused immigrants of taking jobs away from "real" Americans. Nativists worked to restrict the number of immigrants entering the United States.

In 1883, Congress passed the ***Chinese Exclusion Act*** which restricted Chinese immigration to America. In the 1890s, they called for laws restricting the number of new immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe. They encouraged ***quotas*** that would limit the number of immigrants the US would accept from each nation.