

Immigration

- Sojourners = here temporarily to work
- Settlers = here to make new life
- Fluid boundaries: some expect to go home and do not, others expect to stay and go home
- High proportion of all immigrant groups (European, Asian, Mexican, Latino) go home.
- We are the descendents of those who stayed.

Counting Immigrant Generations

- 1) First = the immigrants
 - 2) Second = children of immigrants
[Some call those who migrate as small children the 1.5 generation.]
 - 3) Third = grandchildren of immigrants
- NOTE: Asian immigrant groups count 0 as the immigrants, 1 as the children of the immigrants (the first generation born here). Just a different custom for talking about the same thing.

First Generation: The Immigrants

- Usually feel pulls between home and here.
- Usually a drop in class & status position vs. home.
- Experience US culture & life as alien, difficult
- Self-identities rooted in home country. Know they are foreign here; doesn't bother them much to be treated as different.
- Interested in life back home, think about maybe going home; have to decide where "home" is.
- Can decide whether to become citizens (Pre-WWII, Asians & African-descent could not become citizens)

Second Generation

- US-born children of immigrants (+ child migrants).
- Grow up speaking English, going to US schools.
- Some bilingual, others cannot speak parents' language.
- Parents often conservative, expect tighter control over children, view larger society as alien
- Awareness of being "different," concerns about fitting in.
- Torn between parents' ideas and the larger society.
- Parent-child conflicts are common.
- Power reversals may occur if the child translates for the parents.

Third Generation

- Grandchildren of immigrants, children of the torn generation
- Little real contact with grandparents' culture, full cultural assimilation to mainstream.
- Often romantic nostalgia for grandparents' culture
- Whites blend in, non-whites experience racial discrimination, become more "race conscious"
- Inter-marriage rates generally high

Politics of Immigrant Generations

- Immigrants
 - Usually little interest in US politics, more in politics "back home"
 - Form self-protective, fraternal groups to help each other
 - Ethnic churches, organizations common
- Children, grandchildren of immigrants
 - Identify as "American"
 - European-descent people generally "blend in" once they lose accents. Ethnic politics optional.
 - Religious minorities, especially Jews, a partial exception
 - Racial minorities adopt politics of inclusion: resist discrimination