U.S. Border Security and Immigration Control

Week 3
Latest Developments

Information Cutoff Date: December 2, 2019
WHAT WE’LL LEARN IN WEEK 3

Over the past several years there have been a number of changes and attempted changes (many blocked by the courts) re-interpreting U.S. government laws and revising regulations related to Border Security and Immigration Control. In this lesson we will attempt to capture the situation in the last two U.S. Presidential administrations and then place the latest changes and attempted changes in context. This week ends (if time allows) with a critical thinking analysis of the facts, logic, and reasoning of different perspectives on immigration.
Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013 was a bipartisan initiative passed by the Democrat-controlled U.S. Senate (68 to 32) and supported by President Obama.

- Bipartisan “Gang of 8” were principal drafters and co-sponsors of the bill: Bennet (D), Durbin (D), Flake (R), Graham (R), McCain (R), Menendez (D), Rubio (R), Schumer (D).

Bill included:

- Increase border security and law enforcement resources, including expanding Secure Fences program.
- Merit-based permanent immigration based on professional skills, family relations, work history in U.S. (offered path to citizenship for undocumented persons in the U.S.)
- System for undocumented persons to earn their chance for citizenship, pay fine/community service for misdemeanor illegal border crossing.
- Overhaul temporary visa system to support needs of U.S. economy.
- Job programs for low income and minimally skilled U.S. citizens.

Bill was never addressed in Republican-controlled U.S. House due to lobbying from conservative media and from conservatives in U.S. House opposed to provisions allowing immigrants who arrived in U.S. illegally being given a path to citizenship (i.e., amnesty).

This was last serious U.S. government bipartisan effort on immigration.
At start of President Obama’s first term (2009) he focused DHS/ICE on criminal alien deportations. Essentially doubled annual criminal alien deportations of past presidents—awarded title of “Deporter-in-Chief.”

In 2012, he used executive authority to defer deportations of almost 1 million young undocumented aliens who were brought to U.S. as children (referred to as DACA or DREAMERS).

In 2014, after bi-partisan Senate Immigration act failed, he used executive authority to defer deportation of approximately 5 million undocumented persons—these were mainly the families of DACA registrants and families of children born in the US and thus are US citizens, but where their family members remained undocumented (affected 750,000 persons in Texas alone).

The 2012 DACA and 2014 executive orders affected almost 6 million of the estimated 11.5 million undocumented immigrants in the US (primarily those the 2013 bipartisan Senate Act would have given path to citizenship).

April 2016, the US Supreme Court heard arguments and in June 2016 found the President’s 2014 executive order unconstitutional. (DACA hearings held by Supreme Court in Nov. 2019 and we are awaiting ruling.)
OTHER KEY ISSUES BEFORE 2017

- **Secure Communities Program (2008-2014): A Law Enforcement Partnership with ICE** - allowed a state and local law enforcement entity to enter into a partnership with ICE in order to receive training and delegated authority (i.e., be deputized) for immigration enforcement within their jurisdictions. Cancelled due adverse state & local government criticism and public outcries.

- **Arizona SB 1070 The Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act** - among other immigrant-focused provisions it (1) made failure to carry immigration documents a crime and (2) required state law enforcement officials to determine the immigration status of anyone they stop if the officials have reason to believe that the individual might be an undocumented immigrant. US Supreme Court ruled #1 (documents requirement) unconstitutional but allowed #2 (immigration status checks).

- **Priority Enforcement Program (PEP—since July 2015)** - relies on fingerprint data obtained during state and local law enforcement bookings, with ICE notified and taking custody of immigrants previously convicted of a criminal offense—but participation in PEP is voluntary.
Many cities, counties, and at least six U.S. states, have passed laws and ordinances banning government employees from asking people about their immigration status (including police) and in many cases do not cooperate with U.S. immigration officials. Fourteen states, D.C., & Puerto Rico also issue undocumented persons drivers licenses.

