

BFU: The New Immigrants

When you are finished reading this BFU and doing the exercises in yellow, Elias will ask you:

- Who are the “new” immigrants?
- Why do they come to the USA?
- What is the American Dream? The Melting Pot?
- How do Americans react to these new immigrants?



After 1870, there was a huge influx of immigrants. They came from different backgrounds than the old immigrants.

Old = England, Ireland, Germany

New →

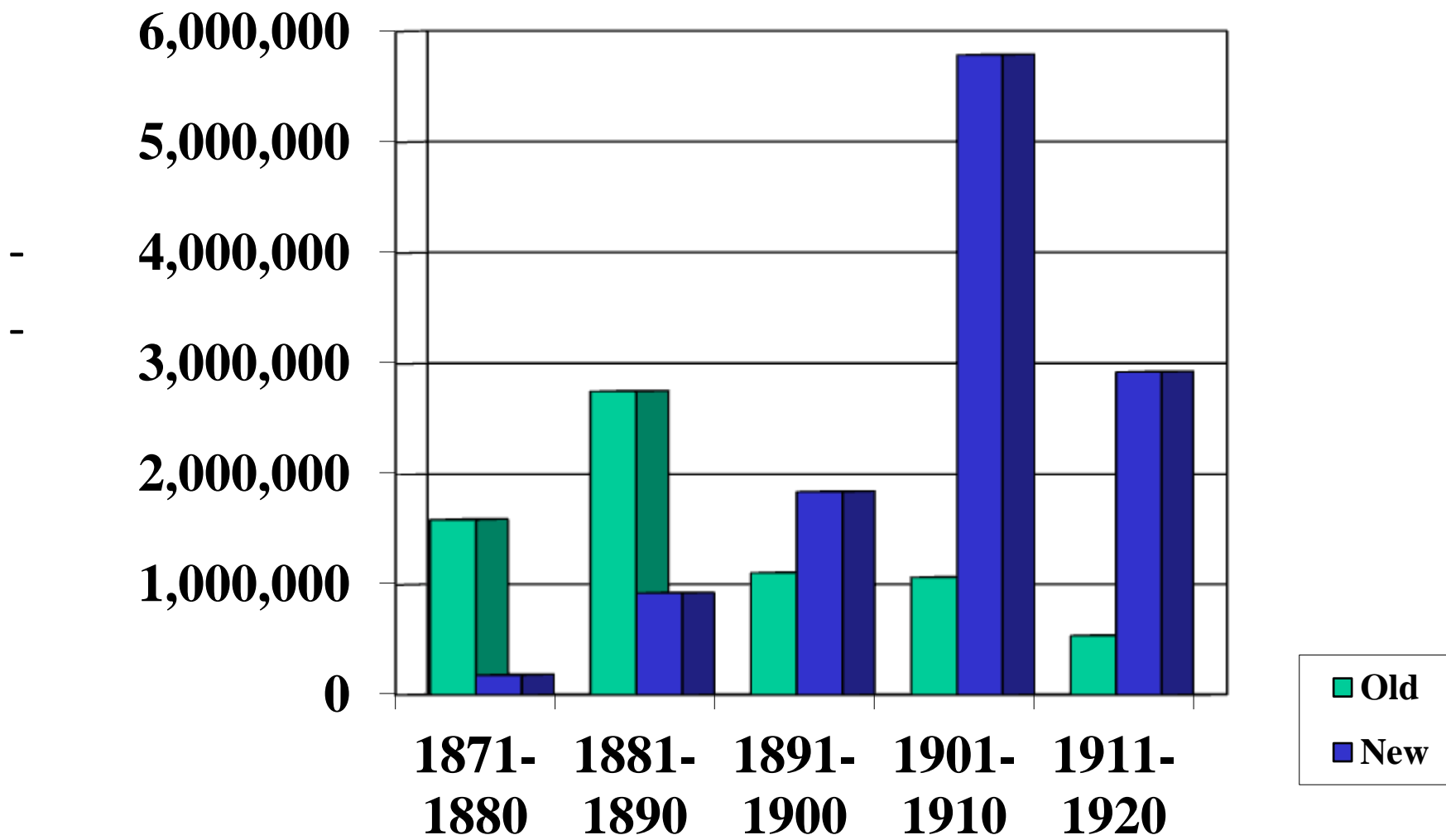
Southern Europe = Italy and Greece

Eastern Europe = Russians, Polish,
and Jews

In the West coast, many Chinese immigrate to take low wage jobs building the trans-Continental railroads. These jobs were very dangerous.



