

Document Analysis Expert Groups

Facts: From 1607-1875 there was no official legislation to regulate immigration which allowed for more open borders to the United States.

After 1875 major immigration entry to the United States was through Ellis Island and Angel Island. Today, immigration is a hot-button topic with concerns with lower birth rates and questions about labor with the retiring generation.

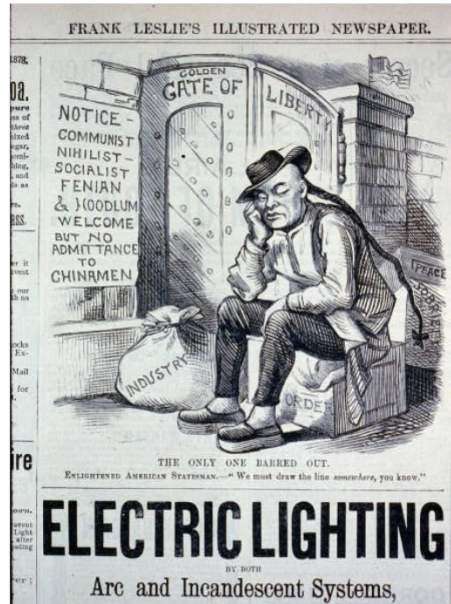
Instructions for Expert Groups: With your Expert Group you will research the resources on immigration in your assigned era. Fill out the Graphic Organizer as you learn about how immigrants were welcomed, opposed, or viewed with a neutral position during your time period. Roles will include Artist, Researcher, Presentator, Writer, and Questioner. Afterward, your expert group will report to the class with a 4 slide presentation. In your first slide, you will give an overview of the time period, second slide will show how the time period was supportive, third slides will be how it was opposed, and on the fourth slide your group will evaluate your time period with a 3 for Supportive, 2 for Neutral, or 1 for Opposed with an explanation for your evaluation.

Expert Group 1: Pre-1900s Era

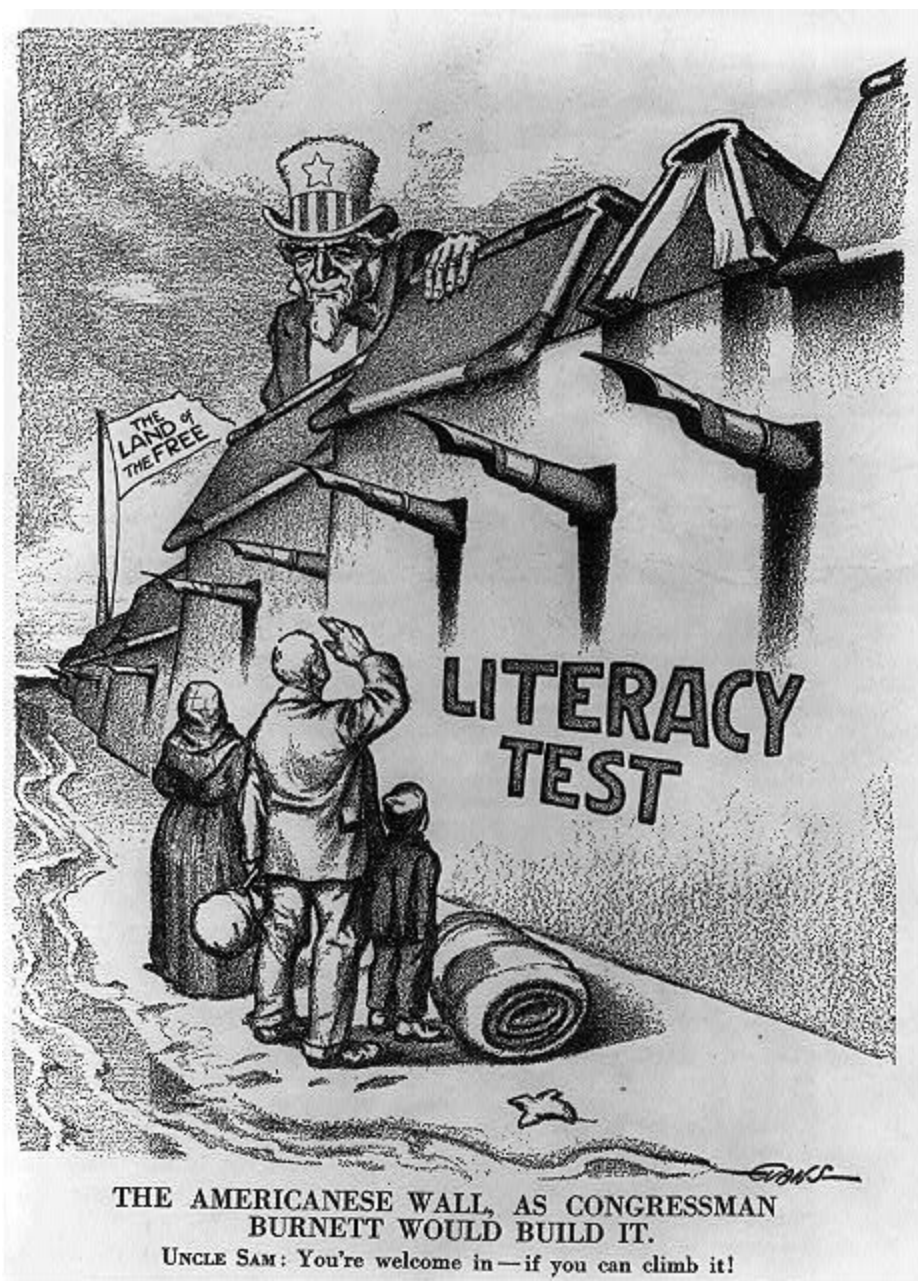
Document A: Political Cartoon on the Chinese Exclusion Act

