

Immigration IN CANADA

Waves of immigration

Pre-1800s

Early colonies in Canada consisted mainly of French and British settlers. In the late 1700s, most immigrants came from the south, such as Quakers and Loyalists, as political refugees from the American Revolution.

1896 – 1914

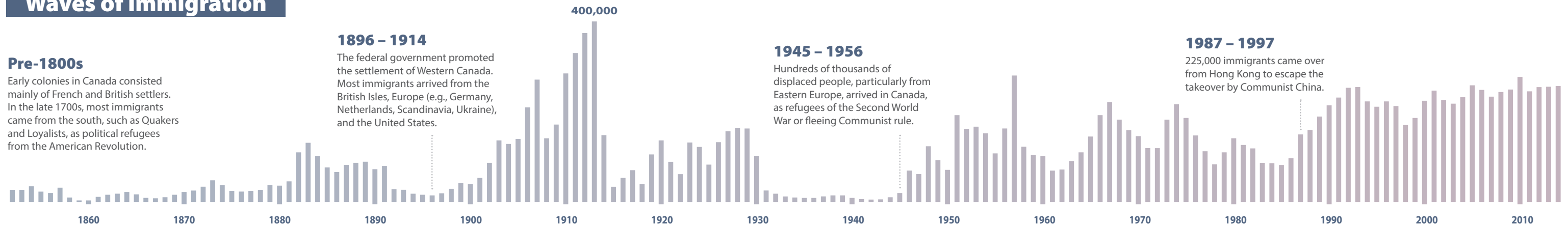
The federal government promoted the settlement of Western Canada. Most immigrants arrived from the British Isles, Europe (e.g., Germany, Netherlands, Scandinavia, Ukraine), and the United States.

1945 – 1956

Hundreds of thousands of displaced people, particularly from Eastern Europe, arrived in Canada, as refugees of the Second World War or fleeing Communist rule.

1987 – 1997

225,000 immigrants came over from Hong Kong to escape the takeover by Communist China.



1830s – 1860s

Polish refugees arrived in Canada, fleeing Russian oppression in the wake of the Prussian occupation.

1880 – 1914

Thousands of Jews came to Canada to escape anti-Semitic persecution, mainly from the Russian Empire.

1919 – 1939

A large wave of Ukrainians came to Canada to escape Soviet occupation and communism.

1960s

Major changes to Canada's immigration legislation brought higher numbers of immigrants from countries outside Europe, particularly from Asia (e.g., Chinese refugees fled from Communist oppression during the Cultural Revolution).

1979 – 1980

More than 60,000 "boat people" (from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos) came to Canada in the wake of the Vietnam War.

Post-1990s

Immigration rates have remained high since the turn of the 21st century, with most immigrants now coming from Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Canada has also welcomed thousands of refugees from all over the world (e.g., More than 44,000 Syrians have found refuge in Canada).

1980s – 1990s

Political upheaval in Communist Bloc countries and the dissolution of the Soviet Union brought hundreds of thousands of immigrants from Eastern Europe.

Did you know?

Since 1867, more than **17 million immigrants** have come to call Canada home. Today, immigration is the main driving force for Canada's population growth.

Truth and Reconciliation

Throughout Canada's history, many Indigenous people were displaced from their land and had little say in immigration policies. **Reconciliation is vital** to Canada's vision of an inclusive and multicultural society.

Top 10 countries of origin (2021)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|-----------------------|
|  | India |  | United States |
|  | Philippines |  | Pakistan |
|  | China |  | France |
|  | Syria |  | Iran |
|  | Nigeria |  | United Kingdom |