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## MASTER DISSERTATION

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### The Impact of Immigration on the United States after the WWII

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## Dedication

To my dear parents who taught me to trust Allah, believe in hard work and that so much could be done with little.

To my dear brother” Mouhammed Chafik” and sister “Chourouk” and our little lighthouse “Rimes “.

To my best friend “Abdelhadi Razane “whom I shared with, the good and bad moments for a whole ten years of studying together.

To all my beloved ones.

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## Abstract

The United States has long been regarded as a land of opportunities, where immigrants can achieve their ambitions. Immigration is still at the forefront of policy debates today. People are migrating and spreading all over the world as a result of a variety of factors. As any prosperous nation would, the United States welcomed large waves of immigrants who transformed the country. This act eventually prompted US citizens to demand a reduction in the number of immigrants. These demands arose as a result of the failure of new arrivals to integrate into American society. This research aims to investigate the several waves of immigration that came to US with their historical and recent motivation, in addition a conceptual side of United States immigration policy before the WWII, and the reformation of a new policy after it. As well as an explanation of the debate concerning immigration and the attitude preformed by natives against immigrant. Moreover, this dissertation analyses the effects of immigrants in America in the economy, society, and culture. Although there is slight assumption about drawbacks within the economic effects, the benefits exceeded those false beliefs; in other words the effects that immigrant contributed in building the United States values that we know today.

**Key Words:** Policy debates, factors, waves, reduction, integrate, motivation, attitude, The United States immigration policy.

## List of Acronyms

<b>WWII</b>	World War Two
<b>US</b>	The United States of America
<b>CBO</b>	The Congressional Budget Office
<b>INA</b>	The Immigration and Nationality Act
<b>IRCA</b>	The Immigration Reform and Control Act
<b>DHS</b>	The US Department of Homeland Security
<b>NBC</b>	National Broadcasting Company
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>NPV</b>	Net Present Value
<b>NRC</b>	The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

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# **GENERAL INTRODUCTON**

## **Introduction**

The increase number of immigrants coming to the United States after 1945 was mostly a result of the change and reaffirmation that brought by the Congress starting by the Reed Act of 1924 after the world war II, until the Congress annulment of the National Origin Quotas. The United States population was a non Hispanic white; today that population is about 62% and we can point that immigration is responsible for much of that change.

US defines immigrants as anyone living in a country other than where they were born and split them up into forced and voluntary immigrants. Earlier migration researchers has concentrated primarily on examining the causes of the migration, but only little has been done to determine the influence of immigration as an equilibrating mechanism changing economy and aside from the effects, that they could be positive where as unfortunately in other cases could be negative mainly by looking at the political events and historical causes like WWII.

## **Statement of the Problem**

The United States has long been perceived as a land of opportunities for immigrants; yet, both in the past and today, US natives have expressed concerns that immigrants fail to integrate into the American society. While some had concerns that immigrants could affect cultural life, others fear that they can't accomplish benefits to its economy under these fears; a rise to contemporary debates had started.

The United States has had successive waves of mass immigration that were first consider ed crises but now they are celebrated as a major contribution. Recent studies suggested that in the coming years, immigration will be the main source of labor force growth while others argued that the facts and history surrounding the post World War II boom are somewhat controversial,

some critics of immigration argue that post World War II economic growth occurred with relatively little immigration so therefore immigration is unnecessary for economic growth today.

## **Research Questions**

In this concern, many questions are raised and most of them focus on factors that led to the change of policy within the United States and how natives dealt with this change. And also about the actual role immigrants play in the several fields of life.

This research focuses on the extent immigration effects the United States as a whole, as a major question of the research. This work intends to investigate some specific research questions on this subject:

- What were the main reasons behind such huge migrations?
- How has immigration changed after World War II?
- Do the economic and religious reasons play a promoting role in the immigrating to the United States?

## **Methodology**

This study uses the descriptive method along the research in order to realize the impact of immigration on the United States recently especially. Also the historical method is used in this study in order to provide a brief overview about how immigration had been before the WWII, and how the policies changed after it, which is relevant to the core of the study. The present study depends on a variety of sources, books and articles, written by scholars on the subject matter of the research. Also, it follows the eighth edition of the Modern Language Association (MLA) style.

## **Aim of the Study**

This study aims first to draw attention to the period after World War II, with its influence that resulted in the removal of all immigration restriction policies made by the United States government. In addition to this, the research also investigates the role immigration policy played as a stimulus to the United States growth within the three fields of economics, society, and culture.

## **Structure of the Study**

The present dissertation consists of three chapters. The first chapter a general overview of immigration in the USA; is conceptual in nature, it gives a deep explanation of the concept of the history of immigration in the United States and the motivation that led immigrant to chose the selected country. Also it discusses the immigration system of the US before the WWII and, the types of immigrants applied under it.

The second chapter trend of immigration in the Unites States after the WWII, describes the change in the immigration policy after the end of WWII in the US with the reform it brought and the change in immigrant patterns. Also a great part of this chapter is dedicated to the description of attitude by Native Americans towards the change in policy of immigration.

The third chapter, the effect of immigration in the United States; is analytical in nature. It is divided into three sections; the first section deals with economic impact of immigration on the US. The second section deals with the political and social impact with a brief understanding of the integration into the American society concept. The third section is concerned with the effects on cultural life.



# **Chapter One**

## **A General Overview of Immigration in the USA After WWII**

## 1.1 Introduction

Historically, the United States is known as the land of immigrants, it had been inhabited and converted through time by successive waves of migration. Most arrivals came influenced by several factors, including ones that drove them from their countries and others pulled them towards freedom (History). The United States had always attracted new ambitious immigrants from different regions, leading it to prosperity. Despite the great benefit, the United States faced problems within the development of practical system concerning immigrants (Bush and McLarty 5).

This chapter attempts to focus on immigration in the United States, with explaining the four significant waves that have defined America and how people managed to escape from their homeland into safety and freedom, it also provides a purely descriptive view of the types and categories of United States immigration and how immigrants can be considered as US citizens. Furthermore, this chapter investigates the previous system and roles of the United States from beginning until the restriction starts.

## 1.2. Brief History of Immigration in the United States

America has always been a nation of immigrants, beginning with its first inhabitants who crossed the land bridge connecting Asia and North America. Since 15,000 BC, people have been migrating to the United States, and this trend continues today. There have been periods of massive immigration mixed with periods of strict immigration control throughout history, and as a result, the numbers have dropped dramatically. Immigrants have generally arrived in the United States as “Waves”, according to historians; the first major immigration wave begins in

the early 1800s and lasts until around 1890. Following a lull in immigration, the second major wave arrives in 1890 and lasts until the early 1920s, to be followed by two other waves. When jobs were plentiful and resources were many newcomers arrived in large waves, and immigration slowed during times of economic recession (U.S. Immigration Before 1965).

### **1.2.1. First Wave (1800s- 1890)**

The English constituted 60% of the population in 1790, with Scots, Scots-Irish, Germans, and individuals from the Netherlands, France, and Spain. They were influenced by religious, political, and economic causes. For German; they desired religious independence, in Pennsylvania; Spaniards sought Christian conversions; Florida, the southwest and Puritans in Massachusetts sought to build their own faith community. Religious freedom was achieved by political and economic freedom, the absence of the ruler's pressure, and the ability to succeed in a new place. Immigrants took major risks, they faced death, starvation, sickness and Due to the business loss for the slave owners, many potential immigrants bonded themselves to an employer in the United States who would pay for their passage; they were legally obliged to work for the employer who paid their passage for as long as five years. One-third of the immigrants arriving in 1776 were indentured servants (Martin and Midgley 12).

### **1.2.2. Second Wave (1890- 1920)**

The second wave of immigrants, who arrived between 1820 and 1860, complemented America's desire for people to assist in pushing back the frontier. Farmers who had been displaced from agriculture and artisans that lost their jobs as a result of the Industrial Revolution were determined to leave Europe. Newcomers wrote "American letters" to their friends and relatives in Europe, encouraging them to join, Over 750,000 German, British, and Irish

immigrants arrived between 1820 and 1840, with 4.3 million arriving over the next 20 years, around 40% of these second-wave immigrants came from Ireland, where poverty and famine pushed people to leave. In the second wave, Roman Catholics dominated, and by 1850, the Roman Catholic Church had grown to become the largest denomination in the United States (12-13).

### **1.2.3. Third Wave (1880- 1914)**

The third wave of immigrants arrived in 1880, when nearly 460,000 people entered the country, and ended in 1914, when 1.2 million people entered due to the outbreak of war in Europe. More than 20 million southern and Eastern Europeans arrived, hundreds of thousands of Chinese, Japanese, and other Asian laborers have settled in Western states. Only 19% of immigrants from Northern and Western Europe arrived in 1907, while 81 percent came from southern and eastern Europe. They included the first large groups of Jewish and Eastern Orthodox believers. The frontier had been closed by the early 1900s, and most newcomers found work in factories or other urban enterprises in eastern and Midwestern cities. By the 1910, census foreign-born residents made up nearly 15% of the population and about 24% of the labor force in the United States. Immigrants made up more than half of all workers in mining, steel, and meatpacking. In New York, Chicago, and Detroit, foreign-born men made up more than half of the workforce (13).