The number of immigrants increased greatly.



Rewrite

The Old Immigrants were mostly from China.

The New Immigrants were mostly from England.

Immigration was at its highest point from 1881-1890.

The Chinese came to the USA to make restaurants.

European immigrants went mostly to the east coast. They settled in cities like New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Boston, and Chicago. They looked for factory jobs in “mills,” which are a kind of factory.



Steel Mills in Pittsburgh



Textile Mills in New York

The first thing they saw when they got to New York was the Statue of Liberty. Then, they came to Ellis Island where they were checked for diseases. They were given physical examinations.

They were sometimes given more American names, or their last names were changed. For example, Valentino became Valentine; Rossi became Ross or Red.



The Statue of Liberty was the first thing they saw. It was a symbol of freedom. It was a symbol of the American Dream.

What was the American Dream?

- the idea that in America the “Streets are Paved with Gold!”
- the chance to start a new life no matter your background
- freedom of religion (Jewish people liked this)
- the chance to become rich \$\$\$\$ with hard work



The American Dream wasn't perfect – these black people weren't allowed in this neighborhood – but it has always been a part of American history.

Rewrite

Immigrants came to America by airplane.



The first place immigrants stopped was Pleasure Island.



On Ellis Island, they sometimes changed the immigrants' first names.



Complete

Part of American Dream

What does this mean?

Streets are paved with gold	
No matter where you come from, you can be somebody	
Freedom of religion	

People who studied American society came up with a term for the USA culture: the Melting Pot.

The Melting Pot is the idea that every culture that comes to America, gives its culture to America.

So, an Italian who comes to America contributes some things to America like food and music. He lives in Little Italy. He is allowed to be Italian and American.



Italian Americans lived in Ethnic Enclaves called Little Italy.

Ethnic Enclave means a neighborhood where everyone is immigrants like Chirilagua.



The Melting Pot is the idea that American culture comes from many cultures BUT is DISTINCT. It is American.

The Melting Pot idea encourages assimilation.

Assimilation means fitting into the dominant culture, like how everyone listens to rap and are wannabes in this school.

Assimilation means that your children forget their own culture and language. They become American.

The biggest tool of assimilation was the public school. The public schools encouraged foreign-born kids to speak English and be Americans. Cultural differences are not valued in assimilation and the Melting Pot. This can be good and bad.

PUCK.



C.J. Taylor

THE MORTAR OF ASSIMILATION — AND THE ONE ELEMENT THAT WON'T MIX.

Rewrite

Assimilation means keeping your culture.

