The Effects of Illegal Migration From Mexico to the U.S.

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THE EFFECTS OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION FROM MEXICO TO THE U.S.

By

Eric Dent

A Research Project Presented in Partial Fulfillment
Of the Requirements for the Degree
Masters of Criminology

REGIS UNIVERSITY
March, 2013
THE EFFECTS OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION FROM MEXICO TO THE U.S.

By

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Abstract

The purpose of this author’s thesis is to explore the arguments and data found on both sides of the debatable issue of illegal immigration in America. This author made use of the plethora of data surrounding this topic that has been generated from various secondary sources. The use of this secondary data allowed for a re-analysis of the original author’s findings which aided in the formulation of new questions while providing a different interpretation from the original assessment. The purpose of re-analysis sought to provide readers with a more-in-depth view concerning the influx of undocumented aliens, Mexican nationals in particular, on the US’s economy and national security efforts. The use of qualitative techniques, which consisted of content analysis and literal text analysis, were deployed in order to compare and contrast archival surveys and various other studies collected from the aforementioned secondary sources. The results revealed that there were no single all inclusive and totally correct point of view concerning the problems associate with illegal immigration. The study concludes by expounding upon plausible solutions that may be beneficial; both to proponents of illegal immigration and to the opposition. The study also touches upon the need for a better collaboration between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; as well as with the private sector and foreign governments.
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I. Introduction

The major problems associated with illegal immigration are debated fiercely in the media and on many political fronts. It would be this author's preference to analyze the entirety of the problems associated with illegal immigration in American from a national standpoint. However, due to the fact that the United States is extremely diverse in its demographics and marketable labor skill levels, that endeavor would be simply too ambitious of an undertaking. As a consequence, this study's primary focal point will be applied to illegal migration from Mexico to the United States by way of the southwest boarders.

This author will expound upon the following three areas of concern. The first threat relates to nation security which it is primarily self-imposed. The second threat centers on the socioeconomic impact of uncontrolled illegal migration and the alleged constraints it has put on many of our national resources. The last threat comes in the form of cultural ties illegal immigrants' have to their countries of origin. The analysis of secondary data collected from such sources as but not limited to: the U.S. Census Bureau, National Criminal Justice Reference Service or NCJRS, the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) were used to compare and contrast the effect of illegal immigration from Mexico to the US.

A. Statement of Problem

The limited and relaxed boarder control efforts in the United States of America has led to an astonishing entry of approximately 10,790,000 illegal or undocumented of immigrants who move around freely and unmonitored (Hoefer, Rytina, & Baker, 2011). There are two types of illegal immigrants, one being those who come into this country legally on visas or green cards and over stay the time frame. The other are those who cross over the boarders undetected and
work at avoiding contact with U.S. authorities. It is fair to say that the government has a much
easier time tracking and enforcing immigration laws on those turned illegal simply because their
presence is known as oppose to the second type of illegal immigrant. The Department of
Homeland Security (DHS) did a study and estimated the visa overstay population in the United
States to be at least 3.6 million out of an estimated 9 to 10 million illegal immigrants (Lipton, 2005).

B. Overview of problem

The problem with illegal immigration debate is that its tenants exist in two worlds which
are that of fiction and reality. On one hand proponents of illegal immigration use a broad brush
to paint the problems of entering this country illegally as minor and inconsequential as it relates
to national security. On the other hand, opponents tend to view illegal immigration as major
source of America’s nation security vulnerability and economic woes. However, the fact
remains that on any given day non-American persons attempt to cross U.S. boarders undetected
in multiples of a 1000 or more depending on their country of origin.

According to Wayne Cornelius, the distinguished director of the Center for Comparative
Immigration Studies at the University of California at San Diego revealed that out of the 1.5
million immigrants who enter the country each year, 500,000 of them are undocumented
(Cornelius, 2005). The serious national security threat posed by "Other Than Mexicans" is not
widely understood. Approximately 100,000 illegal immigrants entering the United States from
Mexico each year are not Mexicans; the Border Patrol refers to these persons as "OTM's" -
"Other Than Mexicans." Within the last year, over 450 OTM's have been apprehended illegally
entering the United States from such officially-designated "special interest" countries as: Afghanistan, Angola, Jordan, Qatar, Pakistan, and Yemen (Global Security, 2011).

Research shows that many of the primary dynamics behind this desperation to enter the U.S. illegally hinges on the following three structural factors: the push factor, the pull factor, and social networks. The “push factor” tenant comes from foreign countries that have limited economic opportunities such as Mexico, Central America, Africa, Asia, etc. In these countries, the crime rates are extremely high, there are wars, they have authoritarian governments, natural disasters, low or non-existing wages, and there are no formal-sectors of employment such as those found in more industrialized nations. The “pull factors” comes from more financially stable counties with formal governmental structures and solid infrastructures, such as those found in the U.S. and Canada. Immigrants are attracted to jobs that have higher wage base than the ones in their native countries, limited government; safer environments, and social programs. America’s social structure provides for the health care, education, and housing needs of the less fortunate which include illegal immigrants. “Social Networks” also draws migrants because others from their countries, towns, or villages have already made the journey and have since established a system or network made up of family and friends to aide in their migration. These networks help migrants to enter the host-country both legally and illegally while teaching them to successively navigate and negotiate their new environment (Brick & Rosenblum, 2011).

C. Purpose of Project

The purpose of my paper is to explore the necessity and feasibility of establishing secure U.S. boarders in order to protect its citizenry’s economic, social, and physical wellbeing. In addition, the paper dispels many misnomers and false assumption, which are sometimes over
The Effects of Illegal Migration from Mexico to the U.S. dramatized, concerning the effect of illegal migration on America’s national security. This author presents facts that are based on empirical evidentiary data from scholarly sources. Furthermore, general perceptions from U.S. citizens about the impact of illegal immigration on the United States’ economy and national security was explored; the data is based on surveys taken from the random sampling of U.S. citizens. This is important because most policies are structured by lawmakers who are looking to appease the public’s outcry and demands for social equality and/or justice. Finally, this paper sought to answer the following research questions: 1.) Will continual breaches to America’s borders increase the likelihood of a terrorist attack on its soil? 2.) Does illegal immigration have an adverse effect on America’s cultural dynamics which jeopardizes its national identity? 3.) Do illegal immigrants help or hurt America’s economy and can this be rectified?