The title "The only one barred out Enlightened American Statesman - "We must draw the line somewhere, you know."

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3b48680/>

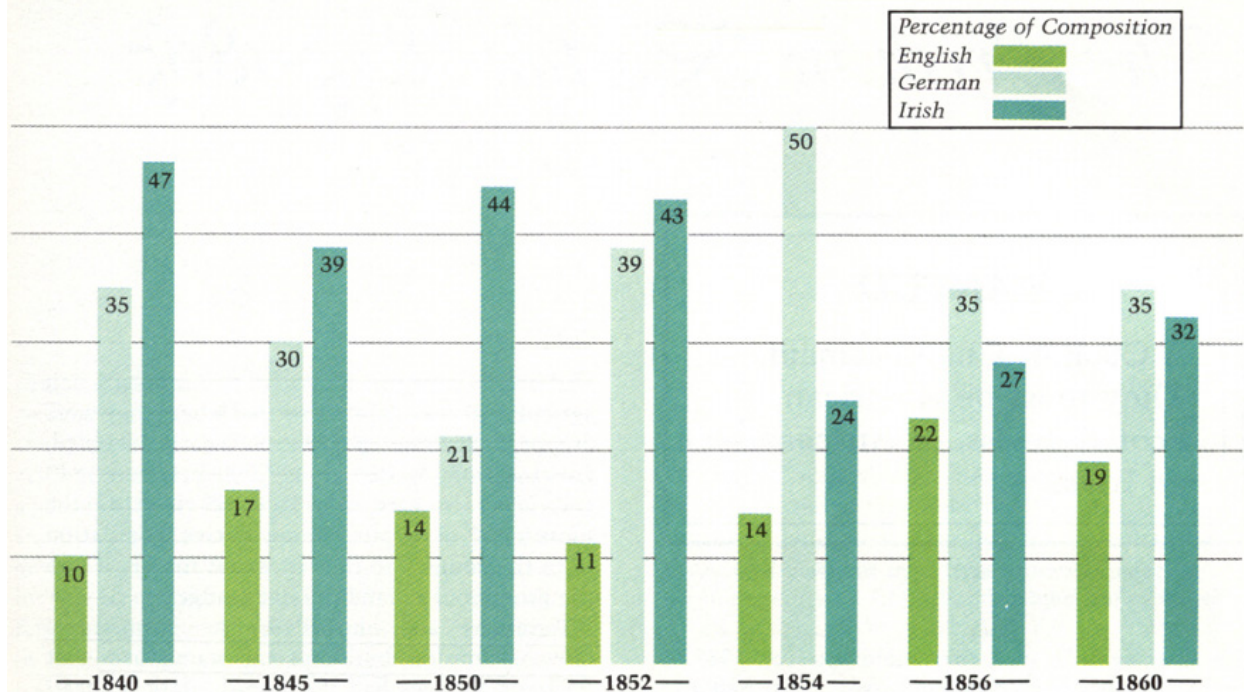


Document B: Title "The Americanese wall - as Congressman Burnett would build it", by Puck <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3b00563/>



