

# A Brief History of Immigration in the United States

1790—Uniform rule for naturalization sets residence requirement at two years.

1819—Congress enacted first significant federal legislation relating specifically to immigration.

**Please note:** U.S. Immigration policies are drawn in three colors: **Red** suggests the main intent of the policies in this year was to restrict immigration. **Green** suggests the intent may have been to increase immigration. **Yellow** denotes neither or both. Feel free to disagree.

Numbers have been rounded for ease of comprehension. ~72 Million is easier to make sense of than 72,066,614. If you prefer more specific numbers, please treat yourself to the original source: [http://www.fairus.org/site/PageServer?pagename=research\\_research9c29](http://www.fairus.org/site/PageServer?pagename=research_research9c29)

Finally, immigration laws do not tell the whole story about immigration. Consider what effect on immigration World War I, World War II, the Great Depression, hyperinflation in foreign countries, or relative differences in per capita income may have.

