

Contributions of Immigrants

Immigrants have played an integral role in the nation since its beginnings. Immigrants fought for U.S. independence in the American Revolution and helped preserve the Union in the Civil War. Immigrants have made large and small contributions to the U.S. from the arts through science and politics.



Zalmay Khalilzad, Ph.D.

Born in Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad received his bachelor's and master's degree from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. He went on to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. From 1979 to 1989, Khalilzad was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Columbia University. From 1985 to 1989 at the Department of State, Khalilzad served as Special Advisor to the Under Secretary of State for Policy working policy issues, advising on the Iran-Iraq War, and the Soviet War in Afghanistan.

After serving in various positions, in May 2001, then-National Security Advisor Dr. Condoleezza Rice announced his appointment as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Gulf, Southwest Asia and Other Regional Issues of the National Security Council. Khalilzad was nominated Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Iraq by President Bush on April 5, 2005. Khalilzad is the first Muslim U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. (based on the White House website's press release and the UN website)



Elias Zerhouni, M.D.

Zerhouni was born in Nedroma, Algeria, and earned his medical degree at the University of Algiers School of Medicine in 1975. Zerhouni and his wife immigrated to America from Algeria with \$300.After completing his residency in diagnostic radiology at Johns Hopkins in 1978 as chief resident, he taught there. He left to teach in the department of radiology at Eastern Virginia Medical School.

In 1985 he was a consultant to the White House under President Ronald Reagan. In 1985, Zerhouni returned to Johns Hopkins where he was appointed director of the MRI division, and then was appointed full professor. In 1988, he was a consultant to the World Health Organization. He late became the chairman of the radiology department in January 1996. Later Zerhouni became the Executive Vice Dean of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He is an expert in biomedical research and in 2003 Zerhouni was named head of the National Institutes of Health. (based on the NIH website profile)

Selman Waksman, M.D.

Selman Abraham Waksman was born in the Ukraine. Trained as a biochemist and microbiologist, his research into organic substances and their decomposition led to the discovery of several medicines. Waksman worked as a professor of biochemistry and microbiology at Rutgers University for four decades. His work led to the discovery of over twenty antibiotics (a word which he coined).

In 1952 Waksman was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine in recognition of his discovery of streptomycin, the first antibiotic treatment for tuberculosis. Out of the royalties assigned to him personally, he and Mrs. Waksman established the Foundation for Microbiology for the support of research in microbiology. They also established a scholarship for an immigrant student, or the son or daughter of an immigrant, at Rutgers University. Mrs. Waksman also established a music scholarship there. He died in 1973. (based on the profile on the Nobel website)



Archbishop Iakovos

Born in Turkey in 1911 as Demetrios Coucouzis, he took the name Iakovos (James) when he was ordained. Five years after his ordination,