### **1.2.4. Pause in Immigration**

After the end of WWI, immigrants began to return, it was the introduction of numerical limits, or "quotas," limited their entry in 1920. As another European war appeared, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration was urged to provide generous treatment to those fleeing

Nazi Germany. However, the United States did not accept large numbers of refugees until after WWII, when the Displaced Persons Act of 1948 allowed over 400,000 Europeans to enter. Another 190,000 refugees, mostly from Europe, were admitted under the Refugee Relief Act of 1953. Through the 1950s, an average of 250,000 immigrants per year entered the country, including refugee flows, the Western Hemisphere's share had raised to 40%. Because the long land border and illegal crossings, the data on legal admissions did not reflect the total volume of Western Hemisphere immigration (13-14).

### **1.2.5. The Fourth Wave (1965)**

After 1965, when the preference system was changed, the fourth wave of immigrants began arriving in the United States. It gave priority to people with U.S. relatives and people with outstanding accomplishments or skills, rather than immigrants based on their national origins, with a preference for those from northern and Western Europe. The composition of the immigrant population changed as a result; and it were accompanied by increased prosperity in Europe. Immigration at the early 1900s and at the end of the century has a lot in common, despite the fact that foreign-born people accounted for a higher percentage of the US population in 1900 (15%) and in 1998 (10 percent). The country's economy was conducting radical shift during both periods agriculture to industry at the early 1900s, and from services to information at the turn of the century (14).

### **1.3. Motives of Immigration in the USA**

The United States has traditionally been seen as a "country of opportunity," with many people coming to increase labor demand and to have opportunities for occupational progress they experience among their descendants varied degrees of social progression in the host society due to differences in their cultural context and social behaviors. In 2007, Mexico accounted for the

great majority of migrants attempting to enter the United States through its southern border. Most of them came from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, which are known as the "Northern Triangle countries". Numbers of them were orphaned children as well as families rather than single people; they were seeking refuge at United States' ports of entry rather than trying illegal border crossings (National Immigration Forum).

### **1.3.1 Historical Motivation Factors**

#### **1.3.1.1 Religious Freedom**

Religious freedom is likely to have motivated more immigrants to come to America than any other concern; it is often linked with their desire for a better material."For men came across the sea not merely to find new soil for their plows but to win freedom for their souls, to think, speak, and worship as they would " Will Durant " (The Saturday Evening). Some of the country's earliest settlers, including the Pilgrims and Puritans in Massachusetts, Roman Catholics in Maryland, Huguenots in the Hudson River Valley and South Carolina, and Quakers in Pennsylvania, were all motivated by a desire for religious liberty, . The New World gave those who had been oppressed or mistreated in the Old World the opportunity to form new societies in which they might worship freely. However, the concept of religious freedom as a fundamental human right was only in its infancy at the time (Wills).

Roger Williams, one of the first great figures in the history of religious freedom in what would become the United States, was one of those expelled from Puritan Massachusetts (Wills).

### **1.3.1.2 Freedom from Oppression**

Freedom from oppression differs from freedom from fear in that not all of the groups profiled here arrived in the United States in desperate fear of their lives, though some did, such as those who arrived in the 1980s from Guatemala and El Salvador; Many of these immigrants could have stayed in their home countries and lived peaceful lives if they had been willing to accept unjust, unrepresentative, and tyrannical governments or foreign dominance of their homelands but that was not enough for them. These newcomers, like the British radicals and German "Forty-eighters" who arrived in the first half of the nineteenth century, tried to reform their own countries political systems, before abandoning it as a bad job and immigrating to a country where they believed a person's voice was protected and valued, they followed a tradition that predated American independence (Wills).

### **1.3.1.3 Economic Motivation**

Even in the absence of economic hardship at home, economic opportunity in America has been a "pull" factor since the beginning. The 1607 settlement at Jamestown, Virginia, appears to have been a colonial economic experiment with the goal of making a profit by exploring and exploiting the area's resources and exporting goods to the motherland. Early settlers contracted with sellers to supply voluntary and involuntary indentured servants to work the fields when tobacco became the major colonial export. After a number of years of service, these servants, mostly from Europe, were given the opportunity to become landowners. Africans, on the other hand, who were forcibly carried to the new land, were regarded as the property of their employers, with few rights and opportunities given to them. According to Ronald Takaki, 75% of the colonists came as servants during the 17th century (Hatch 2).

The majority of immigrants arriving between 1840 and 1860 were Irish. At the time, potatoes rotted due to a disease known as potato famine. As a result, many Irish families were left with little no food. More than a million Irish people died as a result of starvation and disease (3).

#### **1.4 Recent Immigrants Motivation Factors**

Migration is always the result of a complex combination of factors; together they form the immigrants' decision to live their homes. It is already known that people have continuously moved in search for protection from dramatic situation in their homelands as well as getting better life circumstances for their families, together with other social and political factors trying to push out individual from their counties and directing them towards the destination country (Castelli 2).

##### **1.4.1 Humanitarian Protection**

Persons seeking humanitarian protection from oppression rather than a well threat of prosecution because of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion; continue to represent a small percentage of each year's admissions approximately 5 to 10% in any given year. These are the criteria outlined in the United States Immigration and Naturalization Act. Those who meet these criteria are granted legal refugee status prior to entering the country after being interviewed by US government officials abroad. The majority of refugees came from Southeast Asia after the Vietnam War and in the years directly afterward the passage of the Refugee Act in 1980. In the 1980s and 1990s, a large number of Russian Jews were granted refugee status. Recently, the refugee population has grown significantly to include people from Kosovo, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Congo, Somalia, and Myanmar, among other countries. Individuals or families who seek humanitarian protection at a point of entry or apply for it while already in the United States may



be given entry if they meet the requirements. Only a small percentage of people who claim refugee statuses are accepted (Hatch 3).

### **1.4.2 Family Reunification**

The success of the government's policy for reuniting family members is seen as the primary factor that motivates current immigrants, partners, and small children of US residents. . Many legal permanent residents (also known as "green card holders"), on the other hand, are not so lucky. These people, who have waited years to legally enter the United States, frequently, arrive before their families in order to locate work, provide housing and save money for travel tickets for the rest of the family. They soon find, however, that visa quotas and long waits in the family selection category might cause their legal reunification with their family in the United States to take years. When faced with the prospect of being separated from their children for more than a decade during their formative years, some immigrant parents and spouses take recourse to desperate measures in order to reunite sooner (4).

### **1.4.3 Better Life Circumstances**

Individuals from other countries had little knowledge of life in America in previous centuries. The rapid spread of mass communication and mass marketing in today's world has made those in the developing world fully aware of facilities and services that are out of reach in their home countries. Moreover, the internet and social networks based on previous immigrants provide information about job opportunities in the United States that appeal to the aspirant According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), one out of every seven people working in the United States in 2004 was born elsewhere; a decade earlier, only one out of every ten was. Furthermore, the CBO expects a decrease in total labor force growth as the native-born infant

generation retires Despite the economic recession the country faced years ago, The US is still the high requested destination for people who are looking to achieve their dreams. It still has the most active economy in the world. The number of job opportunities is set to jump back to normal. The US is still the place to chase the American dream (Hatch 5).

## **1.5 Types of Immigration in The USA**

### **1.5.1 Naturalized Citizens**

Naturalization is the process through which a lawful permanent resident obtains U.S. citizenship after completing the standards imposed by Congress in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Naturalized Citizens are those who were born in the United States or who become "naturalized" after three or five years as permanent residents. These citizens will never be deported unless they earned their citizenship through deception. You can work lawfully and receive any public benefits for which you qualify. You can also apply for the legal status of your spouse, kid, parent, or sibling (USCIS).

### **1.5.2 Permanent Residents**

#### **1.5.2.1 Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs)**

Belongs to those who have been granted permanent rights to stay and work in the United States. As proof of their legal status, they are given a permanent resident card, sometimes known as a green card. There are various ways to become a permanent resident. In the United States, most people are hosted by a family member or a job. Other people may become permanent residents as a result of refugee or asylum status, or through other protection programs (The Center for Immigration Studies).

#### **1.5.2.2 Conditional Residents**

It is only granted to people who have been married for less than two years before receiving their green card. This type of residency also requires that family members file a joint application to remove the condition within two years of receiving their green card, or their green card will be terminated and they will face deportation. Both types of residents have permission to live and work permanently in the United States, unless they are convicted of a serious criminal offense or some other immigration violation. If they live in the country, they can also apply for legal status for their relatives (LAW OFFICES OF CHENG, CHO & YEE).