D. Limitation

As previously mentioned, the research found in this author’s study is based on secondary data sources where any findings are the results from the researchers’ data and from self-conducted surveys concerning America’s attitudes towards Illegal Immigration. While qualitative techniques are useful for understanding the human side of the subjects studied, they have their limitation just as quantitative techniques have limitations. Using the both Content Analysis and Case History research techniques also has their drawbacks as well. According to author Earl R. Babbie, Content Analysis is “…limited to the examination of recorded communications. Such communications may be oral, written, or graphic, but they must be recorded in some fashion to permit analysis” (Babbie, 2010). The use of Case History techniques have often been accused of having a lack of rigor and “too many times, the case study
investigator has been sloppy, and has allowed equivocal evidence or biased views to influence the direction of the findings and conclusions” (Yin, 1984).

The qualitative method of research is preferable because of the sensitive nature of this topic in addition to limitations posed by quantitative measures relating to data retrieval, as previously stated. While both techniques have their draw backs, using a multiple research approach helped to marginalize the limitations associated with generalizations gleaned from the qualitative findings. In using a multiple research methods, conscious biases were eliminated and the conclusions found herein are based on factual findings not personal opinions.

E. Definitions:

1. Legal Residents

The legal resident immigrant population as defined for these estimates includes all persons who were granted lawful permanent residence; granted asylum status; admitted as refugees; or admitted as nonimmigrants for a temporary stay in the United States and not required to leave by January 1, 2010. Nonimmigrant residents refer to certain aliens who were legally admitted temporarily to the United States for specified time periods such as students and temporary workers (Immigration Equality).

2. Unauthorized Residents

The unauthorized resident immigrant population is defined as all foreign-born non-citizens who are not legal residents. Most unauthorized residents either entered the United States without inspection or were admitted temporarily and stayed past the date they were required to leave. Unauthorized immigrants applying for adjustment to lawful permanent resident status
under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) are unauthorized until they have been granted LPR status, even though they may have been authorized to work. Persons who are beneficiaries of Temporary Protected Status (TPS)—an estimated several hundred thousand—are not technically unauthorized but were excluded from the legal resident immigrant population because data are unavailable in sufficient detail to estimate this population (Hoefer, Rytina, & Baker, Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United States: January 2010, 2011).

3. *Illegal immigrant*

The Cambridge dictionary defines this terminology as “someone who goes to live or work in another country when they do not have the legal right to do this” [often interchangeable with illegal alien] (Cambridge dictionaries online).

4. *Mexican National*

A person who have from Mexico owing permanent allegiance to the country of Mexico but seek residence and the opportunities other countries have to offer.

5. *Native taxpayer*

A legal U.S. citizen who pays into America’s federal, state, and local taxing system by way of earned income through payroll deductions, property taxes, etc.
II. Review of Literature

A. Social Disorganization Theory

Undocumented residents' behavior is closely related to the Social Disorganization Theory. A type of criminological theory attributing variation in crime and delinquency over time and among territories to the absence or breakdown of communal institutions (e.g. family, school, church and local government) and communal relationships that traditionally encouraged cooperative relationships among people. The concept is defined in terms of the absence or breakdown of certain types of relationships among people, namely the sovereignty of the United States, and it is intimately tied to conceptions of those properties of relationships that are indicative of social or communal "organization" (Kubrin & Krohn, 2009).

Relationships among people in a given territory are presumed to be especially "organized" when there high levels of involvement across age-levels in activities coordinated by representatives of communal institutions (e.g. family-heads, pastors, school organizations and local officials). Such organized interaction is presumed to be closely and reciprocally associated with the development of a sense of community or communal bonds among people in close geographic proximity to one another. The concept was developed to refer to the absence of organization among people in relatively small ecological units (neighborhoods, census tracts, communities), but has been used to explain variations in crime among larger units (e.g. counties, states and nations) as well as other variations over time (Kubrin & Krohn, 2009).
B. A Brief Historical Look at the United States’ and Mexico’s Relationship

Evidence points to the fact that emigrants from just about every country in the world seek to start a new life here in the U.S., but history has shown that the largest population of immigrants has and continues to come from Mexico (See figure 1). However, Mexicans were essentially made foreigners in their own land because they first occupied what is now known as the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California prior to the U.S. adoption of these territories in the nineteenth century (del Castillo & De Leon, 1997). During the 1800’s, extremely limited boarder control was established which made it easy for the Mexican population to move between the two countries at will and relatively problem free.

Figure 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of birth</th>
<th>Estimated population in January</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All countries...</td>
<td>8,460,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico..........</td>
<td>4,680,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador.....</td>
<td>430,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala......</td>
<td>290,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras........</td>
<td>160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines......</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India............</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador..........</td>
<td>110,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil...........</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea............</td>
<td>180,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China............</td>
<td>190,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other countries..</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.
1. Past immigration practices with Mexico

As a result of both the World Wars, the labor market suffered a significant drop in the male population which was mitigated with migrant workers. The U.S. generally welcomed labors from Mexico, in a practically limitless fashion, because the first immigration policy adopted in 1885 was practically unenforceable; the US’s southwest boarders, shared with Mexico, was only patrolled by only 75 law enforcement agents at the time (Cardoso, 1980). However, an unanticipated explosion of millions of Europeans seeking employment forced policy makers to adopt more restrictive immigration laws.

