

Central questions

1. What are the potential benefits of strong national identity?
2. Do does linguistic, racial, ethnic, and religious homogeneity strengthen national identity?
3. What policies should be adopted in response to immigration (assuming that immigrants have different cultural traditions, languages, religions, etc. from the receiving country)?
 - Case of USA

**US national identity and immigration
(in the case of America, inextricably linked)**

Debates over immigration in the U.S. are even older than the country itself

“Why should Pennsylvania, founded by the English, become a Colony of Aliens, who will shortly be so numerous as to Germanize us, instead of our Anglifying them, and will never adopt our Language or Customs, any more than they can acquire our Complexion...Few of their children in the country learn English... The signs in our streets have inscriptions in both languages ... Unless the stream of their importation could be turned, they will soon so outnumber us that all the advantages we have will not be able to preserve our language, and even our government will become precarious.” (Benjamin Franklin, 1755)

“The influx of foreigners must...tend to produce a heterogeneous compound; to change and corrupt the national spirit; to complicate and confound public opinion; to introduce foreign propensities.” (Alexander Hamilton, 1802)

U.S. immigration system is racialized -- piecemeal and with exceptions -- until 1950s and 1960s

- Naturalization Act of 1790 (“free White person” + some free Blacks)
- Example: Page Act (1875) / Chinese Exclusion Act (1882) / Geary Act (1892); Magnuson Act (1943) allows 105 immigrants per year
- Immigration and Nationality Act (1952), National Origins Formula
- Immigration and Nationality Act (1965)

A nativist fill-in-the-blank (thanks, Ben Franklin)

Why should we become a society of [insert name of outgroup here], who will shortly be so numerous as to turn us into them, instead of the reverse, and who will never adopt our language or customs, any more than they can acquire our appearance? Few of their children in the country learn our language; the signs in our streets now have inscriptions in both languages. Unless the trends in immigration can be reversed, they will soon so outnumber us that we will not be able to preserve our language, and even our government will become precarious.

Implication: some relationship between changing the demographic composition of the population and durability of political institutions

To what values were immigrants expected to adhere?

Declaration of Independence (1776): We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...

Original “American Creed”: I believe in the United States of America, as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic...established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

Pledge of Allegiance (1942 version): I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Quick snapshot of immigration policies

<u>Country</u>	<u>Foreign-born as % of pop.</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Australia	~30%	“Anglophone immigrant societies”
Canada	~23%	
USA	~16%	
Israel	~27%	[Virtually all of Jewish heritage]
Germany	~15%	[Most from EU, no <i>jus soli</i>]
South Africa	~2%	
Japan	<1%	[Many are ethnically Japanese]
Brazil	<1%	

Immigration policies have varied

Lots of immigration,
from diverse
backgrounds

Strong
multiculturalism

“Melting
pot”

Assimilation

Little immigration or
only immigrants from
same background

Ethnically
based

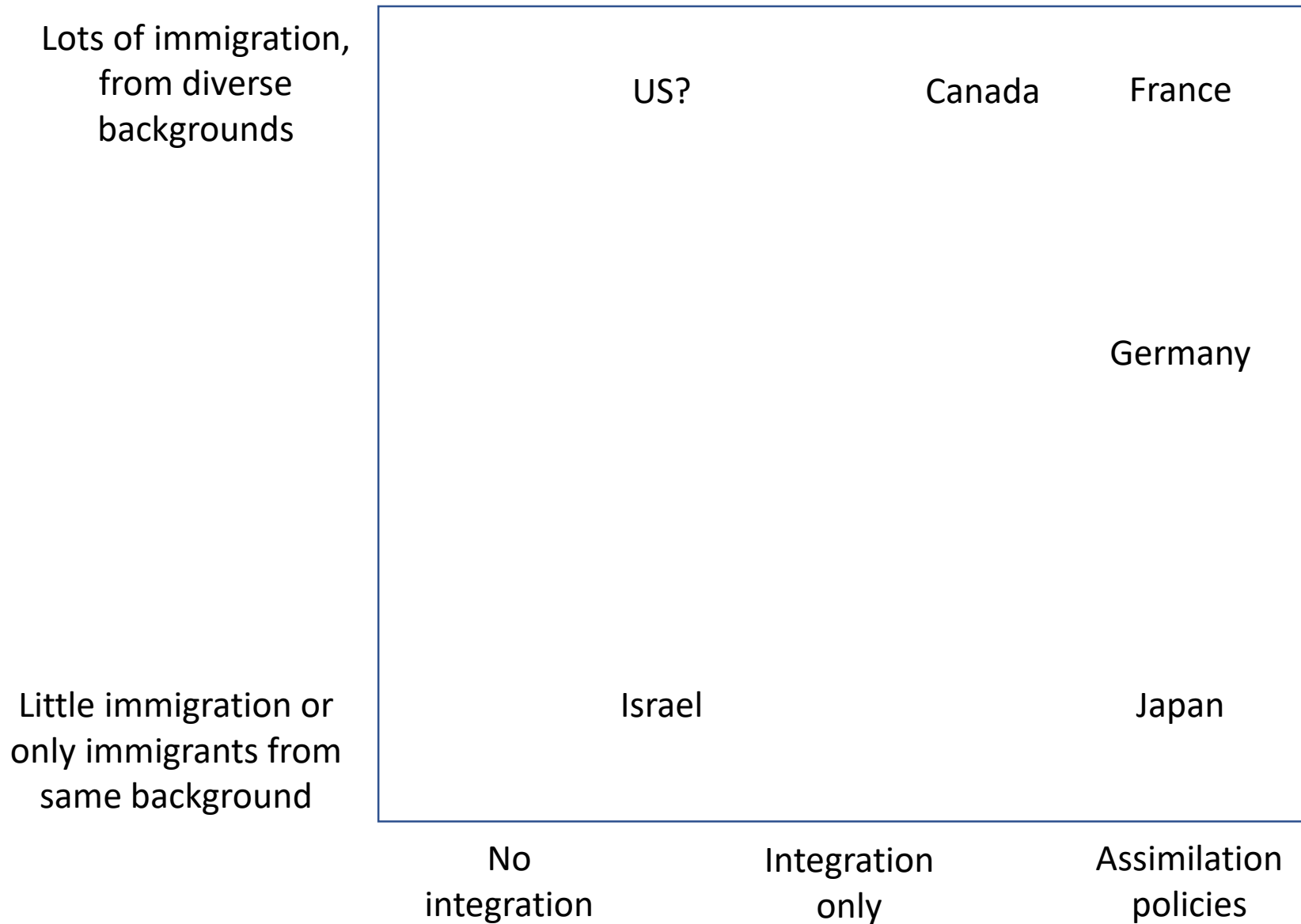
Strong ethno-
nationalism

No
integration

Integration
only

Assimilation
policies

Immigration policies have varied



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