### **1.5.2.3 Non-Immigrant Status**

People in this group are lawfully present in the country, but only temporarily. Students (F-1 visa), business visits or tourists (B1/B2 visas), fiancées (K-1 visa), and those awarded temporary protected status are some examples. Some people may have many visas in their passports, but they can only enter the US in one kind of non-citizen status at a time. Usually temporary resident visas are only given to people who have a clear desire to return to their home country (Berkeley International Office).

### **1.5.2.4 Undocumented**

Undocumented immigrants are those who are in the country without authority or illegally. This means they do not have legal status in the United States. They are not permitted to work and do not have access to public services such as health care or a driver's license. Anyone who is undocumented faces deportation or having deportation procedures initiated against them at any time. As a result, living conditions are highly stressful and unstable. People can become undocumented in two ways. The first option, as in my family's case, is to overstay a legitimate

temporary visa. The second option is to enter the United States without passing through a port of entry (LAW OFFICES OF CHENG, CHO & YEE).

## **1.6 Immigration System in The USA**

### **1.6.1. Unrestricted Immigration**

There was no centralized regulation of immigration to North America during the colonial era. Even after the American Revolution ended in 1783, the federal government of the new United States delegated immigration authority to individual states. The United States government did not attempt to create uniformity among states in the rules governing who could become a U.S. citizen until the passage of the Naturalization Act in 1790. After two years of residence in the country, "free white persons" of "good moral character" could become citizens under the Naturalization Act (Smith). Africans and those of African descent did not acquire access to citizenship until 1870. This law, however, had no bearing on who could actually enter the United States (Ewing 2).

The Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 were the first federal laws directly related to immigration, and they included provisions authorizing the President to deport any foreigner deemed dangerous to the United States. The Steerage Act of 1819 was the first federal law devoted explicitly and exclusively to immigration. It required that the passenger manifests of all arriving ships be turned over to the local Collector of Customs, copies be sent to the Secretary of State, and this information be reported to Congress (2)

With the arriving of African slaves and European immigrants, the nation's territory was expanding. In 1819, the United States purchased Florida from Spain. The annexation of Texas in 1845 sparked a war with Mexico, which ended in 1848 when Mexico ceded roughly two-fifths of

its territory to the US, including not only Texas, but also present-day California, Nevada, and Utah, as well as parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming (augmented further by the Gadsden Purchase of 1853) (The Eastern Economic Journal) .

As a result, families and communities that had been part of Mexico for generations found themselves in the United States or separated by a newly defined U.S.-Mexico border. This westward expansion, combined with the discovery of gold in California in 1848, created a huge demand for new workers and settlers, both immigrants and native-born. Meanwhile, crop failures in Germany in the 1840s, the Great Potato Famine in Ireland (1845–1849), and the economic, social, and political turmoil caused by industrialization in Europe all contributed to high levels of immigration. The United States government actively encouraged immigration in order to populate the newly acquired American West (Ewing 3).

### **1.6.2. The Beginning of Centralized Control of Immigration**

After the civil war the focus of public opinion has shifted back to immigration. The growing number of immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe sparked concern and fear among the predominantly Protestant and rural American population. As it was mentioned in the expression of the latest elected president Wilson Woodrow:

Immigrants poured in as before, but... now there came multitudes of men of the lowest

Class from the south of Italy and men of the meanest sort out of Hungary and Poland, men

Out of the ranks where there was neither skill nor energy nor any initiative of quick

Intelligence; and they came in numbers which increased from year to year, as if the

Countries of the south had become more populous." (Martin and Duignan 5)

Fear of foreigners resulted in the imposition of qualitative restrictions aimed at excluding certain types of immigrants (Martin and Midgley 18). The first federal act of 1875 was to exclude particular categories of immigrants such as criminals, prostitutes and Chinese contract laborers, followed by the 1882 Chinese exclusion act that banned the immigration of all Chinese workers from entering the US for 10 years, to be recognized as legal citizens and deport those who were present in the country, the law kept renewed for at least 20 years, another act practiced against “inadmissible aliens” including madmen and those with inability to support themselves economically (Baxter and Nowrasteh 9).

The 1891 act resulted in the creation of the first bureau of immigration within the department of treasury, over the following years the US played much centralization over immigration federal control (the Anarchist exclusion act 1903, the Imbeciles act of 1907, in addition to exclusion of feeble-minded persons, individuals with previous crimes or moral attitude and those with physical or mental disability (Miller 17).

The first enforcement of quantitative restrictions on immigration was introduced in 1921 Quota law, reducing general immigration at about 350,000 per year and limiting immigration from any particular country to 3% of the amount of people originated in the US. This attracted northern European immigrants; while those from the Western Hemisphere (Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean) were excluded from quantitative restrictions. A series of National Acts was later introduced. First, the Origin Act of 1924 that also reduced the overall number of US originated citizens, sooner another complex Quota system was implemented to exclude immigrants from Western Hemisphere including wives, children... the later established “Consular Control System” under which immigrants must have a visas from American consulate in their home country. The law also established specific admission categories for "non-

immigrants" (temporary visitors). The United States Border Patrol was established by a separate act in 1924 (Ewing 4)

Contradictory tendencies chapped the immigration laws in the early years of the Cold War, including the enforcement of Japanese isolation on the one hand, while making it easy for other Asian immigrants, and increasing the humanitarian refugee policies on the other hand. All foreigners over the age of 14 were required to register and be fingerprinted under the Alien Registration Act of 1940, and those with previous membership in proscribed political organizations was grounds for rejection and exile (4-5).

In reaction to the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1942, the federal government gathered approximately 120,000 people of Japanese descent living on the West Coast, up to two of whom were US citizens, and imprisoned them in "relocation" camps until 1945. Nonetheless, an act passed in 1943 authorized the reintroduction of Chinese workers (at a quota of 105 per year) and made people of Chinese descent eligible for naturalization, effectively repealing the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. In 1946, it was extended to Indians and Filipinos, effectively repealing the Barred Zone Act. The Displaced Persons Act of 1948 authorized the admission of up to 205,000 "displaced persons" (refugees), primarily from Soviet-annexed areas of Europe such as the Baltics and Ukraine. Two years later, the Internal Security Act made membership in the Communist Party or any other totalitarian political party grounds for deportation and inadmissibility (5).

## **1.7. Conclusion**

Many different types of people immigrated to America, beginning with the Indians, the founders, and continuing with the massive influx of the four major waves of immigrants. As a

result, the United States became a land of differences, attracting people of various nationalities, races, religions, cultures, and languages for various reasons that drove them to leave their homelands and migrate to the New World in search of liberty, happiness, and democracy. As a result of the uprising waves of immigrant coming to the United States the policy makers offered a large process of reformation for restriction and containment.



## **Chapter Two**

# **Trends of Immigration in the USA after the WWII**

## **2.1. Introduction**

The process of attempting to limit Europeans and putting restriction against Asian was soon completed, to be replaced with a new American immigration policy. After the end of the World War, the system was reformed by Congress, the liberalization accrued gradually causing more people to enter the U.S, which reflected in the rise of immigrants rates that came from different places as well as the changing in patterns in the period after 1945 (Reimers 1). Despite the change in the new immigration policy of US; natives were once more concerned about new arrivals with fears; do they fit well in the society, who benefit from their arrival, the level of harm and whether they are going to change the country or not. The above are few reasons that shaped the attitude of Americans during that time (Fix and Passel).

In This chapter, the investigation will be expanded to explore the continuing policy change occurred in the immigration system of America. In addition to that, in this chapter, there will be an examination of the patterns and attitudes that white Europeans showed against immigrants and highlighting its causes. Lastly, this chapter is going to explore the debate on the immigration system and its current problems.

## **2.2 Post WWII Changes of Immigration System in the USA**

### **2.2.1 U.S Immigration Policy and Reforms**

The evolution of U.S immigration policy did not come at once, the issue of displaced persons lasted for years after the Second War ended, combined with the fall of the iron curtain and the Cold War. The U.S government supported its immigration and naturalization laws to form only one federal policy; The McCarran-Walter Act, also known as the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, allowed the United States to exclude immigration from "ideologically undesirable

countries” (Georgetown University Law Library). Changing the laws dating back to the late 1800s that were aimed to keep Asian immigration out the measure, on the other hand, maintains the ethnicity-based quota system for new immigrants, which benefited white Europeans, but adjusted the limits to admit one-sixth of one percent of each group currently present in the US (Baxter and Nowrasteh 15).