DOJ trying to limit federal law enforcement grants to those jurisdictions with sanctuary/freedom policies—courts blocked. Trump Administration threatens to release detained immigrants into sanctuary/freedom jurisdictions.
The major focus of the US immigration system, overseen by DHS’ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, is to protect the legal immigration system, allowing over 185 different types of visas to enter the US:

- **Immigrant Visas**: to stay permanently in US for family unity, needed skills or talents, hemispheric quotas, etc.—these immigrants usually seek permanent alien status (Green Cards) and may eventually become naturalized US citizens.
- **Non-Immigrant Visas**: for those who do not want to permanently emigrate but must have visas to enter the US for business, tourism, students, temporary work, etc.—US has reciprocity agreements with many countries that waive the advance approval for non-immigrant visa requirements for business and tourism (examples: United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, etc.—get Visa at border as you enter).

**Legal Immigration Quotas**
- **Immigrant Visas**
  - Immediate Family - No Quotas
  - Family Sponsored - 226,000 to 480,000
  - Foreign Workers - 140,000
  - Diversity Lottery - 55,000
  - Refugees - Set by White House

**Non-Immigrant Visas**
- Varies by year but usually 70 million to 90 million issued

675,000 total (but flexible)
Lesson: Legal U.S. Immigration is a complicated and often long process leading to issue of a Green Card.
### For Legal Permanent Visas

#### Legal Immigration Approvals

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#### Total Exceed 675,000 Annual Quotas Due to Family Visas with No Quotas

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### Source: WWW.TRAVEL.STATE.GOV
Sample of Foreign Worker Visa Types:

EB1-3 Permanent due adv. degrees, prof. skills, etc. (no sponsor-140,000 q.)
H1B Temporary in special occupations (need sponsor) (65,000 annual limit)
H2B Temporary in non-agricultural jobs (need sponsor) (66,000 annual limit)
H2A Temporary agricultural/seasonal jobs, 3 year limit (need sponsor)
How to become a US Citizen?

- Be born in the US
- Be born of US Citizen parent living outside the US
- Be Naturalized:
  - Be 18 years old (can get earlier through parents’ citizenship if younger)
  - Be legally in the US at least 30 months of the 5 years since legal entry (3 years if married to US Citizen)
  - Be of good moral character (no crimes)
  - Read, speak, write English (exception if over 55 or been in U.S. 20 years)
  - Knowledge of US History
  - Take oath of allegiance (must be careful of dual citizenship).
Refugee law is closely related to international human rights law. Key documents include:

- **1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees** provided basic guidance still in use; expands on the **1948 UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, which defines the basic civil liberties for all persons.

- **1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees** defined a refugee as “[a] person who owing to a well-founded fear of being **persecuted** for reasons of **race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion**, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”


- **1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees** extended definition of refugees to “[p]ersons who flee their countries because their lives, safety or freedom have been threatened by **generalized violence**, foreign aggression, **internal conflicts**, **massive violation of human rights** or other circumstances which have **seriously disturbed public order**.” (non-binding; U.S. not signatory; Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras are signatories)

Overall, refugee law leaves the individual state to decide the requirements for refugee approval and how many refugees to approve annually for entry.
Current World Refugee Situation and Several “Hot Spots”

- **M.E. & Africa to EU**
- **Central America & Mexico to U.S.**
- **Venezuela to Neighbors, U.S., MX.**

**Refugee Snapshot**
- 45M-70M World Displaced Persons
- 34M Potential Refugees in UNHCR Camps
- 57% Potential Refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, & South Sudan
- Most Potential Refugees in Germany (1.1M), Sudan (1.1M), Uganda (1.2M), Pakistan (1.4M), & Turkey (3.7M)
U.S. Southwest Border Immigration Trends:

After falling to 1970’s levels in later years of Obama administration, since 2016 number of immigrant apprehensions have increased over graph trends.

Immigrants include more unaccompanied children and family units than in past.

Number of immigrants from countries other than Mexico have increased.
Annual Quotas Set by White House in Consultation with The Congress

Pre-2017

How Refugees Get to the U.S.

