

public policies like immigration should benefit first and foremost the american people not all immigration is good we have romanticized our immigration history at the expense of the current reality the history of immigration



THE FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM'S

# How to Win the Immigration Debate

A guide to making a case for real immigration reform

has been skewed to fit a modern political agenda we have the right to limit immigration and control our borders we do not need a 19th century immigration system in the 21st century americans support less immigration



 **FAIR** THE FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM'S

# How to Win the Immigration Debate

A guide to making a case for real immigration reform



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“Our country and state have a special obligation to work toward the stabilization of our own population so as to credibly lead other parts of the world toward population stabilization.”

—Ronald Reagan, former U.S. President  
speaking as Governor of California



At a time when the negative consequences of our “broken” immigration system are clearly evident, this guide is a practical tool for engaging in the complex and at times controversial immigration debate.

With key facts, figures, and explicit responses at your fingertips, this valuable resource will prepare you for debunking the most common immigration fallacies and deceptive generalizations, and for making the case for true immigration reform.

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# The Fundamentals of Immigration Reform



**W**hat is the purpose of the U.S. immigration policy? Like every other public policy, it should benefit first and foremost the American people. It should not operate, as it currently does, to benefit a political and economic elite who have total disregard for the needs, interests, and security of the average U.S. citizen. They tell us that any restriction of immigration is either xenophobic or economic suicide. Of course, their arguments are transparently self-serving and unsubstantiated, but those who are pushing for amnesty and mass immigration, while a small minority of the public, have deep pockets and control the levers of power.

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This presents a formidable challenge for proponents of true immigration reform, as even well-meaning Americans are susceptible to the constant disinformation campaign in favor of ever-increasing levels of immigration. The most effective way to counter this is a well-informed citizenry who can articulate what the purpose of our immigration policy should be—and how to put this policy into effect.

## Cut the Numbers

We need to restrict immigration to the minimum in accordance with our country's needs. This means reducing legal admissions from the current level of more than one million per year to 300,000 per year. This would stabilize our population over time. Right now our population is growing rapidly. About three-fourths of this growth is due to immigrants and their descendants. Since 1970, all U.S. population growth is attributable to immigration. **There is no problem the United States is facing that can be solved by more immigration.**

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## Stop Illegal Immigration

Laws against illegal immigration must be enforced if they are going to act as a deterrent. The Jordan Commission said it best in its 1995 call to Congress:

*"Credibility in immigration policy can be summed up in one sentence: those who should get in, get in; those who should be kept out, are kept out; and those who should not be here will be required to leave."*

Just as we believe that illegal immigration is unacceptable, we also reject amnesty as a solution. **The 1986 amnesty was a failure. Rather than reducing illegal immigration, it led to a massive increase.** Rewarding illegal aliens with amnesty is not only unfair to those immigrants who play by the rules, but it further weakens respect for our nation's laws.

### Set a Limit and Enforce the Law

Some argue that the reason there is so much illegal immigration is because it is so difficult for immigrants to come legally. This position assumes that the U.S. immigration system exists for the benefit of foreign nationals. If the U.S. simply admitted everyone who wanted to come, annual immigration would increase tenfold. There is no right for anyone to immigrate to the United States. Immigration is a privilege extended by the American people. **We get to determine who comes and how many, and it is the federal government's responsibility to set reasonable limits and enforce those limits.**

Proponents of mass immigration usually say the United States should “admit as many immigrants as we need.” Although low numbers of skilled immigrants could be beneficial, the United States doesn’t really *need* to admit any immigrants. Those who say we must have mass immigration mistake a need (an actual shortage of workers) for a want (a desire for cheap labor and a reliable voting bloc). The best counter to the argument that legal immigration should be increased to reduce illegal immigration is that when legal immigration increases, so too does illegal immigration. **Either we have limits and enforce those limits or we have open borders.**

### Protect the American Worker

**Our primary concern is the well-being of America’s native workforce—especially our most vulnerable citizens who are hurt the most by additional competition from low-skilled immigrants.** Therefore, we must have an immigration policy that is aimed at protecting American workers. American workers are willing and able to perform any job our economy requires. Americans haven’t

suddenly turned lazy and incompetent. Instead, multinational corporations have continually called for the importation of massive numbers of lower-wage foreign workers, and our government has complied. This has created disincentives for Americans to work in certain occupations and has led to the displacement of American workers in others—such as native tech workers being forced to train their foreign replacements.