The federal government with the arriving of President Lyndon B. Johnson moves away from the quota system and 1920s norms to introduce “Americans in higher sense”. In 1965, Immigration and Nationality act established a new system that prioritizes family reunion and skilled immigrants over nation quotas. The bill also set the first restrictions on Western Hemisphere immigration. Latin Americans had previously been permitted to enter the United States with little limitations. Since the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act, people born in Asia and Latin America, rather than Europe, have dominated immigration (Cohn).

Due to the influence of the Southeast Asian wars in the 1960s and 1970s, as well as Cuba's revolution in the late 1950s, the problem of refugees remained at the forefront of immigration debate. As a result Congress worked on a bill to standardize US refugee policy, which has previously relied on informal use of presidential release authority. President Jimmy Carter signed the Refugee Legislation of 1980, an amendment to the 1965 immigration act that increased the annual maximum of refugee visas issued from 17,500 to 50,000, excluding these numbers from the overall immigration ceiling, and establishing the Office of Refugee Resettlement (Council of Foreign Relation).

The flow of illegal immigrants formed a tense political alliance between Democrats who sought to provide asylum to illegal immigrants and Republicans who wanted to stop it (Baxter

and Nowrasteh 17). In the attempt to address the estimated three to five million undocumented immigrants in the country, an important measure passed by Congress. The Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) provided legal status to millions of undocumented immigrants, mostly from Latin America who met specific requirements. Four years after the passage of IRCA, Congress passed a new act - the Immigration Act of 1990, also known as IMMACT in order to extend legal immigration pathways and increasing the overall number of visas, similar to previous legislation, it offered an additional 226,000 green cards for family reunification and 140,000 green cards for employment-based immigrants, divided into five preference categories (Georgetown University Law Library).

### **2.2.2. Immigration System in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

The beginning of a new decade witnessed a large increase in immigration numbers. Between 2000 and 2001, it was estimated by 841,000 immigrants. However, these numbers dropped by the beginning of 2001 due to the terrorist attacks of September 11, as a result Congress passed the Patriot Act “protecting the border”. The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was an outcome of a later Security Act named the Homeland Act that was in 2002, and it was replaced by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to overtake the immigration matters. It included all functions of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In an attempt to recreate the DREAM Act that was first introduced in 2001, the California state passed a new version in which it allowed student of illegal residents to join college on a condition to have the ability to apply for legal status once they can do so. However, this act did

not succeed to be replaced by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals presented by president Obama in 2012, which gave illegal immigrants who met several of the newest DREAM Act conditions a two-year work permit and a reprieve from deportation (Georgetown University Law Library).

### **2.3. WWII Immigration Patterns in the USA**

During and after World War II, signs of change began to emerge. The United States hired temporary agricultural workers from Mexico that resulted in an inflow of Mexicans, in addition to the abolition of Asian exclusion restrictions that allowed Asian immigrants to enter. Furthermore; in response to the complexities of international politics during the Cold War, the United States developed a series of refugee programs, accepting refugees from Europe, the Western Hemisphere, and, later, Southeast Asia (Zhao).

Today immigrants are extraordinary diverse, with the change in post-1945 in the United States policy which generally led to the increase of immigrants arriving from different mixed places “Europe, Canada, Mexico including other nations in the Western hemisphere, this change is rooted back to the relationship including political, military, economic contribution of the previous sending countries and the United States (Rumbaut 588). Post-1945 immigrants were more likely to be refugees and to have greater levels of education than before. And the majority of them were females (Reimers 1).

Figure 1 shows the change in the sending countries; from, previously, Europe to be replaced with Western hemispheres immigrants.

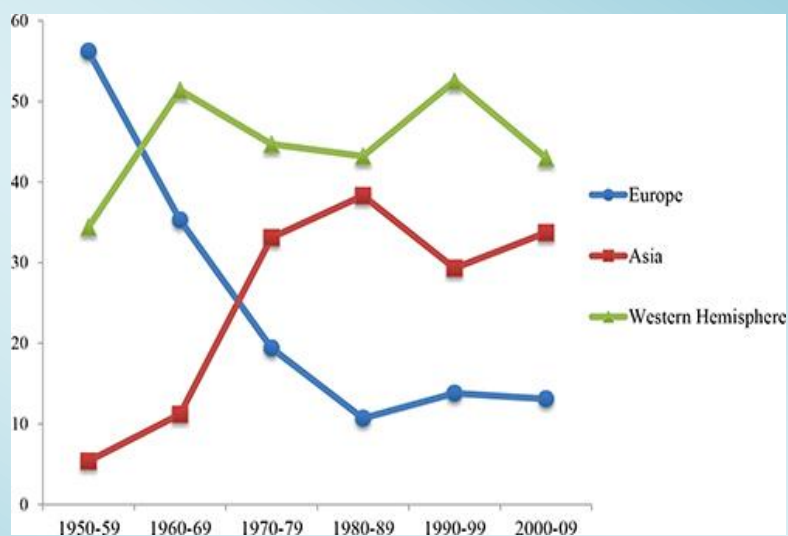


Figure 1. Percentage of Total Immigrants to the United States by Region, 1950–2009.

Source: Yearbooks of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

### 2.3.1. Sex Composition of US Immigrants

Historically, many people believe that traditional immigration was based upon males seeking opportunities to work in countries rather than their own; they assume as well that males outnumbered females among migrants around the world especially after they dominated the labor market of the United States in the nineteenth and twentieth century. Although this has been an exact representation of the United States immigration in the past, the sex composition of migrants has changed accompanied by the shift of the national origin of males and females

immigrants. For over one hundred years, sex composition has shifted mainly to female immigrants (Donato).

Researchers at the Department of Labor identifies a significant and relatively rapid shift in the gender composition of international migration in US after the 1980s, a report was represented ensuring that in 1930 the number of female immigrants reached nearly the half (Donato et al.496).

Sex composition shift differs depending on where immigrants were born; Women outnumber men as legal immigrants from many parts of the world. While Asian nations, such as Vietnam, India, and Iran, send male immigrants, Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, and Japan in the other hand send female immigrants primarily (Donato).

### **2.3.2 Levels of Education and Skills**

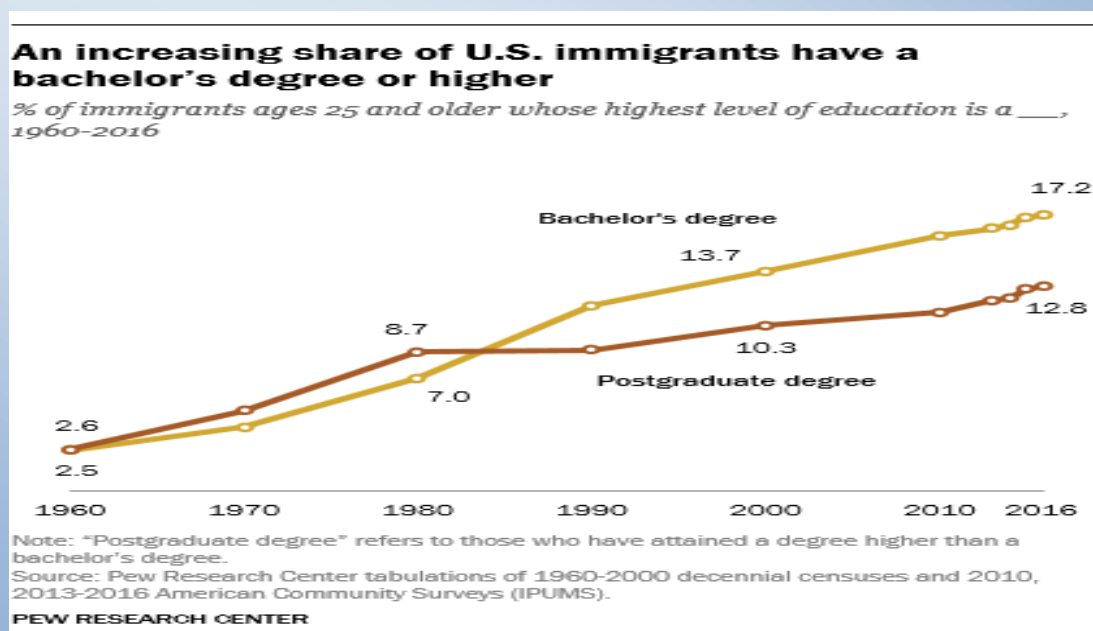
In the past, The American immigration system received high levels of women and children without any educational grades or labor market skills. Today immigrants to the US are a diverse population that comprises highly educated and skilled immigrants, with higher degrees. These immigrants tend to follow the rapid knowledge expansion of the country's economy (Suarez-Orozco 103).

