

## “Old” and “New” Immigration

Part A. For convenience, historians refer to the immigration of 1820–1880 as the “old” immigration, and that of 1880–1920 as the “new” immigration. Use documents A, B, and C to determine whether each statement at the end of the handout describes the “old” or “new” immigration. Write your answer on the line in front of the item number. Then, below the statement, write a sentence or phrase to indicate what evidence there is for your answer in the documents.

### Document A

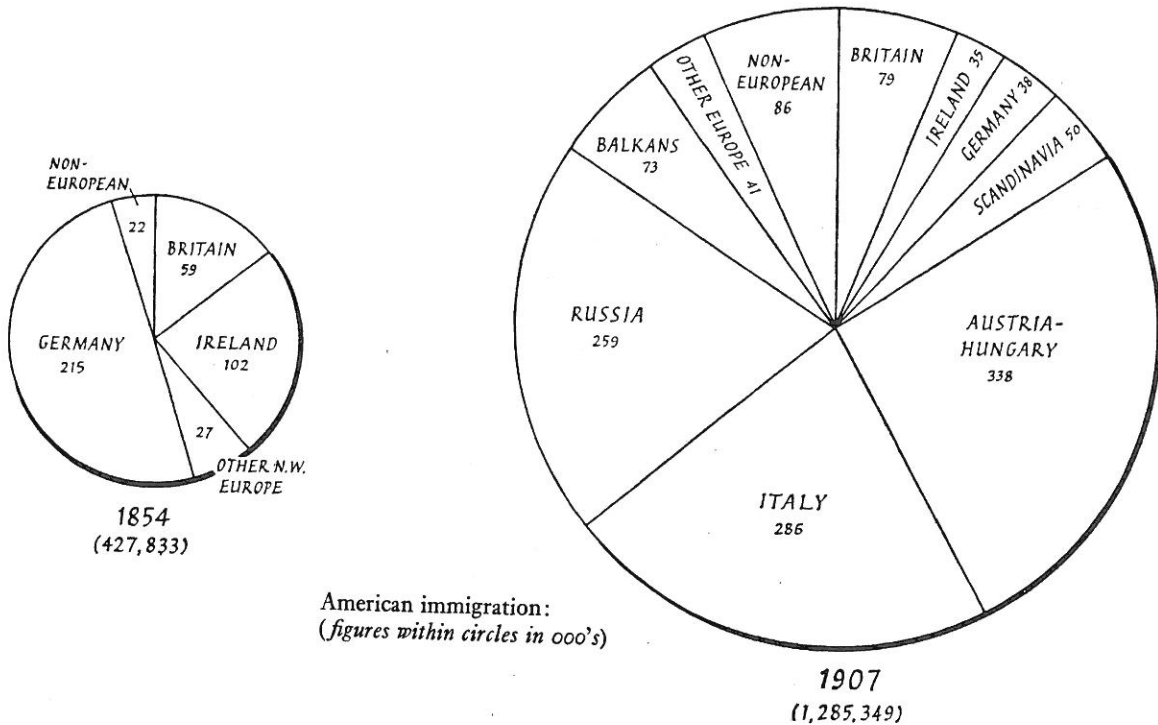


Table 1.15 Philip Taylor, *A Distant Magnet* (London: Harper and Row, 1971), 63.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Document B

Labor Force and Employment, by Industry  
 (In thousands of persons 10 years and over)

Year	Employment												
	Total	Agricul- ture	Fishing	Mining	Con- struc- tion	Manufacturing			Trade	Transport		Service	
						Total persons engaged	Cotton textile wage earners	Primary iron and steel wage earners		Ocean vessels	Railway	Teachers	Domes- tics
167	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	
1920	41,610	10,790	53	1,180	1,233	11,190	450	460	5,845	205	2,236	752	1,660
1910	37,480	11,770	68	1,068	1,949	8,332	370	306	5,320	150	1,855	595	2,090
1900	29,070	11,680	69	637	1,665	5,895	303	222	3,970	105	1,040	436	1,800
1890	23,320	9,960	60	440	1,510	4,390	222	149	2,960	120	750	350	1,580
1880	17,390	8,920	41	280	900	3,290	175	130	1,930	125	416	230	1,130
1870	12,930	6,790	28	180	780	2,470	135	78	1,310	135	160	170	1,000
1860	11,110	5,880	31	176	520	1,530	122	43	890	145	80	115	600
1850	8,250	4,520	30	102	410	1,200	92	35	530	135	20	80	350
1840	5,660	3,570	24	32	290	500	72	24	350	95	7	45	240
1830	4,200	2,965	15	22		(NA)	55	20		70		30	160
1820	3,135	2,470	14	13		(NA)	12	5		50		20	110

Table 2.15 Ben J. Wattenberg, *The Statistical History of the United States from Colonial Times to the Present* (New York, Basic Books, 1976), 139.

### Document C

Percentage of Males and Children under 15  
 among Immigrants in Selected Years

Year	Total	Males (%)	Children (%)
1845	119,896	57.7	21.8
1855	230,476	58.8	23.0
1900	448,572	67.8	14.1
1910	1,041,570	70.7	11.6

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Immigrants were more likely to come from northern and western Europe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Immigrants came in larger numbers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Immigrants were more likely to speak English.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The best employment opportunities were in mining, construction, and manufacturing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The larger percentage of women arrived during this period.

Part B. These statements require greater interpretation of the material in the documents. Indicate in front of each statement whether it applies to the "old" or "new" immigration. Then explain briefly your reasoning below the statement.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Immigrants were more likely to settle in cities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Immigrants were more likely to be Protestant than Catholic, Jew, or Eastern Orthodox.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Immigrants were more likely to come in family groups than as individuals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Immigrants were more likely to settle in ethnic groups of their own nationality.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Immigrants were more likely to look like native-born American whites.