Document C: Chart <https://www.latinamericanstudies.org/ellis-island/immigration-1840-60.jpg>

Composition of Immigration, 1840–1860



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970, Bicentennial Edition, Washington, D.C., 1975.

Document D: 14th Amendment “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” <https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/amendment-14/>

Document E: Lem Moon Sing Supreme Court Case <https://www.loc.gov/item/usrep158538/>

Case Summary: Lem Moon Sing v. United States (1895)

“In the case of Lem Moon Sing v. United States (1895), the Supreme Court decided if Lem Moon Sing, a Chinese merchant, who had lived in the United States but temporarily left, could return under U.S. law. The main issue was whether he could be excluded from reentering the country based on the General Appropriation Act of 1894. This law gave the government power to exclude Chinese immigrants, and officials had the final say on who could enter the U.S., unless the decision was appealed to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Lem Moon Sing argued that he had the right to return based on earlier laws and agreements with China. However, the Court agreed with the lower court's decision to deny his case. They said that Congress (the U.S. government) had the power to make rules about who could enter the country, including people who had lived in the U.S. before but left for a short time. The Court also said that the decision to let someone back into the country was a political matter for government officials, and courts could not change their decision unless Congress allowed it. This case showed that Congress had strong control over immigration laws and that decisions about who could enter the U.S. were not easy to challenge in court.”

- Word Bank:

Alien: A person who is not a citizen of the country in which they live.

Exclude: To keep someone out or prevent them from entering.

General Appropriation Act of 1894: A law passed in 1894 that gave the government power to regulate and exclude certain immigrants, especially Chinese.

Excluded: The act of being refused entry or not allowed to return.

Secretary of the Treasury: A high-ranking government official who manages financial matters and could hear appeals in certain immigration decisions.

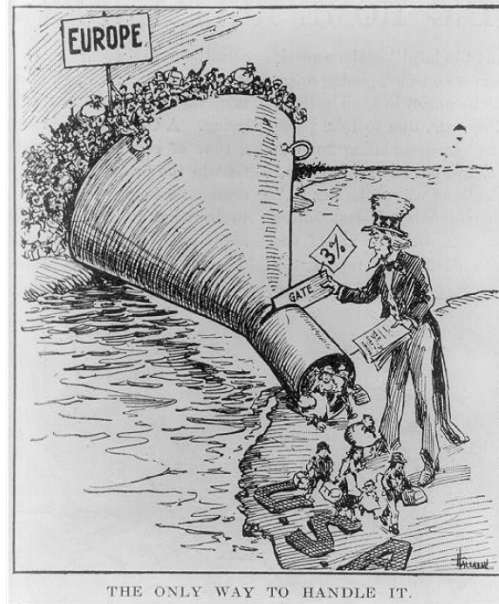
Congress: The legislative branch of the U.S. government, responsible for making laws.

Document F: *Wong Kim Ark vs United States Supreme Court Case*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6y487b7mQj0>

