

A Nation of Immigrants

Immigration makes America what it is and is formative for what it will become. America was settled by three different models of immigration, all of which persist to the present. The Virginia Colony largely equated immigration with the arrival of laborers, who had few rights. Massachusetts welcomed those who shared the religious views of the founders but excluded those whose beliefs challenged prevailing orthodoxy. Pennsylvania valued pluralism, becoming the most diverse colony in religion, language, and culture. A fourth anti-immigration model also emerged during the colonial period, and was often fueled by populist leaders who stoked fears about newcomers. Arguing that the Pennsylvania model has best served the country, this book makes key recommendations for future immigration reform. Given the highly controversial nature of immigration in the United States, this second edition – updated to analyze policy changes in the Obama and Trump administrations – provides valuable insights for academics and policymakers.

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SUSAN F. MARTIN

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As this manuscript went into final production, President-Elect Joseph Biden was preparing to take office on January 20, 2021. The recommendations in the final chapter of this second edition of *A Nation of Immigrants* provide a blueprint for not only reversing the Trump policies critiqued in Chapter 13 but building back better a model of immigration policy that serves the national interest as well as those of immigrants and refugees.