

History of Hispanic Immigration to America

EVENT

The "Selective Service Act"

1 May 1917

By this time, the Immigration Act of 1917 was already enacted. On April 6th, WWI begins. Job openings increase due to American men being sent off to war, allowing Mexican workers to temporarily be able to enter the United States' workforce. Even though they are ineligible, Mexican immigrants in America become obliged to register for the war draft due to the passing of the Selective Service Act.

EVENT

"Border Patrol"

1 Jan 1925

Congress creates and expands this patrol in response to an increase of illegal immigrants entering through the border.

EVENT

Deportation

1 Jan 1932

The 1930s mark the period of time where the American government begins to deport, or force out, Mexicans.

EVENT

The "Fair Employment Practices Act"

1 Jan 1940

WWII enables many Latinos to enlist in the United States' military. Latinos become the largest ethnic group to serve in this war. Meanwhile, the Fair Employment Act, which eliminates discrimination in employment, is put in place.

EVENT

The "Bracero Program"

1 Jan 1943

WWII causes labor shortages to arise, calling for the establishment of the Bracero Program. This program is an agreement made between the United States and Mexican government to send braceros or temporary Mexican works to fill America's gap in agricultural work.

EVENT

"Operation Bootstrap"

1 Jan 1944

This program started by Puerto Rico is made to encourage industrialization and meet the labor demands of the United States. This powers a large wave of migrant laborers to work in America.

EVENT

"Operation Wetback"

1 Jan 1954 - 1 Jan 1958

Established by the United States government, this operation allows the government to find and deport undocumented workers.

EVENT

Cuban Exiles

1 Jan 1960

The 1960s marks the period where waves of Cuban refugees settle in the United States due to a new government under the reign of Fidel Castro.

EVENT

The "Cuban Embargo"

1 Jan 1962

No one is allowed to travel to or from Cuba.

EVENT

The "Mariel Boatlift"

1 Jan 1980

Fidel Castro announces in the Spring of 1980 that Cubans who wish to leave may do so at this time, causing a fleet of warships to the port of Mariel from South Florida which then bring over thousands of Cubans to the United States. Anti-immigrant sentiment rises around this time so these Cubans are accused of being criminals or mentally-ill.

EVENT

The "Immigration Reform and Control Act"

1 Jan 1986

The IRCA signed by President Ronald Reagan gives amnesty to immigrants who entered illegally during the 1970s and 1980s, but also primarily strengthens border security and the United States immigration law.

EVENT

The "Minutemen"

1 Jan 2004

Group of volunteers named the Minutemen are sent to patrol the border and report any illegal activity to the United States Border Patrol.