

The Role of Institutions in Shaping America's Future Demographics

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Summary

Question: Will past immigration patterns continue to 2050?

- Will immigration from Asia increase?
- Will immigration from Mexico continue?

Argument: US immigration policies are as important as economic demand or immigrant networks.

Institutions matter 2 ways:

1. as policy that regulates flow
2. as rules of the game that determine how preferences translate into policy

#1: SUPPLY-DRIVEN

#2: DEMAND-DRIVEN

#3: IDEOLOGICALLY-DRIVEN

#4: EXTERNALLY-DRIVEN

4 SCENARIOS FOR 2050

#1 – SUPPLY-DRIVEN

DECISION POINTS:

1. Foreign students in US universities
2. Diversity visa lottery

#2 – DEMAND-DRIVEN

DECISION POINTS:

1. H-1B visas
2. Legalization pathways
3. Wages for/value of DDD jobs

#3 – IDEOLOGICALLY-DRIVEN

DECISION POINTS:

1. Maintenance of birthright citizenship
2. Electoral college, districts?

#4 – EXTERNALLY-DRIVEN

DECISION POINTS:

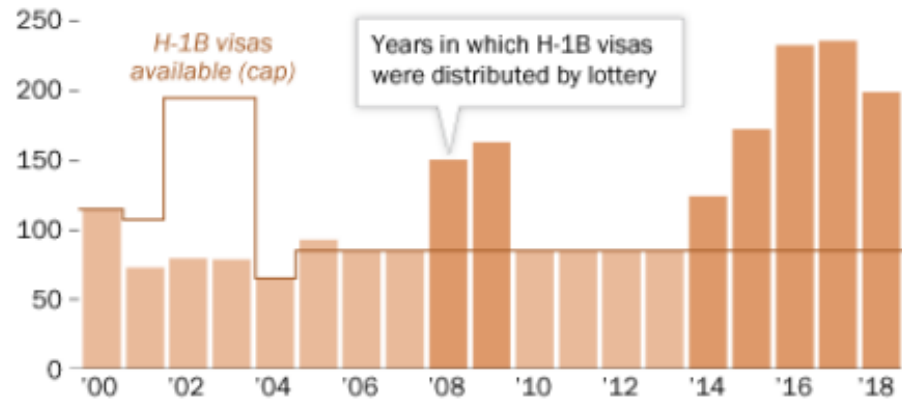
1. Family reunification policies
2. Speed of permanent resident application processing

BACKUP SLIDES

Case: Indian Software Engineers

H-1B visa applications have exceeded supply for the past five years

Number of capped H-1B applications, by fiscal year, in thousands



Notes: Due to rollover from previous fiscal years, some application totals may exceed the cap. Beginning in fiscal 2005, an additional 20,000 H-1B visas were added to the cap for foreign advanced degree graduates of U.S. universities. For fiscal years 2004, 2006-07 and 2010-13, the cap was reached but total applications were not published. Data not available for fiscal years 1990 to 1999. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services data.

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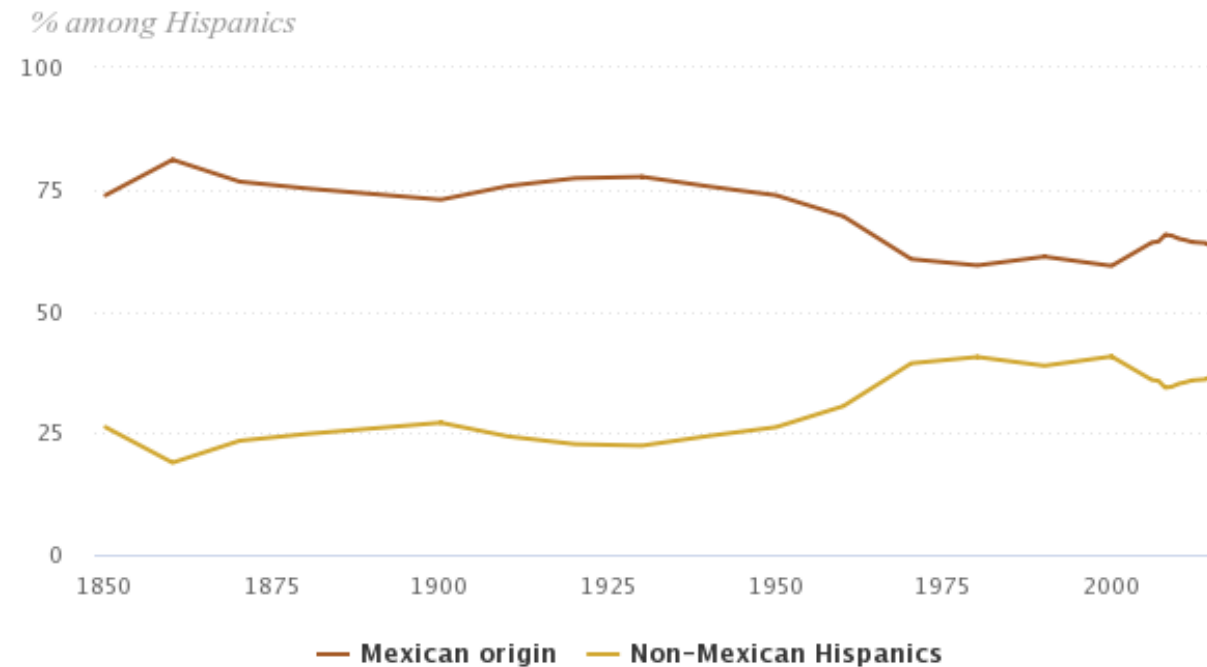


Sikh men arriving at Angel Island Immigration Station from kqed.org



Case: Mexican Agricultural and Domestic Workers

Mexican-origin share among U.S. Hispanics declining



Source: For 1850–2000, Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. decennial census data (5% IPUMS). For 2006–2015, Pew Research Center analysis of American Community Survey (1% IPUMS).

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