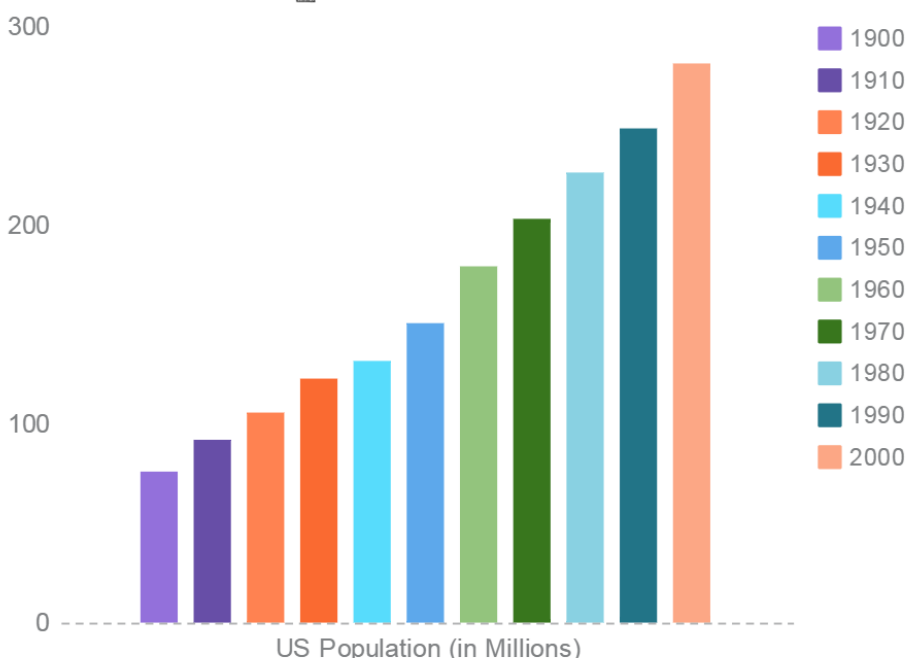


"Bookending" the Twentieth Century

Total Population, 1900–2000



Between the years 1900 and 2000, we experienced the largest population increase in US history.

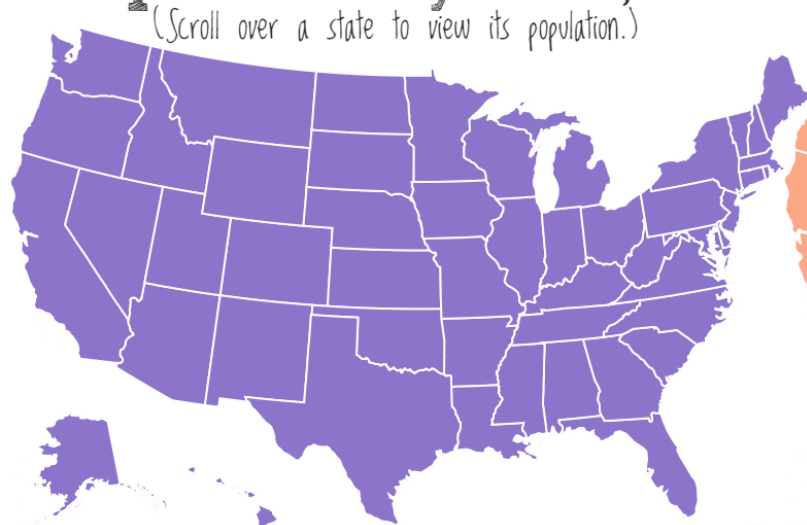
During the twentieth century, the American population nearly quadrupled in size.

How did this population growth affect American society?

