



In celebration of Hispanic pride, the annual Puerto Rican Day parade in New York City features music and dancing, as well as performers wearing traditional costumes of Puerto Rico and also the countries of Latin America. Cuban-born Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Melquiades R. Martinez was one of numerous Hispanic Americans elected or appointed to public office in the early 2000's.



CHAPTER 29: NEW IMMIGRANTS FROM ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA

A large community of Japanese Americans had developed in Hawaii before World War II, and immigration from Japan to Hawaii resumed after the war. When Hawaii became a state in 1959, Japanese Americans became an important political force in all levels of government. This was especially true after the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, also known as the McCarr-



Like other immigrants, Asian Americans have integrated parts of their cultural heritage into American life. The Chinese gate marks one entrance to San Francisco's Chinatown. Chinese-born Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao became the first Asian-American woman appointed to a president's cabinet in U.S. history in 2001.

ran-Walter Act, allowed the *Issei*, or first-generation Japanese immigrants, to become citizens. Before long, half the members of Hawaii's legislature were Japanese Americans. Hawaiians also sent Spark Matsunaga, Patsy Takemoto Mink, and Daniel Inouye to Congress in Washington, D.C.

Both Matsunaga and Inouye had won Purple Hearts in World War II as members of the famous 442nd Army

Battalion made up of Japanese Americans, and both men later served as commanders of the Disabled American Veterans in Hawaii. Daniel Inouye was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1962. Spark Matsunaga served several terms in the House of Representatives before being elected to the Senate in 1976.

After 1945, many American soldiers stationed in occupied Japan