As long as there are foreign workers who are willing to work for lower wages than natives, unscrupulous employers will continue to undercut American workers by claiming that immigration is necessary to address “chronic labor shortages.”

Unfortunately, labor union leaders and Congressional Democrats, until recently stalwart defenders of American workers, have abandoned any support for restrictive immigration policies aimed at protecting native workers. They now favor expansionist policies they believe will bring political benefits.

## Enforcement through Employer Sanctions

**Those who employ unauthorized workers are the magnets that attract illegal aliens into the United States.** We must reform the current system

by enforcing employer sanctions and punishing employers who break immigration laws. E-Verify is a free program that allows employers to electronically compare an applicant's information against Social Security Administration and Department of Homeland Security databases. Making this program mandatory nationwide would limit the job magnet and would empower states to impose penalties against employers who break the law by hiring illegal aliens.

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## Ensure our National Security

Illegal immigration may be the most direct violation of our sovereignty and the sanctity of our borders, but the flaws in our legal immigration policies pose a real threat to our national security. The same open borders and lax entry/exit controls that allow millions of economic migrants to settle here can be easily exploited by terrorists and others who threaten our security. **In order to protect our nation, we need**

**measures in place that significantly reduce the ability of potential terrorists to operate freely in our country.** Effective immigration enforcement—on the border and inside the country—requires tighter screening and identification procedures, as well as major upgrades to staffing, equipment, detention facilities, and removal capabilities.

Often ignored in the national security discussion is the threat that illegal—and increasingly legal—immigration pose to public health. In fact, the very notion of public health has been totally divorced from immigration policy by federal officials. No attention is paid to the ramifications until there is a health crisis to deal with, such as Ebola or drug resistant tuberculosis. This is especially troubling as the federal government is taking an increasing role in the operation of the health care system.

# Immigration by the Numbers



**I**migrant admissions into the United States are at historic highs. Since 2000, legal immigrant admissions have averaged more than one million a year. However, the number of legal permanent residents doesn't tell the whole story.

While difficult to measure, annual illegal immigration is currently estimated at around 500,000. There are also about 650,000 guest workers admitted every year; an accurate accounting is impossible because the federal government fails to adequately keep track of foreign workers coming into and (supposedly) leaving the United States.

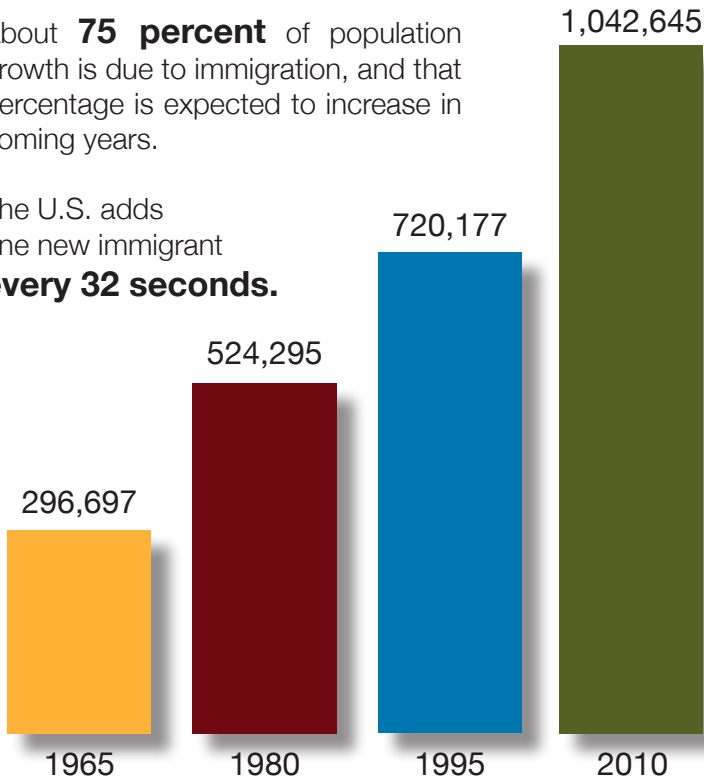
**If we look back to 1970, ALL population growth in the United States is attributable to immigration.**

In that year, the foreign-born population of the United States was 9.6 million and comprised 4.7 percent of the population. In 2013, the foreign-born population was 40.3 million, 12.9 percent of the total population.