Before 1976, over 70,000 doctors, nurses immigrated to the United States as a result of the skill shortage that the country faced. Then, scientists and other professionals have followed. The majority of these categories came from Europe, but later, they started to come from other countries in the third world. Immigrants from Asia were centered as the highly educated and skilled people in the United States. In 1998 and 1999, immigrant students made up more than half of all physics graduate students according to data, 32% of San Francisco scientists and

engineers accounted for around a third of all Nobel Prize winners in the United States (103-104). According to a Pew Research Center survey of U.S. Census Bureau statistics, 17.2 percent of immigrants of 25 years old held a bachelor's degree in 2016, while another 12.8 percent had a postgraduate degree. Both percentages have increased since 1980, when 7.0 percent had a bachelor's degree and 8.7 percent had a postgraduate degree as shown in figure2 (Krogstad And Radford).

Besides the educational category, immigration includes also a high number of uneducated, unskilled laborers, without valid papers in the United States. The 22% of those immigrants in the United States had less than a ninth-grade education and many of whom are from Latin America, attracted to the US economy's service industry, which presents high demands for foreigners. Immigrants find themselves in low-paying positions that lack basic safety precautions and insurance. Unlike the low-skilled factory employment of the past, the kind of jobs available to low-skilled immigrants now do not offer much hope career progression development (104).

**Figure 2:**





### 2.3.3. The Influx of Refugees

Since the end of the World War Two, influxes of refugees which has exceeded two million are considered as a third shift from previous immigration patterns in the US. The previous meaning of the word refugees was no longer applied under the same category (Reimers 8). In 1930 and with the rise of humanitarian crises and conflicts, the United States found itself developing more programs that were opt to contain more refugees for the same purposes” escaping communist communities, facilitating family reunification... ” (USCIS)

On the other hand, the change occurred within recent immigrants who claimed refugee status since it allows them to enter the country, even if their reasons for emigrating are more economic than fear of political persecution. Refugees differ from the immigrants of the turn of the century, who were primarily driven by economy and were frequently only foreigner looking to make money and return home.

## 2.4 Attitudes toward Immigration in the USA

Several attempts were made by natives to keep new comers out. On the top major events which led to the disapproving attitude between natives are the increase of new groups of immigrants from south and east Europe; as well as, the economic recession of 1880 (Fussell).

The most important factors in the acceptance of immigrants were the interference of native attitudes and opinions in the process of shaping immigrants and creating inter-group relations. Several attempts were made by natives to keep new comers out since the founding of the new colonies (Espenshade and Hempstead 537). Current research on attitudes toward immigrants and immigration policy stretches back to the 1970s, when the consequences of two immigration policies resulted in increased Latin American and Asian immigration, to be followed by the

creation of a restriction organization made by Henry Cabot and forming the restriction league in Boston 1894 to limit the number of those entering US.

Until the end of 1960, the belief of lowering immigration levels was dominated and it was expressed within the 1965 change as well as the Immigration and Nationality act of 1952. The rising acceptance of natives came after they realized that America is becoming a superpower which meant that it has a responsibility to accept more refugees, an expanding postwar economy, and reduced religious and racial prejudice, particularly among the better-educated segments of the population (Espenshade and Hempstead 538); to be soon erupted in early 1980 when a surge of "neorestrictionist" sentiment wished to lower levels of legal immigration, they represent Two-thirds of respondents in an NBC poll in 1981 and a Roper poll in 1982.

#### **2.4.1. Effects of Threat on Attitudes toward Immigrants**

According to the group threat hypothesis, natives who regard immigrants as a threat to their important resources develop negative attitudes toward them as well; several researches has concentrated on the effects of possible threats posed by immigrants on four areas: jobs, economic burden, culture, and physical safety (Igarashi and Ono 3). Berry and Tischler (1978) demonstrated that the intensity of sentiments toward immigrants is substantially related to economic conditions and proposed that economic recessions enhance racial prejudice, as for Palmer (1994) who observed that opposition to immigration rises and falls in parallel with the unemployment rate, whereas indicators of racial prejudice show a long-term drop that is generally unaffected by economic conditions (Palmer).

Several researchers conducted hypothesis about the factors joining together to form attitude towards immigration. In the leading ones, there are labor market competition and the fear of

losing jobs by natives. Individuals, particularly those with lower socioeconomic position, are more likely to adopt negative sentiments about illegal immigrants during periods of economic crisis. If the labor market is divided, with immigrants willing to work half price and natives refusing to do so the anti immigration sentiment will rise (Berg 42).

Second, some natives believe that immigrants will be a threat to the economy since the welfare benefits they receive outweigh the taxes they pay. Extreme right-wing groups frequently support "welfare imperialism," in which natives are alone entitled to benefits. The success of this political strategy is based on natives' dislike for "incapable" immigrants who rely on government assistance, as well as the notion that dependency on welfare will lower natives' financial benefits (or raise natives' financial burden). Concerns like these could be one of the reasons why natives favor high-skilled immigrants over low-skilled ones (Igarashi and Ono 3)

Third, most natives are concerned about the threat of losing their own culture, values, customs in favor of immigrants ones; the establishment of English language among immigrants is considered as a reaction of that. The social identity theory (Tajfel & Turner) suggested that people pursue similarities with their own in-group members and differentiate themselves from out-group members in order to improve their positive self-concept. According to this idea, natives' perceptions of immigrant's individuals threatening their culture and values will drive them to acquire negative views toward out-group members (4).

Researchers already viewed that the American public had good and favorable thoughts toward immigrants who arrived before, but had negative attitudes against those new arriving. Thus, when questioned in a national poll in 1993, Was immigration a good thing or a terrible thing for this country in the past?, 59% said that immigration is a good thing and , 31% said a bad thing (AIPO). Then, when

questioned in the same poll, is immigration a good thing or a negative thing for this country today, 29 percent said a good thing and 60 percent said a terrible thing (Simon and Lynch 458).

## **2.5 The Anti-Immigration Group In the United States**

The rise of anti-immigrant/anti-foreign sentiment in the United States can be traced back to factors that aided in the formation of several groups; these groups frequently collaborate and may have the same leader; most of these groups have direct contact with racist organizations with a strict view of blaming immigrants for all modern problems in the US; they have been able to demonize immigrants by promoting theories and conspiracies that paint immigrants as outcasts the four most prominent organization are the Federation for American Immigration Reform “FAIR”, Voices of Citizens Together/American Patrol, Numbers USA, and the Immigration Reform Law Institute “RLI” (SPLC).

### **2.5.1 The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR)**

It was formed in 1979 by John Tanton Jr. They have "almost 50 private foundations and over 1.9 million varied members and supporters." Reduced immigration, according to FAIR, would enhance the United States' "national security, economy, workforce, education, healthcare system, and environment." The organization advocates for policies that "lower overall immigration to a more normal level," which it defines as 300,000 individuals per year (Bridge Initiative Team).

### **2.5.2 The American Border Patrol (ABP)**

it was formally established by Glenn Spencer. It is one of several organizations that believe private citizens are justified in taking the law into their own hands and arresting illegal

immigrants, Spancer founded the anti-immigrant extremist organization Voices of Citizens Together (VCT), which would later become ABP in 1992 with the same old ideas and programs, such as the California's contentious Proposition 187 , that was intended to strengthen California law enforcement officials' ability to apprehend illegal immigrants and deny public benefit (SPLC).

### **2.5.3 Number USA**

It is an activist group founded by Roy Beck after he wrote his book “The Case Against Immigration “, unlike other anti-immigration groups, it was organized based on supporting the Federation for American Immigration Reform, their main focus connected with environmental and financial issues in a prices goals like, limiting the yearly immigration numbers, continued permanent immigration, as well as illuminate illegal immigration and replace with an open visited policy for students, visitors, tourist (Ballotpedia).

### **2.5.4 The Immigration Reform Law Institute**

It was founded in 1987; it is a supporting organization of the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) with Dale L. Wilcox as the executive director. IRLI is a law company dedicated to governmental awareness campaigns that were created to protect the right of Americans from the challenges opposed by mass migration including suing cities and states that have passed ordinances and laws welcoming immigrants (Ballotpedia).

## **2.6 The Immigration Debate in the USA**

The United States has always been a nation of immigrants and a home for a lot of people seeking political, religious freedoms in addition to economic opportunities; in one condition, that

they bring benefits to the nation in all several fields “knowledge, talent, culture diversity, labor force...”. By looking at the previous restrictions and legislation we can tell that the debate about immigration is not something new, there is still a number of problems in the US immigration policy that need attention (Smith and Edmonston 15).

### **2.6.1. The Immigration Debate Motivations in the US**

Three events helped in the rise of the immigration debate in the United States, the first one was in November 1994 with the passage of the Proposition Act known as “Save our State”. The act was a result of business man and elite interests’ hostile performance to stimulate US citizens against the poor, undocumented and illegal immigrants as well as reporting them if there’s any case of suspicion, it also states to prevent them from all means of social services. The act required teachers, state employers, nurses to review the legal status of students before they allow them to attend school or receive medical care in hospitals (Mehan 250).

