

# PUSH FACTORS

Between 1865 and 1915, more than 25 million immigrants poured into the United States. They were part of a great network of some 60 million workers in search of jobs in industrial countries. The industrial boom had created a huge need for workers.

Both push and pull factors played a part in this global migration.

European immigrants were often small farmers or landless farmworkers. As European populations grew, land became scarce. Small farms could barely support the families that worked them. In many rural areas of Europe, small plots of land were divided among children and grandchildren to the point that the plots were so small that they were not profitable. In some areas, new farm machines replaced farmworkers. Young sons and daughters were forced to look elsewhere if they wanted to farm their own land.

Political or religious persecution drove many people from their homes. In Russia, the czar supported pogroms (po-grahmz) or organized attacks on Jewish villages. Persecution and violence also pushed Armenian Christians out of the Ottoman Empire (present day Turkey).

Political unrest was another push factor. After 1910, a revolution erupted in Mexico. Thousands of Mexicans crossed the border into the southwestern United States.

## Immigrants: Push and Pull Factors



### Push Factors:

- Scarce land
- Farm jobs lost to new machines
- Political and religious persecution
- Revolution
- Poverty and hard lives

### Pull Factors:

- Promise of freedom
- Family or friends already settled in the United States
- Factory jobs available

# PULL FACTORS

Industrial jobs were the chief pull factor for immigrants. American factories needed labor. Factory owners sent agents to Europe and Asia to hire workers at low wages. Steamship companies offered low fares for the ocean crossing. Railroads posted notices in Europe advertising cheap land in the American West.

Often, one family member-usually a young, single male-made the trip. Once settled, he would send for family members to join him. As immigrants wrote home describing the "land of opportunity," they pulled other neighbors from the "old country." For example, one out of every ten Greeks immigrated to the United States in the late 1800s.

Friends and relatives wrote home who had already made the trip wrote home saying that work was available for all and no one starved in America. One Polish immigrant wrote to relatives back in Europe, "*We eat here every day what we get only for Easter in our country.*"

The promise of freedom was another pull factor. Many immigrants were eager to live in a land where police could not arrest or imprison you without a reason and where freedom of religion was guaranteed to all by the Bill of Rights.

## Immigrants: Push and Pull Factors

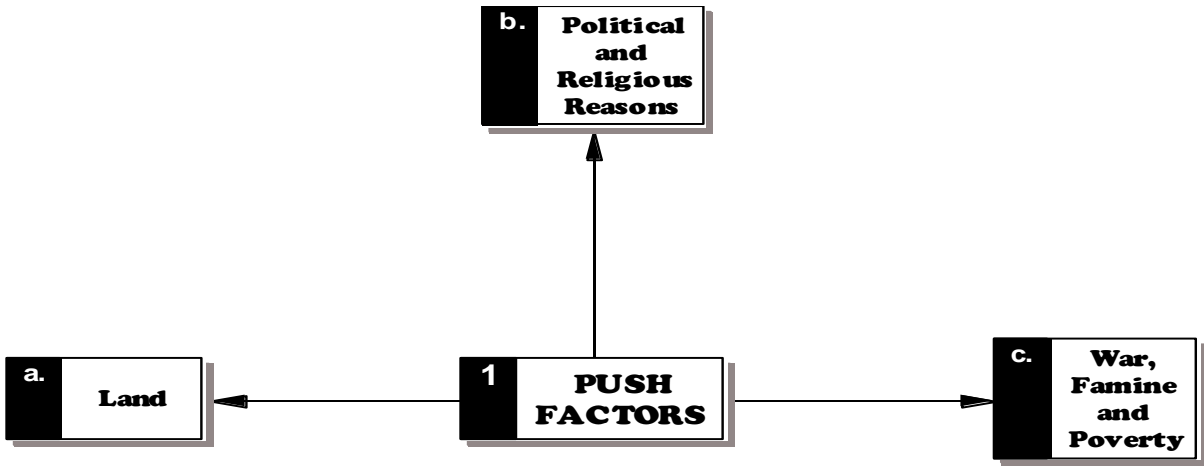


### Push Factors:

- Scarce land
- Farm jobs lost to new machines
- Political and religious persecution
- Revolution
- Poverty and hard lives

### Pull Factors:

- Promise of freedom
- Family or friends already settled in the United States
- Factory jobs available



**COMING TO AMERICA**