## Legal Immigration: Annual Admissions

About **75 percent** of population growth is due to immigration, and that percentage is expected to increase in coming years.

The U.S. adds one new immigrant **every 32 seconds.**



“Let me state my view unequivocally: I believe new immigrants are good for America... But mark my words, unless we handle this well, immigration of this sweep and scope can threaten our union.”

—Bill Clinton, former U.S. President

## Admission Categories and Preferences

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Immediate relatives of U.S. Citizens | 439,460 |
| • Spouse                             | 248,332 |
| • Children                           | 71,382  |
| • Parents                            | 119,746 |

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Family-Sponsored Preferences  | 210,303 |
| • 1st: Unmarried sons/daughters of U.S. citizens and their children           | 24,358  |
| • 2nd: Spouses, children, unmarried sons/daughters of alien residents         | 99,115  |
| • 3rd: Married sons/daughters of U.S. citizens and their spouses/children     | 21,294  |
| • 4th: Brothers/sisters of U.S. citizens (21+ years old) and spouses/children | 65,536  |

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Employment Preferences (includes family members)                            | 161,110 |
| • 1st: Priority workers   | 38,978  |
| • 2nd: Professionals with advanced degrees or aliens of exceptional ability | 63,026  |
| • 3rd: Skilled workers, professionals, and unskilled workers                | 43,632  |
| • 4th: Certain special immigrants   | 6,931   |
| • 5th: Employment creation (investors)                                      | 8,543   |

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| Diversity (lottery) | 45,618 |
|---------------------|--------|

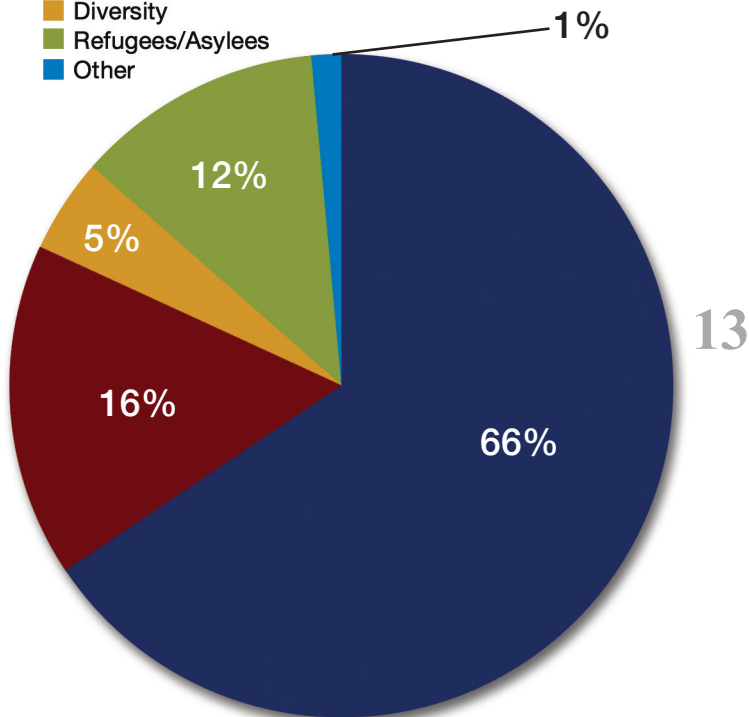
|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| Refugees | 77,395 |
|----------|--------|

|         |        |
|---------|--------|
| Asylees | 42,235 |
|---------|--------|