Expert Group 2: 1920s Era

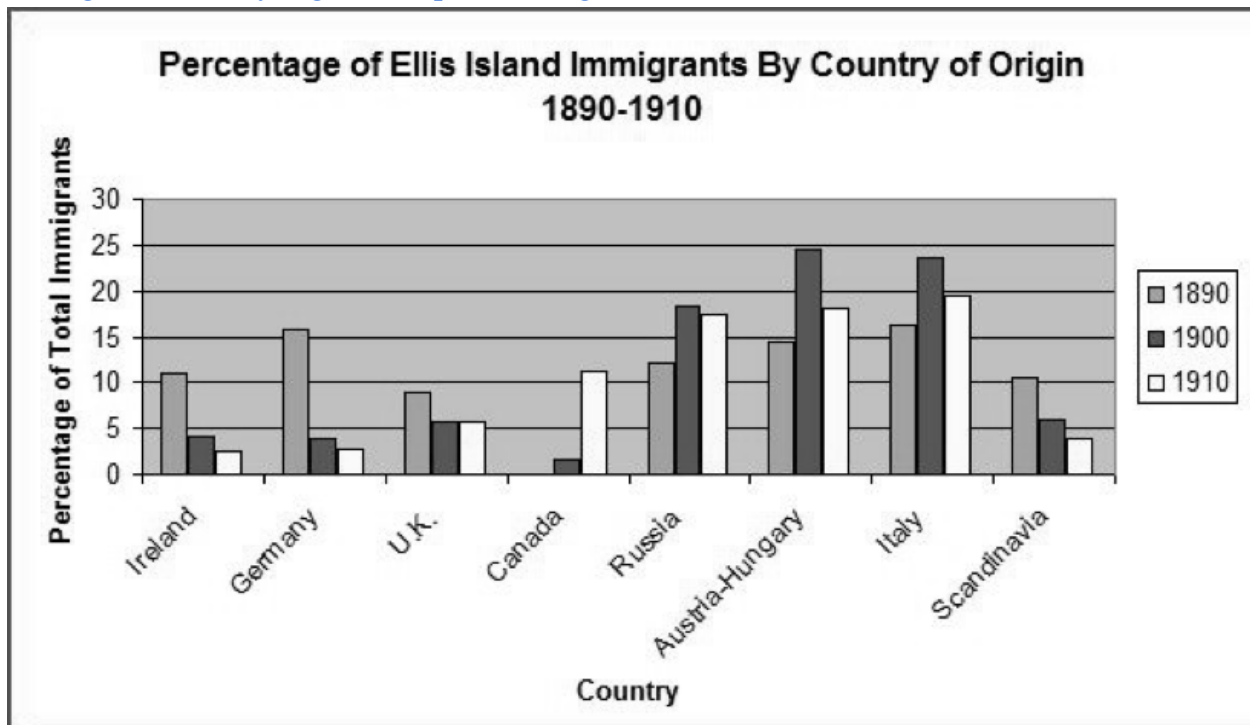
Document A: “An Alien Anti-Dumping Bill” Political Cartoon <https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3a44285/>



Document B: Ellis Island Stories

<https://www.nps.gov/elis/learn/historyculture/oral-histories.htm>

Document C: Chart/Graph Ellis Island immigration by year <https://immigrationhistory.org/lesson-plan/immigration-stations/>



Document D:



“We’ll Tell the World!”

Los Angeles Times, April 15, 1924

Cartoonist: Edmund Gale

U.S.: the melting pot. Our new immigration restrictions. Europe. Undesirables.

On April 12, 1924, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an immigration bill that restricted the number of immigrants admitted from any country to two percent of the 1890 U.S. population from that country, nearly eliminating immigration from southern and eastern Europe. The formula remained the law of the land until 1965, when the national origins quota system was replaced by a policy that based admission on skills and family ties with U.S. citizens.

Document E: National Origins Act of 1924 <https://calendar.eji.org/racial-injustice/may/26>

Document F: Sacco and Vanzetti Video

<https://www.pbs.org/video/italian-americans-sacco-and-vanzetti>

Expert Group 3: 1940s/WW2 Era

Document A: *Executive Order 9066*

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/executive-order-9066>

Document B: The Bracero Program: <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-resources/essays/immigration-policy-mexican-americans-and-undocumented-immigrants-1954>

Document C: <https://www.8asians.com/2013/12/30/my-visit-to-san-franciscos-angel-island-immigration-station/>

Document D:

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/proclamation-2527-internment-italian-americans>

Document E:

<https://gaic.info/history/world-war-ii-civil-liberties-violations-of-german-americans-and-german-latin-americans-by-the-united-states-government/>

Choose one personal story from this link:

