

1921

The Quota Act of 1921 proves to be a turning point in American immigration policy by introducing the principle of numerical limitation

1924

The Immigration Act of 1924 reduces the annual quota for each nationality and imposes an annual limit of approximately 150,000 persons. The Act does not distinguish between immigrants and refugees and becomes the State Department's primary instrument to restrict refugee inflow prior to World War II.

1930

Because of the **Depression**,
Hoover acts to limit immigration
as much as possible.
Impoverished immigrants are
denied visas.

1931

Nearly two-thirds of the allowed quota is blocked. Federal supervision of immigration is transferred to the **Department of Labor**.

1933

**The Emergency Committee in
Aid of Displaced Scholars**

begins to find places for refugee
scholars throughout America

1938

President Roosevelt convenes
Evian Conference in France to
address the international
refugee problem.

1939

The **S.S. St. Louis** with over 900
Jews aboard is refused
permission to dock in Cuba and
the U.S.

1939

The Wagner-Rogers Bill to
admit 20,000 refugee children
from Germany dies in
committee.

1940

The Emergency Rescue Committee is established in New York. Breckinridge Long, an immigration opponent, is appointed Assistant Secretary of State with authority over the visa division.

1941

The Close Relatives Edict bars immigration by all persons with close relatives in Nazi-occupied Europe.

1944

The War Refugee Board is
formed to rescue victims of Nazi
persecution in Europe.

1944

A temporary haven is established
in **Oswego, New York**, for 1,000
refugees.

1945

The **Truman Directive** assigns existing immigration quotas to displaced persons, allowing approximately 230,000 displaced persons to enter the country between 1945-1947. Two-thirds are Jewish

1948

**The U.S. Displaced Persons
Act** admits 400,000 Europeans of
whom 250,000 are Jewish.

1948

Between 1948-1957, some **20,000 orphaned children** are admitted into the U.S. under various refugee acts.