OVERSEAS

U.S. BORDER

UNITED STATES

OVERSIGHT

Feeling Persecution

U.S. REFUGEE STATUS GRANTED

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE

Refugee Resettlement Process

Affirmative Asylum Process

Defensive Asylum Process

Pre-2017

Annual Quotas Set by White House in Consultation with The Congress

Largest source (62%) new undocumented persons in U.S.

Situation at U.S./MX Border

20,263 Total

Largest source (62%) new undocumented persons in U.S.
Currently 45,000 authorized DHS beds for administrative (civil) immigration hearings

U.S. Marshals also hold immigrants either awaiting trial or convicted of felonies in U.S., and awaiting eventual deportation

No lawyers provided detainees under 6th Amendment
The Immigration Court and Appeals System is only at the federal level—state and local jurisdictions have no part in this system.
FOR MORE DETAILS ON 2ND HOUR

First shown on PBS
October 22, 2019
Information Cutoff: June 2018

Released
October 8, 2019
Information Cutoff: June 2019
TIME FOR A 10 MINUTE BREAK!
Since 2017, U.S. Immigration Policy changed to minimizing legal immigration, stopping illegal immigration, and removing all undocumented persons currently in the U.S. This was a Trump 2016 campaign theme.

To meet this goal the Trump administration is reinterpreting U.S. immigration law (no new laws have been passed), revising U.S. immigration regulations and procedures, and diverting US federal resources (funding & people) to immigration enforcement.

Pro-immigration advocates claim these changes are cruel, do not reflect U.S. values, create a climate of fear among immigrants, and areretarding growth of the U.S. economy.

**Times are a Changing!**
Restricting legal migration numbers by reducing Family Sponsored visas and Immigrant Worker visas through slowing immigration processes with increased vetting procedures.

Shifting U.S. immigration system from previous focus on family reunification (per 1965 Immigration Act) (also dubbed “chain-migration”) to mainly a skilled worker/professional merit-based system considering professional skills, education, age, and English-speaking qualifications.

Lowering Refugee approvals (to proposed 18,000 for 2020).

Efforts continue on eliminating the Diversity Visa Lottery Program (55,000 quotas per year)—currently making it harder to obtain visa approvals.

Proposed adding fees for new Asylum Requests and increasing fees for other USCIS Applications (U.S. Citizenship, DACA, etc.).

Proposed Immigrant application approval based on person not becoming a “public charge” and either already having or being able to obtain health insurance within 30 days of entry (estimates this would reduce legal migration by 65%) (courts blocking).
Announced there will be no renewals of 350,000 persons (800,000 with families) approved for Temporary Protected Status (TPS), designed for those victims of civil wars or large scale violence, earthquakes, and hurricanes. TPS expired 2018: Sudan; expires 2019: Haiti, El Salvador, Syria, Nepal, Nicaragua; expires 2020: Honduras, Somalia, Yemen, South Sudan). (courts blocked)

Sep. 2017 ban placed on all U.S. immigration programs for citizens of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, North Korea, & Venezuela—justification was lack of data bases to vet visa applicants. Now considering addition of additional countries. Jun. 2018 Supreme Court ruled ban was constitutional.

Sep. 2017 Executive Order to cancel DACA protections, federal courts blocked implementation (at Supreme Court this fall)—U.S. Chamber of Commerce supports continuing DACA as elimination would do severe harm to U.S. companies.

Ended 2014 Central American Minors Refugee/Parole Program.

Attempted to end non-military deferred status, including canceling deferred status for special cases such as emergency medical cases. Medical deportations on hold due to U.S. public outcry.

Discussions on ending U.S. born citizenship (if parent(s) are not U.S. citizen(s)) (14th Amendment).
Building of a U.S./Mexico Border Wall, also a Trump campaign theme, has become a major focus of immigration control discourse.

2006 Secure Fence Act built ≈ 650 miles of barriers, total SW border is over 1900 miles

In Fiscal 2017 and 2018, only funding appropriated to repair and maintain structures built under 2006 Secure Fences Act.

In Fiscal 2019, after 35 day government shut down over Wall funding, when President did not get Wall funding he wanted, he declared National Emergency and diverted funds to build Wall from other government accounts, in particular from Department of Defense construction accounts.

