Chapter 7: European American

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European Americans come from Iceland, Hungary, Spain, Portugal, Serbia, Italy, Belarus, Greece, Slovakia, Ukraine, France, Scotland, Isle of Mann, Belgium, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, Great Britain, Germany, Russia, Norway, and other European countries.

European Americans are not recognized as a group by the United States Census Bureau on their own, but are included in the category of "White". "White" is defined by the United States Census Bureau as "a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa".
The first large wave of European migration after the Revolutionary War came from Northern and Central-Western Europe between about 1820 and 1890. Most of these immigrants were from Ireland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, and Britain, and with large numbers of Irish and German Catholics immigrating, Roman Catholicism became an important minority religion. Descendants of the first wave are dominant in the Midwest and West, although German descent is extremely common in Pennsylvania, and Irish descent is also common in urban centers in the Northeast. The Irish and Germans held onto their ethnic identity throughout the 19th and early half of the 20th centuries, as well as other European ethnic groups. Most people of Polish origin live in the Northeast and the Midwest.

The second wave of European Americans arrived from the mid-1890s to the 1920s, mainly from Southern, Central and Eastern Europe, as well as Ireland. This wave included Irish, Italians, Greeks, Hungarians, Portuguese, Ukrainians, Russians, and Polish. With large numbers of immigrants from Spain, Mexico, Spanish Caribbean, and South and Central America, White Hispanics then increased to 8% of the US population.
Some Common Stereotypes

- Americans of European origin are not a diverse ethnic group.
- European Americans are somehow more racist, or especially racist, when compared with members of other ethnic groups.
- European Americans are never victims of hate speech or hate crimes.
There are an estimated 50,000 Irish illegal immigrants in the U.S.; 30,000 of them are thought to live in New York City. Today, this tiny corner in the northern reaches of the Bronx is perhaps the most heavily Irish-born neighborhood in New York, and advocates believe that as many as 40% of local immigrants are undocumented.
Religion

Since the definition of 'European American' includes so many different types of ethnicity you can't say for fact that they are all one religion. But Italian Americans are predominantly Catholic along with Polish Americans, German Americans, and Irish Americans. Greek Americans usually attend Greek Orthodox Church.
European Americans Today

According to the U.S, Census Bureau, during 2005, approximately 46,500 Europeans entered the United States as permanent residents.

- Bosnia
- Herzegovina
- Russia
- Poland

European Americans locate in states in the West (35 percent) and the South (31 percent), with the fewest locating in the Northeast (15 percent)
References

http://www.latimes.com/la-op-rodriguez8apr08-column.html
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