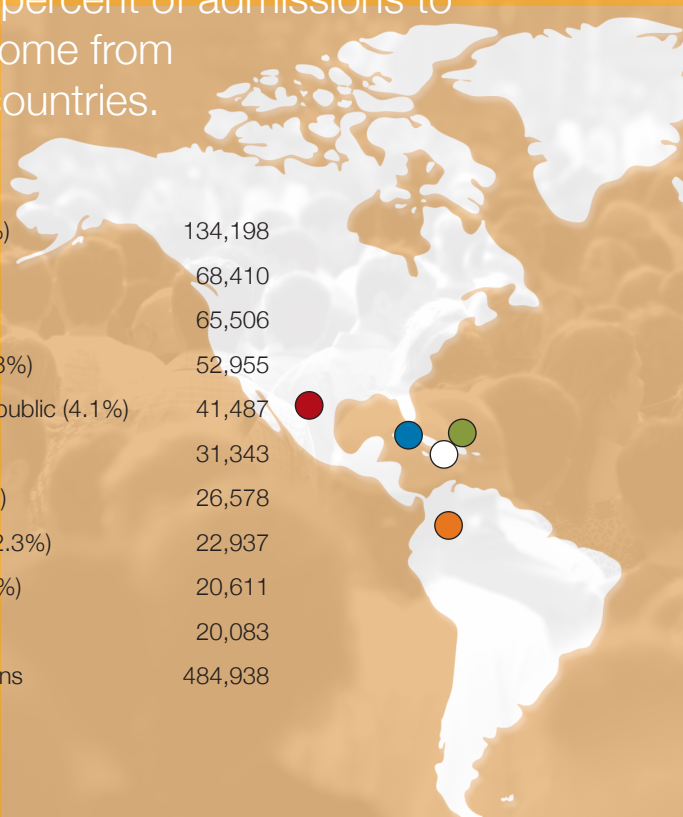
|        |        |
|--------|--------|
| Others | 14,432 |
|--------|--------|

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Total Immigration | 990,553 |
|-------------------|---------|

- Family-Sponsored Preference
- Employment-Based Preference
- Diversity
- Refugees/Asylees
- Other



Nearly 50 percent of admissions to the U.S. come from **only** ten countries.



|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| ● Mexico (13.5%)            | 134,198 |
| ● China (6.9%)              | 68,410  |
| ○ India (6.6%)              | 65,506  |
| ● Philippines (5.3%)        | 52,955  |
| ● Dominican Republic (4.1%) | 41,487  |
| ● Cuba (3.1%)               | 31,343  |
| ● Vietnam (2.7%)            | 26,578  |
| ● South Korea (2.3%)        | 22,937  |
| ● Colombia (2.1%)           | 20,611  |
| ○ Haiti (2.0%)              | 20,083  |
| Total Admissions            | 484,938 |

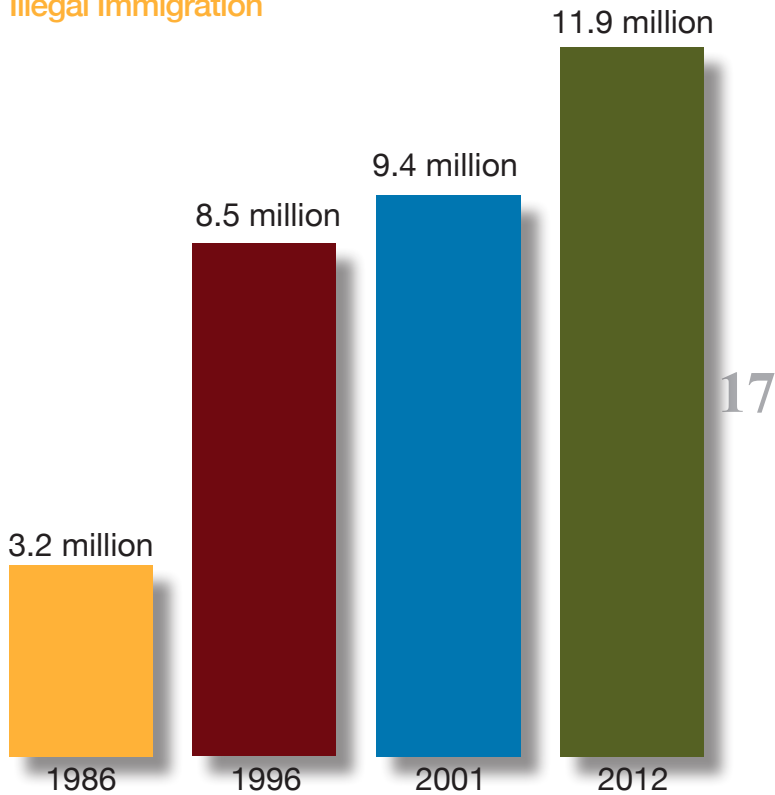


“The old employments by which we have heretofore gained our livelihood, are gradually, and it may seem inevitably, passing into other hands. Every hour sees the black man elbowed out of employment by some newly arrived immigrant whose hunger and whose color are thought to give him a better title to the place.”

