Mass Migration Under Sail

European Immigration to the Antebellum United States

RAYMOND L. COHN

Illinois State University

CAMBRIDGE UNTVERSITY PRESS

Contents

List of Tables and Figures	page x1
Preface	xiii
i A Unique Period for Immigration	i
Structure of the Book	3
Argument of the Book	5
The Current Migration Paradigm	8
2. The, Onset and European Origins of Mass Immigration	14
Determining the Beginning of Mass Migration	15
The European Countries of Origin .	23
Immigration from Germany	3 2
Immigration from France (and Switzerland) n	34
Immigration from Ireland	3 5
Immigration from Great Britain •	40
Summary	43
Appendix 2.1 Estimating the Origins of the German	
Immigrants	43
3 The Jump in Immigrant Volume Around 1830	47
77%: Theory of Immigration and the Rise in. Volume	47
Conditions in Europe Before the Potato Famine	49
Developments in Shipping .	60
Declines in the Cost of Immigration	64
Summary	68
4 Push, Pull, and Other Factors in Antebellum Immigration	70
Push and Pull Factors: A Definition and Previous Work	70
The Importance of Push, Pull, and Other Factors: 1832-1860	74

Contents.

The Immigration-Economic Downturn Connection	j6		
The .Immigration-Economic Expansion Connection	88		
Summary	91		
Appendix 4.1 Theoretical and Data Issues in Relating	,		
Immigration to Unemployment	512		
Who Were the Immigrants?	98		
Information on Age and Gender			
Data on Occupations and Their Use	100		
The Occupations of Pre-1820 Immigrants	103		
The Occupations of Immigrants to i860 •	106		
Comparisons to European Labor Forces	113		
Comparison Among Countries of Origin	119		
Summary	120		
Appendix 5.1 The Believabilyty of the Occupational			
Information on the Passenger Lists	121		
Appendix 5.2 Classification of Occupations	123		
The Trip from-Europe to the United States	125		
The Ports of Embarkation	126		
Traveling to the Port of Embarkation	130		
Estimates of Mortality on the Ships and After Arrival	137		
Reasons for the Higher Mortality	150		
Other-Aspects of the Immigrants' Trip	1.52		
Summary	154		
The Immigrants in the United States	155		
The Ports of Arrival in the United States	155		
Assistance on Arrival (Mainly in New York)	159		
The Geographic Location of the Immigrants	167		
The U.S. Occupations of the Immigrants	173		
Occupations and Geographic Location	180		
Summary	185		
Appendix J.I Occupational Data in the 1870 Census	186		
The Effects of Immigration on the United States	190		
The Skill Level and Rate of Immigration	190		
The Theoretical Effects of Immigration on the Antebellum			
United States	197		
Developments in Manufacturing	202		
Developments in Transportation	208		
Antebellum Real Wages	211		
Immigration and Nativism	214		
Immigrants, the Capital Stock, and. Economic Growth			
Summary	221		

Contents	ix

9	The End of Mass Migration Under Sail	223
,	The Steamship and Its Effects	223
	What We Know and Could Still Learn	226
References		233
Index		251