U.S. Immigration Policy
Naturalization Act of 1790: opened citizenship to “free white persons” of “good moral character” after two-year wait.

Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882: The first significant limitation on immigration to U.S., and the only explicitly race-based legislation, it banned immigration by Chinese and excluded Chinese already in U.S. from citizenship.

Madison Grant’s *The Passing of the Great Race*. Eugenacist who argued for the superiority of Northern Europeans. Book had sold 1.6 million copies by 1937. Adolf Hitler wrote Grant that “This book is my Bible.”
Emergency Quota Act of 1921: Set immigration quotas based on nationality, limiting immigration from any country to 3% of the number of persons from that country living in the U.S. in 1910, effectively reducing immigration by 75%.

Immigration Act of 1924: Changed quota limitation to 2% of the number of people from a country living in the U.S. in 1890 and completely excluded Asians. One of its few opponents was freshman representative Emanuel Celler of Brooklyn.

Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952: Allowed government to deport immigrants or naturalized citizens engaged in subversive activities and to bar suspected subversives from entering the country. Until its repeal in 1990, the law was used to exclude many including authors Gabriel García Márquez, Pablo Neruda, Doris Lessing, Graham Greene, Farley Mowat and future Canadian prime minister Pierre Trudeau.
Operation Wetback 1954: President Eisenhower’s aggressive effort to arrest and deport illegal Mexican immigrants from Southwest. In one year 130,000 were deported, and INS claimed that another 1 million voluntarily returned to Mexico to avoid arrest.

Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 (Sponsored by Emmanuel Celler): Abolished national-origin quotas. Set overall limits available on a first-come, first served basis, but left family reunification visas unlimited.
Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986: Made it illegal to knowingly hire illegal immigrants and granted amnesty to several million illegal immigrants.

Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996: Made it easier to deport immigrants convicted of crimes and dramatically increased number of Border Patrol agents.