

century the sources of immigration shifted from Western and Northern, to Eastern and Southern, Europe. Large numbers of Russians and Poles, including Jewish populations, Italians, Bohemians, Greeks, and other peoples responded to the opportunities open to them in the United States.

The processes by which these successive waves of newcomers made their entry into the metropolitan United States, found residential locations, acquired jobs, and achieved status in the social order were strikingly uniform.

Because the cheapest dwelling units in American cities were located in their inner zones, the newly arrived immigrants found their ports of entry and areas of first settlement there, in the older and blighted areas of the city. They initially worked at the least desirable, menial, and lowest paid occupations. They each in turn had the lowest social status and were greeted with suspicion, distrust, prejudice, and discriminatory practices on the part of those who had come by earlier boats. For example, each of the immigrant newcomer groups was greeted with derisive designations. During the nineteenth century the newcomers were known as "Micks" (the Irish), "Krautheds" (the Germans), or "dumb Swedes" (the Scandinavians). During the twentieth century they were known as "Polaks" (the Poles), "Sheenies" (the Jews); "Wops" (the Italians), "Bohunks" (the Bohemians), and so on.

With the passage of time, each wave of the white ethnic immigrants climbed the social and economic ladder as measured by place of residence, job and remuneration, and social acceptability. Each of the white ethnic groups had the option of continuing to live in neighborhoods of their own or in dispersed and integrated fashion.

Needless to say, the assimilation of these immigrant groups, popularly known as "Americanization," was not achieved without a number of frictions. Although the United States is often referred to as a "melting pot," it is clear that assimilation of the immigrants has not proceeded either smoothly or uniformly—in fact the process is still very much under way, and accounts for some of the acute problems of intergroup relations which the nation still experiences.

The more recent newcomers to the urban and metropolitan areas are "in-migrants" rather than "immigrants." That is, they come from the rural and less developed parts of the United States itself, rather than from abroad. The visible Negro and the less visible rural white, including the Appalachian white or "hill-billy," have replaced white immigrants as the main source of the new urban and metropolitan settlers. These groups are supplemented by smaller streams of Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Orientals as well as the greatly reduced numbers of white immigrants from Europe.

Because of their special problems, it is useful to examine the population trends of Negro Americans. In 1790, as recorded in the first census of the United States, there were less than 800,000 Negroes in the nation, but they made up about 20 per cent of the total population. By that date they had already been resident in the colonies for 175 years, mainly as the property or indentured servants of their white masters.

Negro Americans remained about one-fifth of the total population until 1810. From then to 1930 they were an ever declining proportion of the total, as slave traffic ceased and white immigration continued. By 1930 the proportion of Negroes had diminished to less than one-tenth of the total. Since 1940, however, the Negro growth rate has been greater than that of the white population, and their proportion had risen to 11 per cent by 1967.

In 1790, 91 per cent of all Negroes lived in the South. The first large migratory flow of Negroes out of the South began during World War I, prompted by the need for wartime labor and the freeing of the Negro from the soil, with the diversification of agriculture and the onset of the delayed industrial revolution in the South. This migration of Negroes from the South was greatly increased during and after World War II. As a result the proportion of total Negroes located in the North and West almost quadrupled between 1910 and 1960, increasing from 11 to 40 per cent.

The migratory movement of Negroes from the South to the North and West effected not only a regional redistribution but also, and significantly, an urban-rural distribution. In 1910, before the out-migration of the Negro from the South began, 73 per cent lived in rural areas—on farms or in places having fewer than 2500 persons. By 1960, within fifty years, less than a lifetime, the Negro had been transformed from 73 per cent rural to 73 per cent urban, and had become more urbanized than the white population.