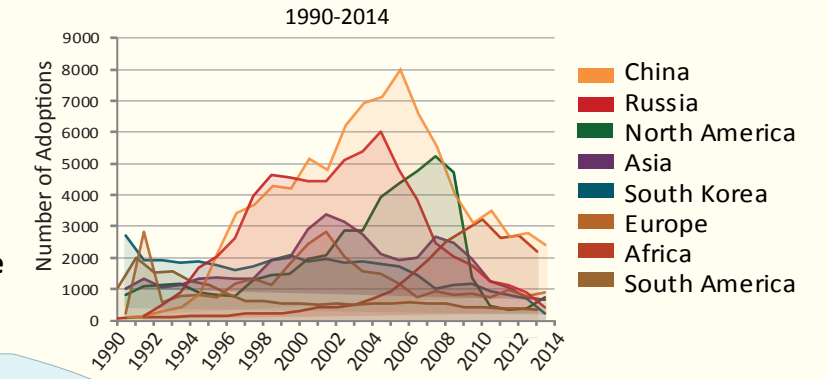


# Finding Forever Families

## The Rise and Fall of American Intercountry Adoption

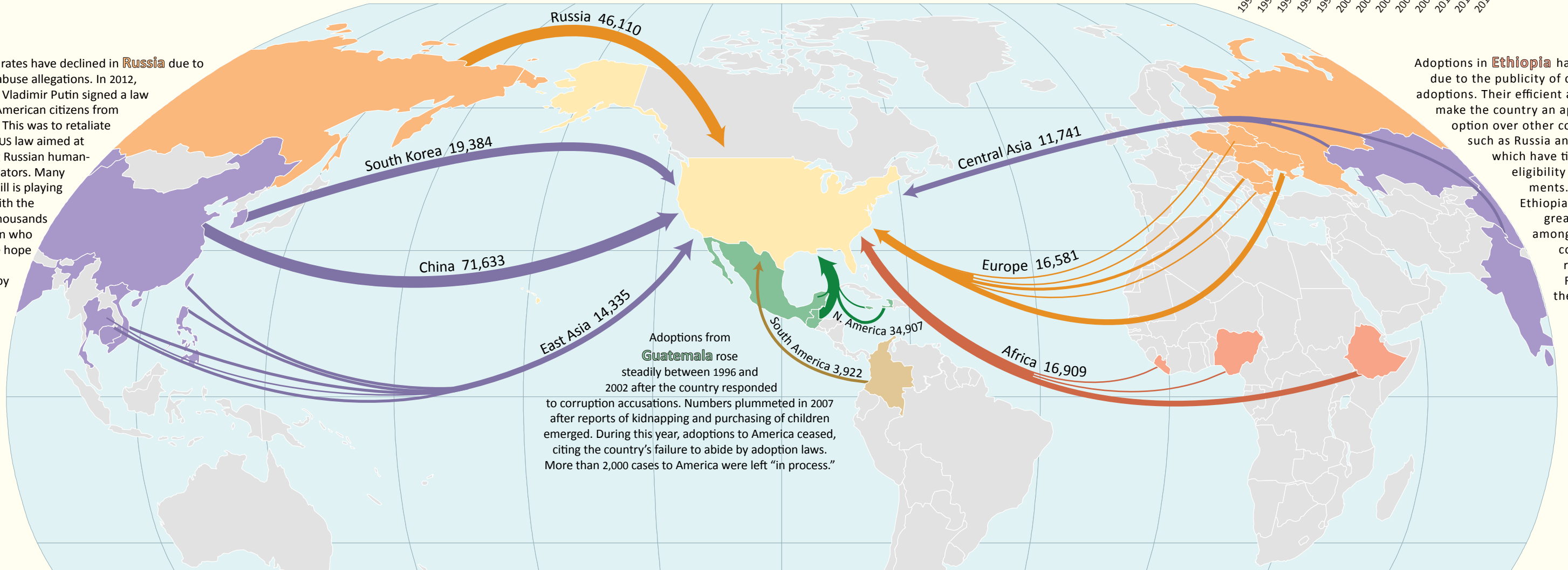
Intercountry adoption has provided thousands of children worldwide with a better life. Between 1948 and 2010, an estimated 970,000 children were adopted. In an effort to protect adoptees, the 1993 Hague Adoption Convention was drafted. This is an international and intergovernmental convention intended to establish safeguards in adoption. Despite this effort, there has been a steady decrease of adoptions worldwide. This is due to tightening regulations and corruption in sending countries. This trend is unfortunate for receiving countries, and perhaps most unfortunate for the countless children worldwide still in need of a loving family.

Number of International Adoptions to America by Sending Country/Continent



Adoption rates have declined in **Russia** due to parental abuse allegations. In 2012, President Vladimir Putin signed a law banning American citizens from adopting. This was to retaliate against a US law aimed at punishing Russian human-rights violators. Many fear the bill is playing politics with the fates of thousands of children who have little hope of being adopted by Russian citizens.

Adoptions in **Ethiopia** have risen due to the publicity of celebrity adoptions. Their efficient agencies make the country an appealing option over other countries, such as Russia and China, which have tightened eligibility requirements. In 2009, Ethiopia saw the greatest rise among African countries, replacing Russia as the second largest sending country.

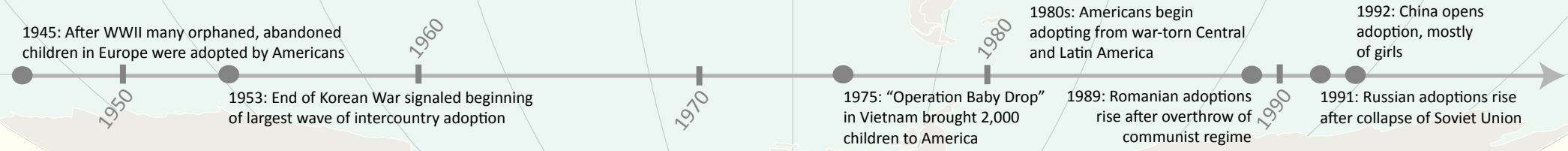


Adoptions from **Guatemala** rose steadily between 1996 and 2002 after the country responded to corruption accusations. Numbers plummeted in 2007 after reports of kidnapping and purchasing of children emerged. During this year, adoptions to America ceased, citing the country's failure to abide by adoption laws. More than 2,000 cases to America were left "in process."

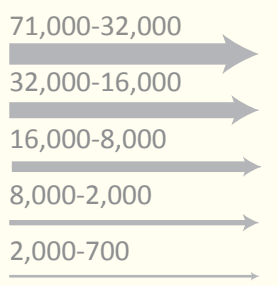
Change in Adoption Rates of Top 9 Receiving Countries between 1998-2004 and 2004-2009

Country	1998-2004	2004-2009
Spain	273%	-46%
Ireland	171%	-23%
Netherlands	58%	-48%
Italy	52%	17%
USA	45%	-44%
Sweden	19%	-18%
Norway	10%	-51%
France	8%	-27%
Canada	-15%	9%

A Timeline of Intercountry Adoption



Number of Adoptions 1999-2013



Adoption rates are decreasing worldwide, with the exception of Canada and Italy. Specifically, adoptions from Vietnam to America have decreased, while Vietnamese adoptions to Canada and Italy have increased. Italy's top countries include Colombia, Ethiopia, Ukraine, and recently Russia. This is because Italy is the only nation that satisfies Russia's current adoption policy, which includes the refusal to recognize same sex marriage.