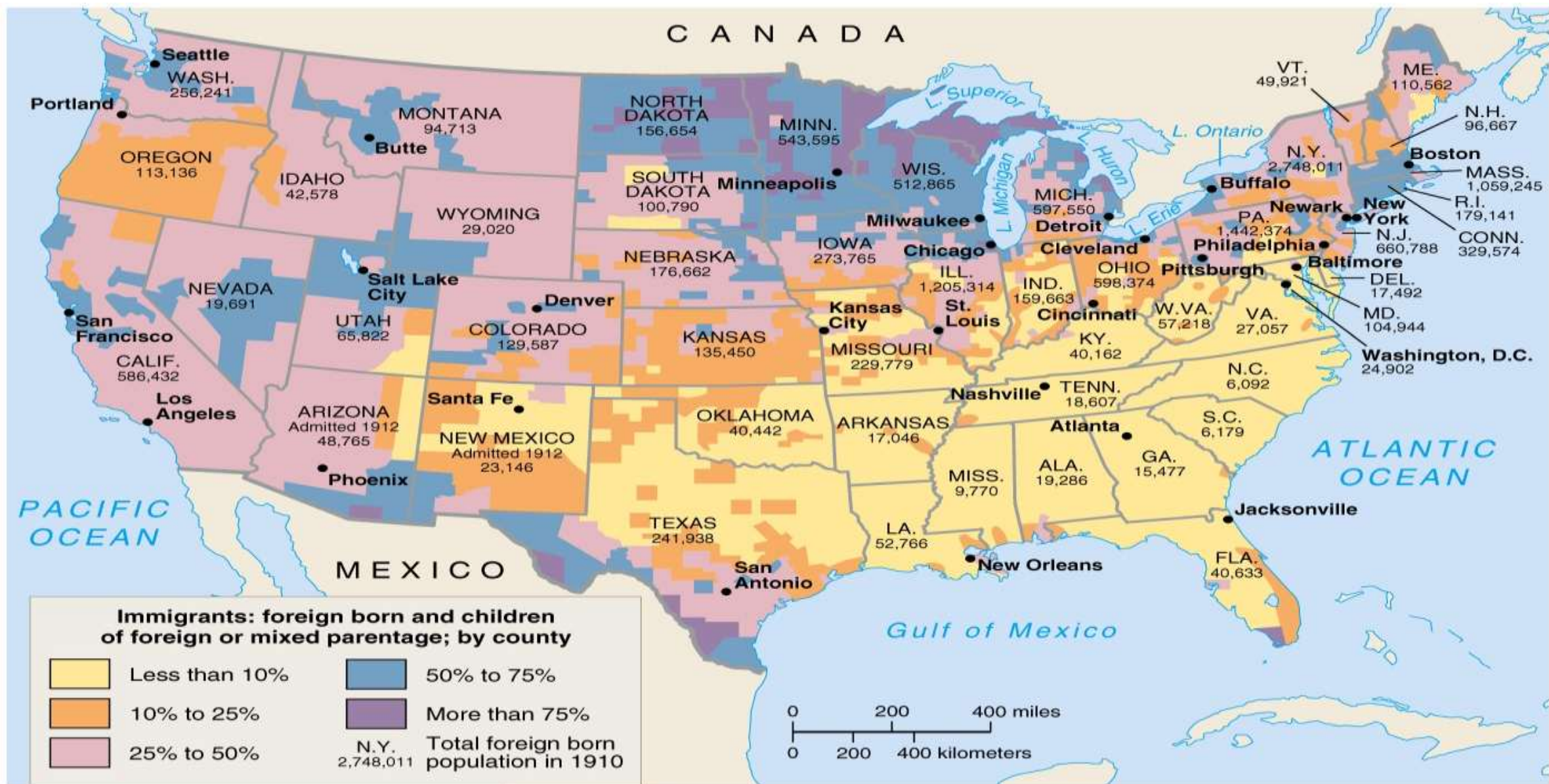
In the Melting Pot, everyone keeps their own cultures.

Personal Examples

Can you think of examples of assimilation in your life?

Why do you think Americans wanted immigrants to assimilate?

Has America changed in its attitude towards immigrants cultures?



Map

What parts of the country had the most immigrants?



What part did not have many immigrants?



Many Americans did not like the immigrants. They formed groups and political parties that pushed nativist laws. These were laws limiting or restricting immigration.

The first example of these laws was the Chinese Exclusion Act. This stopped Chinese immigration totally until the 1920s.

In 1921, they set quotas for immigration from Europe. Each country was allowed to send a certain number of immigrants (3 percent) to the USA. This limited immigration from Europe.



Source: Milton Halladay, *Providence Journal* (adapted)

Answer

What does the cartoon show?

Americans had many racist ideas about immigrants. They believed that they were old-fashioned and poor; some of them believed they were violent and had no morals.

They believed immigrants would take any job for low wages.