Source: US Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1900 to 2000

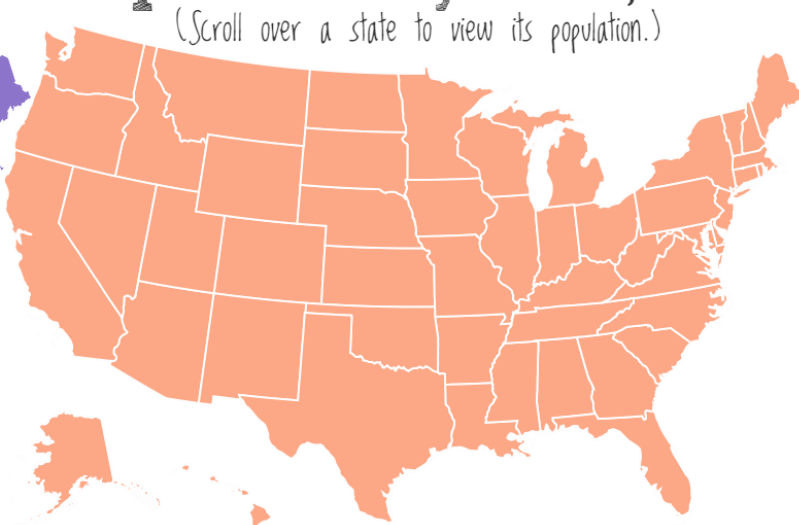
Population by State, 1900

(Scroll over a state to view its population.)



Population by State, 2000

(Scroll over a state to view its population.)



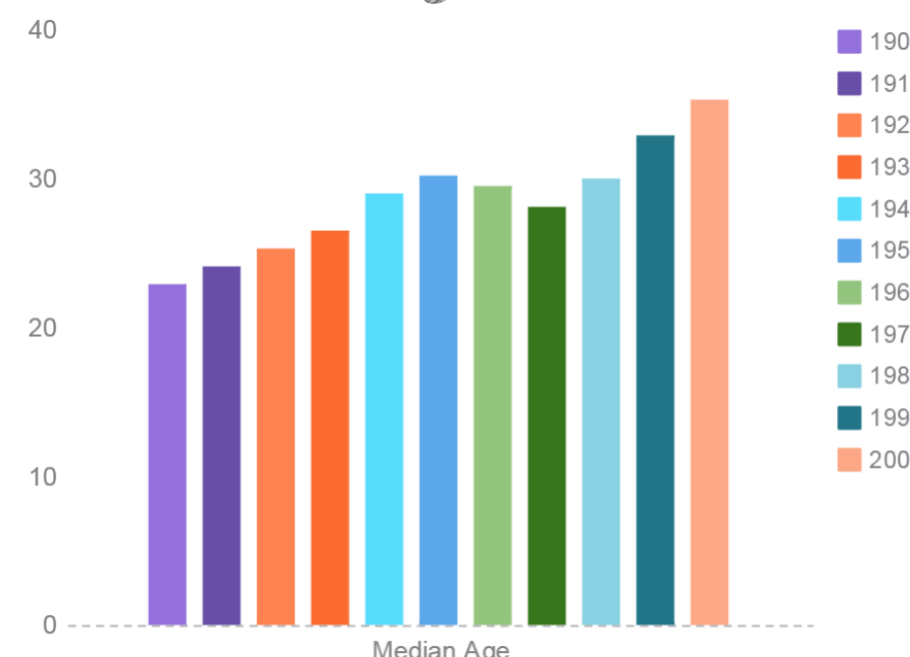
Source: US Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1900 to 2000

In 1900, nearly half the states had fewer than 1 million people. By 2000, only 7 states (and the District of Columbia) had a population under 1 million.

Geographic distribution of population changed too. Between 1900 and 2000, the mean center of the US population moved about 300 miles west and about 100 miles south.

What did a shift in population to the south and west mean for the distribution of political power in the country?

Median Age, 1900–2000



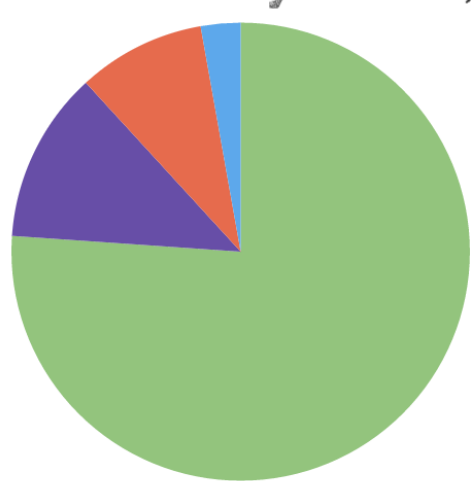
During the twentieth century, the US population grew much older.