Approximately 5,000 military (≈ half active duty (Title 10) & ≈ half National Guard (Title 32)) and unknown number of U.S. Park Police are assisting CBP with Border Security.

Building new sections of Wall just starting, but still tied up in Courts and Congressional funding actions.

Private group “We Build the Wall” plans to build 35 miles of a wall in Rio Grande flood plain (without required permits).

Politics are rampant!

BUILD THE WALL!
Refugee Flows: 2016-84,995; 2017-120,356 quota (actual 53,716); 2018-45,000 quota (actual 22,491); 2019-30,000 quota; 2020-18,000 quota.

2017 Ban 5 Muslim ctrys, NK, VZ: SCOTUS OK
No Requests if Enter Between Ports-of-Entry--CO
No Requests if via 3rd Country--CO

Reduction in U.S. overseas offices & “circuit riders”

Proposed adding fees for asylum requests/work permits

Situation at U.S./MX Border

Largest source (62%) new undocumented persons in U.S.

CO = Court Overturned

Limited

Once denied Refugee Status, cannot apply for other U.S. immigration programs

Large case backlog, often months until some hearings

U.S. lost world leadership role in Refugee & Human Rights

Getting States Involved?

EO to allow states and cities to pre-approve refugee entry; ACLU suing
SCOTUS hearing case for states tp prosecute immigration false ID violations

Total Quotas Reduced

Large case backlog, often months until some hearings

Largest source (62%) new undocumented persons in U.S.

Proposed adding fees for asylum requests/work permits
Pepperdine University

CO = Court Overturned

2 years, No Distance—CO

Limited

“Zero Tolerance” policy (now scaled back) was to end “catch & release” where persons allowed into U.S. awaiting Immigration hearing now stay in detention.

Deportation #’s:
2016 (Obama): 340,000
2018 (Trump): 256,000

DHS ≈ 50,000 (45,000 auth. beds)
Remain in Mexico (MPP) ≈ 60,000
US Marshals ≈ 160,000

Safe 3rd Country Agreements with GT, HO, ES, CA

DOJ plans to collect DNA from all immigrants in detention

Pepperdine University

Limited

Very Limited

Limited

Limited

ICE moves detainees with no notice to family or lawyers

Many for-profit detention centers

Migrant Protection Protocol (MPP – Remain in Mexico)

Family Separations

Attempt to end Flores Agreement allowing detention of minors no more than 21 days—CO

Limited

X 4 audits

50% of ICE beds are in actual jails; the majority of the remaining 50% are in jail-like facilities

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Path to Legalization

Limited

Proposed to have sponsors pay USG costs for public services during and after detention.

“Zero Tolerance” policy (now scaled back) was to end “catch & release” where persons allowed into U.S. awaiting Immigration hearing now stay in detention.
DOJ announced its Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) (political appointees) would have review responsibility for all immigration cases not resulting in deportation.

Immigration Judges now assigned quotas of how many cases they must adjudicate each month.

Immigration case backlogs estimated at almost 1 million with some cases not seen for months or years (696 day average wait). Goal is to adjudicate cases in 6 months.

In Sep. 2019 two new port (tent) virtual courts started (Laredo, Brownsville). Virtual courts reportedly lack transparency and violate basic civil liberties and due process.

Aug. 2019, DOJ announced its Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) (political appointees) would have review responsibility for all immigration cases not resulting in deportation.

- Immigration Court
  - DOJ
  - 54 courts in the United States

- The Board of Immigration Appeals
  - DOJ
  - One court located in Northern Virginia

- The Federal Courts of Appeals
  - 11 courts in the United States

- The United States Supreme Court

In last 3 years Immigration Judges increased from 290 to 442.
Causes of Recent CENTAM Mass Migration

“Push Factors”

- Gang Violence (MS-13 & others)
- Murder Rates (El Sal., Hon. highest in World)
- Drought/Starvation
- Extreme Poverty/No Jobs
- Coffee Rust/Lost Jobs
- Political Instability
- Corrupt Governments (all levels)

Coyotes Convince Immigrants to Go Now:
1. Due possible future US Border Closing
2. Once in U.S., they do not Enforce Laws

U.S. government was not ready for mass migration after May 2018 declaration of “Zero Tolerance” that changed policy of not keeping migrant families together, referring all cases to immigration judges, and no longer releasing migrants into U.S. once processed at border (i.e., the end of “Catch & Release”). No system for tracking and uniting children separated from parents.
Conditions in Mexico and Central America “push” people north looking for opportunity—i.e., The American Dream (pull).