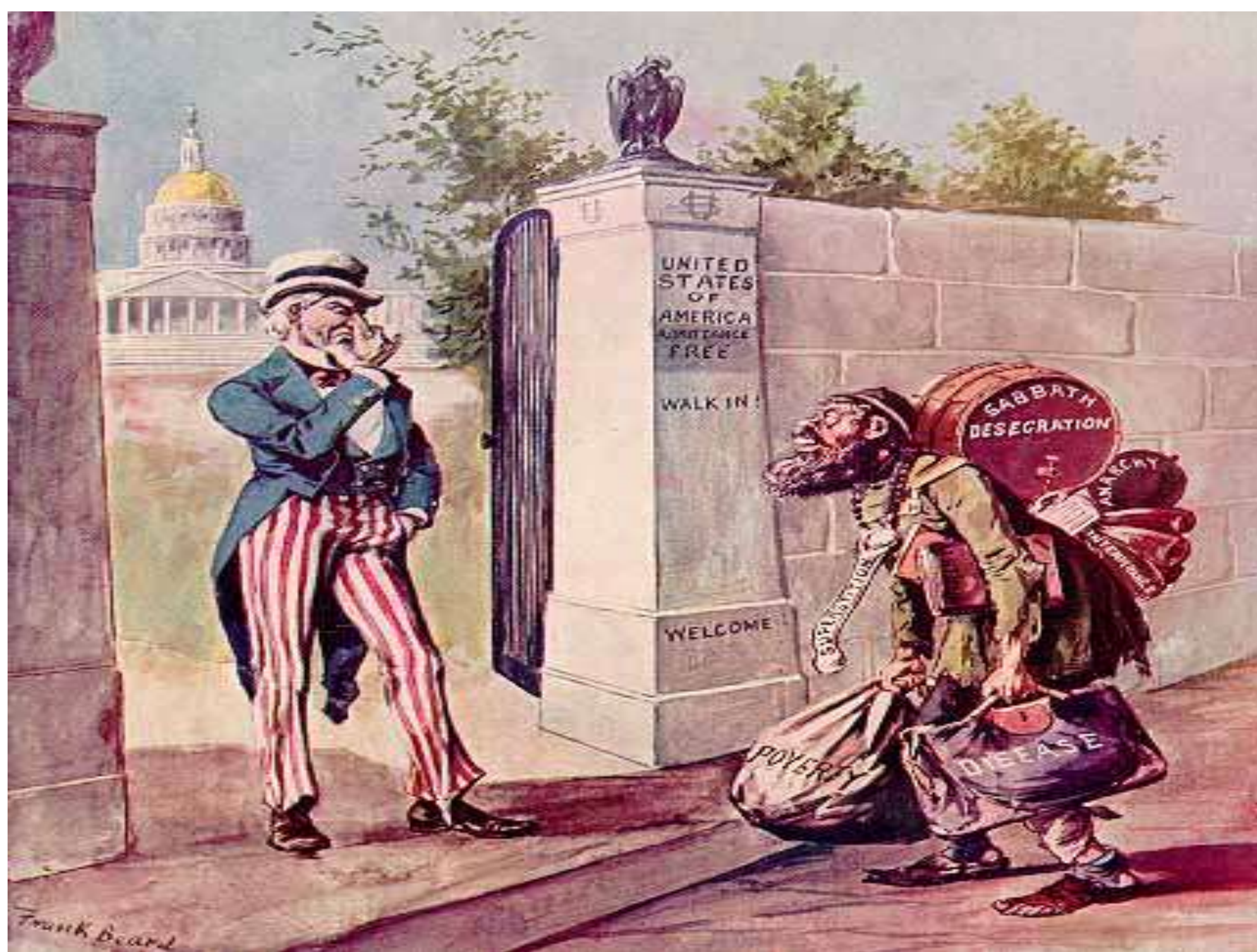
In other words, they thought immigration was bad for the country.

This was not true.

The new mills and factories depended on immigrant workers. They were able to pay them very little, which let them expand and build more factories.

The trans-Continental railroad would not have been built without the Chinese.

