Postwar Immigrant America: A Social History

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Once I thought to write a history of the immigrants in America. Then I discovered that the immigrants were American history. - Oscar Handlin. The first wave: 1607-1830. As later immigrant groups came to America, older English Americans would memorialize Plymouth Rock as the birthplace of America, thus confirming an Anglo-Saxon stamp on the American character. In reality, of course, the early immigrants arrived all over the different ports up and down the East Coast. Reasons for Immigration: The early immigrants came here for a variety of reasons:

Economic Opportunity: Europe offered little opportunity for most people to advance economically during this period of aristocratic control of wealth and power.