The act gained support from rural areas and among uneducated people, but it never passed because the majority of its clauses were found unconstitutional and they violated the congress power ideas that states only federal government has the authority to create and enforce immigration laws. Another problem emerged in 2001 and with the election of president “George W. Bush” of the United States and “Vicente Fox” of Mexico. The public held big hopes for the recent group of reforms in the immigration system, however the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks brought different plans. The United States shifted its focus on economic and social effects of immigration to another aspect that maintains the security and protection of US from other terrorist attacks, along with, came the creation of a more restrictive policy as well as the organization of immigration department control (Hollifield 271).

### 2.6.2. Recent Problems in the Immigration System

One of the main problems facing the US Immigration System is unauthorized migration, in which employers hire people without authorization to work, whether they know about the person status “willingly “or not. Most migrants use driver license and social security card for identity and authorization to work. While both could be faked easily, immigrants will continue to enter the country illegally in order to get jobs. Although Congress focused in The Basic Pilot Program on the verification of the authorizations of workers, there still some problems in the system since it confuses between the authorized workers and those who borrow identities. For that not only the quality and mechanism should be verified instead, a new system should be updated based on biometric information. The verification itself would not work because there still employers benefit from those undocumented workers, they could violate wage and hour laws, child labor laws as well as safety and protection laws. The most benefit resided in working without complaining (Martin 24).

Another situation faced by the US government is the reality of temporary and permanent admission. Most workers get an opportunity for temporary residence asking for jobs and after a journey of employment they automatically became permanent either by the insistence of employers or by their plantation that include, benefit by forming houses, giving birth to children, better opportunities for them and their ties. The line between temporary and permanent admission is no longer clear that’s why the H-1B and L visas take into consideration the category of “dual intent” residence; for people seeking who want to stay in the United States. Aside from the remaining problems in the US immigration system, the complexity remains the most important one. In fact the nuanced and the unlimited reproduction of visas are so difficult that these days it require professional assistance to essence the benefits (28- 29)

## 2.7 Conclusion

Along with the change in immigrant patterns in the United States and the shift within most new comers, the attitude of Native American had changed as well. General public in the United States has a variety of opinions about immigrants living in the country. While some view immigrants positively, and believe that they benefit the country because of their hard work and talents; the majority held an opposite view. They believe immigrants burden the country by taking jobs, housing, and health care. In overall Americans were divided into two diverse opinions with half believe legal immigration to the United States should be reduced, and the other believe immigration should be maintained at current levels, or it should be increased.



## **Chapter Three**

### **Effects of Immigration in the USA**

### 3.1 Introduction

Migration has always been a process in which different ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious groups come into contact with each other, creating many challenges for both migrants and host communities (Hugo1). Today, the United States is a home to the largest immigrant population in the world. According to new projections from the Pew Research Center, immigrants will make up a record of 18% of the U.S. population in 2065, up from 14% today and 5% in 1965. Immigrants and their children will make up 36% of the U.S. population in 2065 (BUDIMAN).

While some are concerned about the economic impact of immigration, although research has refuted the claim that immigrants affect wages and compete with natives, others focus on the social and cultural changes that immigrants bring to the United States (Massey 631). The focus of this chapter, therefore, is to understand the extent to which immigrants impacted the economical sides in the US, as well as the Euro-American society in the United States in other words how the US society and its culture might change as a result of this incorporation.

### 3.2. The Economic Effects of Immigration in the USA

Most Americans believe that the recent United States Immigration System is flawed, as it is evidenced by the arrival of recent immigrants, who are divided into skilled and educated immigrants with PHDs from American universities, as well as the 11 million unauthorized immigrants who live and work in the United States (Greenstone and Looney 1). In a field of assumption asserts that these immigrants affect negatively the US economy in a variety of ways. We tried to highlight some of the positive influence of immigrants on the whole economy which sparked the controversy and should be taken into consideration.

### 3.2.1. The Labor Market

The labor market impact of immigration is defined not only by the quantity and location of the immigrant population, but also by the skills that immigrants bring to the labor market—specifically, how immigrants' abilities compare to those of natives. Figure3 shows the level of PHD recipient in STEM programs who stayed in the US. It is not surprising, that the influence of immigration on the United States labor market is now being highly discussed among many experts who have attempted to examine how the United States labor market has changed as a result of large-scale immigration over the last few decades (Bojas1-3).

**Figure3 :**

Degree field	2011–13 foreign doctorate recipients	5-year stay rate (%)	2006–08 foreign doctorate recipients	10-year stay rate (%)
Total	39,250	71	38,000	72
Biology, agriculture, health	9,250	74	9,400	73
Computer and mathematics	5,400	78	5,100	75
Physical sciences	6,150	67	6,400	71
Social scientists	4,900	52	4,100	47
Engineering	13,500	75	13,000	77

Table 1. Number of international Ph.D. Students that Stay in the U.S. after Graduation.

Source: Journal of Academy of Business and Economics, 2020, Issue 3, 67-76

A number of recent studies have concentrated on the big picture of immigration's effects on the American labor market, overlooking a number of advantages. First, because immigrants are a mix of skilled and unskilled workers, their contributions are already divided; low-skilled immigrants are taking new jobs to advance in the economy, whereas high-skilled immigrants

provide public services and technological experience to the United States. Furthermore, immigrants fill employer gaps and do not compete with natives; rather, they supplement the American workforce (Bolin 9).

Second, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicted a fast increase in jobs and the opening of more than half of all jobs between 2002 and 2012 for both skilled and low-skilled workers. On the other hand, the supply of American workers needed to fill such jobs is declining due to rising education levels and an aging population, making immigrants the perfect alternative for the remaining jobs. Immigration offers a solution to the most common problem, an aging population. With the retirement of aging natives, the nation's industrial labor will suffer from a shortage; for this reason, the U.S. is filling the labor shortage with the young immigrant generation (10).

Immigrants increase both the supply of labor in the United States and domestic consumer demand for goods and services. More demand and more workers can lead to the production of more goods, which increases U.S. GDP. Immigration allows the nation to specialize in producing what it can best produce and to consume what it cannot produce itself (11).

### **3.2.2. Fiscal impact**

Immigrants in the United States are contributors to the federal budget; whether they came illegally or authorized economists' accord that immigrants contribute in Tax more than they receive in benefit. However the fiscal impact differs within the state levels (Hirschman).

State and local governments put their emphasis on children, but the federal government focuses on the elderly. Children's investments take time to show off until they become taxpaying adults, with only a small part of their future return goes to local and state governments. The federal government in the other hand receives between two to three-fourths. Furthermore, future

returns have a lower current value due to the discounting of future income, which contributes to negative consequences for local and state governments. For these reasons the Net Present Value (NPVs) for children considered negative (Bolin 6).

The federal government, on the other hand, gets a worker's taxes thirty years before paying out his old age payments. As a result of the discounting of future cash flows, these benefit payments have a lower NPV than taxes. The fact that the federal government collects the majority of payroll taxes rather than states and localities, along with the lower NPV of old age benefits paid by the federal government in comparison to earlier tax payments, results in an overall positive NPV at the federal level (6).

Earlier scholars relied on the National Research Council publication in estimating the fiscal effect of immigration. According to the 1997 assessment, low-educated immigrants, impose a net fiscal burden during their lifetimes, but high-educated immigrants, those with a college degree or higher, represent a net fiscal advantage. Using a similar pattern technique, Lee and Miller (2000) discovered that the early fiscal impact of immigrants and their families is negative due to their low early incomes and the costs of teaching their children. Yet, the impact of a single immigrant becomes positive after around 16 years (Orrenius 3).

With all what we have seen above, we suggest that the economy absorbs immigrants by expanding job opportunities rather than by displacing workers born in the United States.

### **3.2.3. Recent Statistics and Dynamics**

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) analysis concluded that foreigner families presently consume more public services than they pay in taxes, based on data. The present fiscal cost imposed on all levels of government by immigrant families is expected to differ between \$11

billion and \$20 billion, when overall expenses exceed \$2.6 trillion each year, the additional budgetary burden is quite small. However, the statistics clearly reveal that, at the moment, immigrant families represent a net drain on public finances. According to a study that examines the current net fiscal impact of immigrant families on the state, local, and federal government in California and New Jersey, results shows that immigrants pay more taxes than they consume in federal services in both states. The study goes on to reveal significant differences between immigrant groups, with European and Canadian immigrants with benefits and Asian and Latin immigrants with negative effects, and these differences are mostly related to the age, education level, and family size of immigrants from different countries (Camarota and Bouvier 7-8).

Immigrant families have a negative impact on the government purse since they use more educational services ; they receive more in state and local government-funded income transfers because they are poorer than natives; and they pay less in taxes because they earn less than natives on average. The only reason immigrant families benefit the government budget is because they are assumed to impose no additional costs on pure public goods such as defense. That is, regardless of the number of immigrants that enter the nation, the US defense budget is expected to remain unchanged. As a result, only natives pay military expenses (8).

