

# **Journey to Life**

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We have chosen to write about the immigration process for refugees, as it is a thought-provoking and relevant topic in today's world, refugee stories and journeys deeply captivated us. The plight of refugees, particularly during historical crises, offers profound insights into human resilience and the ethical responsibilities of nations. Our thesis is that the U.S. Government's actions between 1933 and 1945 were heavily influenced by isolationism, which resulted in wavering support for Jewish refugees trying to flee Europe from religious persecution. To conduct our research, we read articles and analyzed photos that showed the emotions and process of the immigration process.

Central to our research were government-issued documents that illuminate the bureaucratic barriers imposed on refugees seeking sanctuary in the United States. These policies, rooted in isolationism and fear, inflicted profound hardships on those attempting to escape persecution. Documents such as the Curbing Immigration document of 1940 and the State Department memo on halting immigration starkly illustrate the lengths to which the U.S. government went to impede refugee entry, perpetuating their suffering.

The immigration process itself was a labyrinth of obstacles, meticulously designed to deter and delay refugees. Immigrants faced a daunting array of requirements, from securing a spot on the consulate's waiting list to obtaining an immigration visa and navigating a maze of bureaucratic red tape. The financial burden was staggering, with exorbitant fees for documentation, travel, and sponsorship by American citizens. Even with meticulous preparation, arbitrary interview tactics could result in rejection, prolonging the agony of uncertainty and displacement.

In documenting these injustices, we sought to shed light on the systemic barriers that hindered refugee resettlement and perpetuated their marginalization. Through multimedia tools like Keynote and iMovie, we endeavored to amplify their voices and illuminate the human toll of political indifference and bureaucratic callousness.

As we reflect on the plight of today's immigrant and refugee populations, we are acutely aware of our collective responsibility to uphold principles of compassion and solidarity. The United States, as a nation built by immigrants, must confront its legacy of exclusion and embrace a more humane approach to refugee protection. Beyond providing sanctuary, we must ensure equitable access to essentials such as food, shelter, and healthcare, affirming the inherent dignity and worth of every individual, regardless of their origin or circumstance.

In conclusion, the past injustices inflicted upon Jewish refugees serve as a sobering reminder of the consequences of isolationism and indifference. As we confront contemporary challenges, let us honor their resilience by extending compassion and support to those in need, reaffirming our commitment to justice and humanity in an increasingly interconnected world.

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