—Frederick Douglass, former slave, abolitionist and statesman



## Illegal Immigration



## Top 10 Source Countries for Illegal Immigration





## Fact Checking: “Record” Deportations

If the border was secure and the Obama administration had deported “record” numbers of illegal aliens, as the president has claimed, then the illegal alien population would have noticeably decreased from 2009 to 2012. Instead, there has been no statistically significant change in the illegal alien population according to the Department of Homeland Security. The reason is, rhetoric aside, **DHS (by its own admission) has less than half of the U.S. border under “operational control.”** And, as the president stated outright to a group of Hispanic journalists, the deportation statistics “are actually a little deceptive.”

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The deception comes from the method used by the Obama administration to count removals of illegal aliens, which changed how those numbers were tallied. In the past, illegal aliens apprehended at the border were “returned” to Mexico by the Border Patrol. Under President Obama, DHS counts these as ICE “removals” (which is the official term for deportations), resulting in these deceptive numbers.

If removals and returns were to be separated, as has been the case in the past, the Obama administration would, in fact, have removed fewer illegal aliens than any other administration since Gerald Ford's.

Also skewing the numbers is the fact that the president has illegally and unconstitutionally declared millions of illegal aliens to be "lawfully present" in the country in order to award them Social Security numbers and work permits. The courts have temporarily blocked some of these maneuvers, but the administration does not include these illegal aliens in its official estimates. **Illegal immigration may have slowed from its peak before the recession in 2007, but it is certainly continuing with the encouragement of the president and the leaders of both parties in Congress.**

# Debunking Common Fallacies and Misconceptions

**T**he advocates for amnesty and mass immigration are very good at coining slogans to promote their cause—while failing to take truth or reason into account. The media does a poor job of separating spin from facts, and many Americans have difficulty cutting through the rhetoric.

Yes, America is a nation of immigrants, and of course immigration has benefited the nation. But that does not mean Americans do not have the right to limit immigration; that all immigration is good; or that the history of immigration has not been skewed to fit a modern political agenda.

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In this section, you will find some common fallacies perpetrated in favor of mass immigration, and ways to counter attacks against those of us who understand that the current immigration system is unsustainable.

**People who want immigration reform and do not support amnesty are anti-immigrant and racist.** Americans who do not support amnesty and/or are in favor of immigration reduction and the strict enforcement of immigration laws are neither anti-immigrant nor racist. They are simply defending the national interest, and their own self-interest, the latter of which we praise immigrants for pursuing (i.e., seeking a better life for themselves and their children.) What to do about the estimated 12 million illegal aliens living in the United States does divide public opinion, but most Americans oppose blanket amnesty, and very few support any form of amnesty before the border is secured and effective interior enforcement in place.

**A decisive majority of U.S. voters want the overall level of immigration to be reduced.** One would be hard pressed to find another political issue on which so many Americans agree. This is why the elites who push for expanded immigration want to intimidate and marginalize the average American by calling those who speak up for a sensible immigration policy xenophobic or racist. This argument is designed to



shut down debate because the facts are on the side of those who support less immigration.

Today's immigration levels are harming the American worker (while providing important gains for American employers of immigrants as well as immigrants themselves). The American people have the right to self-determination and, through their elected representatives, should be able to admit or refuse entry to immigrants according to their needs, wishes, traditions, etc. In fact, those who support increased levels of immigration are the ones who often argue their case along racial or ethnic lines (La Raza, anyone?) while those who want to reduce immigration believe that our immigration policy should be non-discriminatory.

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**Isn't the term "illegal alien" outdated...offensive... racist?** According to the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) that laid the ground for our current immigration enforcement code, an alien in the country in violation of immigration law is an "illegal alien." In Title V of IRCA, there are five references to "illegal alien" while the terms "unauthorized" or "undoc-

umented” are not mentioned once. The U.S. government has referred to non-citizens as aliens for over two centuries. This correct terminology has come under attack recently for political reasons. This does not render it inaccurate or derogatory.