The population age 65 and older increased more than tenfold over the course of the century, from 4.1% of the population to 12.4%.

What impact has the aging population had on American politics and society?

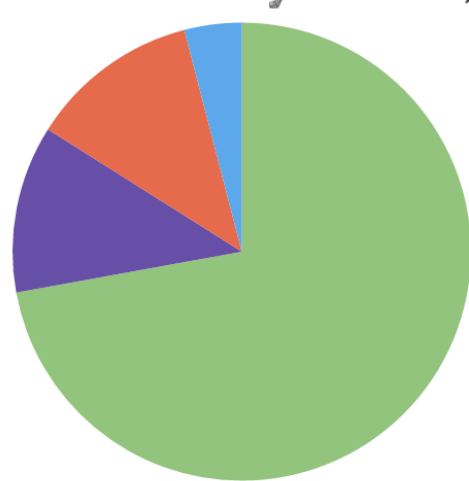
Source: US Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1900 to 2000

Population by Race, 1990



White (76%) African American (12%) Hispanic (9%) Asian (3%)

Population by Race, 2000



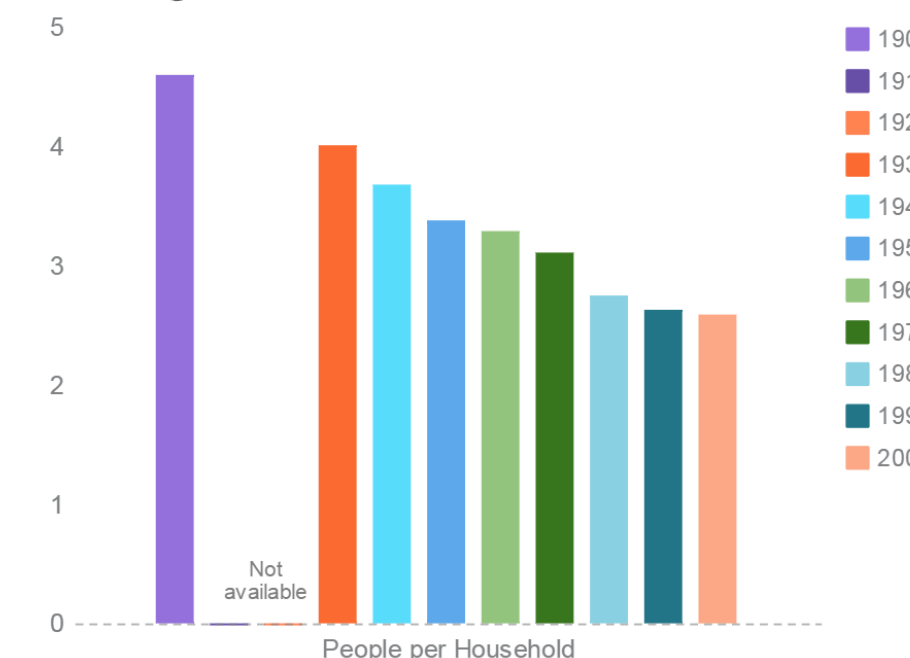
White (72%) African American (12%) Hispanic (12%) Asian (4%)

Note: The Census changed the categories for race in 1980, so there is no direct comparison earlier in the century. Source: US Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1900 to 2000

During the last two decades of the twentieth century, the American population became much more diverse.

How does the increasing diversity of American society influence the country's politics and culture?

Average Household Size, 1900–2000



Average household size declined by two people per household during the twentieth century.

One-person households increased throughout the century, while households with 5 or more people decreased significantly.

What factors contributed to the decline in average household size?

Source: US Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1900 and 1930 to 2000, and decennial census of housing, 1940