

WHO'S COMING

Today's immigrants come from different places, but their reasons are

Early in the 20th century, more than 80 percent of the immigrants arriving in the United States were from Europe. Barely 1 percent were from Latin America, and even fewer came from Asia and Africa.

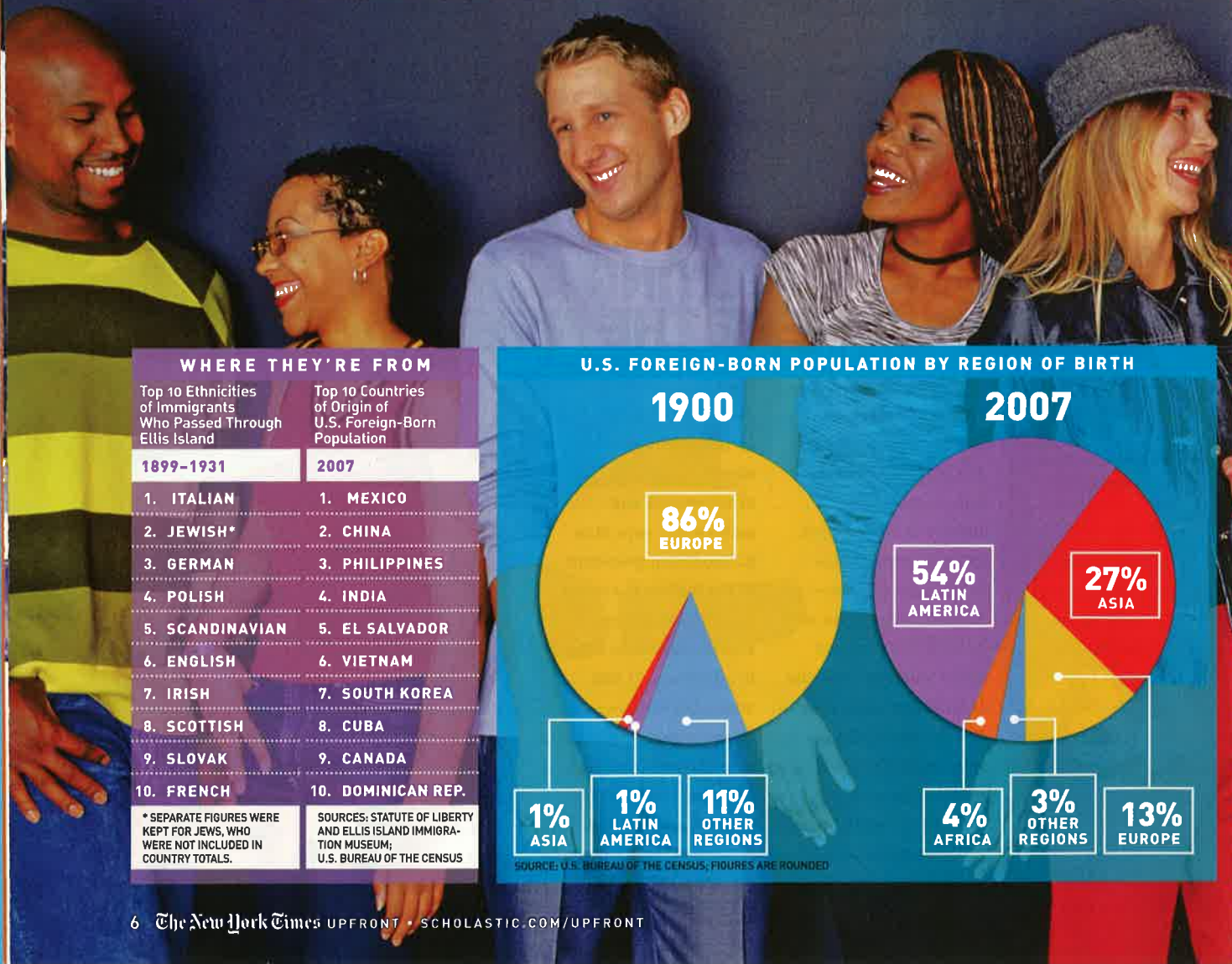
Today's immigrants present a very different profile. In 2007, according to a new report by the Census Bureau, 54 percent of the nation's 38.1 million foreign born came from Latin America, 27 percent came from Asia, 13 percent were from Europe, and 4 percent from Africa.

More of today's foreign-born population comes from

Mexico—11.7 million—than from any other country, followed by China, the Philippines, India, El Salvador, Vietnam, and South Korea. And people from Mexico make up an increasing percentage of the foreign born—31 percent in 2007, up from 22 percent in 1990.

Over all, Latin Americans and Africans account for a greater share of the nation's immigrant population than they did even five years ago.

Of course, America's racial and ethnic makeup has been evolving since Spanish settlers and American Indians first mingled in the 16th century in St. Augustine



WHERE THEY'RE FROM	
Top 10 Ethnicities of Immigrants Who Passed Through Ellis Island	Top 10 Countries of Origin of U.S. Foreign-Born Population
1899-1931	2007
1. ITALIAN	1. MEXICO
2. JEWISH*	2. CHINA
3. GERMAN	3. PHILIPPINES
4. POLISH	4. INDIA
5. SCANDINAVIAN	5. EL SALVADOR
6. ENGLISH	6. VIETNAM
7. IRISH	7. SOUTH KOREA
8. SCOTTISH	8. CUBA
9. SLOVAK	9. CANADA
10. FRENCH	10. DOMINICAN REP.

* SEPARATE FIGURES WERE KEPT FOR JEWS, WHO WERE NOT INCLUDED IN COUNTRY TOTALS.

SOURCES: STATUTE OF LIBERTY AND ELLIS ISLAND IMMIGRATION MUSEUM; U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

