

“Nation of immigrants” or not, the United States arose from, and was created by, a colonial population that grew over an elapsed time of nearly two centuries mostly by natural increase....
[T]hey were in truth not immigrants at all, but *colonists*.

Chilton Williamson, Jr.
The Immigration Mystique

Paste name and
address of your
group here.

*Is America
a nation of
immigrants?*

That's not
what America's
Founding Fathers
had in mind.

Views of the Founders on Immigration

“My opinion with respect to immigration is, that except of useful mechanics and some particular description of men and professions, there is no use of encouragement.”

George Washington, letter to John Adams

“I have no intention to invite immigrants, even if there are no restrictive acts against it. I am opposed to it altogether...”

George Washington, letter to Sir John St. Clair

“Foreign meddlers ... have a strange, a mysterious influence in this country... Americans will find that their own experience will coincide with the experience of all other nations, and foreigners must be received with caution, or they will destroy all confidence in government.”

John Adams, letter to Christopher Gadsden

“[Immigrants] will bring with them the principles of the governments they leave, or if able to throw them off, it will be in exchange for an unbounded licentiousness, passing, as usual, from one extreme to the other. It would be a miracle were they to stop precisely at the point of temperate liberty.”

Thomas Jefferson, Notes on Virginia

“The safety of a republic depends essentially on the energy of a common national sentiment; on a uniformity of principles and habits; on the exemption of the citizens from foreign bias, and

prejudice; and on that love of country which will almost invariably be found to be closely connected with birth, education, and family....”

“...[F]oreigners will generally be apt to bring with them attachments to the persons they have left behind; to the country of their nativity, and to its particular customs and manners... The influx of foreigners must, therefore, tend to produce a heterogeneous compound; to change and corrupt the national spirit; to complicate and confound public opinion; to introduce foreign propensities. In the composition of society, the harmony of the ingredients is all-important, and whatever tends to a discordant intermixture must have an injurious tendency.”

Alexander Hamilton

“I do not wish that any man should acquire the privilege of citizenship, but such as would be a real addition to the wealth or strength of the United States.”

James Madison

“Providence has been pleased to give us this one connected country to one united people -- a people descended from the same ancestors, speaking the same language, professing the same religion, attached to the same principles of government, very similar in manners and customs.”

John Jay, *The Federalist*