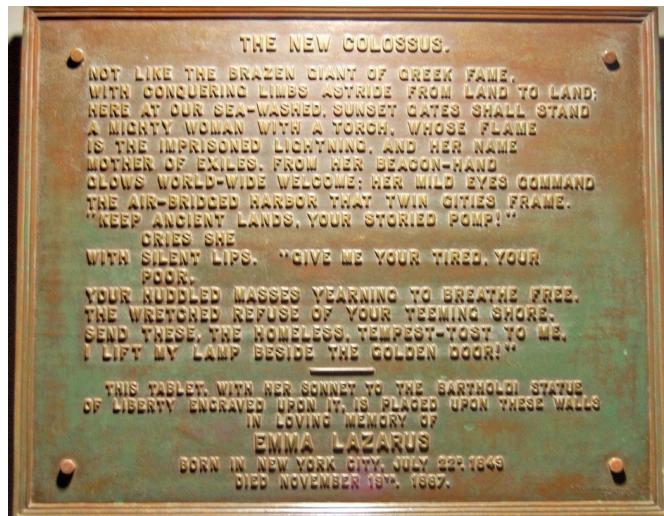


CONNECTING THE STATUE OF LIBERTY TO IMMIGRATION

SOURCE A

PLAQUE AFFIXED TO THE STATUE OF LIBERTY IN 1906



SOURCE B

REFUGEE CHILDREN ARRIVING IN 1939 WAVING AT THE STATUE OF LIBERTY



SOURCE C

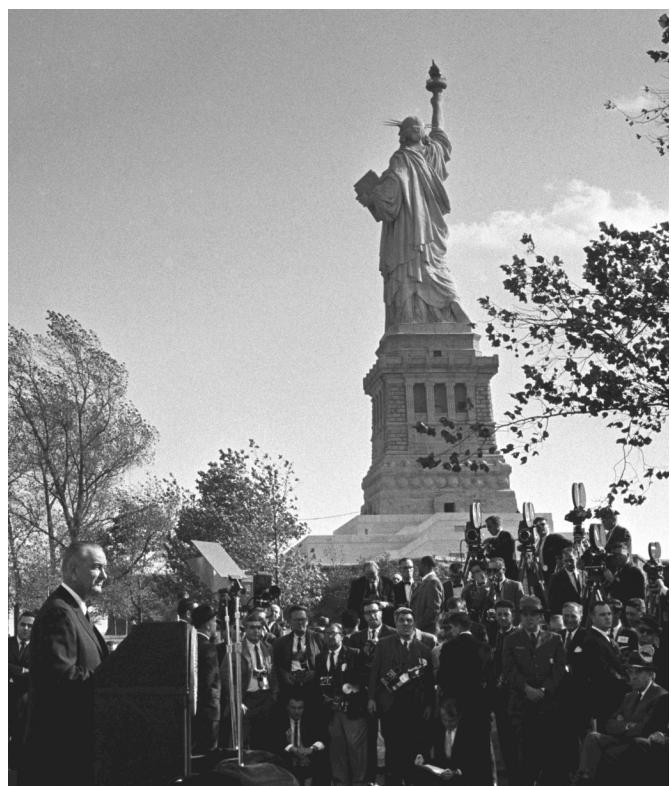
FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

"For over three centuries a steady stream of men, women and children followed the beacon of liberty which this light symbolizes. They brought to us strength and moral fiber developed in a civilization centuries old but fired anew by the dream of a better life in America. They brought to one new country the cultures of a hundred old ones."



SOURCE D

PRESIDENT LYNDON B JOHNSON SIGNING THE HART-CELLER ACT



TAGS:

Statue of Liberty

American Identity

Immigration

IMMIGRATION & THE STATUE OF LIBERTY – 1900 TO 1965

SOURCE

Source A: Plaque affixed to the Statue of Liberty commemorating “The New Colossus” and Emma Lazarus

Source B: Jewish refugee children wave at the Statue of Liberty, 1939.

Source C: Roosevelt Speaking at the 50th Anniversary of The Statue of Liberty

Source D: Lyndon B. Johnson signing the 1965 immigration law at the Statue of Liberty.

BACKGROUND

In 1903, the 20th anniversary of “The New Colossus,” Emma Lazarus’s friends had the poem installed in the base of the pedestal, but aside from a few notices in the papers, the link between the Statue and immigration wasn’t expressed in popular culture. During World War One, however, the government, trying to appeal to immigrants and their children to buy war bonds, started to emphasize the connection between the statue and immigration. In the 1920s, some public schools used textbooks that connected the Statue of Liberty to immigration. This increased in the 1930s and 1940s when more textbooks, magazines and children’s books brought more attention to the poem.

In the 1936, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt helped celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Statue, and cemented the connection between the Statue and immigration. Yet, even as FDR praises the immigration of the past, and what their descendants gave to America, the country had closed the doors to new immigrants in 1924. Thus there was something ironic about the Statue symbolizing immigration when many who desperately sought to enter could not.

In 1965, President Lyndon B Johnson signed the Hart-Celler Act, which took away the old quotas, opening a new era of immigration. The fact that he signed this bill on Liberty Island is a testament to how firmly immigration and the Statue had been bound together.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

As you read the source consider how it informs these questions:

- If the poem and the statue, and immigration and the statue, ultimately came to be linked together, why is it important to understand the moments when it was not linked together?
- Emma had passed away three years before this cartoon. Would it have surprised her to see immigrants described as “a garbage heap”? Why or why not?
- Why have Americans disagreed about immigration over the years?
- What is the connection between immigrants and American identity?

HISTORICAL NOTES

Definitions of terms used in the source.

Immigration Station: Ellis Island ran from 1892 to 1954 processing 12 million immigrants. Many of these immigrants arrived by steamship, and shared stories of seeing the Statue of Liberty as they entered New York Harbor.

Johnson Reed Act --1924 Immigration Restriction Quotas--

Hart Celler Act—1965—removal of restriction quotes. This opened the door to immigration from all over the world, without preference to any one nation...