

# IMMIGRANT RACES IN NORTH AMERICA

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## AN IMMIGRANT NATION

In the report of the Immigration Bureau of the Department of Commerce and Labor, Washington, D. C., forty different classifications of the immigrants are made. Thirty-nine of these refer to distinct peoples, the fortieth is "other peoples" into which everything not included in the previous groups is put.

In the classified list, forty-five peoples are mentioned. Of these the African (black), the Cuban, the East Indian, the Mexican, the Pacific Islander, the Spanish-American, and the West Indian (except Cuban), are not treated in the present work. The Cuban, the Mexican, the Spanish-American, and West Indian, are the product of intermingling of the Spaniards with Indians or Negroes, and cannot be said to be a distinct people. The African immigrants are lost in the Negro population and are seldom thought of as forming a part of the great immigration tide. The East-Indian immigrants are few in number and are generally of Malay stock; the same is true of those who come from the islands of the Pacific.

The following are the totals of these various peoples entering the United States in the last twelve years:

African (black), . . . . .	83,000
Cuban, . . . . .	64,500
East-Indian, . . . . .	5,500
Mexican, . . . . .	59,000

### IMMIGRANT RACES

Pacific Islander, . . . . .	1,000
Spanish-American, . . . . .	11,000
West Indian (except Cuban), . . . . .	12,000
Total, . . . . .	<u>24,000</u>

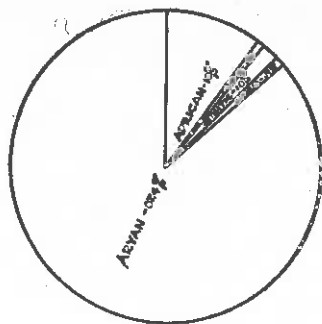
This is only 1.6 per cent of the total immigration (9,265,000) into the United States in this period.

The following scheme of the immigrants to North America includes forty-one different peoples, thirty-seven of which are mentioned in the classified list of the government. The five not specified in the report of the Bureau of Immigration are the Letts, Albanians, Persians, Gypsies, and Esthonians. The Letts are possibly grouped in the governmental report with the Lithuanians, the Esthonians with the Finns; while the remaining three are included in the common denomination "other peoples." The Macedonians, many of whom are now entering, are classified with the Bulgarians.

### SCHEME OF IMMIGRANT PEOPLES COMING TO NORTH AMERICA

STOCK.	GROUP.	PEOPLES.	
Aryan	Teutonic	Scandinavians, Dutch, Flemish, English, German.	
	Keltic	Irish, Scotch, Welsh.	
	Slavonic	Bulgarian, Bosnian, Bohemian, Croatian, Dalmatian, Herzegovinian, Montenegrin, Moravian, Polish, Russian, Ruthenian, Slovene, Slovak, Servian.	
	Lettic	Letts, Lithuanians.	
	Italic	French, Italians, Portuguese, Romanians, Spanish.	
	Hellenic	Greeks.	
	Illyric	Albanians.	
	Indo-Iranic	Armenians, Persians, Gypsies.	
	Semitic	Chaldean	Hebrews, Syrians.
	Sinitic	Chinese	Chinese.
Sibiric	Japanese	Japanese, Koreans.	
	Finnic	Finns, Magyars.	
	Tataric	Turks.	

America is a nation of immigrants. If we take the above grouping and add to it the African group, the stock whence the present population is drawn would be as follows:



THE STOCK FROM WHICH OUR POPULATION IS DRAWN

By this it is seen that the vast majority of the population of the country is made up of the Aryan stock.

The number of immigrants that have landed in North America during the last ninety years is about 30,000,000. Eighty per cent, or 23,500,000, have entered in the last fifty years. The banner year was 1907, when 1,508,051 landed. Eighty-two per cent of these peoples are between fourteen and forty-five years of age, another 13 per cent are below fourteen years, and the remaining 5 per cent are over forty-five years. The illiteracy of some immigrant nations rises to 70 per cent, in others it falls below 2 per cent. Some bring little money with them while others bring

much; 35 per cent have less than \$50 per person when they land.

Many immigrants return to the home land after being in North America for a season. Exact figures are not available but it is safe to say that 25 per cent of those who come return to their native country.

The following is a study of the distinct peoples who form this stream of immigrants into North America.

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## VIII. THE CHALDEAN GROUP

The only true representative of the Semitic stock that comes to the United States is the Jew. The race belongs to the Chaldean group of this stock. The Syrians may well be classified here for they are the product of the interminglings of Arabs with the descendants of Jews and Phoenicians.

### The Jews

When Jerusalem was taken by the Romans, the Jews may be said to have lost their country. They are found in all lands but they cannot call any part of the globe their home. The total number living today is estimated at about 10,000,000, nearly one sixth of whom are in the United States. There are not many found in Asia and Africa, but in every European country save Scotland, Jews are found. Many of them are found also in South America and Australia.

The Jewish type is well known—the arched nose, soft and vivacious eyes, frizzy hair, long face. There are two different types in the matter of complexion, the fair or red and the dark. The race has for centuries been dispersed over the earth, has mixed with all civilized peoples, and still it has preserved its individuality to a remarkable degree.

