

The United States of Diaspora

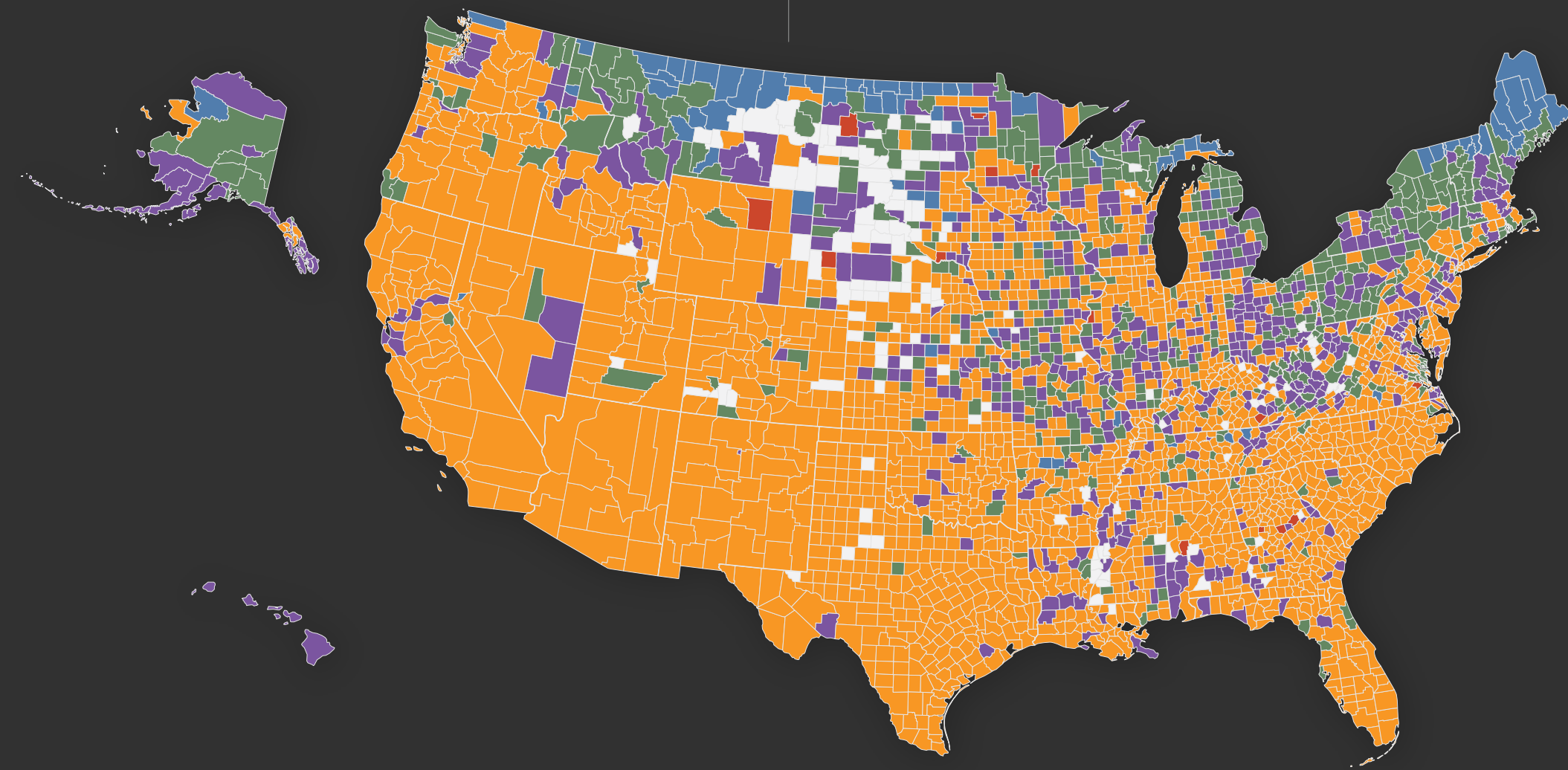
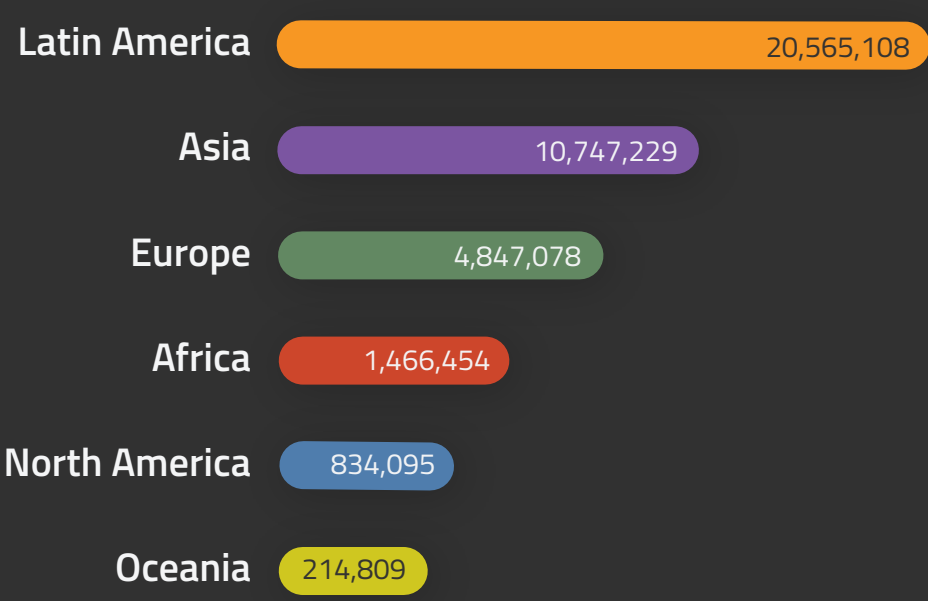
History in Motion¹