The immigrants were the fuel for industrialization and modernization.



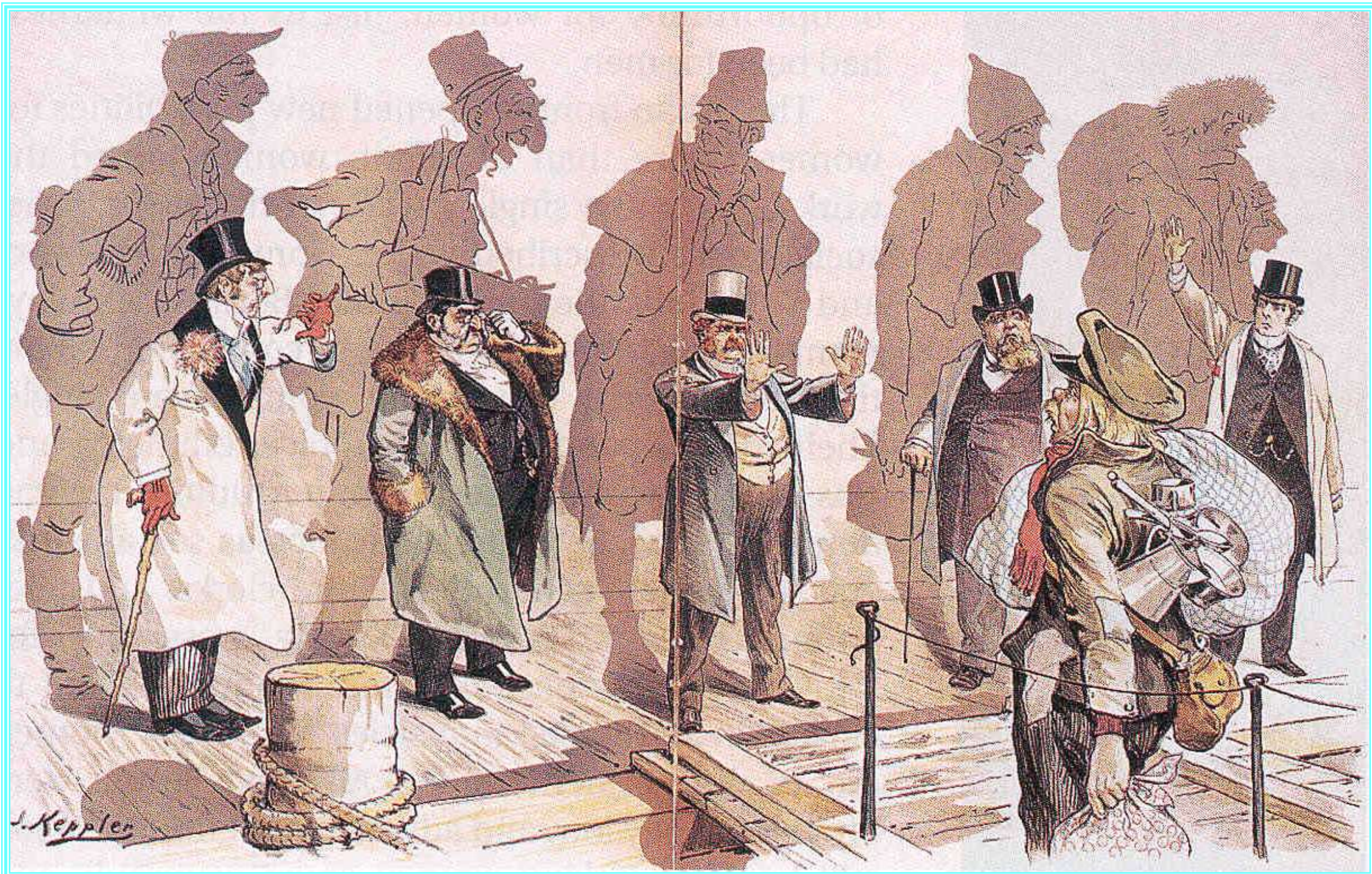
Is this cartoon for open immigration or against immigration?