### LANGUAGE

The great majority of the Jews today do not know Hebrew, which is a dead language. The lan-

guage of Canaan belonged to the Semitic family of languages and was practically identical with Phœnician, Moabite, etc. The alphabet used by them was the Phœnician, which later was modified by what is known as the Assyrian script. The Jews today use this alphabet, but most of them speak particular kinds of jargon, the most common of which is Yiddish, made up of Judeo-German.

Their literature is divided into nine periods, beginning a thousand years before Christ and continuing to the present. From the earliest time to the eighth century of our era, the writers were almost wholly given to the interpretation of the Old Testament and works of theology and philosophy. Under the impetus of Arabic culture in the eighth century many mathematicians, physicians, astronomers, grammarians, chroniclers, etc., arose. In the intellectual awakening of Europe, the Jews took a prominent part, and some of the most eminent scholars and writers of the day are of this race. In the intellectual pursuits of European nations for the last thousand years the Jews have played a prominent part.

#### GOVERNMENT

Having no country of their own they have no form of government that is distinctly Hebrew. They have, however, in many instances stood at the helm of State in some of the leading nations of Europe and Asia, while their genius for finance has opened to them the courts of kings and the palaces of potentates. But notwithstanding the influence they

have wielded in both Europe and Asia, it has not saved them from suspicion, hatred and direct persecution. There is not a country, in Europe, where they have lived in considerable numbers, which has not a record of anti-Semitic riot and bloodshed. In the dark ages, as well as in modern times, the Jews have been driven from pillar to post among the nations of the earth, and yet they have retained their individuality, kept their religious heritage, and in the tussle of modern life wielded a power and influence far out of proportion to the numerical strength of the people.

#### RELIGION

The Jews are monotheists. The religion of the Old Testament in a more or less modified form is believed and practiced by them. From them we have received the Scriptures and the genius possessed by the Hebrews for spiritual truth has made them leaders in philosophic, theological and ethical teaching.

There are many sects among them, but the three leading divisions are the Orthodox, the Conservative, and the Reformed. The first two believe in the faith of the Old Testament, aim strictly to obey the law, but differ in the interpretation of Scripture, etc.; the Reformed believe that Judaism is plastic and should be shaped to meet the times and the country in which they live—they retain the spirit of the Old Testament religion but change its drapery according to the demands of the twentieth century civilization.



## IMMIGRATION

The Jews were on this continent at an early date. During the Spanish persecutions in the sixteenth century many of them fled to this country, and since then they have continued to come. The influx in the last twelve years, however, has assumed proportions that are alarming to intelligent Jews and Gentiles in the United States. The number of Hebrews in America is about a million and a half, but the total entering the country in the last twelve years is more than 1,046,000. More than half the Jews in America live in New York State. They are invariably found in cities. Upon their arrival in the new country they usually engage in small trades; but they quickly find their way into commercial, artistic and professional occupations of every kind.

## The Syrians

The Syrians are a mixed people, being the descendants of Arabs, Jews, Phœnicians, etc. Their country forms a part of Asiatic Turkey, lying between the Euphrates River and the Syrian Desert, including Palestine, the ancient city of Damascus, and the mountains of Lebanon. The country has a population of about three millions and a half, but the heterogeneous character of the people makes it impossible to secure that national unity that is necessary for a native State.

## LANGUAGE

The Syriac and Aramaic tongues, dialects of the Semitic languages, are used by the people of the

country. The Syriac has been considerably influenced by Arabic which threatened to supplement it after the Mohammedan conquest. It has been revived recently by the efforts of missionaries under the title of Neo-Syriac.

The literature in the Syriac tongue dates back to the second century of the Christian era and flourished till the tenth. Many important manuscripts and versions of books of the New Testament, highly treasured by scholars, are found in the Syriac tongue.

## GOVERNMENT

The history of Syria goes back to the days of Abraham. The city of Damascus, which he saw, is the same as that bearing the name today. The country was conquered successively by the Hittites, Israelites, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, Byzantines, Mongols and Turks. It is now a part of the Turkish Empire in Asia, having been conquered by Turkey in the year 1516. The territory is divided into six provinces; each takes its name from the leading city in the province and is ruled by a Governor-General, appointed by the Sultan. Here as elsewhere in the Turkish Empire, the Christians of all shades of belief have long been persecuted and massacred, and their condition is gradually changing for the better.

## RELIGION

Most of the people are Mohammedans. Various Christian sects are also found which are at war

among themselves as well as with the Turks. The Maronites, numbering about 140,000, are Christians and acknowledge the Pope of Rome, although they retain their rites and customs and consider the Patriarch of Antioch the head of the Church. Mass is said in Syriac, the priests marry, and they administer communion in both kinds. Their inveterate enemies are the Druses, who are nominally Mohammedans but their practices are mixed with Christian usages. Frequent conflicts take place between these votaries of different creeds, and at the close of the last century so barbarous were the atrocities perpetrated by Mohammedan fanatics that European powers interfered, restored peace and guarded against similar outbreaks in future. There are also in the country some Nestorians—adherents to an ancient Christian faith, first taught by Nestorius, a missionary who flourished in the fifth century. Some of the people are also adherents to the Greek Orthodox faith.

#### EMIGRATION

The Syrians are among the later immigrants. During the years 1897-1900, more than 55,000 landed. There are possibly 60,000 in the United States at present. Many of them come from the centers where Protestant missionaries labor in Syria.

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