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*Major United States Laws Relating to
Immigration and Naturalization: 1790–2005*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACT</u>	<u>PROVISION</u>
Mar. 26, 1790	1 Stat. 103	One visit to court; two-year residency; free white alien; children of naturalized citizens considered to be citizens.
Jan. 29, 1795	1 Stat. 414	Free white aliens of good moral character; five-year residency with one year in state; declaration of intention filed after two years; petition filed three years after declaration.
June 18, 1798	1 Stat. 566	14-year residency; declaration of intention filed 5 years before granting of citizenship.
July 14, 1798	1 Stat. 570	Ordered the removal of aliens considered to be dangerous to the peace and safety of the U.S.; passenger lists to be given to collector of customs.
Apr. 14, 1802	2 Stat. 153	Reasserted residency requirements of 1795 act; children of naturalized citizens considered to be citizens.
Mar. 2, 1819	3 Stat. 489	Passenger lists to be given to collector of customs.
May 26, 1824	4 Stat. 69	Alien minors naturalized upon reaching 21 years of age if alien had lived in U.S. for five years.
Feb. 10, 1855	10 Stat. 604	Alien women married to U.S. citizens considered to be citizens.
July 17, 1862	12 Stat. 597	Aliens who received honorable discharges from U.S. Army were not required to file declarations.
Mar. 3, 1875	18 Stat. 477	Residency permits required of Asians.
May 6, 1882	22 Stat. 58	10-year suspension of immigration of Chinese laborers; certificates required of Chinese laborers who came to the U.S. prior to 1882; Chinese immigrants, other than laborers, must have certificates before immigrating to U.S.; Chinese not allowed to become citizens.
July 5, 1884	24 Stat. 115	Extended 10-year suspension of 1882 act.
Sept. 13, 1888	25 Stat. 476	Indefinite suspension of immigration by Chinese laborers
Mar. 3, 1891	26 Stat. 1084	Established office of superintendent of immigration; Classes of persons denied right to immigrate to U.S.—insane, paupers, persons with contagious diseases, persons convicted of felonies or misdemeanors of moral turpitude, and polygamists.
May 5, 1892	7 Stat. 25	All Chinese immigrants excluded from U.S. for 10 years; Chinese illegally in U.S. could be removed.

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Nov. 3, 1893	28 Stat. 7	Chinese legally in U.S. must apply to directors of internal revenue for certificates of residence or be removed.
July 26, 1894	28 Stat. 124	Aliens who received honorable discharges from U.S. Navy and Marines are not required to file declarations.
June 29, 1906	32 Stat. 596	Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization established. Naturalization papers become standardized and contain more detail about aliens. Any court having common law jurisdiction could naturalize aliens.
Mar. 2, 1907	34 Stat. 1228	American-born women who married foreign-born men took the citizenship status of their husbands. Once the marital relationship was terminated, the women could regain their American citizenship, but no mechanism for regaining citizenship was identified.
May 9, 1918	40 Stat. 542	Aliens currently in U.S. military permitted to file for citizenship after serving three years.
May 19, 1921	42 Stat. 5	Quota Act of 1921 established annual immigrant admissions per country using a formula based on the 1910 federal population census.
Sept. 22, 1922	42 Stat. 1021	Allowed alien wives of U.S. citizens to file for citizenship after one year of residency; stopped removals of citizenship status from native-born American women who had married aliens not eligible for U.S. citizenship.
May 26, 1924	43 Stat. 153	Ceiling placed on number of immigrants in permanent status; aliens to obtain visas, in advance, from U.S. embassies; courts no longer allowed to determine naturalization eligibility. The law was aimed at further restricting the Southern and Eastern Europeans who were immigrating in large numbers starting in the 1890s, as well as prohibiting the immigration of Middle Easterners, East Asians, and Asian Indians.
June 2, 1924	43 Stat. 253	American Indians were granted full U.S. citizenship to America's indigenous peoples, called "Indians" in this Act. The 14th Amendment guarantees citizenship to persons born in the U.S., but only if "subject to the jurisdiction thereof"; this latter clause excludes certain indigenous peoples.
Mar. 2, 1929	45 Stat. 1513	Certificates of arrival showing date and place of arrival and method of arrival to be issued to immigrants; persons wishing to become citizens required to file certificates of arrival with declarations of intention. If they arrived before certificates of arrival were required, they must be located on a passenger arrival manifest, and retroactive certificates would be issued.
June 25, 1936	49 Stat. 1917	Allowed American women who had lost their citizenship because they married aliens to regain citizenship by taking oaths of allegiance to the U.S.
June 27, 1952	66 Stat. 163	Established national origins minimum quota of 100 persons

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		per country; lowered age requirements for naturalization to 18 years.
Oct. 3, 1965	9 Stat. 911	"National quotas" replaced with "annual ceilings" for number of immigrants. There was a limitation on Western Hemisphere immigration (120,000 per year), with the Eastern Hemisphere limited to 170,000. Because of the family preferences put into immigration law, immigration is now mostly "chain immigration" wherein recent immigrants who are already in the U.S. sponsor their relatives.
Apr. 1, 1980	PL 96-212	Created to provide a permanent and systematic procedure for the admission to the U.S. of refugees of special humanitarian concern to the U.S., and to provide comprehensive and uniform provisions for the effective resettlement and absorption of those refugees who are admitted. It established explicit procedures on how to deal with refugees in the U.S. by creating a uniform and effective resettlement and absorption policy.
Nov. 6, 1986	100 Stat. 3359	Required employers to attest to their employees' immigration status and made it illegal to hire unauthorized immigrants. Did grant amnesty to some illegal immigrants.
Nov. 29, 1990	104 Stat. 4978	Increased the number of illegal immigrants allowed into the U.S. each year. It also provided for exceptions to the English testing process required by the 1906 act.
Sept. 30, 1996	110 Stat. 3009-456	Immigrants unlawfully present in the U.S. for more than 180 days must stay outside U.S. for certain period of time unless they get a pardon or waiver.
May 11, 2005	119 Stat. 302	Set requirements for state driver's licenses and ID cards to be accepted by the Federal Government for official purposes as defined by Homeland Security.

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