Under threat of U.S. tariffs and border closure, Mexico has reduced migrant flow by 56% with increased enforcement, allows U.S. Remain in MX policy, MX asylum claims up 3,500% over last 7 years--80,000 applicants expected in 2019.

Major Hispanic Citizen and Immigrant Foothold in SW U.S.

Most successful moderate-sized U.S. cities have seen immigration as a contributing factor in population and economic growth. This is due to lower costs of living and open jobs in these cities.

Pro-immigration circles argue reuniting separated families is fair and humane thing to do (has been U.S. legal policy since 1965). Providing refuge for those subjected to violence or political & criminal persecution is right thing to do.

Mexican immigrants feel they are entitled to come to U.S. due to: U.S. seizure of MX land in 1848 (was theirs first). Bracero Program allowed widespread cross-border interactions and increased family ties to U.S. Post-1965 legal immigration increased family ties to U.S.
DIFFERING POINTS OF VIEW ON IMMIGRATION

**U.S. Exceptionalism**
- Does not see immigration as a major threat to U.S. and supports continued legal immigration.
- “America must remain a *beacon* and a *shining city on a hill* for immigrants who renew our great country with their energy, while adding to economic growth and prosperity.” President Ronald Reagan
- Support post-WWII bi-partisan trends toward New World Order characterized by multi-national political, economic (free trade), and security agreements. Goal is good of all world states. Often dubbed Globalists.

**U.S. Nationalism**
- Sees immigration as a major threat to U.S. and supports restricting future immigration.
- An ideology and movement that promotes the interests of a particular nation-state, especially with the aim of gaining and maintaining the nation’s sovereignty over its economy and homeland. Nationalism holds that each nation should govern itself, free from outside interference.
- Support bi-national political, economic, and security agreements. Goal is the good (best interests) of the individual state. Often dubbed Isolationists or Populists.

Both sides want U.S. immigration laws followed. Differences surround content of the laws. No one wants “Open Borders.”
Poor thinking is evident in U.S. pro-immigration arguments mainly concerns “cherry-picking” the data and reasoning to emphasize the positive effects of immigration.

Poor thinking is evident in U.S. anti-immigration arguments that focus more on the negative effects of immigration.

U.S. immigration arguments (Pro & Anti) tend to include a combination of different poor thinking characteristics, to include:

- Lack of good information searches (do not use or suppress factual data)
- Failure to place information in context
- Prevalence of cognitive biases (widely evident are confirmation bias & anchoring bias)
- Wide use of informal logic fallacies (part-to-whole, false cause, repetition, equivocation, slippery slope, appeal to fear)
- Other cognitive problems (blame game).

