

# “The High Tide of Immigration—A National Menace”

*Judge*

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This cartoon “The High Tide of Immigration – A National Menace” appeared in the humor magazine *Judge* in 1903. It reflects the alarm among some Americans at the growing number of immigrants from countries in Southern and Eastern Europe such as Italy, Russia, Austria, Hungary and declining number of immigrants from countries in northern and western Europe such as Ireland and Germany.

In the cartoon itself you see Uncle Sam on the shore of the United States holding onto the cliff with an American flag. The cliff reads “Danger to American Ideals and Institutions” this is because the new flow of immigrants which are the riff raff immigrants pictured as heads in the water near Uncle Sam are the undesirable immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe who were mentally ill, prostitutes, anarchists, and others. All of this culminated in the Immigration act of 1903 where congress wrote into law that the taxes on immigrants entering the United States were to be increased. The law revised the federal regulation of poor immigrants. Also the law extended the time period from one to three years in which the class of people who were not allowed to immigrate to America.