**Aliens who have entered the United States without permission, or who have violated the terms of their admission and overstayed their visas, are identified under the law as illegal aliens.**

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It is true that most violations of immigration law are dealt with in a civil proceeding and not in a criminal court. This is designed to speed up the process of deportation, since it would be much more time-consuming and expensive to give each illegal alien a criminal trial prior to deportation.

Certainly no human being is illegal, but an individual can be an illegal alien. To call someone undocumented or unauthorized, or a future American, or a NAFTA refugee, or any other such contrivance is an attempt to draw attention away from the fact that laws, democratically enacted and popularly supported, have been willfully violated by foreign nationals.

By the way, the correct term for a creature from outer space is “extraterrestrial.”

### **Enforcing immigration law breaks up families.**

This is an emotional argument designed to tug at the heart strings and it defies all logic and legal precedent. Enforcing laws does not break up families. It is the breaking of laws that often results in separation or other hardships to families. In every other circumstance, we hold the people who break the law accountable for the harm that is caused to innocent family members when laws are enforced. To do otherwise essentially turns children and other family members into human shields protecting lawbreakers from the consequences of their actions.

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As a corollary, the IRS would not hesitate to impose significant penalties against an individual who fails to pay taxes because he “wants his family to have a better life.” These penalties are administered with the full understanding that children and other innocent family members may suffer along with the person who violated the law.

Unlike a citizen who is separated from his family as a result of having broken the law, an illegal alien who is removed from the United States can choose to take his spouse and children with him. Thus, in almost all cases, family separation as a result of deportation is a conscious choice on the part of the illegal alien.

**America is a nation of immigrants, therefore it is un-American to limit immigration.** Every country is a “nation of immigrants.” America’s immigrant experience is just more recent. America is a nation with a history of many things. Public policies or laws in place over a century ago do not bind us today; and the immigration “melting pot” should be understood within the context of history. **We have romanticized our immigration history at the expense of accuracy.**

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Here’s how things are different: *The numbers are not normal.* Immigration data began to be collected by the federal government in 1820. The average annual immigration to the United States since then is 409,709, less than half of today’s number. Skyrocketing levels of immigration since 1965 have greatly increased the historical average. From 1820 to 1965, the average

annual total was 296,500. **We are admitting more immigrants today than at any other time in our history.** The only other comparable time was during the Industrial Revolution, when millions of immigrants came from Europe to work in factories.

*Mass immigration has always displaced black natives.*

Black civil rights leaders from Frederick Douglass to Barbara Jordan have opposed mass immigration. So, too, did union officials, such as A. Philip Randolph, the man who led the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963 at which Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his “I Have a Dream” speech.

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Black Americans were denied employment opportunities during the Industrial Revolution, opportunities that instead went to Europeans who passed through Ellis Island (the Statue of Liberty was a gift from France that had nothing to do with immigration.) Today, the unemployment rate for black workers is almost double the national average, while politicians talk incessantly about “jobs Americans won’t do.” **Not once has a politician ever explained which Americans don’t want to work.**

Legal Hispanic immigrants also suffer from the oversupply of low-skilled labor exacerbated by our immigration policies. That is why Cesar Chavez, the revered leader of the United Farm Workers, dedicated himself to fighting illegal immigration, even offering to organize patrols along the U.S.-Mexico border.

30

*Change in origin.* In the 1890s Europeans accounted for 97 percent of immigrants. In the last decade, the number of immigrants coming from Europe is right around 10 percent. Today, the majority of immigrants come from Latin America (67%), with 12 million, or 29 percent of all immigrants in the United States, from Mexico.

One can argue whether this demographic transformation is good, bad, or indifferent, but one can't deny that it is happening; or that it is necessary to discuss the implications. **Culture does matter, and immigration is changing American culture.** The most obvious change is linguistic. English is not the primary language of about one-fifth of the U.S. population. This is a 50 percent increase in just a generation.

*Change in integration.* Sustained large-scale immigration from Mexico to the United States resulted in integration failures. **Ten percent of people born in Mexico now reside in the United States.** Immigration from Mexico has started to slow, but most foreign nationals entering the U.S. every year still come from Central America with growing numbers from Asia and the Middle East. Large immigrant groups are known to experience a slowdown in their economic assimilation, largely tied to their slow acculturation. The linguistic and economic enclaves are persisting over time, even as some immigrants do successfully assimilate.