We next analyze some of the immigration arguments.
**IMMIGRATION ARGUMENTS #1**

**Pro: Immigrants contribute to U.S. workforce (Supported)**

- U.S. unemployment is lower than in decades past (3.6% end of Oct. 2019)—U.S. essentially at full employment levels.
- U.S. temporary work visas (H1/H2) based on employers not being able to find U.S. citizens or green card holders who can fill open jobs.
- There are an estimated 6-7 million open jobs in the U.S. These jobs are mainly in agriculture, food services, hospitality sector, construction, business services, and health care. The agricultural, food services, hospitality, and construction jobs mainly require low-or semi-skilled workers. Business services (especially IT) and health care requires professional training and skills. The inability to fill these jobs is slowing U.S. economic growth.
- Industrial and manufacturing jobs in the U.S. decreased in number over past 3-4 decades due to changing job demands of transition from Industrial Age to Information Age, especially in terms of automation (robotics) which has taken away the largest number of manufacturing and industrial jobs. Even with the decrease in jobs the overall manufacturing and industrial output of the U.S. has steadily increased over time.
- U.S. citizens and green card holders do not fill the 6-7 million open jobs due to their lack of job skills, unwillingness to move, see jobs available as “beneath” them, or employers have unrealistic expectations for qualifications needed for the jobs.
- Immigrants often take tough, disgusting, and dangerous jobs (manual field hands, meat packing, oil industry, etc.) most U.S. citizens will not take (est. half of U.S. agricultural field workers are undocumented).
- Anecdotal evidence reveals employers often prefer immigrant workers as they have strong work ethics and are more dependable than some U.S. citizens.

**Anti: Immigrants take jobs away from U.S. workers (Not supported, except limited cases)**

Thinking Problems: Poor information, lack of context, confirmation bias, anchoring bias, part-to-whole logic fallacy, blame game

√
The U.S. has never been richer. Growing GDP has resulted in the U.S. being the richest country on Earth. However, three main factors since the 1980s have helped destroy the idea of the “American Dream”—(1) failure to sustain U.S. labor bargaining power (including wage increases), (2) failure to contain rent-seeking (extreme profits) in the U.S. housing, health care, and higher education sectors, and (3) failure to update social-welfare (social safety net) programs for the 21st century. Thus, immigrant workers are not who are keeping U.S. worker salaries low. Instead, structural factors related to the larger U.S. economy are causing low salaries (i.e., Capitalism).

However, in cases where U.S. workers are in direct competition for jobs with immigrant workers, the lower salaries immigrant workers may accept for the same job will influence wages to be lower. As per Argument #1 (immigrant workers & U.S. jobs), this would normally happen in those job sectors where most U.S. citizens would avoid available jobs—although there are still some U.S. workers that take jobs in tough or disgusting areas. Studies show those U.S. persons most affected are those with less than a high school education. The situation involves where there are higher demand for jobs, by both immigrants and U.S. persons, employers may offer lower pay to those willing to work for the lower pay (also typical of Capitalism).
CAPITALISM’S EXPLOITIVE STRUCTURE

- **Bourgeoisie**—owners (controllers) of the means of production (raw materials, finance, factories, transportation, communications)

- **Proletariat**—workers who extract raw materials & work in factories, banks, transportation, and communications or provide services to the Bourgeoisie and workers

- **Exploitive Structure**—Bourgeoisie make their fortunes from the surplus value created by not paying or providing benefits to the workers or service providers based on their labor efforts (i.e., they exploit the workers)

Published 1867

Karl Marx

Das Kapital

End of American Dream?

Historical US Income Inequality

Source: US Census Bureau, Income Limits for Each Fifth and Top 5 Percent of Households (Current Dollars)
First need to assess the “total tax burden:”

Undocumented immigrants pay state and local sales taxes, tolls, etc., as everyone else.

Most pay state and local property taxes if they own property (vehicles, houses, land).

Most pay state and federal income taxes, even if working with fake SSN or other forged documents. Estimates show 50% to 75% of undocumented workers pay state and federal income taxes.

Those with a fake SSN or forged documents; however, do not get a chance to benefit from these taxes due to fear of being detained if they apply for state or federal support programs.

Blame for failure to pay state and federal income taxes falls on employers who either hire part-time workers paid in cash and provided no benefits, or employ full-time workers where the I-9 and E-Verify procedures are not followed (E-Verify has a 12% false positive rate).

However, immigrants, both documented and undocumented, generate significant tax revenues. One in five new U.S. businesses are started by immigrants, 3.2 million immigrants own their businesses, employing 8 million U.S. people. Immigrant owned businesses annually generate $1.3 trillion in sales and $405.5 billion in tax revenue.
Pro: Immigrants do not abuse U.S. public assistance programs (Supported in long term, except in limited cases)

U.S. public assistance programs include (health care, welfare, supplemental education, education, etc.)