In efforts to control the flow of Mexican workers, while simultaneously fulfilling the US demands for labors, the “Bracero Program” was created in 1942 and adopted into law. This program was the product of a negotiated deal between the United States and the Mexican governments who sought to regulate the flow of an estimated 4 million Mexican workers seeking employment in the U.S., for span of approximately 22 year. The program allowed Mexican workers key access to labor markets crucial to the building of the “affluent society” in the 1950’s; these markets included the railroad industry, farming, and agriculture (del Castillo & De Leon, 1997). In addition, in 1992 President Clinton signed into law the North American Free Trade Agreement or NAFTA with Mexico.

Congress believed that the tenets of the NAFTA agreement would help to curb illegal Mexican migration while serving the United States economic interests. While Mexico’s economy greatly benefited from the agreement, economic problems associated with America states bordering Mexico continued and did little to stem the flow of illegal Mexican migrants (Lobreglio, 2004). Moreover, the United States’ rollercoaster economy, since the turn of the 20th Century, has typically caused immigration policies to fluctuate between restrictiveness and
encouragement. The illegal immigration markets of today are a direct byproduct of these policy fluctuations; resulting from America’s unpredictable economy and its historical ties with Mexico.

2. Immigration policy transition from economic to national security post 9/11

After the 9/11 attacks, illegal immigration in the U.S. began to be looked at as a national security issue more so than an economic concern. This notion was spurred on from a 9/11 commission report that revealed how the tragedy could have been avoided with heighten enforcement of immigration laws already on the books (Garcia, 2004). This report gave birth to what is known today as “The Department of Homeland Security” that is tasked with monitoring, tracking, intercepting, and thwarting terrorist attacks on US soil.

C. Multilevel threats to national security

The possibility of a nuclear strike on U.S. soil from such radical countries as Iran and North Korea exist but attacks in this manner are not probable. Attacks on the U.S. soil are most likely to come by way of infiltration, which targets small groups, as oppose to head on attack that targets entire population all at once. The unmanned sections of the US’s southwest boarders have in essence provides a virtual invitation to those who wish to do us harm (see figure 1.1). Moreover, evidence has been established and shows that terrorist regimes such as the Taliban are using the US/Mexican illicit drug trafficking problem to fund their terrorist activities.

The first threat to this nation’s security, in regards to illegal immigration, is primarily self-imposed. Decades of inattentiveness to boarder security coupled with the lack of enforcement of federal immigration laws and political infighting has allowed this problem to grow exponentially. The second threat comes in the form of cultural ties illegal immigrants’ have
to their countries of origin. America’s national identity is jeopardized when these foreign
customs and ideologies are allowed to be assimilated into our own. The last threat centers on the
economic and social impact of uncontrolled illegal migration and the considerable strains it has
put on many of our resources.

**Figure 1.1**
*Migrant Routes Through Mexico*

(McNeill, Ray, & Zuckerman, 2011)

1. **Unsecured borders**

   No nation can consider itself sovereign if its government is incapable or simply refuses to
   protect its borders from infiltration by entities known or unknown. The current economic strain
   faced by America’s citizenry and the constant threat of attack from terrorists on U.S. soil has
brought massive attention to border security. Bipartisan efforts as a result has led to an increase from 3,000 to more than 21,000 Border Patrol Agents, the building of almost 700 miles of fencing along the country’s southern Mexico boarders, the usage of remote control drone planes and sensor cameras in the last two decades (Alden, 2012). The Obama Administration announced in July of 2012 plans to close nine boarder stations from the northern part of several southern states that border Mexico and move them closer to the southern parts in efforts to shore up main infiltration points (Cratty, 2012). The following chart (see figure 1.2) shows the continued increase of U.S. Border Patrol Agents along the southwest border for the fiscal years between 1992 and 2009. However, all of these measures have done little to stem the flow of illegal immigrants and the violence associated with drug and human trafficking from Mexico.

**Figure 1.2**

(Southwest Border Security Operations, 2010)
a. Flow of undocumented immigrants

In the United States, one in ten people are foreign born, and the largest groups are from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and the Philippines. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (2011) provided the following statistical data:

Mexico continued to be the leading source country of unauthorized immigration to the United States. There were 6.6 million unauthorized immigrants from Mexico in 2010, representing 62 per-cent of the unauthorized population. The next leading source countries for unauthorized immigrants in 2010 were El Salvador (620,000), Guatemala (520,000), Honduras (330,000), and the Philippines (280,000). The ten leading countries of origin represented 86 per-cent of the unauthorized immigrant population in 2010 (Hoefer, Rytina, & Baker, 2011, p. 4).

Studies conducted by the Pew Hispanic Center refute such claims and shows that migration flow from Mexico to the U.S. has been at “net zero” since 2007; most likely resulting from the continuing declination of economic opportunities once sought after in America. Other factors that may be contributing to this reduced flow of illegal migration include: 1.) heightened border enforcement, 2.) a rise in deportations, 3.) the growing dangers associated with illegal border crossings, 4.) the long-term decline in Mexico’s birth rates and broader economic conditions in Mexico. The supporting information found in the following chart (see figure 1.3) comes from the Pew Hispanic Center where estimates were based on US Census data taken from years 2000 through 2010.
Figure 1.3

Five-Year Migration Flows Between the U.S. and Mexico, 1995-2000 and 2005-2010
(in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1995 to 2000</th>
<th>2005 to 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. to Mexico</td>
<td>2,940</td>
<td>1,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico to U.S.</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>1,370</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Estimates are for February 1995 through February 2000 and June 2005 through June 2010. Migration from U.S. to Mexico includes persons born in Mexico, the U.S., and elsewhere; Mexico to U.S. includes Mexican-born persons only.

Source: U.S. to Mexico: Pew Hispanic Center estimates from population, household and migrant microdata samples of Mexican censuses of 2000 and 2010; Mexico to U.S.: Based on Pew Hispanic Center estimates in Figure 1.3 from various sources; see Methodology.

