LexisNexis® UPA Collections on Immigration focus on three major periods of immigration to the United States: 1870–1924, the World War II years, and immigration since 1965.

The first period of immigration covered in UPA Collections, 1870–1924, saw a massive migration to the United States from Europe, as well as sizable numbers of migrants from China, Japan, and Mexico. This period of immigration is covered in Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. This six-part collection features the exhaustive investigations made by Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) agents, as well as internal communications deliberating U.S. policies at the highest levels. Other UPA collections documenting this period are:

- **American Immigrant Autobiographies**, consisting exclusively of autobiographical manuscript materials on immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe
- **Voices from Ellis Island**, consisting of 200 interviews of people who immigrated through or worked at Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924.

Collections pertaining to immigration during the World War II years primarily focus on the flight of Jews from Nazi Germany, however, there are also files on the internment of Japanese Americans. Collections focusing on Jewish refugees from Europe are:

- **Jewish Displaced Persons Periodicals from the Collections of the YIVO Institute**
- **Papers of the War Refugee Board**
- **President Roosevelt’s Response to the International Refugee Situation: The “M” Project**

Immigration

Naturalization rates can be understood in relation to immigration rates (see Fig. 1). However, there is a lag between the time a person immigrates and the date of naturalization. This is because immigrants generally do not become eligible for naturalization until after they have been permanent residents for 5 years. (Permanent resident status is dependent upon having obtained an immigrant visa or having adjusted status once in the United States.) In fact, the median number of years between the date of legal permanent residence and the date of naturalization is approximately 8 years.14 Naturalization is also impacted by the application process, the review of petitions, and other administrative and legal circumstances affecting U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and its predecessor agencies.

**Figure 1. Immigration and Naturalization, 1911-2000**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Immigrants</th>
<th>Naturalizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1911-2000</td>
<td>9,000,000</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The Naturalization Act of 1906 established fundamental procedural safeguards for naturalization and provided for uniform processing of naturalization applications. Data on naturalizations collected after this time reflect the motivations and circumstances of immigrants to the United States in preceding years. For instance, immigration was high during the first 2 decades of the 20th century end, as a result, the number of persons naturalizing remained at a consistent level between 1907 and 1940.

This page from “Citizenship in the United States,” issued by the Citizenship and Immigration Services in May 2004, contains a chart comparing the number of immigrants with the number of naturalizations between 1911 and 2000. Many of the reports in Special Studies: Immigration include statistical data on immigration.
Collections on the internment of Japanese Americans are:

- **Papers of the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians** (this commission was established in 1980 in order to review the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II)
- **Evacuation of the Japanese from the West Coast: Final Report and Papers of the Adjutant General’s Office**

Civilian Exclusion Order No. 4, April 1, 1942, issued by the Wartime Civil Control Administration. evacuation of the Japanese from the west coast reproduces 108 exclusion orders, assembly center newspapers, as well as other proclamations, regulations, and reports.

The final period of immigration covered in UPA collections is immigration since 1965, coinciding with the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act Amendments of 1965. This major piece of legislation abolished the restrictive quotas for migrants from individual countries that had regulated immigration to the U.S. since the 1920s. In place of quotas on the number of migrants from a single country, the 1965 law set limits by hemisphere, but it also allowed family members to more easily bring their relatives to the United States. This period in U.S. immigration history is covered in four major collections from UPA.

- **Immigration during the Carter Administration: Records of the Cuban-Haitian Task Force**, covers the massive influx of immigrants from Cuba and Haiti between April and July 1980. The files of the Cuban-Haitian Task Force show that this massive influx presented the U.S. government with a humanitarian crisis, a diplomatic crisis, as well as a domestic political problem.
- **Special Studies Immigration, 1969–2007**, consists of reports issued by U.S. government departments and agencies and research facilities focusing on both legal and undocumented immigration. The most recent installment, reports from 2004–2007, focuses on immigration as a homeland security issue; the integration of INS into the Department of Homeland Security; immigration from Mexico and other Latin American countries; border security, including policing of the U.S.-Mexico border; the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006; and employment issues connected to immigration including farm labor shortages, guest worker programs, temporary admissions, and nonimmigrant specialty workers.
- **Papers of the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy** contains the key internal records as well as supporting documents of the commission appointed in 1979 to re-examine U.S. immigration policy.

One of the unique features of Immigration during the Carter Administration is that it includes issues of two different camp newspapers, allowing researchers to study conditions in the camps from the perspective of the entrants. This page from La Libertad shows some of the activities provided for camp residents.
The Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund consists of records of the most important civil rights advocacy organization for Puerto Ricans living in the United States.