First, you must define what entails “abuse of U.S. public assistance systems.” Does it include low-income U.S. citizens and immigrants who do not pay state or federal income taxes?

DHS has tried to define “public charge,” but courts have issued temporary restraining orders.

Federal studies show while immigrants may at first use U.S. public assistance, after 5-10 years in the U.S. are fully economic participating residents who fully pay taxes and do not use public assistance more than other legal residents.

Per the previous Argument #3 (paying taxes), undocumented immigrants generally pay taxes, which support U.S. public assistance programs.

Pro-immigration circles highlight how many low-income people, both U.S. citizens and immigrants, i.e., those who do not pay significant taxes, at times need a “helping hand” until they can get on their feet and pay their own way.

Example: The non-partisan Center for Immigration Studies highlights that illegal immigrants are not eligible for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or Medicaid programs, except emergency care. If illegal immigrants were allowed to benefit (as Democratic presidential candidates all support) it would cost annually from the U.S. federal budget $4.6B for ACA and $10.7B for Medicaid benefits ($15.3B total). The U.S. Medicaid total budget for 2019 was $419B, budget for ACA is still in flux due elimination of penalties for not having health insurance. ($10.7B is 2.5% of total Medicaid outlays of $419B.)
Several professional and academic studies over past years have found immigrants commit fewer crimes than U.S. native-born citizens. Studies in Texas over several years found—Texas is only state that tracks arrests and convictions by immigration status:

- Legal immigrants are 65% less likely to commit crimes than native-born U.S. citizens in Texas.
- Undocumented persons are 47% less likely to commit crimes than native-born U.S. citizens in Texas.
- Native-born U.S. citizens commit vast majority of crimes in Texas.

Latest statistics show of those immigrants with Immigration Court hearings scheduled, 89% of asylum seekers and 72% with immigration violations of all other categories appear on time. Those who do not show are issued deportation orders.

From 2002 to 2016 only one (1) radicalized terrorist leading to deadly attacks entered U.S. for every 379 million visas issued (permanent and temporary). The risk is thus extremely low.
First, you must define “assimilate.”

U.S. law allows citizenship through naturalization if you are a good citizen, measured by if no crimes are committed, take a U.S. history test, take an English-language test (unless 55 years old or been in U.S. over 20 years), and take an oath to the U.S. Is this the definition of assimilate?

Does assimilate mean immigrants cannot maintain their home-country cultures, languages, or religions? Can there no longer be Chinatowns, Koreatowns, or Little Havana's?

Studies reveal assimilation takes time and is never perfect, but today’s assimilation is much better than in previous periods of U.S. history and the trends are positive and pointing in the right direction.

Pro-immigration circles highlight immigrants enrich U.S. society and spur economic growth through infusion of different cultures & skills (generate new ideas, creativity, & innovation, e.g., Silicon Valley).

What exactly does “assimilate” mean when it comes to U.S. immigration? How exactly do you measure assimilation?

Note: Anti-immigration circles tend to not use the term “Melting Pot.”
Pro: Immigrants provide diversity and economic growth to U.S. society (Supported)

Anti: Past U.S. immigration policies and U.S. birth rates would lead to white non-Hispanic citizens becoming minority of U.S. population by 2044 (Supported, except exact date is contested)

This anti-immigration argument is related largely to U.S. political power.

Immigrants are largely white Hispanic and non-white persons from all around the World. These demographic groups tend to support the Democratic Party. So the logic entails that as the white Hispanic and non-white population increases, the Democratic Party will obtain greater political support, have more elected officials (from more diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds), and eventually make the Republican Party less competitive in local, state, and national elections.

Immigrants do not widely support the Republican Party due to the “political war” on immigration declared by the party dating back to the mid-1990s. Moral: Whether immigrants vote for or against Republicans is based mainly on how they are treated.

Studies reveal fear of becoming the minority is causing psychological anxiety and associated physical effects (reducing life expectancies) among white U.S. citizens.

In the end: It is all about Politics!!!
PLEASE GIVE OUR CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS A BIG HAND!

I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE COURSE!

THE END

ANY QUESTIONS???