Immigration & Border Policy
Public Policy

Public policy is everything the government does for the people. The three branches of government (legislative, executive, judicial), political parties, interest groups, and the media all play a big role in determining how policy is created, what is created, and how it is implemented.
Immigration Act of 1924 (Johnson-Reed Act)

- Imposed quotas Numerical Cap 150,000
- National Origins quotas too. 85% had to be from Europe
- Restricted immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe
- Banned Arabs and Asians
- Put an end to Open Borders
- Western Hemispheres excluded from quotas to help with agricultural workers
President Coolidge Signs the Immigration act of 1924
Immigration Naturalization Service (INS) 1933 - 2003

The issue of Immigration has been important since the civil war but the job was housed in different executive departments. (labor, and commerce)

1933 Merged Bureau of Immigration and Bureau of Naturalization and put under Department of Labor

FDR moved the INS from Dept of Labor to Department of Justice

Later it was disbanded and made part of the US Customs and Border Protection as part of the Department of Homeland Security
Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952

Organized different issues of immigration into one document.

Retained Quota system

Established a Preference system. (families and skills)

Gave citizenship to people in US Territories (Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands)

Abolished Racial requirements for citizenship
Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 (Liberal Immigration Reform)

Numerical cap raised to 290,000

Got rid of quotas all countries 20,000 a year

Preference System (relative and skills)

Added Refugee Admissions

Ended Western Hemisphere exclusion from quotas. This was an attempt to lower the number of Mexicans immigrating to the United States.
President Johnson signs the law
Immigration Law Timeline

http://www.flowofhistory.org/themes/movement_settlement/uspolicytimeline.php
Secure Fence Act of 2006

President Bush declared it was a great way to protect the border and an “important step towards immigration reform.”

By 2009 the Department of Homeland Security had completed 613 miles of fence.

By 2010 they had completed 649 miles of fence.

There is also 2,000 miles of a virtual fence that uses cameras, sensors, border patrol agents, and other high tech equipment.

Cost 1.4 Billion to make, 50 billion to upkeep over 25 years
Review Questions

1. What was a main takeaway from the Immigration Act of 1924?

2. What was a main takeaway from the Immigration Act of 1952?

3. What was a main takeaway from the Immigration Act of 1965?

4. What are the main differences between the Immigration Acts of 1924, 1952, and 1965?

5. Looking at the immigration law timeline, what is a trend you notice as you look from beginning to end?
Other Resources / Links

http://www.wsj.com/graphics/border-wall/