

THAT WAS THEN:

Four hundred years ago, English colonizers expelled the Native Americans from their lands and enslaved Africans, beginning the US' long history of displacement and racism.

Since its establishment, the US has characterized future waves of immigrants as political and economic threats while at the same time building the world's richest economy on the backs of immigrant labor:

1790: *The Naturalization Act of 1790 mandated that only 'whites' could be U.S citizens.*

1882: *The first of three Chinese Exclusion Acts singled out Chinese immigrants and blocked them from entering the country until WWII.*

Between 1892 and WWII: *Untold numbers of immigrants fleeing famine and political persecution were denied entry by immigration officials at Ellis Island and sent back.*

1917: *Immigration Act of 1917 designated almost the entire continent of Asia as a "barred zone" from which immigration was prohibited.*

1919: *After a series of attempted mail bombings, the "Palmer Raids" rounded up thousands of politically active immigrants for detention and deportation.*

1924: *The Johnson-Reed Act implemented immigration quotas based on national origin, in order to preserve US "racial" composition as primarily descendants of Northern Europe.*

The Depression (1930s): *A series of large-scale raids resulted in the deportation of hundreds of thousands of people of Mexican descent, including US citizens.*

WWII (1940s): *In addition to the more than 120,000 Japanese Americans, most of them U.S citizens, who were forced into internment camps, thousands of Japanese Latin Americans were kidnapped by the US government, brought to the US, then detained for years beyond the war as "illegal aliens."*

McCarthy Era (1950s): *Thousands of people were deported for being "suspected communists" and "subversives." Another wave of raids targeting people of Mexican descent began--one program was officially called "Operation Wetback."*



Immigration quotas have systematically restricted the number of immigrants allowed to enter from countries of color, while leaving European immigration mostly unrestricted.

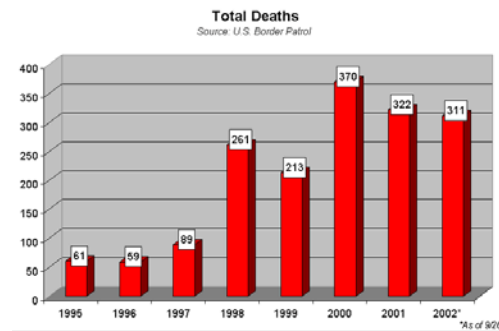
THEN IS ALSO NOW:

Latinos, Asians, Africans and Arabs are being targeted yet again. Many are brought here to the U.S by economic and social displacement (often caused by U.S international policies), only to find themselves constructed as "potential threats" to national security and economic stability.

1996 Both IIRAIRA (*Illegal Immigration Reform and Responsibility Act*) and EDPA (*Effective Death Penalty Act*), expanded the numbers of people subjected to deportation and mandatory detention and increased resources for immigration enforcement and border patrol.

Mirroring a general trend in communities of color in the US, more immigration dollars are spent on enforcement over services. The proposed 2004 budget would spend \$9 on immigration enforcement for every \$1 spent on services.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ENFORCEMENT BECOMES THE PRIORITY?



* All together, federal immigration agents are the largest armed enforcement entity in the US

* At US borders, particularly the southern border, both citizens and non-citizens are racially profiled, harassed at checkpoints and even killed by US Border Patrol Agents. Increasingly, they are also indefinitely detained.

* This border militarization forces immigrants crossing into the US to take dangerous routes through desolate areas where they face a greater chance of death. Hundreds of people die each year at the southern border due to these increased dangers.

INS DETENTION IS THE FASTEST GROWING PRISON PROGRAM IN THE U.S

- * 40% of the Federal Prison inmate population is immigrant and non-citizen.
- * INS budget: \$5 billion/year. Amount spent on incarcerating immigrants: \$2 billion.
- * The daily rate of detainees has tripled in just the last 6 years, from 5,532 in 1994 to 20,000 in 2001.
- * Average prison sentence for immigration offenses in 1986: 3.6 mths. In 2001: 21mths.

A GROWTH INDUSTRY: MORE PEOPLE IN PRISON MEANS MORE PROFITS

Private prisons INS started the private prison trend. Contracts from the INS and the Federal Bureau of Prisons bailed out the private prison industry on the verge of bankruptcy in the mid-90s.

State governments As the prison population goes down and many people question the costs and viability of the prison system, state and county governments are covering their costs by turning empty prison and jail cells into INS detention cells.