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(Cohn, Gonzalez-Barrera, & Passel, 2012)

Nonetheless, while number of illegal aliens from Mexico fell sharply after 9/11, this fact was offset by the large increase of temporary Mexican migrant workers. According to authors Kerstin Gentsch and Douglas Massey from Princeton University:

As was true historically, what changed over time was not so much the size of the inflow from Mexico, but the legal category in which the migrants entered. From 2000 to 2008, legal immigration fluctuated between 150,000 and 200,000 persons per year while undocumented migration fell from 200,000 to 7,000 persons but guest worker migration rose from 104,000 to 361,000 (Gentsch & Massey, 2011).

The authors used a simple chart, shown in figure 1.4, to illustrate these trends. It shows that almost 500,000 Mexican nationals entered the United States in 2000 and approximately 39...
percent of the total population was documented, 40 percent were undocumented, and 21 percent were guest workers. In contrast, eight years later the number changed dramatically in that out of the 560,000 migrants entering the U.S. from Mexico: 34 percent were documented, but only 1 percent was undocumented and 65 percent were guest workers (Gentsch & Massey, 2011).

Nonetheless, looking at the inflow of how the Mexican migrant population has affected two major U.S. cities clearly demonstrates how uneven the distribution was during these same periods. For instance, Phoenix, Arizona had a population of approximately 1.6 million that expanded over 428 percent from 1980 to 2000 in contrast to the city of New York which only saw a 71 percent increase during the same time frame. The ratio of Mexican nationals to all other immigrants were shown to be 2:3 for the Phoenix compared to only 5 to 6 percent of New York’s total immigrant population; Phoenix also had a larger segment of undocumented residence than New York city population (Foner, 2012). A sudden increase of governmental services, due to a population influx, on local municipalities resources in such a short time frame can destabilize its economy and means to adequately adjust.
The Effects of Illegal Migration from Mexico to the U.S.

As previously mentioned, many of America's immigration problems are self imposed and could be adverted with simple changes in key areas such as the guest worker visa program. While its true that there has been a large increase in the number of guest worker visa being granted, the process is still slow, daunting, and plagued with fraud abuses. The U.S. could stand to take a que from Canada's guest worker program that is design to eliminate the need to illegally migrate to that country and it all but eliminates fraudulent activites.

On any given day, the line outside the state labor office in downtown Puebla, Mexico, is long. Many men travel hours from rural towns to get there and listen for their names to be
called. The reason being is that Canada has joined forces with the Mexican government and
created a guest worker system that streamlines the process. It allows Mexican immigrants access
to Canada in order to work agriculture jobs that most Canadians do not want. For instance,
according to the follow article:

Juan Carlos Corona is called into the office in Mexico. A state worker enters his
name and file number into the computer. She prints out his latest application,
staples photos of Corona to his file, and tells him to come back in two months for
a medical exam. If everything checks out, Corona will get his visa, a plane ticket
to Canada and six months of full-time work. This would be the third year he's
worked legally in Canada's broccoli fields. Before that, he says he would sneak
into the U.S. to find work (Kahn, 2013).

In implementing such a system, the U.S. would have the ability to track exactly who is coming
into the country, what their intentions are, who are the employers and how long they plan on
staying. The guest worker program should be implemented in conjunction with allowing
undocumented residences the privilege of obtaining a driver's license. The purpose of allowing
undocumented access to driver's license is two-fold: 1.) It would help to reduce the amount of
unqualified drivers on the road 2.) It would help to bring more illegal aliens out of the shadows
not for the purpose of deportation, but for identification as required for each individual U.S.
citizen of age.

b. Drug trafficking from Mexico

The violence associated with illicit drugs such as cocaine and heroin has grown to
unprecedented levels as a result of Mexico's drug trafficking cartels. In January 2012, the
Mexican government reported that 47,515 people had been killed in drug-related violence since President Felipe Calderón began a military assault on criminal cartels soon after taking office in late 2006 (Maung, 2012). U.S. Border Patrol agent Brian Terry was killed by Mexican drug cartel operatives as a result of a gunfight which ensured on December 14, 2010 which demonstrates the lengths the criminal element will take to continue their enterprise.

Furthermore, these cartels exploited multiple unmonitored border sections with sophisticated tunnels by which extremely large amounts of illicit drugs can be shuttled into America virtually undetected. In July 2012, U.S. officials discovered an unfinished border tunnel containing 40 tons of marijuana near Nogales, Arizona making it the fourth found within a week (Spagat & Billeaud, 2012).

2. The perceived cultural threats to America’s national identity from Mexican nationals

What is America’s national identity and how does one define it? The US is primarily a country of immigrants that was built by the succession waves of immigrants for more than a century. Many social scientists tend to describe these waves and the makeup of US culture by using such terms as multicultural or cultural pluralism. America prides itself by celebrating its diversity and espousing the mantra “we are a nation of immigrants,” yet immigrants from Mexico and abroad are expected to assimilate into its cultural ideology. President Theodore Roosevelt solidified this point in one of his writings entitled “True Americanism” in which he states:

The immigrant must not bring in his Old World religious, race and national antipathies, but must merge them into love for our common country, and must
take pride in the things which we can all take pride in. He must revere our flag; not only must it come first, but no other flag should ever come second. He must learn to celebrate Washington's Birthday rather than that of the Queen or the Kaiser, and the Fourth of July instead of St. Patrick's Day (Gerstle, 2002).

The cultural dilemma America faces with inflow of millions of illegal immigrants from virtually every part of the world may not pose an eminent threat to national security in the same way a terrorist attack would. However, some supporters of more restrictive immigration measures believe that these cultural threats are as a prominent, albeit more subtle, in that they threaten to change this country's national identity (Aguirre, Rodriguez, & Simmers, 2011). The opponents of illegal immigration argue that American identity was originally crafted by the writers of the Declaration of Independence; many Americans believe the creed found therein is a crucial element to defining our national identity.