<https://gaic.info/real-people/us-resident-internees/>

Document F: *Korematsu Supreme Court Case*; Reagan Apology Reparations

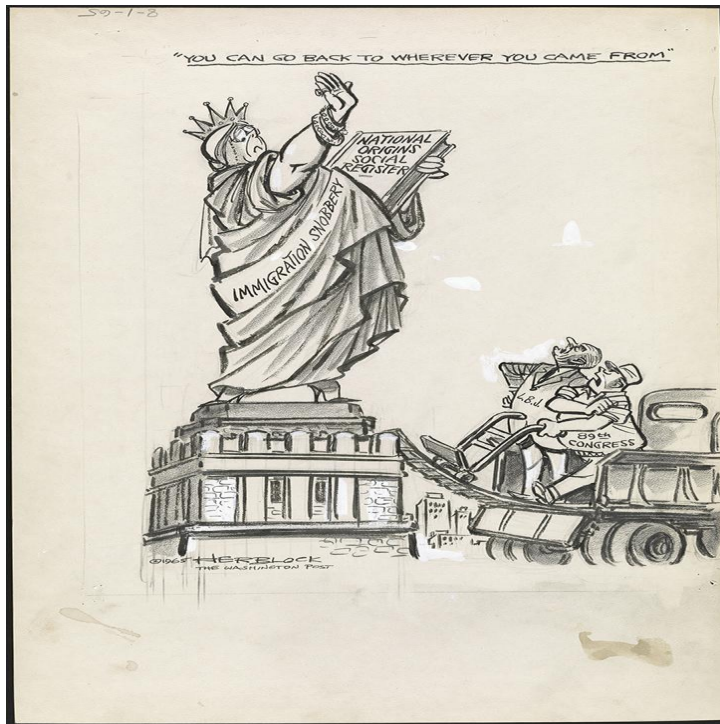
Video: <https://youtu.be/kcaQRhcBXKY?si=glmmzpDmLxQzOtAz>

Expert Group 4: 1960-90s Era

Document A: Immigration Act of 1965

<https://illinois.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/the-immigration-and-nationality-act-1965-video/asian-americans/>

Document B:



