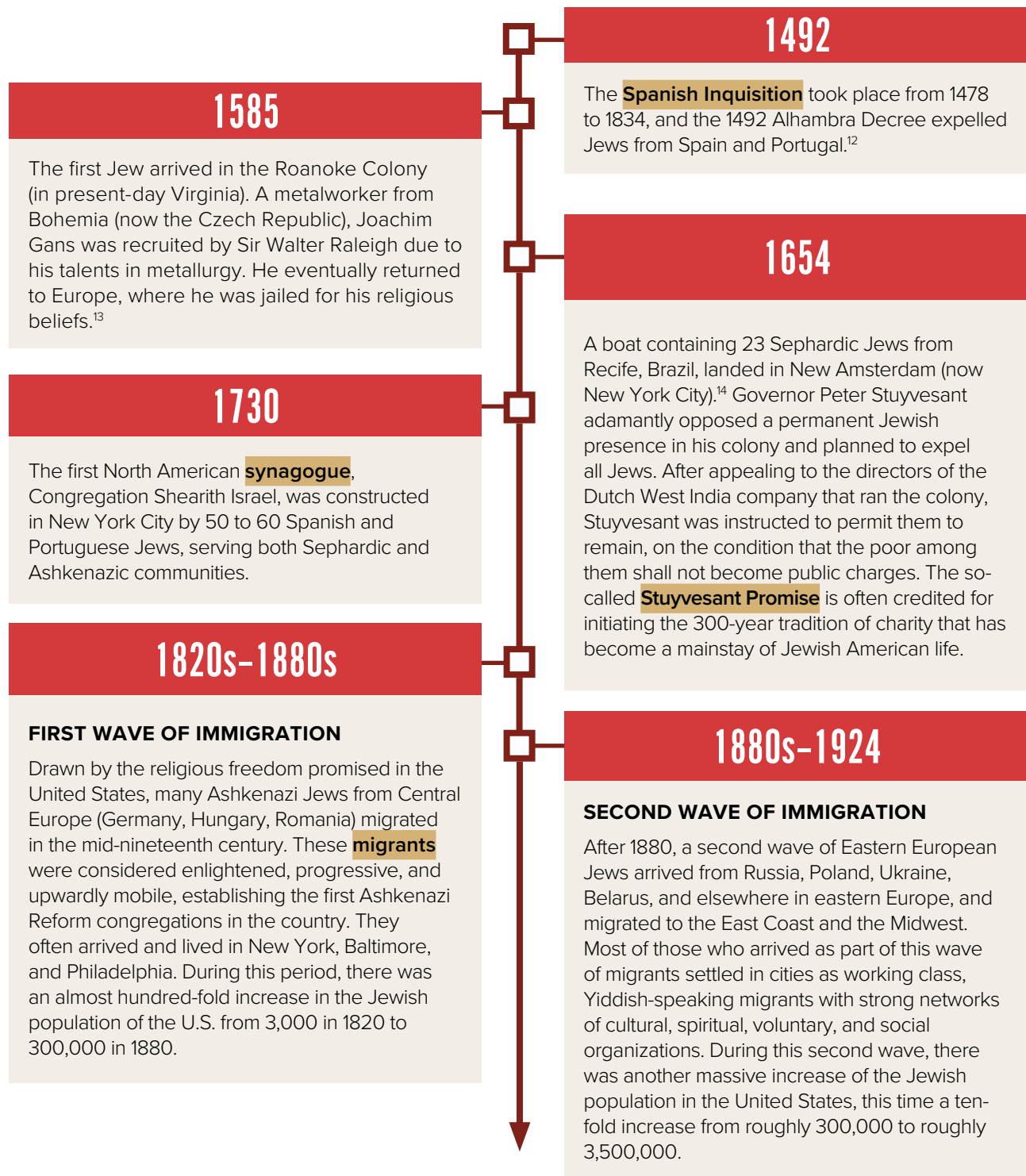


# JEWISH MIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES: A TIMELINE<sup>11</sup>



<sup>11</sup> For another helpful timeline, see "Timeline 1492-1695" from the Library of Congress's virtual exhibit titled *From Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America*, available at [loc.gov/exhibits/haventohome/timeline/haven-timeline\\_0.html](https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/haventohome/timeline/haven-timeline_0.html).

<sup>12</sup> W. Goetschel and A. Quayson, "Introduction: Jewish Studies and Postcolonialism," *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*, 3, no. 1 (2106): 1-9.

<sup>13</sup> G. C. Grassl, "Joachim Gans of Prague: The First Jew in English America," *American Jewish History*, 86, no. 2 (1998): 195-217.

<sup>14</sup> W. Klooster, "Communities of Port Jews and Their Contacts in the Dutch Atlantic World," *Jewish History*, 20, no. 2 (2006): 129-145.

1924

Congress passed the Johnson-Reed Act (also known as the Immigration Act of 1924), a federal law that limited the number of **immigrants** allowed into the United States based on nation of origin. By creating immigration **quotas**, this law dramatically reduced immigration numbers of immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe. Jewish migration was reduced immediately by about 75%.

1939

When World War II began in Europe, the United States refused to admit a ship, the S.S. *St. Louis*, carrying over 900 Jewish refugees from Nazi atrocities. Also denied entry to Cuba, the ship returned to Europe, where many of the Jews on board were later murdered in the **Holocaust**.

1948

Israel was formally established as a Jewish State in 1948, ending the British Mandate control of Palestine and partitioning the land. After the state was declared, Israel was invaded by several Arab States, beginning the first Arab–Israeli War, which lasted nearly one year.

1965

The Immigration and Nationality Act (also known as the McCarran-Walter Act) is passed. The Johnson-Reed quota system was revised.

1967

Israel emerged victorious from the Six-Day War, and sparked a new and dramatic interest in the fledgling Jewish state within the American Jewish (and non-Jewish) imagination.<sup>15</sup>

1985–1990

Jewish migration from the Soviet Union increased as emigration restrictions under Mikhail Gorbachev's (the last leader of the Soviet Union) policies loosened, marking the start of a massive exodus that would continue throughout the 1990s.

2002

For the first time since the Colonial Era, census data indicated a decline in America's Jewish population.

2004

Jews celebrated 350 years of American Jewish history.

<sup>15</sup> For further reading on Israel in the American imagination, see Amy Kaplan's *Our American Israel*.