The United States is a country of immigrants. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, less than 2 percent of the current population can claim to be of native ancestry. In the year 2016 alone, the U.S. accepted 1.2 million legal immigrants—more than any other country in the world—bringing the current foreign-born population to 47 million (nearly 15%). However, this statistic only measures immigration based on lawful permanent resident status and does not include the untold millions who have migrated to the U.S. by unofficial means. In 2015, it was estimated that an additional 12 million illegal immigrants were living in the United States—more than the entire population of North Carolina.

The reasons for these migrations vary as greatly as the cultural backgrounds of the immigrants themselves. Nearly 3/4 of legal immigrants to the United States are either the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens or have been sponsored by them. Only 12 percent have achieved their residency status through employment-based preferences. In 2015, the U.S. admitted 70 thousand refugees; this number has dropped sharply in recent years as President Donald Trump has issued several executive orders affecting immigration policy.

The trials immigrants must endure to reach the U.S. are, in many cases, severe and life-threatening, yet they endure them with the hope of prosperity and happiness for themselves and their families. The role immigrants have played in the formation and continued evolution of U.S. culture is nothing short of profound, and, if not for their efforts, most of us would not be able to call ourselves Americans today.

Countries of Origin (2010 census)¹



Where Immigrants Settle²

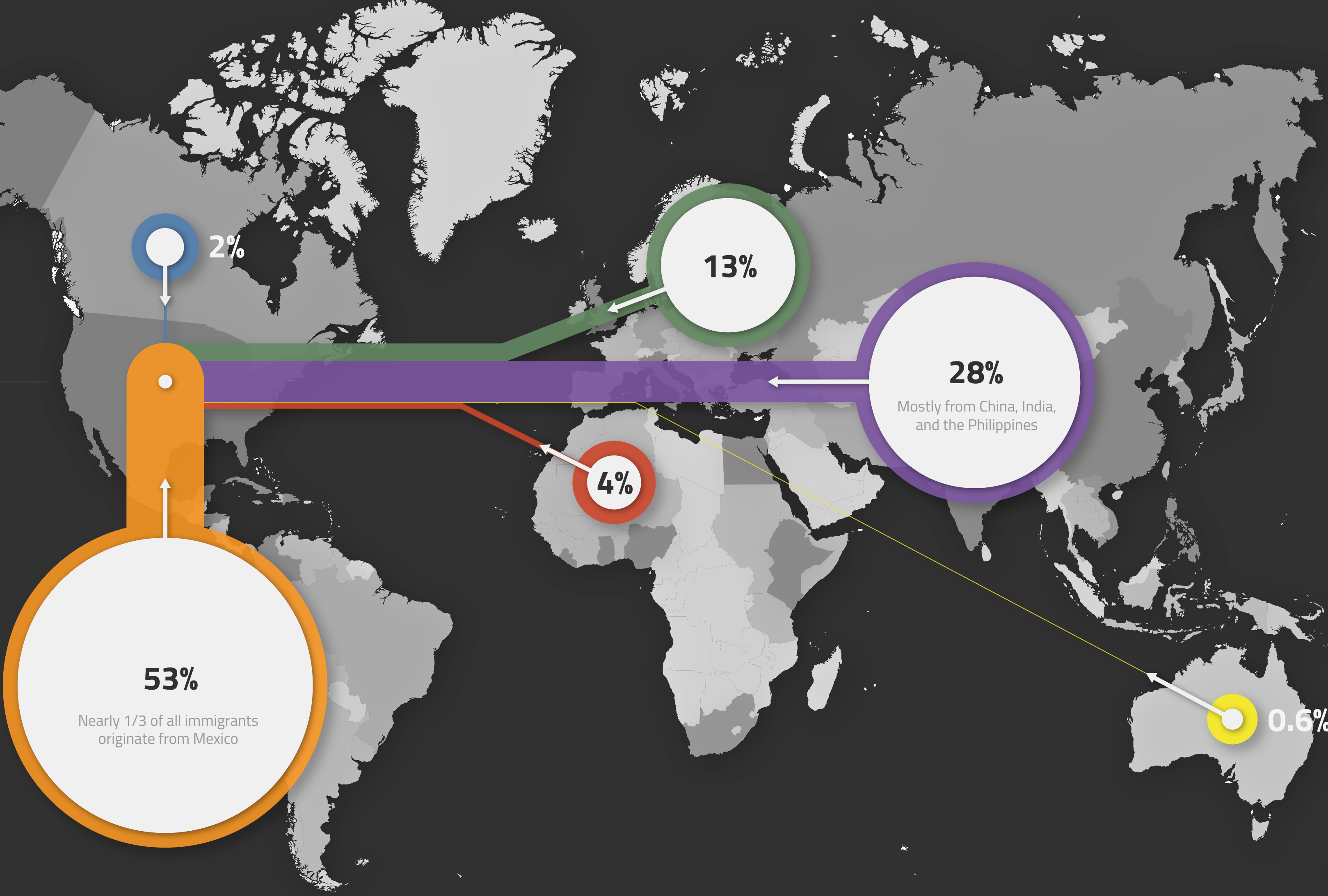
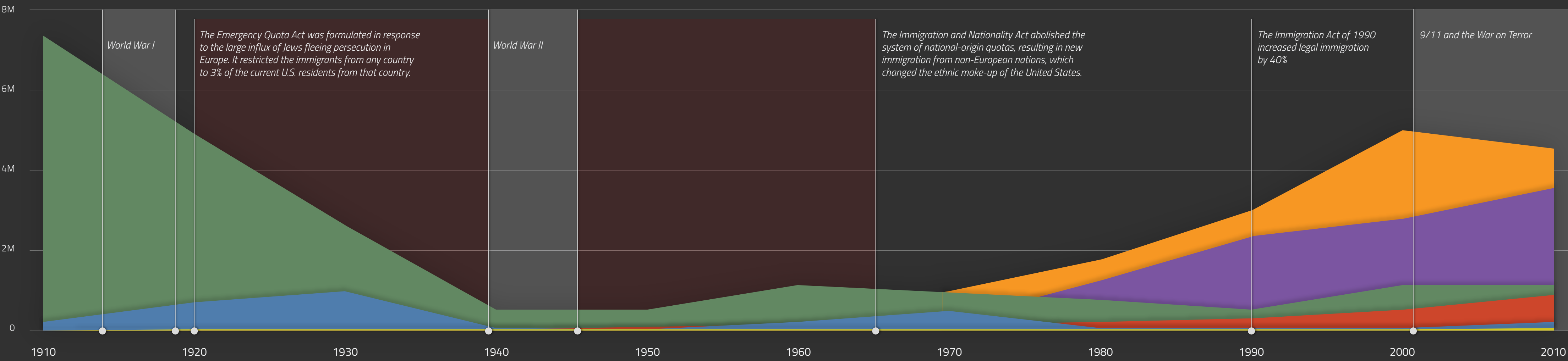
After arriving in the United States, the immigrant's journey is likely far from over. From border crossings and airports, immigrants continue their migrations all across the country. Where they settle can reveal insights about the cultures of our own cities and states and the divisiveness of cross-cultural interactions.