Document C: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKHI__BEsD0

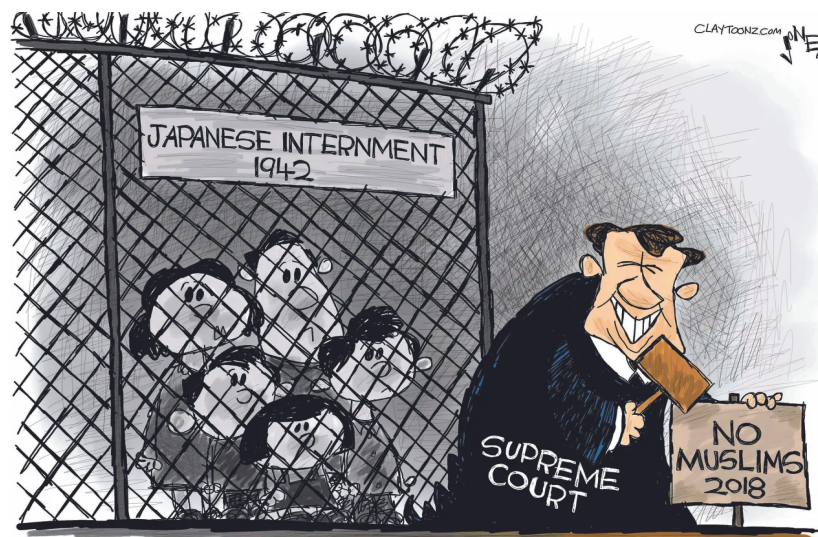
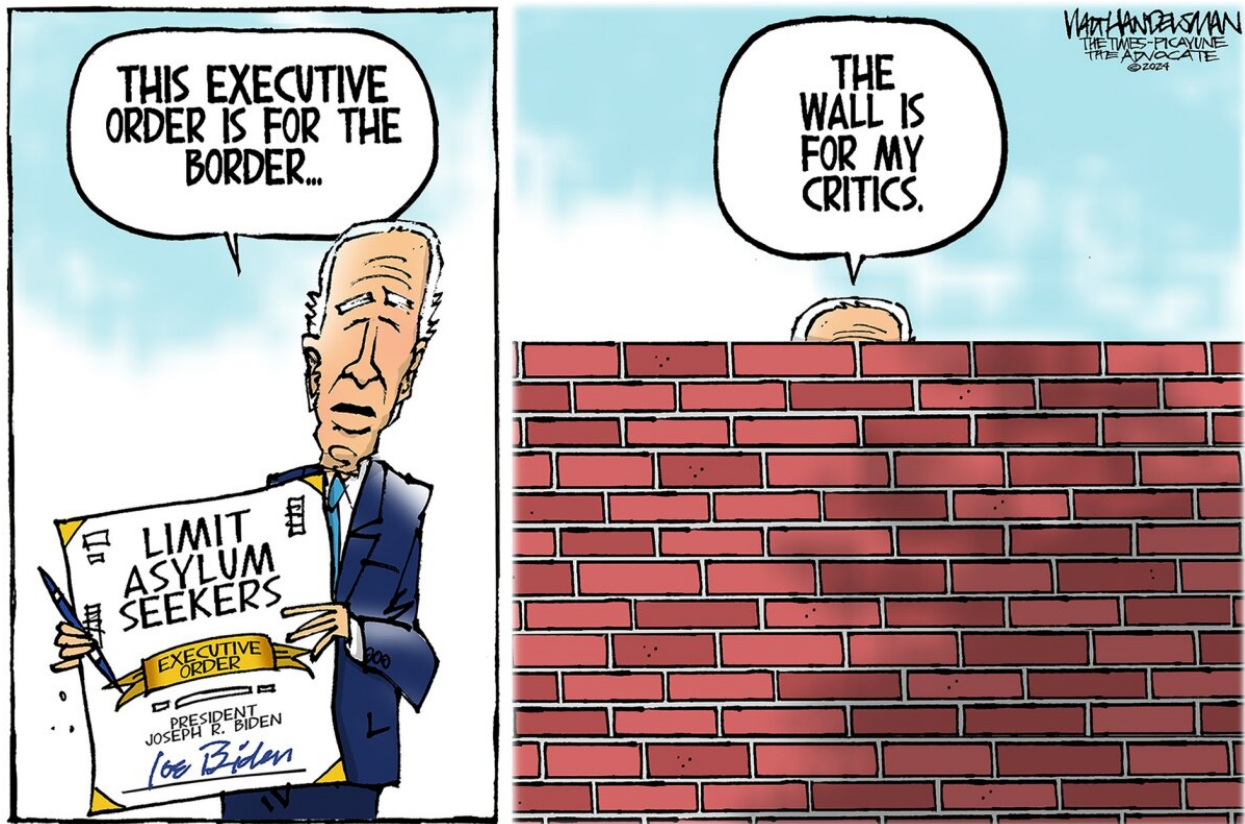
Document D: 2000 LIFE Act https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/life_act

Document E: 1986 Immigration Control Act <https://guides.loc.gov/latinx-civil-rights/irca>

Document F: Sale Case <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1992/92-344>

Expert Group 5: Post 2000s Era

Document A:



Document B:

Document C: Trump 2025 Executive Order Impacting Immigration

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/protecting-the-american-people-against-invasion/>

Document D: Refugee Settlement Graph <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/charts/us-refugee-resettlement?width=850&height=850&iframe=true>

Document E: Muslim Trump Ban <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-39044403>

Document F: DACA/Dreamers Obama's Executive Order

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5oKIKeXWLQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzYDqQDNFzc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVq0APUtjwg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65GThGSvVOI>

Suggested Enrichment of the lesson for teachers: Teachers can choose to have Expert Group 5 be broken up into experts within itself so that there is a perspective for each president's administration approach to immigration. This will allow students to compare and contrast each president's immigration policies during the 2000s.

Enriched Expert Group 5: Post 2000s Era

Bush Administration

<https://www.bushcenter.org/topics/immigration>

Obama Administration

<https://myrgv.com/publications/the-monitor/2018/03/12/editorial-lacks-congress-isnt-working-on-daca-or-immigration-reform-because-the-pressure-is-off/>

<https://www.obama.org/stories/daca-10-years/>

Trump Administration

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/protecting-the-american-people-against-invasion/>

Biden Administration

<https://www.uscis.gov/keepingfamilies-together>