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*Change in times.* We live in an increasingly interconnected world. **Today's immigrants can and do retain contact with their homeland on regular basis** (this is particularly true for Mexicans in view of their geographical proximity to the U.S.). Cheap and fast travel, internet, phone, television, and modern tools of connection affect today's migratory experiences and allow immigrants to shut themselves in a cultural bubble instead of embracing the practices and traditions of their new home.

Integration patterns today are different because our society is different from what it was 150 years ago. We now have a public school system, a national health care system, and an enormous welfare apparatus—all things that did not exist in the 19th Century when European immigrants came through Ellis Island. Allowing in tens of millions of foreigners today is putting strains on our schools, our health care system, our public benefits programs. We live in a post-industrial society. We do not need a 19th Century immigration system in the 21st Century.

32

**Immigrants grow the economy.** How one views the economic contribution of immigrants depends on one's perspective of how an economy is supposed to operate. **It is true that immigration “grows the economy” simply by adding more people to the population.** More people means more workers and more consumers. However, economic growth is not the same as economic prosperity. The benefits of increased immigration go to immigrants and the employers of immigrants. The average American is cut out of the equation. In fact, our immigration system operates as a way of diverting



money from the middle class (who see depressed earnings and higher taxes) to subsidize a cheaper foreign labor source for the benefit of employers. These employers (especially large corporations) spend a lot of money lobbying members of Congress to ensure that sensible immigration restrictions are stymied.

The effect of immigration on the U.S. economy follows the law of supply and demand. **A large supply of foreign workers entering the U.S. each year means that workers here have less bargaining power when it comes to wages and working conditions.** Immigration is a reason that wages have remained stagnant for the last 35 years. The effect has been most pronounced in lower-skilled professions, but guest worker programs have kept wages suppressed in computer science professions, as well.

33

Of course an economy is complex, and it is true that not every immigrant working in the U.S. has displaced a native worker. Some immigrants are complementary to native workers, meaning that they have certain skills or traits that result in a mutually beneficial economic

relationship. In order to pursue complementarity, the U.S. would admit far fewer immigrants and most of the ones we did admit would be highly-skilled. Today's immigrants are mostly low-skilled, a situation made worse by illegal immigration. **Of the one million immigrants we admit each year, only about 7 percent come based on their work skills.**

34

Immigrants are a plus to the economy because they contribute to an increase in the Gross Domestic Product, but the GDP tells us nothing about the economy other than its size. No one who is honestly appraising the economic conditions in the U.S. can claim that immigration has not led to unfavorable labor conditions for U.S. natives.

**We need immigrants to do the jobs Americans won't do.** There is no job Americans are not currently doing, and doing in large numbers, whether in construction, agriculture, or service professions. One-third of crop laborers are American citizens, despite the fact that due to the failure of the government to enforce immigration law, real wages for these workers have declined since the 1980s. Moreover,

most low-skilled immigrant workers live in six states: California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and Texas. Does that mean that in other states where the immigrant population is lower, jobs that require manual labor remain vacant? Of course not. Americans are doing these jobs.

The more immigrants that take jobs in a particular sector the less attractive it becomes to native workers. Such “competition” can drive many native-born American workers to give up on looking for a job altogether while settling for unemployment, disability payments, or other benefits. **If we need immigration because tens of millions of Americans aren't in the workforce, then shouldn't we be addressing the underlying problem of why tens of millions of Americans are unemployed?**

35

**The “system is broken.”** Most Americans agree, but the “fixes” offered by politicians in the form of comprehensive immigration reform would make the system much worse. When politicians say the system is broken, they usually understand that to mean we need to let more people in. Opening the borders is

not the way to reduce illegal immigration. Illegal immigration can be effectively controlled by rational enforcement of reasonable laws.

**When Americans say the system is broken, they understand it to mean that our political system is failing**—that the president refuses to fulfill his constitutional duty to enforce our existing laws and Congress has failed to hold him to account. America has both the right and the responsibility to limit immigration and control its borders.

