AMERICA: NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

In 1970, nearly all U.S. immigrants came from Europe, but by 2010 no European countries were among the top 10 sending nations, which now included India and El Salvador. What changed? Economics. Population growth. Politics. National identity. The United States, for instance, ended quotas that had favored Europeans. In 1970, the Soviet Union ranked seventh among sending nations; but by 2010, the Soviet Union no longer existed. At the same time, total immigrants climbed from 4.7% of the U.S. population to 12.9%. In 1970, only one state — New York — was more than 10% immigrant. By 2010, more than a dozen states were. California led at 27.2%.

