IMMIGRATION & INTEGRATION

II. Race in America

1. **Historical background**
   - a- A nation of immigrants
   - b- A land of oppression?
   - c- The black problem

2. **Recent race issues**
   - Affirmative Action
   - Spanish vs English
   - Muslims in America today

Notes typographiques

. *Le vocabulaire thématique en gras ; je vous recommande de vous constituer des FICHES THEMATIQUES de vocabulaire. L'enrichissement de votre vocabulaire passe nécessairement par l'apprentissage par cœur de telles listes. Toutefois, il peut être plus facile de retenir le vocabulaire en contexte, d'où son inclusion ici au sein de phrases rédigées.*

. *Les informations les plus importantes sont soulignées.*

. *Le vocabulaire en italique est utile pour les essais (mots de liaison, connecteurs logiques etc.)*

Les notes de bas de page :

. *les notes en rouge concernent la civilisation et l'histoire*

. *les notes en vert concernent le vocabulaire, les questions de langue, la grammaire*

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II. Race in the United States

1. Historical Background

a- America: a country of immigrants

Minorities account for ¼ of the American population. The largest group today is the **black** community (13% of the population), although the fastest increasing one is the **Hispanic** community (11% today): it should outnumber the black one by 2080. Otherwise the **Asians** make up about 4% of the population. The **Indians** –Native Americans- are not so important numerically, yet they are part and parcel of American history.

Very briefly, because you have notions of early American history from history class and from my previous presentations -for instance you must know and use the expressions "Pilgrims", "Founding Fathers", "Puritans"- I'd like to *remind you of* the stages of immigration. *To put it in a nutshell*, **American immigration started as unlimited and European, to become strictly regulated and from Third World Countries**.

First Wave **First half of the 19th Century**
Mainly composed of European Protestants (Britain, Germany, Scandinavia), except for the Irish -an important community today, one may even say a lobby- who are Catholics and were driven by the potato famine of 1845. The others are also mainly driven by economic reasons.

Second wave **Mid 19th Century and second half**
From Central and Southern Europe, a much more heterogeneous wave of immigrants, with Catholics from Poland and Italy, Orthodox Russians and Greeks, Jews from Eastern Europe. The record year is 1907 with 1.3 million incomers -compare with 300,000 a year in the first wave, or 500,000 to 700,000 a year in the two last decades[1]. This immigration wave is associated with the myth of the arrival in New York, the image of the Statue of Liberty greeting the ships in the harbour of New York, and the mandatory and much feared stop at **Ellis Island** -where immigrants could be refused access to the American soil for health reasons for instance. Ellis Island is now a much visited museum and historical landmark.
I'd like to suggest a now classic: *America, America*, a movie about immigration by Elia Kazan

The turn of the Century: the beginning of the restrictions
In 1880 and 1902, the American government forbid access to all Chinese immigrants -and in 1907 to the Japanese as well: the era of unlimited, unrestricted immigration was over. Quotas were soon introduced.

In 1917, a literacy test is demanded: practically no Northern Europe immigrant would fail it, while it became a hindrance for Central and Southern Europe immigrants and Asians.

[1] This last figure proves that immigration, though regulated and selective is still high in the US.

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