Latin American immigrants tend to reside in the southernmost regions, while Canadians and Europeans tend to gather together along our Northern border. Asian immigrants tend to settle in cities with larger populations of other Asian immigrants, like San Francisco and New York.

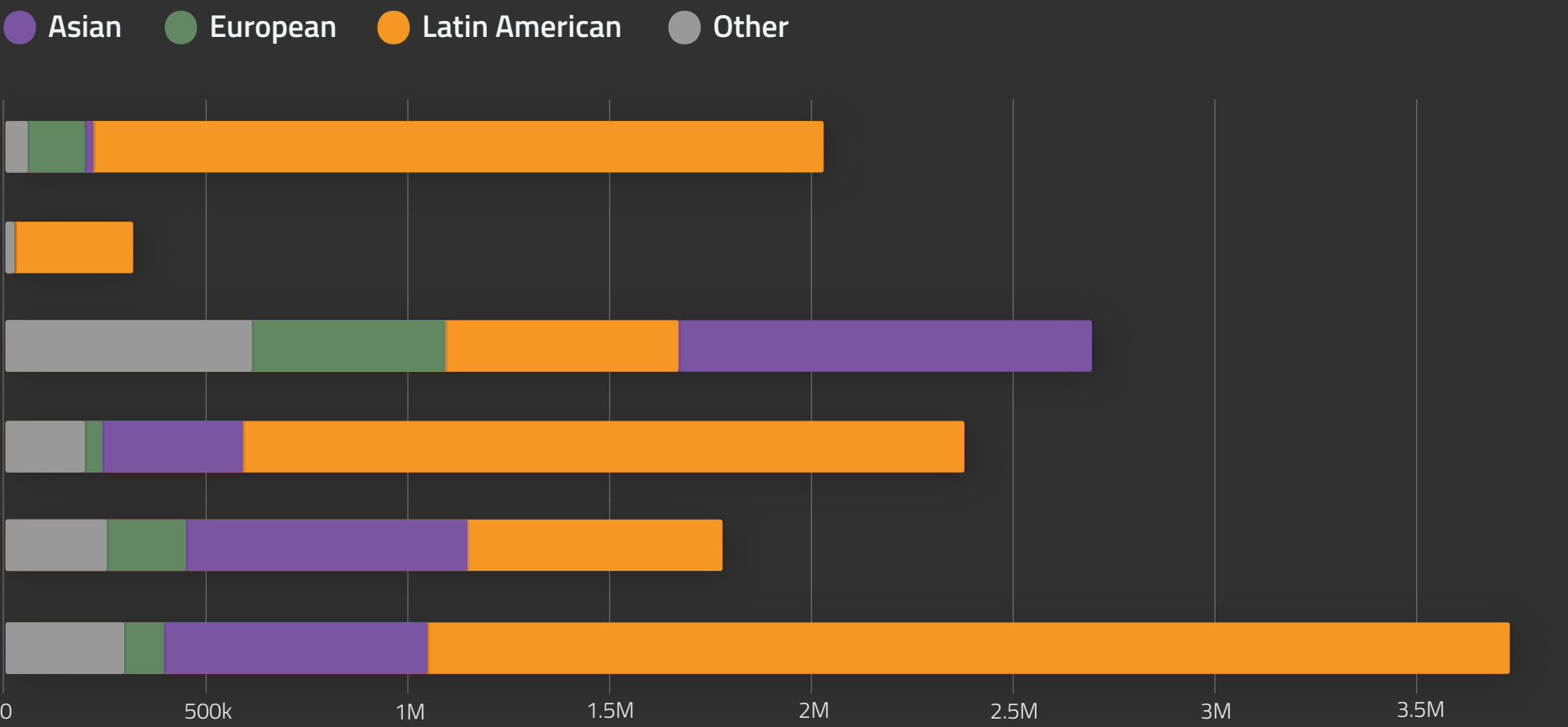
The United States has an incredibly dynamic culture that is constantly evolving thanks to the shared traditions of our immigrant population. However, many citizens and elected officials are concerned that the large numbers of people entering the country are cause for alarm. Even in a country as diverse as the U.S., discrimination against immigrants is real and ongoing. Because of this, the journey of immigration can often last for several generations.

