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22 January 2016

AP US History

Nativist DBQ

Although the late 19th and early 20th century are regarded as one of the periods with the greatest growth in the immigrant population, there were still some people who resented immigration. They certainly would have opposed free unrestricted immigration as these nativist held racist beliefs. They believed in a sort of “American Masterace”One can assume that a lot of these people existed in the early 20th century as we saw a lot of restrictions toward immigration during this time period. Nativists were against unrestricted immigration as they would bring more immigrants that were not “american enough” this is because during the early twentieth century more immigrants from eastern and southern Europe,did not speak english, were a part of an union began to immigrate to the United States, unlike before were most of the immigrants that came to the United States came from Western Europe, spoke english, and, just like the majority of Americans at the time.

Starting with Document 1 we can see why some nativist did not want immigrants to come without restrictions or a limit, they thought that they chineese especially where a culture consuming people meaning that they did not attempt to adapt to the American Culture, and instead wanted American Culture to suit them and change their traditions for them.This is most likely referring to the then commonly held thought that the chinese just like other “new immigrants” didn't not want to “americanize” themselves and instead wanted to convert our culture to theirs. This was a fear that most americans had at the time, that their culture would be destroyed or consumed by these new immigrants if they were allowed unrestricted access into the United States. They felt that limiting the number of immigrants from these countries would serve to limit the harm that these immigrants could do to our culture because we would not let too many come at one time and never let one race or ethnicity come in unrestricted droves.

Document 2 also show the fear that if these new immigrants were allowed to come to the united states without restrictions would corrupt our culture. They fear that these new immigratnts are corruping our countries culture.It is no suprise that people who held this belief, nativist, apoosed unrestricted immigaration becasue of this. This was a big reason why nativist opposed unrestricted immigration, they believed that since these immigrants were immoral by nature allowing them to come in droves would only further harm our culture.

Document 3 is a great example of how much Americans at the time feared that their culture would be consumed by these new immigrants. Document 3 shows the effort Americans went in order to teach these new immigrants english, they mention “keep america great, learn the language. This is referring to the fact that americans believed that many of the new immigrants did not want to learn the language, they had no desire to integrate to american culture. This is one of the biggest reasons why americans at the time opposed unrestricted immigration because they felt that these new immigrants would want to convert american culture to suit themselves and not the other way around.

In Document 4 we see a reference to the fact that many of the new immigrants are not like the old ones. It states that these new immigrants are not from the nordic race, like their previous counterparts. They say that these new immigrants are weaker and inferior to them, and thus would only serve to corrupt our nation. They state how allowing them unrestricted access would only fill all of our asylums and jails. Its is without a doubt the reason why these nativist opposed unrestricted access, would you allow someone into your home knowing that they were their to steal your possessions, of course not, this is just how these nativist thought, and you can't blame them.

In document 5 we see even more evidence on why nativist did not want immigrants to have unrestricted access to the United States, they saw the connection between the number of unionized strikes in the late 19th and early 20th century and the number of new immigrants that were a part of a union. Nativist felt that these people if allowed to come in droves would “overrun the master race” and cause more disruption to America's production line. These nativist believed that these immigrants posed a great danger to our country in the form of “slowing” us down.

In document 6 we see yet another commonly held fear that these immigrants were inferior to those who came before them. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts explains this fear perfectly, he believes that if allowed unrestricted access these immigrants would mix into our nation to the point where they would overturn it. He gives the advice that it is best to restrict all access to these immigrants or at least have some sort of restrictions in place to limit the harm these inferior people would do to our country. He is very clear in the fact that he doesn't like the new immigrants just like many nativist at the time and believes that they are actually harming our nation.

In conclusion these nativist wereof been huge opponents on free unrestricted immigration. Their beliefs are clear and concise on why they oppose unrestricted immigration to the United States. They believed that allowing these immigrants unrestricted access to the United States would corrupt our nation's culture, fill our prison and mental institutes, and mix into the master race and corrupt them as well. They also thought that the immigrants had no interest in learning our language or culture and would expect our nation to change for them instead of the other way around.