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The Restriction of Immigration

#1 : In his essay "The Restriction of Immigration," Henry Cabot Lodge presents several economic arguments to restrict immigration to the United States. Lodge argues that unrestricted immigration would lead to a glut of labor, driving down wages and making it more difficult for American workers to earn a living wage. He also argues that unrestricted immigration would increase competition for jobs, particularly in the manufacturing and industrial sectors. This would make it more difficult for American workers to secure stable employment and could ultimately lead to increased unemployment. Lodge further argues that unrestricted immigration would put a strain on social welfare programs, as the influx of immigrants would increase the demand for these services. This would result in increased taxes and a heavier burden on American taxpayers. Finally, Lodge argues that immigration restriction is necessary in order to protect the American standard of living. Unrestricted immigration would result in overcrowding, public health and safety degradation, and the erosion of American culture and values. Personally, I would argue that Lodge is a big idiot.

#2: His views on immigration seem to be influenced by a sense of cultural superiority, a desire to maintain the power of the WASP (White Anglo-Saxon Protestants) elite, and a conservative

political ideology. Lodge obviously believed that unrestricted immigration would “dilute” American culture and values, leading to a loss of national identity. As a member of the white, Anglo-Saxon Protestant elite, he may have also been motivated by a desire to preserve the power and influence of this group in American society. Additionally, Lodge's conservative political ideology may have led him to see immigration restriction as a way to protect American interests and preserve national sovereignty. These values and beliefs likely frame Lodge's arguments for immigration restriction and reflect his vision of what American society should be. He was also probably a straight up xenophobe.