**Learning Objective:**

Explain the causes and effects of international and internal migration patterns over time.

**Thematic Focus:**

*Push and pull factors shape immigration to and migration within America, and the demographic change as a result of these moves shapes the migrants, society, and the environment.*

1. Popular culture grew in influence in U.S. society, even as debates increased over the effects of culture on public values, morals, and American national identity.
2. Official restrictions on freedom of speech grew during World War I, as increased anxiety about radicalism led to a Red Scare and attacks on labor activism and immigrant culture.
   1. Wartime Restrictions
      1. Official restrictions on freedom of speech grew during World War I.
      2. The Espionage Act (1917) and Sedition Act (1918) allowed for the prosecutions of pacifists and left-wing political groups opposed to the war.
      3. Eugene Debs, the perennial socialist candidate for the presidency was sentenced to jail for making a speech critical of the American war effort and warning of the dangers of militarism.
      4. In the case of *Schenck v. United States*, socialist Charles Schenck was declared rightfully imprisoned because his actions presented a “clear and present danger” in a time of war.
   2. Labor Unrest
      1. Due to a postwar depression resulting from inflation, as well as momentum from gains made during the Progressive Era, about 20% of workers went on strike. The unions worked closely with the government during WWI and hoped that the government would intercede on their behalf.
      2. Widespread postwar labor strikes confused and frightened Americans. They reinforced the public perception of labor unions as socialists and communists.
   3. First Red Scare
      1. The Palmer Raids, occurring shortly after World War I, were caused by the fear of communism and radicalism. These raids were conducted against suspected communists and anarchists. The Palmer Raids disregarded basic civil liberties. For example, government agents in 33 cities broke into meeting halls and homes without search warrants. More than 4,000 people were jailed and denied counsel.
      2. In 1920, two unidentified men robbed a shoe factory and killed two people in Massachusetts. Sacco and Vanzetti, both Italian immigrants and admitted anarchists, were tried for murder. The case was based on the political radicalism of the defendants, rather than facts. The two men were convicted and sentenced to death, prompting protest in both the U.S. and Europe that they had not received a fair trial. The Sacco and Vanzetti case was significant because it illustrated a fear of radicals and recent immigrants.
3. Economic pressures, global events, and political developments caused sharp variations in the numbers, sources, and experiences of both international and internal migrants.
4. Immigration from Europe reached its peak in the years before World War I. During and after World War I, nativist campaigns against some ethnic groups led to the passage of quotas that restricted immigration, particularly from southern and eastern Europe, and increased barriers to Asian immigration.
   1. The Emergency Quota Act of 1921 limited the amount of immigrants that could enter the U.S. from a given nation to 3% of that nation’s population living in the U.S. in 1910. In practice the law only placed restrictions on Southern and Eastern European immigrants, while allowing as many Northern and Western European immigrants as wanted to come to America.
   2. Even labor leaders decried immigration. They believed that they depressed wages and impeded unionization.
   3. The primary purpose of the National Origins Act of 1924 was to use quotas to restrict the flow of newcomers from Southern and Eastern Europe. It further limited immigration from the 1921 act by cutting the number to 2% of the population as of 1890. The quotas established by the National Origins Act discriminated against immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe. These quotas were the primary reason for the decrease in the numbers of Europeans immigrating to the United States in the 1920s. The quotas favored immigration from Northern and Western Europe.
5. The increased demand for war production and labor during World War I led many Americans to migrate to urban centers in search of economic opportunities.
   1. Mobilization and military service provided opportunities for African Americans to improve their socioeconomic position, while also leading to debates over racial segregation. The war years witnessed a continuing migration of African Americans from the rural South to urban centers in the North and West. Some 1.6 million Blacks left the South.
6. In a Great Migration during and after World War I, African Americans escaping segregation, racial violence, and limited economic opportunity in the South moved to the North and West, where they found new opportunities but still encountered discrimination.
   1. Mass movement of Blacks into what had been predominantly White communities provoked interracial friction and occasionally violence, especially when American “Doughboys” returned from service.
   2. Race riots were often a response to the Great Migration of Blacks to major cities during World War I. Northern discrimination was not much different than in the South. The 1920s witnessed a dramatic expansion of the KKK in response to the “Great Migration.” D.W. Griffith’s full-length film “The Birth of a Nation” glorified the KKK. During the 1920s, the KKK favored White supremacy and restrictions on immigration.