One Hundred Years of Immigration¹

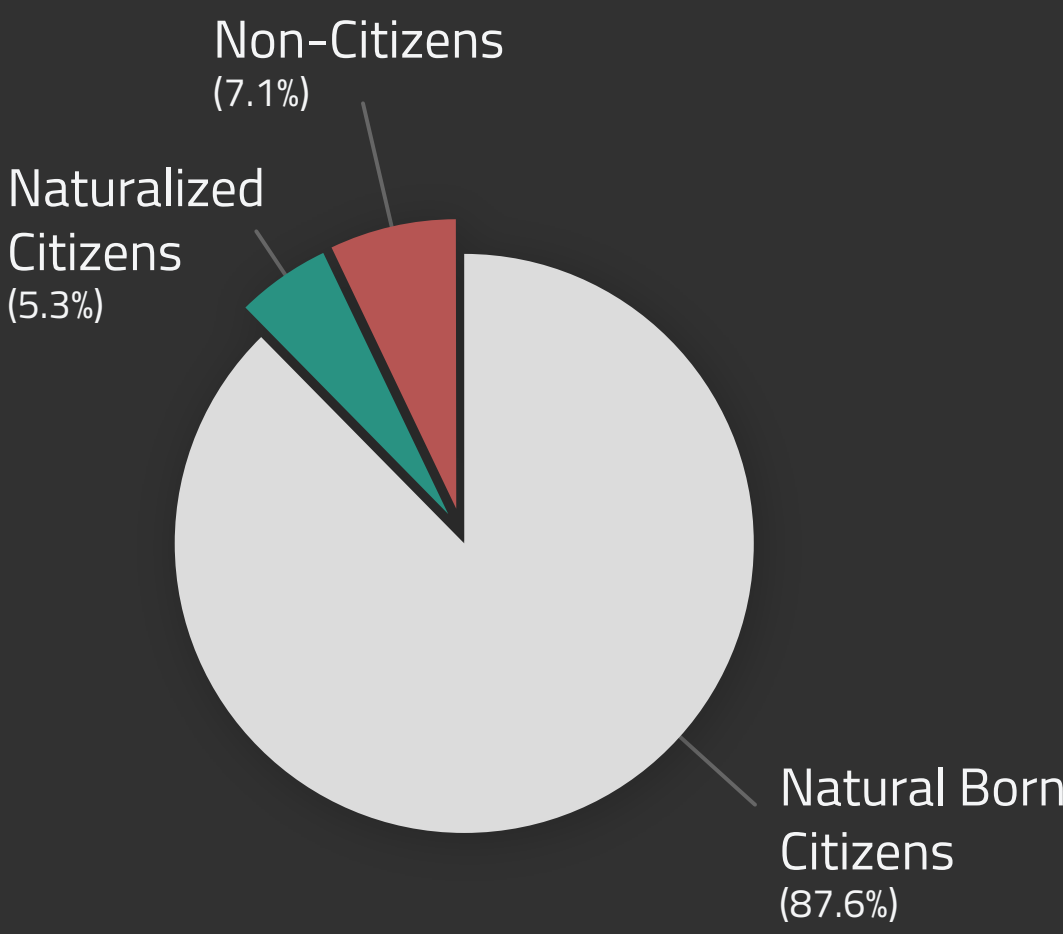
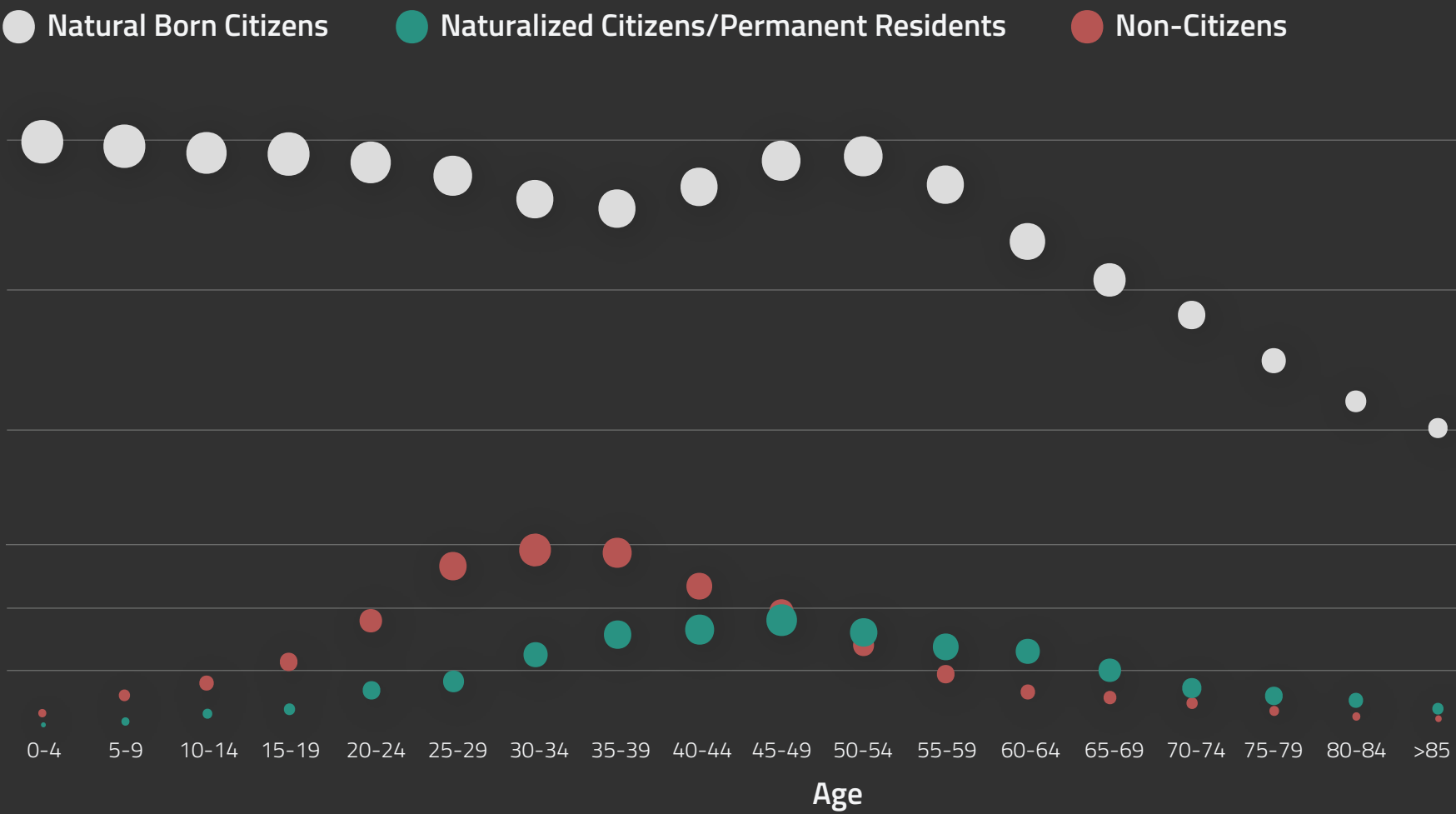
Europe North America Latin America Asia Africa Oceania



Occupations of Immigrants³



Ages of the Population³



Sources

1. "Yearbook of Immigration Statistics." *The US Department of Homeland Security*. 2010. www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/yearbook/2010.
2. "American Community Survey." *the United States Census Bureau*. 2010. www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/summary-file/2010.html.
3. "Current Population Survey - March 2010." *the United States Census Bureau*. 2010, Tables 1.1, 1.7. www.census.gov/data/tables/2010/demo/foreign-born/cps-2010.html.