

CHAPITRE 6

L'IMMIGRATION AUX ETATS-UNIS

1 – L'histoire

Since 1607, the United States of America have received a lot of people from everywhere in the world, and all the actual Americans are either immigrants, or descendants of immigrants. In 1620, 102 English Puritans who were not satisfied by the doctrine came to the United

States, joined less than 10 years later by other ones to found the Massachusetts.

- 1607 : First English settlers in Jamestown

- 1608 : French from Canada went to the North of the US

- 1620 : Mayflower and his Pilgrim Fathers arrived in the actual Plymouth

- 1681 : William Penn discovered and named an area, Pennsylvania

- ~1750 : 1,5 million English settlers

- 1842 : Large wave of 200 thousand English immigrants

- 1848 : First Chinese immigrants

- 1854 : Irish famine, 2 million emigrated to the USA

- 1820 – 1920 : 5,5 million Germans in the USA, the most represented

- 1882 : Laws to curtail Japan immigration

- 1892 – 1954 : 12 million people passed in Ellis Island in New York

- 1965 : Johnson's law to limit the maximum of immigrants to 1 million each year

- Today : 39 million Hispanic-Americans and 35 million African-American

In the 19th century, immigration was caused mainly by economic problems or unemployment. The changes of work sectors caused by the industrial revolution brought a lot of European people to emigrate to the United States.

In the middle of that century, many Germans fled their country because of policies, or the rises of the agricultural technologies which bring to unemployment. In fact, Germany was the country the most represented in 1920 with 5,5 million immigrants, followed by Ireland with 4,4 million.

The majority of the immigrants are men because the travel time by boat is very long and hard, and the diseases are constantly present.

The speed up of Asian immigration brought the Americans to demonstrate against it and the president to make a law to limit it in 1882.



From 1892 to 1954, the government make a compulsory crossing area called Ellis Island in New York where poor immigrants must be examine to see if they should be dangerous for the country and if they can work very hard. Some of them, concerning only 2% of the population, with

diseases for example were refused in the country and were sent back home.

The most important currently immigrants are the Hispanic-Americans. Indeed, the Fidel Castro's 1959 entrance in power made a lot of Cuban immigrants. Moreover, many Mexicans came illegally in the United States to make a living in farms.

The unstoppable immigration from 1900 to 1965 brought Johnson to sign a law to limit the immigrant number to 1 million a year.

The main part of the immigrants are called hyphenated Americans, which means that they don't feel like if they were American natives. They are not integrated as they wanted to be. They are the ones we call Hispanic-Americans or African-Americans and not only Americans.