Is this a positive or negative view of immigrants?

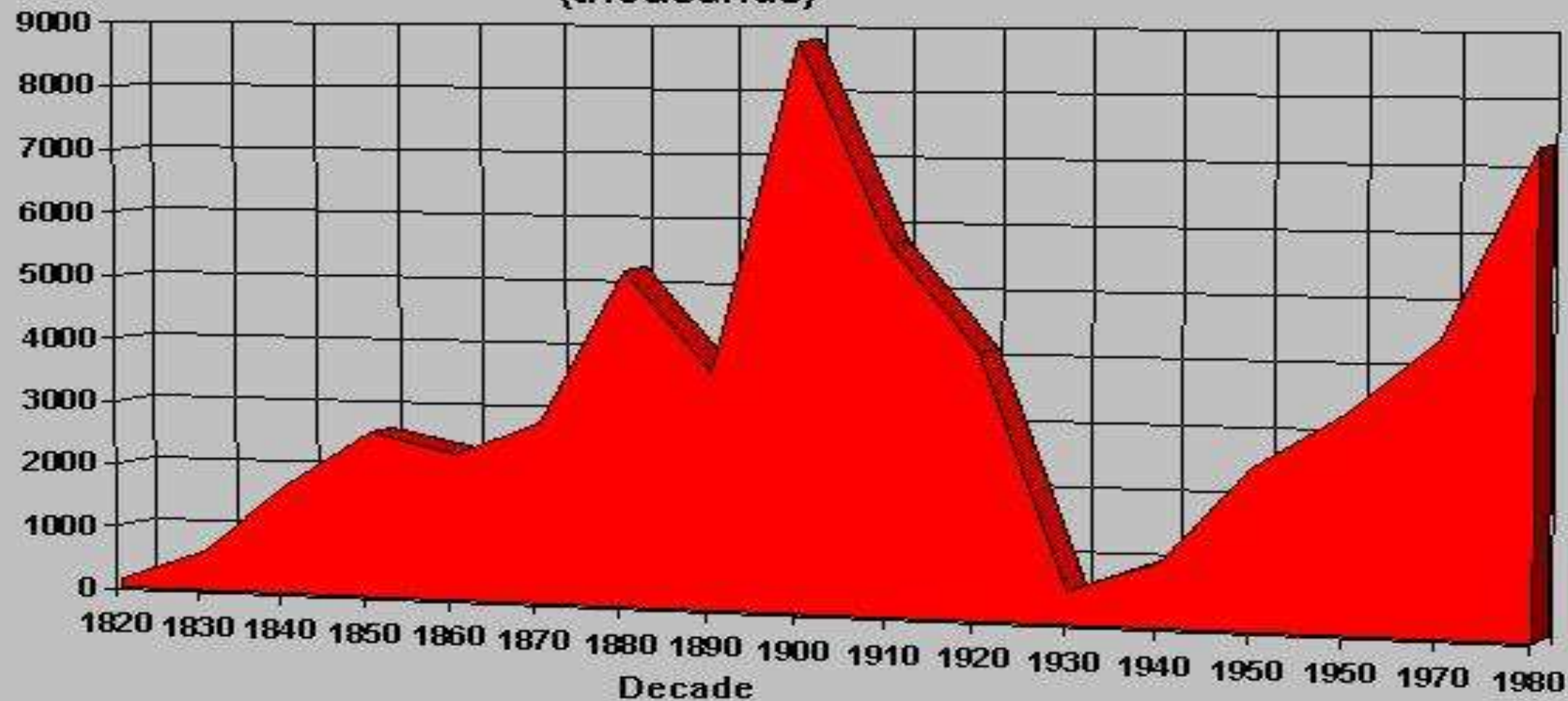
Who is the “teacher” kicking out?

Are the other immigrants standing up to the teacher?



What does this cartoon say about Americans?
(look at the shadows)

Number of Immigrants to the U.S. Per Decade: 1820-1990 (thousands)



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1993.

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When did immigration slow down?

Any idea why?