36

**Deporting 12 million people is not only impossible, but inhumane.** Deporting 12 million people is indeed unrealistic. That is not what true immigration reform calls for. The real issue at hand is taking away the “incentive” to come or stay here. **Most immigrants come to the United States to work; if they cannot secure jobs (because no one will hire them), many will return to their home countries.** This can be accomplished by the use of the E-Verify program, and holding employers accountable for hiring illegal aliens. It also means taking away amnesty promises (whether explicit or implied) and enforcing immigration laws in

full. Under today's prevailing political conditions, illegal aliens count on the fact that, once in the United States and unless they commit serious crimes, they will never be deported.

What do we do with illegal aliens already here? When someone is identified as an illegal alien according to the law, that individual must be placed in removal proceedings. If the federal government took enforcement seriously, many people would choose not to come illegally and many here illegally would leave voluntarily. We don't need mass amnesty nor mass deportation, neither of which has wide support.

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We don't have a problem with illegal immigration because we aren't generous enough, or because illegal aliens had no choice but to flee their home countries. Most illegal aliens who come to the U.S. were employed in their home countries and were better off financially compared to their fellow citizens. The poorest of the poor stay at home since they don't have the means to travel or the initiative to come to the U.S. Illegal aliens come to the U.S. because there is a great incentive for them to do so. If that incentive

were taken away, effective border control would be a lot easier to achieve.

**We have a moral obligation to admit the world's refugees.** The U.S. has a very generous refugee and asylee program. The problem is that our generosity is too often taken advantage of. A 2009 internal report by the Department of Homeland Security found that 70 percent of asylum cases contained proven or probable fraud.

38 Furthermore, this argument again assumes that the U.S. immigration system exists for the benefit of foreigners. Sadly, we cannot accept all of those who claim asylum, or even all legitimate refugees. Decisions to admit refugees or grant asylum are not extensions of foreign policy. **Even if we admit people based on humanitarian impulses, immigration policy is domestic policy and the interests of local communities are paramount.**

When taking in refugees from places where religious or political violence is endemic, we need to consider the strong possibility that terrorists and other radical

ideologues will be admitted as well if we do not exercise strict scrutiny. We should not feel morally compelled to admit as refugees people who pose a significant threat to this country.

Many organizations that assist in refugee resettlement receive funds from the federal government and have a financial stake in enlarging the flow of refugees who permanently resettle in the U.S., which contravenes the recommendation of the United Nations Refugee Agency. There is a movement to greatly expand refugee admissions and redefine the laws governing asylum through the court system. This will lead to chaos, like Europe is already beginning to experience.

39

**Demographics is destiny.** The argument is often put forward that the United States has no choice but to admit millions of immigrants each year, and to grant all illegal aliens amnesty because it is inevitable that we do so. The march of history demands it.

**Americans have a choice about what our society is going to be like, and a responsibility to posterity to plan for the future.** We don't have

control over the policies of other countries, but we do have control over our immigration system. It is our responsibility to ask how immigration affects our economy, our environment, our political system, our civil society.

If we continue to allow immigration to rapidly transform the demographic makeup of our country, then transformational change is inevitable. But that choice is ours to make.



“We should strengthen our immigration laws to prevent the importation of foreign wages and working conditions. We should make it illegal for employers to lay off Americans and then fill their jobs by bringing in workers from overseas...And we should end the unskilled immigration that competes with young Americans just entering the job market.”

—Edward Kennedy, former Massachusetts Senator

# Data Sources

U.S. Census Bureau ([census.gov](http://census.gov))

American Community Survey Data on the Foreign-Born  
Population

Department of Homeland Security ([dhs.gov](http://dhs.gov))

Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2013

Department of Homeland Security ([dhs.gov](http://dhs.gov))

Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in  
the United States: January 2012

Center for Immigration Studies ([cis.org](http://cis.org))

"Wages, Jobs, and Poverty"

Federation for American Immigration Reform ([fairus.org](http://fairus.org))

"Immigration Facts"

Pew Research Center ([pewhispanic.org](http://pewhispanic.org))

Hispanic Trends: Immigration

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public policies like immigration should benefit first and foremost the american people not all immigration is good we have romanticized our immigration history at the expense of the current reality the history of immigration



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has been skewed to fit a modern political agenda we have the right to limit immigration and control our borders we do not need a 19th century immigration system in the 21st century americans support less immigration