**Immigration Across the Disciplines**

**Week 8 Notes**

**Questions**

It seems to me that Gerber paints a much “prettier” picture than Ngai. Is this due to a more condensed format, or is there some bias or difference in perspective between the authors?

When the US began to accept dual citizenship in 1970, were there restrictions based on what the other country was? (for example: you could not be both an American citizen and a Cuban citizen and restrictions along similar lines)

Have ANY attempts to quantitatively evaluate the success or failure of the refugee program been instituted with any success?

**Gerber: Sections 1-3 & 2-5**

A driving force in rethinking immigration policy was the USA’s image/reputation. (p. 45)

**Movement toward Reform**

McCarran-Walter Act (1952):changed quotas for individual nations to numbers in proportion to the 1920 census; eliminated whites-only policy of naturalization; still limited Easter Hemisphere & put no limits on Western Hemisphere; tightened screening for aliens seeking residency. (p.46)

The refugee situation following WWII demanded recognition and solutions from the US as the new, dominant world power. (p.46-47)

Displaced Persons Act (1948, renewed 1950).

President Eisenhower used **parole power** (unilateral presidential power in times of emergency) to grant visas to refugees from Hungary & Cuba following failed revolutions against Communism. (p. 47)

Charities, ethnic organizations, civil rights groups, and churches lobbied for immigration reform. (p. 48-49)

Senators & Representatives from ethnic backgrounds were pivotal in pushing new immigration reform through in 1965, the Immigration and Nationality Act. (p. 50-51)

**Resurgence of Migration**

Western Europeans were experiencing economic growth following the war, so most immigration to the US came from unstable countries in Eastern Europe, Asia, and Africa. (p. 53)

Studies proved that fears of increasing crime with immigration were unfounded; immigrants were much less likely to commit crimes than “natives.” (p. 54)

**Growth of Illegal Immigration**

Greater anxiety came with the increase in illegal immigration, stemming from fears of international terrorism and availability of jobs in a deindustrializing nation. (p. 58)

**Resurgence of Controversy & Debate**

Ethnic, humanitarian, and church organizations continued to support more open immigration policies. (p. 59)

Globalization led to increased recognition of dual citizenship. (p. 61)

**Mass Population Movement & Resettlement Since 1965**

Technological advancements (especially in medicine) facilitated the need for resettlement. (p. 87)

Rapid dissemination of knowledge and ideas fans the flames. (p. 88)

**Structure of Contemporary Immigration**

While family ties continue to be of great influence, nations have become less of a determinant than social class, gender, regions & localities, and occupations. (p. 92)

Contemporary immigrants are often educated and literate because of the changing job base in the US. (p. 93)

Work visas for technical and health-related professions are expedited. (p. 93-94)

**Numerical Predominance of Women**

More single, wage-earning women are immigrating in nearly all groups than in the past. (p. 96)

**Barkan, Diner, & Kraut: Ch. 1-America & Refugees**

Thanks to media coverage, most Americans believe refugees comprise the majority of immigrants, even though this is far from the truth. (p. 41)

**Moral Commitments**

Jews denied access on the *St. Louis* and the failure of the Wagner-Rogers bill in 1939 set an early pattern of denying additional consideration for immigrants classified as refugees. (p. 42-43)

Key point: reaction to refugees depends on who the refugees of the day are🡪blatant anti-Semitism (p. 43)

Both political and cultural aspects play into this. (p. 43)

Practical reasoning could be applied for accepting “normal” immigrants, but practicality rarely applied to refugees. (p. 44)

**Moral Commitments & Refugee Admissions**

Various themes in the commitments have been observed since WWII. (p. 44)

1. Anticommunsim. This serves to show how “evil” communism is and promote support for the democratic government in the US. (p. 44) 🡪ideology
2. US action. Many countries, like Vietnam, Cuba, Laos, Cambodia, and others, have been delivered into worse circumstances because of US involvement, so the US feels it must accept these refugees as a kind of penance. (p. 44-45) 🡪personal responsibility
3. Broader international effort. Basically, doing its “fair share” in resolving international conflicts and dilemmas through resettlement. (p. 45)
4. Legal refugee definitions. These definitions, both on national and international documentation levels, point to highly individualized cases of what creates a refugee, making it hard to classify an individual as a refugee. (p. 45-46)

**Refugee Admissions & Resettlement**

Admission of refugees, indeed all immigrants, is mandated and controlled by the government for practical and logistical reasons, resulting in the various restrictions, screenings, and directives in place. (p. 47)

In some cases, adult refugees are “given up on” and their children become the focus of attempts to adapt them to American society and way of life (social transformation). (p. 48)

The diversity of refugees makes it nearly impossible to determine the starting point for this social transformation. (p. 48-49)