The creed found within the Declaration of Independence was based on the input of Anglo-Protestant settlers who formed the first thirteen U.S. colonies. Key elements of that culture included: the English language, Christianity, religious commitment, English concepts of the rule of law, including the responsibility of rulers and the rights of individuals, dissenting Protestant values of individualism, the work ethic, and the belief that humans have the ability and the duty to try to create a heaven on earth, a "city on a hill" (Huntington S., 2004). While the requirement for denouncing one's country of origin is unreasonable, those looking to start a new life in this country should have a measure of U.S. patriotism. Writing in 2004, Harvard Professor Samuel Huntington concluded from the behavior of children born to Hispanic immigrants, especially those from Mexico, that recent arrivals have been unusually resistant to assimilation. That assessment is based on the high Hispanic dropout rate, the large number of
immigrants (and especially children) on some form of public assistance, and research suggesting that Hispanic parents want their children to retain their native language (Huntington S. P., 2004).

3. The economic impact of illegal migration

The fiscal benefits and burdens associated with illegal immigration have been extensively reviewed in multiple studies. However, due to the ever changing state of the U.S. economy, in both the local and national markets, there is relatively few definitive studies that capture a complete picture of the illegal immigration economic impact issue. As previously stated, for this author to present a fair and balance view concerning the impact of illegal immigration, one would have to “…know many details about the income, spending, and [the] employment behaviors of the entire population of immigrants” (Hanson, 2007). As a result of having no standardized study, this author is forced to make some generalizations and educated guesses gleamed from literature on the topic.

As with any debate, there are economists, politicians, and business leaders on both sides of the issue making a case either for or against the economic impact of illegal aliens. Those who favor illegal migration say that America’s economy is severely dependent upon their presence because “…they accept low wages for necessary jobs, pay taxes, and spend money, all of which expands the national economy” (Jacobe, 2012). In contrast, others say the voluminous numbers of illegal aliens “…increased expenditures for Medicare, law enforcement efforts, and education -- and in a hundred other ways -- illegal workers don't pay enough in taxes to recompense for what they cost (Jacobe, 2012). The following studies represents arguments on both sides of issue that attempt to answer the question “is illegal immigration an economic benefit or burden to America’s economy?”
a. *The negative economic impact of illegal migration*

One particular study initiated by The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) found the annual costs of illegal immigration to American taxpayers to be upwards of $113 billion annually on the federal, state and local levels. The annual costs were broken down to an estimated $29 billion at the federal level and $84 billion at the state and local levels. The study took into account estimated taxes collection from illegal aliens who operate in both the above-ground and under-ground economies. The following are key finds of this report:

- The annual outlay that illegal aliens cost U.S. taxpayers is an annual amount per native head of household which totals nearly $1,000 after accounting for estimated tax collections. However, the fiscal impact per household varies considerably because the greatest share of the burden falls on state and local taxpayers whose portion of the burden depends on the size of the illegal alien population in that locality.

- Education for the children of illegal aliens constitutes the single largest cost to taxpayers, at an annual price tag of nearly $52 billion. Nearly all of those costs are absorbed by state and local governments.

- At the federal level, about one-third of outlays are matched by tax collections from illegal aliens. At the state and local level, an average of less than 5 percent of the public costs associated with illegal immigration is recouped through taxes collected from illegal aliens.

- Most illegal aliens do not pay income taxes. Among those who do, much of the revenues collected are refunded to the illegal aliens when they file tax returns.
Many are also claiming tax credits resulting in payments from the U.S. treasury (Martin & Ruark, 2011).

Logic dictates that a tax burden will be generated if illegal Mexican nationals, illegal immigrants abroad, and even native tax payers pay less in taxes and receive more in governmental benefits. However, the social system was designed to help less fortunate American citizens experiencing financial difficulties temporarily. When illegal immigrants receive more governmental benefits than the taxes they pay, it creates a “net fiscal burden” on native taxpayers. This means that the earned income of native tax payers is essentially transferred to the illegal immigrant population (Hanson, 2007).

Analysis of this information shows that in order for the native tax payer to shoulder this disparity, a continual and steady raise in taxes, along with cuts in governmental benefits from such entities as Social Security and Medicare, is needed. Moreover, in order to sustain this level of governmental assistance, the government is going to have to rely on borrowing from future generations by issuing governmental indebtedness to health care providers and to various other vendors. In additions, the costs associated with the removal of illegal residents, especially the criminal elements blended into various illegal migrant populations, is another major drain on U.S. resources. According ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement):

```
Overall, in FY 2011 ICE's Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations removed 396,906 individuals — the largest number in the agency's history. Of these, nearly 55 percent or 216,698 of the people removed were convicted of felonies or misdemeanors — an 89 percent increase in the removal of criminals since FY 2008. This includes 1,119 aliens convicted of homicide; 5,848 aliens
```
The Effects of Illegal Migration from Mexico to the U.S. 29

convicted of sexual offenses; 44,653 aliens convicted of drug related crimes; and 35,927 aliens convicted of driving under the influence. ICE achieved similar results with regard to other categories prioritized for removal. Ninety percent of all ICE's removals fell into a priority category and more than two-thirds of the other removals in 2011 were either recent border crossers or repeat immigration violators (ICE, 2011).

ICE allotted a $34.3 million at the beginning of its FY 2010 budget for pursuit, criminal prosecution, and in the engagement of removal relating to just criminal prone aliens. By the end of the FY 2010, new estimates for the upcoming 2011 FY changed that allotment to upwards of $99.8 million in order to keep pace with enforcement efforts (Morton, 2011). The cost associated with the detection and removal of dangerous criminal aliens has typically increased for governmental agencies charged with this task, as seen in previous fiscal years. For instance, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008, Congress appropriated $200 million for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to “improve and modernize efforts to identify aliens convicted of a crime, sentenced to imprisonment, and who may be deportable, and remove them from the United States, once they are judged deportable...” (Congress, 2007).