In accessing the economic benefit of immigration in the United States economy, there are several data to predict the benefits of illegal immigrants which are considered as a problem facing the US. They work with low wages as a result the products will have low costs that benefit the American consumer. In addition, concerning the problem of natives' earnings, we have concluded that the economy absorbs immigrants by expanding job opportunities rather than by displacing workers born in the United States.

### **3.3. The Social and Political Effect of Immigration on the USA**

In the American history, the concept of a common society in which all members are fully integrated and socially equal has been more of an ideal than a reality. Since the beginning of their arrival, immigrants were accused by their disability of adapting to the American society. The measurement of the way in which immigrant integrates is a difficult task.

#### **3.3.1. The Impact on Population**

Immigration has a major impact on population size, distribution, and composition. Researchers suggest that the contribution of immigration to U.S. population growth increased when U.S. fertility declined from a peak of 3.7 children per woman in the late 1950s to 2.1 children. Between 1990 and 2010, the number of foreign-born U.S. citizens nearly doubled from 20 million to 40 million, while the U.S. population grew from nearly 250 million to 310 million. Therefore, immigration directly contributed one-third of U.S. population growth, with the number of U.S.-born children and grandchildren of immigrants are included, immigration contributed more than half of U.S. population growth (Martin 5).

Today, the US composition is changing to mostly Asians and Hispanics. There are four major racial/ethnic categories in the U.S.: White non-Hispanic, Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians. In 1970, about 83% of the 203 million U.S. residents were White non-Hispanic and 6% were Hispanics or Asians. In 2010, when the U.S. population was 308 million, two-thirds were non-Hispanic whites and 20 percent were Hispanic or Asian. It is suggested if current trends continue, the share of whites in the U.S. population will decline to 52 percent by 2050, while the combined share of Hispanics and Asians will increase to one-third (5).

#### **3.3.2 The Integration of Immigrants**

Integration is defined as the process by which members of the immigrant and host societies assemble. It has both an economic and a socio-cultural dimension, begins with the immigrant generation till the second one. The integration process depends on the participation of immigrants and their descendants in important social institutions such as schools and the labor market, as well as on their social acceptance by other Americans (Waters and Pineau<sup>2</sup>). One of the fundamental assumptions about the social consequences of migration is the immigrant's ability and conditions for integration in the receiving society, the complemented social policies that drive immigrant's integration. Although integration is not only related to these policies, a range of social processes interfere (Dávila 252).

### **3.3.3 The Effect on Community Institutions**

Immigrants have influenced a wide range of institutions in the United States. In many cases, new arrangements and programs have been developed for the needs of the recent wave of immigrants by utilizing services such as schools and hospitals. In some cases, entirely new institutions were established for them, and immigrants have a greater impact on community institutions in cities with a greater experience with immigrants (Foner 13).

#### **3.3.3.1. Schools**

In many cities, the number of immigrants has been responsible for a dramatic increase in the number of students. In New York City, for example, the number of public school students has exceeded one million. Between 1990 and 1996, about 60% of the students in the city's public schools were immigrants or children of immigrants, resulting in severe overcrowding. Skills and backgrounds are the main factors in the influence immigrants play in resident cities; they also tend to surround themselves with highly qualified students from other countries due to language



difficulties. In recent years, entirely new types of middle and high schools have sprung up in places like New York City, San Francisco, and Guilford County, North Carolina. The schools are designed to help students adjust socially and emotionally to life in the United States and learn about American culture (13-15).

### **3.3.3.2. Hospitals**

Recent immigration has also affected hospitals. The origins of the workforce have shifted; foreign-born physicians, nurses, and nursing assistants now make up a significant portion of the nation's health care workforce. In 2005, one-quarter of all physicians and surgeons in the United States were foreign-born; in 2008, one in six nurses were also foreign-born. In addition, the patient population has also changed due to immigration. Hospitals are facing new challenges and have launched new programs and initiatives to address the growing number of immigrants they serve that includes; relying on bilingual family members, hiring interpreters or outside telephone translation services, or untrained staff to interpret patients (16).

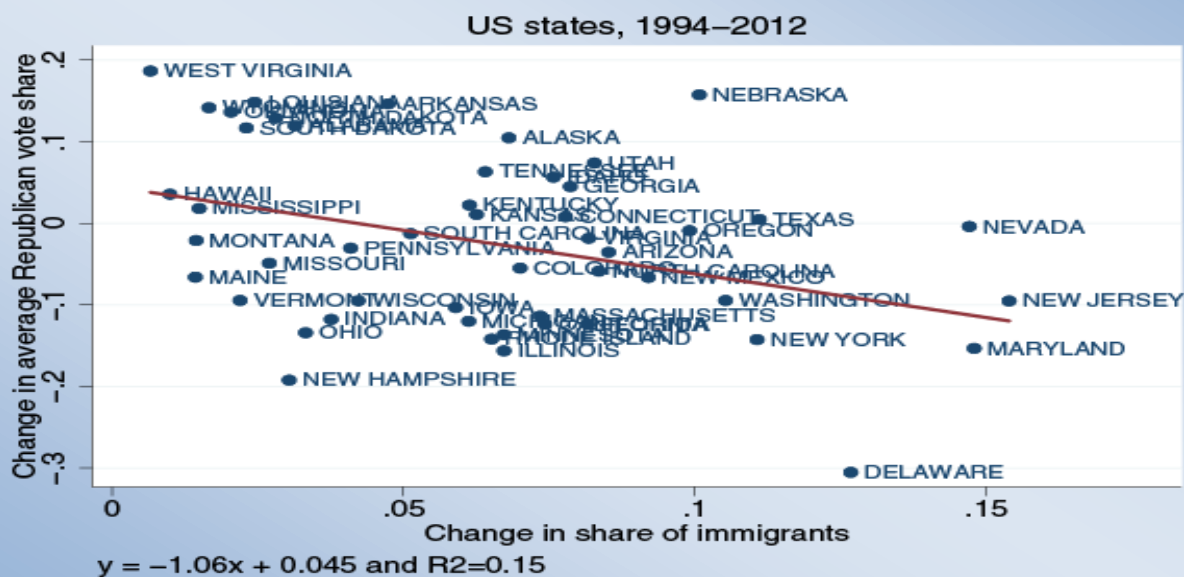
### **3.3.4. The Impact of Immigration on Electoral Politics**

Immigrant voters have influenced both Democratic and Republican turnout. In 1980, more whites in the United States supported Democrats than Republicans. In 2010, the reverse was true, with significantly more white Republicans than white Democrats. At the same time, the Democratic Party has become incredibly popular among immigrants. According to a Pew Research Center poll, racial minorities made up 40% of registered voters who identified with or supported the Democratic Party in 2019. Figure 4 shows that according to (Peri, Mayda, and Steingress), research on immigrants and election outcomes in the U.S. shows that, on average,

immigration in a U.S. reduces the electoral success of the Republican Party, particularly in House elections (Foner).

Immigration played a major role in these changes; between 1996 and 2019, 15% to 30% authorized minority voters in the national electorate go for Democratic. Many whites, particularly non-college educated whites, have been drawn to the Republican Party and its anti-immigrant and anti-minority appeals, motivated in part by fears, anxieties, and resentments that millions of mostly non-white newcomers will undermine the nation's fundamental identity and marginalize and disadvantage whites (Foner).

**Figure 4:** Correlation: Republican vote share vs. Immigration Share



**Source:** Peri, Mayda, and Steingress

Figure 4 shows the simple correlation between the change in the Republican vote share between 1994 and 2012 and the change in the total number of immigrants as a share of the adult

population in U.S. states over the same period. The graphical representation is clear, and the statistical significance of the regression coefficient confirms it: there is a negative and high correlation between the increase in the immigrant population share and the Republican vote share. The Republican Party received 1% fewer votes in states where the immigrant share of the population increased by 1% (Pew Research Center).

As argued above, studying the social impact of immigration provides a way to analyze and appreciate how immigrants are remaking and reshaping America, but the question of whether immigrants are accepted as full members of the host society remains in question. By analyzing the social impact of immigration also, we can examine the impact of immigration on specific institutions and policy issues with which immigrants are associated in constituencies.

### **3.4. The Cultural Effect of Immigration**

The United States was culturally homogeneous and controversial at its formation. Historians in the previous century doubted about “German, Irish, Catholic, Poles, Italians, and Jews” immigrants for their predatory influence on the primary culture of US. These Immigrants face a variety of challenges, including learning a new language, living and working among strangers, and coping with the unfamiliar. The arrival of new immigrants to the United States has reformed the American debate over the effect of mass migration. Many concerns have attacked the economic sides, while others have focused on cultural differences (Griswold).