**Resettlement & Employment: Data Considerations**

While employment status is often used to determine the success of refugee integration into society, too many variables (economic climate, diversity of refugees themselves, etc.) exist that complicate the data. (p. 50)

**Resettlement, Employment, & Self-Sufficiency: Policy Considerations**

Refugee programs in the US were originally aimed at returning refugees to the same profession they already had; it has shifted to getting them any job as fast as possible. (p. 51)

Assigning meaning to employment & self-sufficiency is difficult and can change depending on perspective. (p. 50-51)

**Ngai: Chapter 7**

Civil rights legislation and new immigration laws in the late 1960s eliminated racial differences as a basis for restricting immigration. (p. 227)

The need to project an image of democratic liberalism to the world with the onset of the Cold War affected immigration and civil rights policy. (p. 228)

**Cultural Pluralism**

Social science in the 1920s began to separate race from culture. (p. 231)

Fascist regimes in Europe supported racist ideals, and so to save face internationally the US had to begin to end its own racist history. (p. 232)

Louis Adamic promoted the idea that the US, as a world leader, could begin to erode cultural and racial boundaries, setting an example that might lead to a sort of unified world. (p. 233)

Pluralism became less about cultural/ethnic identity and more about the meaning of culture & ethnicity to politics with the advent of the Cold War. (p. 234)

**Postwar Immigration Legislation: 1948-1952**

Following WWI, the US had retracted from almost all international obligations and relationships, which coincided with the stricter immigration laws that stemmed the flood of refugees from Europe. (p. 234-235)

As a new world power, the US had to take a direct interest in rebuilding the old world powers (European countries) and therefore had to find a solution to the refugee crisis. (p. 235)

With the Declaration of Human Rights (1948), emphasis was placed on human rights as a principle for international law and refugee policy. (p. 236)

Immigration legislation was viewed as a tool against the spread of Communism that was inflicting Europe, beginning with Senator Pat McCarran. (p. 237)

Policy continued to disfavor Asians, hiding its generally racist ideas beneath artful language and using Communism as a veil. (p. 238)

New norms for level of education and skill set were also established. (p. 238)

**The Liberal Critique of the National Origins Quotas**

Various religious, ethnic, cultural, and labor groups moved to support a more liberal immigration policy. (p. 240)

Working together, these groups sought to influence public opinion by spreading pamphlets, organizing presentations & petitions, and publishing books and articles. (p. 240)

This liberal movement did not manage to alter the national origins quotas until 1965, resulting in a series of compromises by the politicians involved that angered some of the citizens advocating for greater change. (p. 240-241)

Herbert Lehman proved a powerful force in immigration reform, labeling the quotas system as akin to Hitlerism & provoking the patriotism of those that had fought against Hitler’s policies in WWII. (p. 242)

Little was done, from either side, to change the nonquota system that applied to the Western Hemisphere. (p. 246-247)

**Economic Nationalism & Immigration Reform**

Liberals did not seek to abolish restriction, but to establish a fairer method and better criteria for restriction. (p. 248)

Various formulas were used to try and calculate the number of immigrants the US could take on and absorb economically before the final number of 250,000 was accepted. (p. 249)

One of the key arguments for expansion of immigration to the US was that it would boost the postwar economy. (p. 250)

Some argued against too drastic of an increase, because there were already enough unemployed minorities within the national boundaries. (p. 252)

**Western Hemisphere Quotas**

The policy of not having quotas for the Western Hemisphere was a way of showing goodwill to close neighbors that the US was, among other things, economically tied with. (p. 255-256)

Supporters of the nonquota system pointed out that administrative features of immigration restriction were already in place that would keep immigration from Latin American countries from growing too large. (p. 256)

Part of the support for a quota system in the Western Hemisphere was that it would limit Latin American & Asian immigration, which had always been favored, even if on racist grounds. (p. 258)

**Hart-Celler Act (1965) & Limits of Liberal Reform**

By focusing on specific occupations and skills, the act drew many physicians, scientists, and scholars from lesser developed countries. (p. 260)

The new system opened new and unanticipated methods of migration, especially relating to students, siblings, spouses, children, and other such provisions. (p. 260-261)

**Immigration Policies in Post-WWII** **Europe (Christiane Harzig)**

Immigration acts in European countries encouraged colonial nationals to settle the main country and enter the local workforce.

Other countries, like Sweden, switched from industrial-based immigration (the need for labor) to family reunification & refugee migration.

Following WWII, many European countries worked toward equality and the acceptance of diversity as their immigrant populations swelled.

Immigration becomes more restricted by the bureaucracy with time.

\*\*\*\*\*Definitions of persecution evolved with geopolitical interests 🡪Haitians were sent back because Haiti was not a Communist regime, but Cuba, for example, was such.