In summary, there are too many factors that make understanding the impact of illegal immigration from Mexico nearly impossible to accurately articulate. This is primarily due to factors such as varying skill levels, which are directly tied to their income earnings, and their criminal background which will typically increase law enforcement efforts in the U.S. Couple these variables with family size, the utilization of public services, the various changes of inflows, and the costs associated with the enforcement of immigration laws makes understanding the impact illegal immigration inextricably confusing. However, the data presented here shows
an increase in governmental expenditures aimed at assisting undocumented immigrants through public services on one hand, while using tax revenues to fund enforcement efforts on the other hand. Based on the information presented here, this author surmised that lower wage earners with larger families will inevitably drain more public resources than higher earners due to the supplementation needed to support their families. This fact is most noticeable when undocumented residence use: public schools, hospitals, police and fire services, welfare programs, and make use of the highways all of which increases expenditures.

b. The positive economic impact of illegal immigration

Former Chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, produced the following information concerning the impact of illegal aliens on the U.S. economy in his testimony to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and Border Security in 2009. He found:

[T]here is little doubt that unauthorized, that is, illegal, immigration has made a significant contribution to the growth of our economy. Between 2000 and 2007, for example, it accounted for more than a sixth of the increase in our total civilian labor force. The illegal part of the civilian labor force diminished last year as the economy slowed, though illegals still comprised an estimated 5% of our total civilian labor force. Unauthorized immigrants serve as a flexible component of our workforce, often a safety valve when demand is pressing and among the first to be discharged when the economy falters. Some evidence suggests that unskilled illegal immigrants (almost all from Latin America) marginally suppress wage levels of native-born Americans without a high school diploma, and impose
significant costs on some state and local governments (United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary, 2009).

Some economists believe that the additional income generated by undocumented workers increases the income level for the US’s economy in general. While the increase in undocumented workers in the U.S. work force may drive down wages for U.S. citizens, this is offset by the increase of labors in work force, which by attrition accelerates productivity. It stands to reason that an increase in laborers allow the U.S. to tap into its own land’s natural resource more efficiently, while increasing capital gains for investors. For instance, farmers who hire more laborers will be able to extract perishable goods such as fruit and/or vegetables faster and more efficiently thus shorting the field to market time frame. Similarly, the same inference can be extrapolated from a company in the manufacturing field. If the owner(s) expand the work force, the natural resulting byproduct will come in the form of increased productivity; making the product(s) available to the market for human consumption in less time.

Some experts say that when immigrants pay more in taxes than what they receive in government benefits, it causes a positive “net fiscal transfer to native taxpayers.” According to the Wilson Quarterly Journal:

The total impact of immigration on U.S. residents—the sum of the immigration surplus (the pretax income gain) and the net fiscal transfer from immigrants—would be unambiguously positive. This appears to be the case for immigrants with high skill levels, suggesting that employment-based permanent immigrants and highly skilled temporary immigrants have a positive net impact on the U.S. economy (Wilson Quarterly, 1997).
Simply interpreted, this means that legal as well as illegal immigrants who are highly skilled generates a positive surplus of tax contributions, when properly taxed, which aids in the growth and reinforcement of governmental coffers. These taxes can also help to offset many of the monies being sent back to their countries of origin and aide in reducing the problems associated with the underground economy. Moreover, the average employer who hire these highly skilled laborers are more apt to do so legally and to pay them benefits which reduces their dependency on governmental assistance, as demonstrated by the following chart (see figure 1.5).

Figure 1.5

![Chart showing annual average household income](Cohn, Gonzalez-Barrera, & Passel, 2012)

D. Attitudes concerning the illegal immigration problem in the U.S.

As previously stated, the political climate of national security concerns and immigration reform is driven by popular opinion. Law makers and political candidates are typically driven to appease their constituents and/or potential voters by creating, changing, or eliminating certain
immigration laws. Therefore, it is important to gain an understanding of how U.S. citizens view the problem and what they believe should be done.

The majority of U.S. citizenry is dissatisfied with the current level of the government’s handling immigration policies and believes that the system is in desperate need of reform. A Gallup poll taken in 2012, see figure 1.6, revealed that nearly two out of every three Americans polled (or 64% of the sample population) were said to be dissatisfied with the U.S. immigration system. However, the mood of America’s citizenry on the topic has been on a decline since 2008 where 72% were dissatisfied with the government’s immigration enforcement efforts, as seen in the following chart (Morales, 2012).

**Figure 1.6**

*Americans’ Satisfaction With the Level of Immigration Into the Country Today*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% Satisfied</th>
<th>% Dissatisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GALLUP

According to the chart, 2008 signaled a significant attitude directional change concerning illegal immigration since the early 1990s. America’s attitudes toward decreasing illegal immigration stayed within the 40\textsuperscript{th} percentile from 2001 to 2008 but if the current declining trends continue then the likelihood of policy reform will become negligible. Many U.S. citizens believe that
status checking policies should be put into place for everyone living in the America such as mandating the carrying of identification cards.

The general public appears to be less interested in the building of fences and walls as security measures. This raises important issues regarding whether attitudes toward immigration are driven by the "facts on the ground" or whether some contextual factors such as the state of the economy, the "politics" of the times, or media coverage of the issue [because these] are important influences on how the public perceives immigrants and the immigration issue (Segovia & Defever, 2010). Simply put, if the problem of illegal immigration does not affect individual U.S. citizens directly then the probable opinion on the issue is going to be one of indifference, as seen in figure 1.7. The media and politicians are in the most optimal positions to direct the flow of these indifferent attitudes through campaign adds, commentaries, and political speeches.

Figure 1.7

Personal Worry About Immigration. GALLUP: Next I'm going to read a list of problems facing the country. For each one, please tell me if you personally worry about this problem a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all. How much do you personally worry about illegal immigration?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>4/01 (%)</th>
<th>4/02 (%)</th>
<th>4/03 (%)</th>
<th>4/04 (%)</th>
<th>4/05 (%)</th>
<th>4/06 (%)</th>
<th>4/07 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A great deal</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A fair amount</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only a little</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>1,060</td>
<td>1,006</td>
<td>1,008</td>
<td>1,005</td>
<td>1,004</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Less than 0.5 percent.