#### **3.4.1 The Acculturation of Immigrants**

To understand the process of acculturation, Suarez-Orozco distinguishes between two levels of culture: the "instrumental culture" and the "expressive culture." Instrumental culture includes skills and social behaviors necessary to successfully make a living and contribute to society. By

"expressive culture," he meant the realm of values, worldviews, and the formation of interpersonal relationships that make sense and enhance self-awareness (Suarez-Orozco 183).

According to Milton Gordon, Acculturation occurs when members of an ethnic group begin to adopt the cultural elements of the receiving society, such as language, dress style, diet, religion, values, and musical taste. It is distinguished by a transitory period during which immigrants adopt elements of the new culture while retaining elements of their own/old culture (Hamberger 7).

### **3.4.2. The Effect of Art**

The contribution of recent immigrants or their children to American culture expanded to every aspect of cultural life, including music. Today's music would not be perfect without "the polish, Italians, Australians, and Russian musicians" such as Leopold Stokowski, Bela Bartok, Joe Iturbi, and Arturo Toscanini. With many others who are equally important, such as hundreds of musicians who play in US orchestras, conduct small symphonies, teach music to natives and their children, and spread the joy of making and hearing beautiful sounds. However, all of these men came from countries with discriminatory quotas, which prevent many others like them from sharing their talents (Burma.285-286).

Concerning the field of sculpture which was not popular in the United States, considering the fact that immigrants have been the most prominent sculptors for over one hundred years. Earliest and most famous of all was French-Irish Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Among the many famous statues he created are the Memorial to Colonel Shaw on Boston Common, the equestrian statue of General Sherman in New York's Central Park and many others (286).

### **3.4.3. The Effect of Racial and Ethnic Diversity**

The United States has become more complicated and even contradictory as it has become more racially and ethnically diverse. Most people think it's a good thing that the country has a diverse population, but they also think it brings its own set of challenges. According to a new Pew Research Center survey, while the majority values workplace diversity, few support the idea of considering race or ethnicity in hiring and promotions. The majority of US citizens are satisfied. In overall, white, black, and Hispanic adults are together equally saying it's a good thing that the United States' population is racially and ethnically diverse, and majorities in all of these groups believe it has had a positive impact on American culture (Horowitz).

### **3.4.4. The Effect of Religion**

With this population change, the religious composition of legal immigrants has shifted as well. However, the US government does not count the religion of new permanent residents. As a result, the religious affiliations are estimates produced by combining government statistics on the birthplaces of the green card recipients between 1992 and 2012. In 2012 the estimated share of legal permanent residents who are Christian has fallen while, estimated share of green card recipients from religious minorities increased. Unauthorized immigrants, on the other hand, are mostly from Latin America and the Caribbean, with a majority of Christians which considered higher than the percentage of Christians in the general population of the United States (Pew Research Center).

Thus, new immigrants to the United States are more Catholic and Orthodox, and less Protestant than Americans. In general, new immigrants are also tending to be less Christian. Research showed in 2003, 35 percent of non-Christian immigrants were Muslim, 28

percent were Hindu, 21 percent were Buddhist, and 6 percent were Jewish. Therefore, some religious groups have been hit harder than others by the decline in religious affiliation. While religions, such as Islam and Hinduism, have grown in popularity in the United States in recent years, Catholicism has suffered the most from a significant drop in membership over the life course (Pew Research Center).

What we think of a uniquely American culture; the food, the music, the films, and the books are all a participations of Immigrants and their children. Immigrants are overrepresented in a broad range of rare achievements, including Nobel Prize winners, leading scientists and top performing and creative artists. They have broadened the United States cultural outlook and have sometimes even defined American culture through literature, music, and art. Immigrants are, by definition, bicultural, and sometimes multicultural. They can navigate multiple languages and understand how people from different backgrounds think and respond.

### **3.5. Conclusion**

With the arrival of a new decade and the globalization created by new waves of displaced immigrants, the United States is undergoing rapid economic, social, and cultural transformation. Immigrants and their children who integrated successfully contribute to economic strength as well as a lively and ever-changing culture. Americans have provided opportunities for immigrants and their children to better themselves and become fully integrated members of American society, as professor Foner states “Immigration’s impact on this country has become so much a part of daily life that we sometimes fail to see it.”. Though it is hard to measure the changes, immigration is still occurring. Data and researches estimated great benefit to the United States in the three fields with erasing the misconceptions brought with it.

# **General Conclusion**

The various nationalities, languages, cultures, religions, and races of the newcomers made the United States a land of differences. Immigrants fled to the New World, which represented a land of opportunity, in search of happiness, liberty, and democracy after being persecuted and oppressed in their home countries. They aimed to better their lives and accomplish what they could not in their home countries.

The change in the immigration policy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the shift of immigrant patterns that become diverse not only by race, resulted in the different actions taken by natives in which they consider it as a threat to themselves and their nation as well. The threat in its position and the recent problem in the system resulted in the creation of several anti-immigration groups.

We cannot deny that in every system there are downsides and benefits. Concerning migration, this research has shown the argument against immigration, by highlighting several points. First, the attacks concerning Native American loss of jobs and opportunities as well as lowering their wages. In this investigation, we have found according to most Economists that immigration has a positive impact on the US economy. Immigrants cannot replace native-born workers or lower their wages in the long run, though they may cause some short-term labor market disruptions. In fact the recent history suggests that immigration has significant long-term benefits for the natives stimulating them into higher-paying occupations and increasing the overall rate of innovation and productivity growth.

The study also concludes that since 1965, the first priority of US visa policy was to attract and accept highly skilled workers and professionals. Today, a look at the faculty of



any major research university in the United States reveals a wide range of different backgrounds, which attracted and maintained as the best and brightest from around the world.

Furthermore, the study moves the discussion further and deeper into the cultural and social dimensions of migration trying to reveal the many aspects such as the integration of immigrants into the US society especially in community institutions. Additionally, the study goes further in understanding the concept of immigrant's acculturation. We clearly understand that there are immigrant values in food, culture, and music. Researchers wonder who can deny the value of "Italian restaurants, French beauty shops, breweries, Belgian chocolate stores, Russian ballets, Chinese market Indian tea houses." Because of the globalization of food, culture, and artistic expression, The United States with its greater diversity has higher wages. This influences the level of productivity among native citizens

Finally, According to the findings of our research, immigration benefits the American economy in the long run. As a result, the United States continues to accept immigrants to this day. Despite facing serious immigration issues such as illegal immigration and the fear of undermining American identity and culture, the United States prefers to reform the immigration system rather than abolish it. This demonstrates the significance of immigration to America.

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## ملخص

كانت تعد الولايات المتحدة لفترة طويلة أرضاً للفرص، حيث يستطيع المهاجرون تحقيق طموحاتهم. لا تزال الهجرة في طبيعة المناقشات السياسية اليوم. فالناس يهاجرون وينتشرون في كل أنحاء العالم نتيجة عوامل متنوعة. وكما كانت أي دولة مزدهرة، رحبت الولايات المتحدة بموجات كبيرة من المهاجرين الذين حولوا البلاد. وفي نهاية المطاف، دفع هذا القانون المواطنين الأمريكيين إلى المطالبة بخفض أعداد المهاجرين. وقد نشأت هذه المطالب نتيجة لفشل الوافدين الجدد في الاندماج في المجتمع الأمريكي. يهدف هذا البحث إلى التحقيق في موجات الهجرة العديدة التي جاءت للولايات المتحدة بدوافعها التاريخية والحديثة، بالإضافة إلى الجانب المفاهيمي لسياسة الهجرة في الولايات المتحدة قبل الحرب العالمية الثانية، وإصلاح سياسة جديدة بعدها. بالإضافة إلى شرح للنقاش الدائر حول الهجرة والسلوك المتبع من قبل المواطنين ضد المهاجرين. فضلاً عن ذلك فإن هذه الرسالة تعتمد على تحليل البيانات من أجل التوصل إلى تأثير المهاجرين في البلدان الأصلية والبلدان المضيفة على المستويات الثلاثة للاقتصاد والمجتمع والحياة الثقافية. وتشير النتائج التي توصلت إليها الدراسة الشاملة إلى أنه على الرغم من الافتراض الطفيف بشأن العيوب التي تشوب التأثير الاقتصادي، إلا أن الفوائد المترتبة على هذه المعتقدات الزائفة تتفاهم؛ بعبارة أخرى، التأثير الذي يلعبه المهاجر على كل من المجتمع والثقافة ساهم في بناء قيم الولايات المتحدة التي نراها اليوم.

### **الكلمات المفتاحية:**

أرضاً للفرص، المناقشات السياسية، موجات كبيرة، الاندماج في المجتمع الأمريكي، سياسة الهجرة في الولايات المتحدة،

قيم الولايات المتحدة