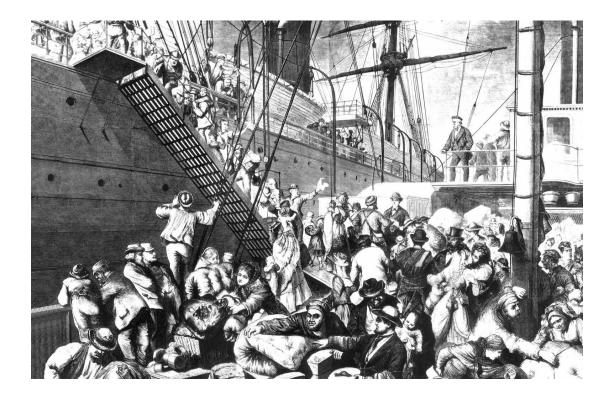
13.1.4

Opposition to Immigration



Some Americans were alarmed by the **number of immigrants** coming to America.

Americans feared immigrants would bring changes to society.

These fears came from **prejudice-** assumptions made about groups of people.

Some Americans feared **wage cuts** due to the low wages being taken by immigrants.

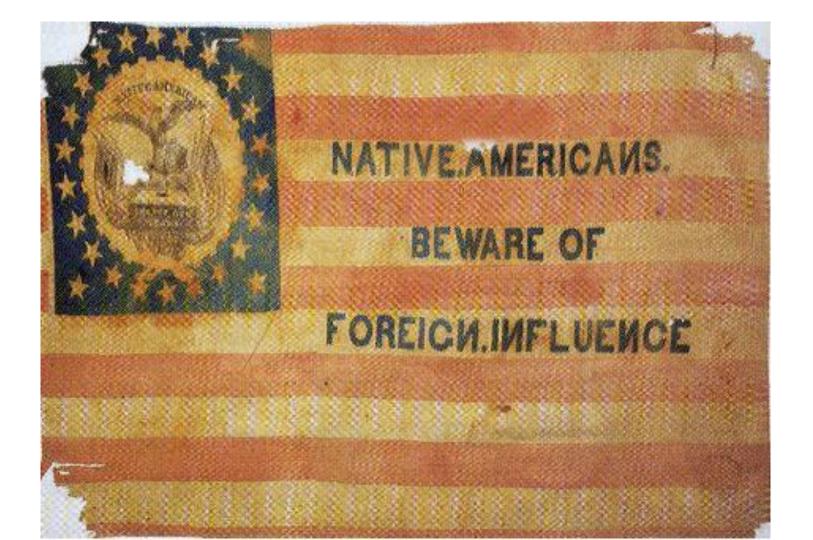
Some feared the German immigrants might try to modify our change our government.

Some Americans feared **taxes would rise** as the population was flooded with immigrants.

It was suggest to pass **nativist laws** that favored native born Americans over immigrants.

Most Americans were Protestant and many european immigrants were Catholic.

Anti-catholic attacks on immigrant churches were **inspired out of fear** of change by Americans.



Nativists become stronger organizing the Know Nothing Party- a political party designed to keep Americans in power.

If asked about policy, members would say "I don't know anything."

They wanted immigrants to have to wait **21 years to become a citizen.**

By 1855, 43 out of 234 members of congress were in the Know Nothing party.

Many members were involved in "shady" business which lost popularity overall for the party.

Slavery divided the party in 1860