(Segovia & Defever, 2010)
III. Methodology

As required for partial fulfillment for the degree Masters of Criminology, this author submitted an application to the Regis University Institute Review Board or IRB for approval of this project. On March 25, 2013, the IRB granted approval of the application as an “exempt study” per category 45CFR46.101 (#4) listed under IRB # 13-113. As noted on the approval letter, the exempt designation means no further review was needed by the IRB unless significant changes were made to this study after the application was submitted which involved human experimentation.

The studies found within this paper are based on the effects of illegal immigration in America. The authors used qualitative methods in attempts to understand the given research on problems associated with illegal immigration from the perspective of the local population it involves. The qualitative techniques used in this research were especially effective in obtaining culturally specific information about the values, opinions, behaviors, and social contexts of the illegal Mexican population (Lamont, 2005). This method of research is preferable because it would be practically impossible to conduct a quantitative study using surveys due to fears, of deportation, resulting from the targeted population’s illegal statuses. Although a causal and effect relationship cannot be established with the use of a qualitative based study, the effects of illegal immigration on America’s national security and economy can still be articulated in a scientific manner which can add to the body of knowledge surrounding this matter.

A. Research Design

A secondary analysis of data concerning immigration policies was the primary approach of this thesis. In addition, this author used case history approaches to gain a better understanding
of the social processes relating illegal immigration from dual perspectives such as those found in a structural and individual context. While it is not the intent of this author to unfairly single out one particular nationality, the focus of the illegal immigration problem can be understood more concisely if the largest segment of these groups, which in this case are Mexican immigrants, are studied. A brief comparative analysis of past, current, and proposed illegal immigration policies assisted this author in constructing a recommendation model geared towards reformation.

B. Measurement Methods

The information gathered from secondary sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau, the Department Homeland Securities and various other scholarly studies is the basis for a re-analysis of quantitative data sets already gathered which are here presented in qualitative manner. This author made use of the “conventional content analysis” techniques which will encompass: review, projections, discussion and the model building from secondary information sources. In other words, the conventional content analysis used in this study basically allowed from scholarly sources to “speak for itself” (Trochim & Donnelly, 2008). These measurements aided this author in staying focused on the targeted population’s impact on the US’s economic and national security vulnerabilities by evaluating the relative merits of past and current proposed plans.

The zenith of this thesis culminates with an overhaul policy recommendation that targets both unauthorized residents and those seeking to enter the US illegally. In designing a qualitatively base study concerning the effects of illegal immigration on America’s national security using a combination of information from multiple data bases also aided answering several research questions that brought to focus the main purpose of this paper. The questions
this author sought to answer are as follows: 1.) Will continue breaches to America’s borders increase the likelihood of a terrorist attack on its soil? 2.) Does illegal immigration have an adverse effect on America’s cultural dynamics which jeopardizes its national identity? 3.) Do illegal immigrants help or hurt America’s economy and can this be rectified?

The thesis includes literal text analysis and interpretation in order to add to the body of knowledge concerning the effects of illegal immigration in America from the standpoint of neutrality. The literal text analysis used here helped to find patterns as to why, if any, does illegal immigration pose such a threat and exposed multiple motivating or push/pull factors behind this illegal enterprise. Furthermore, literal text analysis allowed for the examination of prerecorded incidents of illegal migration incidents such as those associated with drug trafficking, human trafficking, and other illegal activity all which threatens the security of U.S. citizens. The information gathered from various reporting agencies such as, journals, periodicals and various studies, allowed for a comprehensive reinterpretation that spotlighted the facts thus eliminating any political spin or personal basis. For instance, the drug war in Mexico has shown to be much more dangerous and violent than any amount of drug related homicides happening in the US, which contributes Mexican nationals fleeing the country (see figure 1.8).
Figure 1.8

The following chart, figure 1.9, shows that the largest population of females trafficked for sex into the U.S. comes from Mexico, when compared to other Central America countries. The chart is broken down by age groups and country of origin; in every age range, the largest segment of trafficked females comes from Mexico. The United States has one of the biggest markets for illicit sexual encounters that provide the pull factor for traffickers as previously noted.
Figure 1.9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Ranges</th>
<th>Colombia</th>
<th>Venezuela</th>
<th>Ecuador</th>
<th>Peru</th>
<th>El Salvador</th>
<th>Guatemala</th>
<th>Nicaragua</th>
<th>Mexico</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% of Total Pop.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>-15</td>
<td>2567</td>
<td>2.02%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>1,038</td>
<td>12,157</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>7,887</td>
<td>9.720</td>
<td>0.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>1,028</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1,260</td>
<td>2,127</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>20,433</td>
<td>25,647</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| % of Total Pop. | 0.00% | 0.01% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.04% | 0.03% | 0.02% | 0.04% | 0.02% |

(Vast networks erected by traffickers has made the detection of such practices nearly impossible because many of the victims volunteering to enter into servitude and normally cooperate with their captors, who exploit their hopes of finding a better life in so-called host countries. Children from impoverished countries are sold into slavery by their parents because they are no longer able to care for them. Traffickers will take advantage of natives from these poverty-stricken countries by promising parents that a better life awaits their children if allow to leave with them for a nominal if any payment. Trafficking victims are closely guarded by their captors, many victims lack accurate immigration documentation, trafficked domestic servants remain “invisible” in private homes, and private businesses often act as a “front” for a back-end trafficking operation, which make human trafficking a particularly difficult crime to identify and count (Clawson, Layne, & Small, 2006).
IV. Results

In attempts to understand the nation security threats posed by individuals crossing the southwest U.S. and Mexico boarders, information was gathered from the “Police Practice and Research: An International Journal” that conducted a study on the topic. The study found that there was no evidence that foreign terrorist, such as the Talban, were attempting to gain access to the U.S. by way of its southwest borders. However, it did show a link between Mexico’s drug operations and the funding of terrorist activities as noted below. In addition, this author used information from another study which sought to show the social impact of illegal migration in general, as it relates population expansion, with projections of possible outcomes if the US continues with its current stance on immigration. While the study is not specific to the growth of Mexican nationals in the U.S., it provides the reader with a snap shot of what future America will look like in terms of population density, which includes Mexican nationals.

