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## **THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

America, land of the free, the country made by immigrants for immigrants. Perhaps the country most thinks of when they talk about immigration. Indeed, large majority of Americans can trace their family free to the immigrants from other parts of the world, except for Native Americans of course.

By sheer numbers America has the biggest number of immigrants in the world counting at 47 million immigrants as of 2015, in just one year of 2016, 1.18 million people legally immigrated to America.

According to the 2016 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, the United States admitted a total of 1.18 million legal immigrants in 2016. Of these, 48% were the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, 20% were family-sponsored, 13% were refugees and/or asylum seekers, 12% were employment-based preferences, 4.2% were part of the Diversity Immigrant Visa program, 1.4% who were victims of a crime (U1) or their family members (U2 to U5), and 1.0% who were granted the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) for Iraqis and Afghans employed by U.S. Government.

The remaining 0.4% included small numbers from several other categories, including 0.2% who were granted suspension of deportation as an immediate relative of a citizen (Z13). America has a long history of immigration dating back to 17th century, when first stage of immigration has started.

America had 4 waves of immigration in total from colonial to modern times, each wave bringing more diversity to the melting pot of different cultures that is America. Although with each wave came its own challenges: poverty, racial and religious discrimination, cultural differences and of course, illegal immigration.

The problem illegal immigration has been a topic of political discussion for a long time. One of the first times it became topic of political

discussion happened as a result of Mexican-American war in 1846-1848 when America seized land from Mexico that later would become Texas, California, Nevada, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma. The territory that had Mexican population, then in 1930's President Herbert Hoover blamed descendants of those Mexican's as one of the causes of Great Depression and called them criminal aliens.

Then America deported those up to 2 million Mexicans, more than half of which were American citizens. Later during World War 2 America needed manpower and invited Mexicans for work, only to later deport all of them after the war was over by Operation Wetback. This destroyed Mexican-Americans relations with America for generations.

Today, especially with the current president of United States, it has become a very prominent, very divisive topic of political discussion. In 2016 the number of unauthorized immigrants has been put at 10.7 million or 1 person out of every 30 in the country. With this, various solutions to the problem have been thrown around, most infamous of which is the wall. Around 40 to 50% of Americans support building the wall.

Let's consider this, not only will this wall cost somewhere around 20 billion dollars and take 3.5 years to build, and that's not even considering maintenance cost. Now let's consider the fact that around 40% of illegal immigrants come to America on plane and then just overstay their visas. What about other 60% percent then?

The effectiveness of the wall is hotly debated topic, there are cases of smugglers already cutting the wall and returning to repaired sections because they are weaker, and one case of strong wind which caused portions of wall to fall. And that's not even counting in the fact that apprehensions on the border are on historic lows for about a decade. The wall also will negatively affect wildlife, property and archeological sites.

Overall, the wall may just harm discussion about illegal immigration by preventing actual solutions to be brought up. Tighter U.S.-Mexico border might actually do more harm than good. Before increase of border enforcement there was a circular flow of Mexican worker who would come to America, work, and then return home. But after increase of border enforcement Mexicans would rather stay in America. This caused the

number of illegal immigrants living in America increase to 248%.

Another under discussed issue would be U.S. immigration courts. Different kinds of people are brought to immigration courts, people who were crossing the border, people who committed a crime, people who committed minor violations and people who lost their papers. There are only 58 immigration courts in America and only 2% of what is spent on immigration annually goes to immigration courts.

The current backlog of cases is more than a million. Judges can be fired for not working fast enough, majority of people don't have lawyers and public defenders are not provided even to minors. Translators are often available only over the phone which further complicates things. Courts can be so remote that a hearing can be made through Skype calls. All of these factors cause mistakes to happen at shocking regularity. Citizens are being detained and, worst of all, can be deported. Only the last 10 years over 20,000 citizens have been detained by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

To summarize, solutions to the problem of illegal immigration that gain popularity in political discussion can not only be ineffective, but can cause the problem to become worse. They can also distract public from better solutions or real causes of the problem.

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## **FEATURES OF THE NATIONAL POLICE ON THE EXAMPLE OF SWEDEN**

The mission reform of the Swedish police: to reduce crime and increase public safety. In principle, it is very similar to the mission of our police. Any reform is aimed primarily at combating crime and ensuring citizens' sense of security.

Interesting experience: the number of police officers has increased, but the number of crimes has not decreased. There is no correlation in the extensive development of the police due to the increase in staff. In Sweden,