A. Nation Security Threats

According to authors Maria Haberfeld and Charles Liebermann, the growth between the link of “illegal aliens” and what they call “narco-terrorism is on the rise because the US is the world’s largest consumer of illicit drugs (Haberfeld & A, 2012). Mexican drug cartels have been working in cooperation with a terrorist group called the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia or FARC who have been identified as to having a working relationship with the Talban. It stands to reason that it is not implausible the Talban will use the aforementioned underground routes and gaps in the US boarders “... to transport those who seek the destruction of the USA for political, ideological, or religious reasons” (Haberfeld & A, 2012).
B. Social Threats

The study, conducted by the Center for Immigration Studies, used data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau which captures the most current and accurate estimates of the United States' population demographics. The data was then stripped down and the focus centered on the "net immigration" population or the difference between those coming and those leaving. The following extrapolated findings resulting from uncontrolled migration estimates a continued and sustained population growth which may diminish the quality of life for many US citizens:

- America's population will expand from 309 million residences to over 436 million by 2050 if the status quo relating today's immigration measures are continued (a difference of 127 million residences or a 41 percent population growth rate).

- The 41 percent population growth expected by the Census Bureau alone will exceed the combined population of Great Britain and France, in addition to outpacing the entire 1930 US population.

- The Census Bureau estimates that the net immigration population, both legal and illegal, will total approximately 68 million or 54 percent out of the estimated 127 million additional residences. Additional projects increase these numbers from 68 million to approximately 96 million when future descendants are included in the estimates; this means the net immigration population could exceed three-fourths of the entire future population growth in the US.

- The study suggests that if the margin of error for the Census Bureau's estimates reached upwards of 50 percent, the population growth would still exceed the 79 million future
The Effects of Illegal Migration from Mexico to the U.S.

residence mark by 2050; the net immigration would then account for 61 percent of that growth.

- If the US became an isolationist country by stopping all forms of migration and allowed the estimated 11 million illegal residences to remain, the population projected growth would still be upwards of 31 million by 2050.

- In projecting past the 2050 bench mark, using the same growth criteria puts the US population growth rate at 618 million by 2100, which is twice the entire US 2010 population.

- The US citizen to immigrant (both legal and illegal) ratio is expected to grow from one out of every six US citizen in 2030 to almost one out of every five residences by 2050 (Camarota, 2012).

In Summary, there is a chance that the U.S. population can grow exponentially over the next 40 years that has the potential to put an irreversible strain on governmental as well as private sector resources (i.e. health care, education, housing, etc.). Moreover, the projected future demographical makeup of the U.S. population could continue to change over time making it a culturally different America than today.
V. Currently proposed solutions

One of Congress latest immigration bills entitled “The Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002” was crafted to redesign national security regulations aimed at illegal immigration. Enormous spending measures were passed by congress specifically designed to: increase enforcement personnel training; to develop a vast technology based networks; to develop interagency information sharing networks (linking federal, state and local law enforcement agencies); and various other programs were planned to mitigate illegal migration (The Bureau of Consular Affairs, 2002). The hope resting in this act sought to secure US borders thus eliminating or reducing the possibility of another infiltration attack while addressing the illegal immigration problems plaguing this nation.

The United States’ immigration system is plagued with bureaucratic red tape that “bottle neck” the process for those seeking to enter this country legally and become productive law abiding citizens. Many of today’s laws and enforcement practices are ineffective and do little to stem the massive flow of illegal migrants across the US’ southwest borders. Moreover, there is no effective process that addresses the enormous unauthorized resident population currently residing in this country; nor are there any deterring processes in place that will encourage unauthorized residents to return home on their own volition.

A. Synopsis

The Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is charged with preventing the entry of terrorists, securing the borders, and carrying out immigration enforcement functions. However, the fact remains that there is no easy solution to the problem of Illegal immigration in the America. Building fences along the southern borders and enforcing current immigration laws
may seem like practical means of controlling unauthorized access to this country but excessive
governmental bureaucracy have stalled any measurable law enforcement efforts of combating
this problem. Doing nothing is in fact a de facto form of amnesty which sends a message that
legitimate means of gaining access to the U.S. are unnecessary. In addition, unethical U.S.
employers are one of the primary sources contributing to the “pull” factor that motivate
foreigners to bypass our immigration system. The job availability and pay are typically much
more substantial in America than in many immigrants’ nation of origin. However, while the US
population began to expand exponentially resulting from these push/pull factors, the impact of
immigrants looking for low skilled employment did have the overly burdensome effect on the
economy as opponents of illegal immigration would have one believe. For instance:

a. Between 1996 and 2000, the U.S. economy created over 14 million new jobs,
   while during the same period, total population growth (including
   immigration) was just over 12 million people.

b. Approximately 20 percent of the workforce in the service, production, and
   construction industries is immigrants.

c. U.S. unemployment rates have remained low in spite of an influx of about
   1.8 million immigrants per year between 2001 and 2005 (Bean & Stevens,
   2003, p. 6).

The myriad of solutions proposed by opponents and proponents of illegal immigration differ
tremendously. Many of these solutions fail to gain the bipartisanship compromise they need to
pass in either the House of Representatives or Senate. The federal government’s inability to
agree on a course of action has in essences left individual states scrambling to handle the
problems associated with illegal immigration themselves, as seen in the recent passage of House Bill 56 in Alabama. Many of the following laws, processes, and proposed solutions are based on both extreme right and left wing political ideologies.

B. Legalization

Legalization differs from amnesty in that it refers to the process whereby qualified illegal aliens gain the right to reside permanently in the United States. In most cases, after a five year period commonly known as a "path to citizenship," legalized permanent resident aliens may apply to become naturalized U.S. citizens. In the immigration debate the terms legalization, regularization, path to citizenship, and amnesty are often mistakenly or purposely interchanged (Legomsky, 2007).

C. Amnesty

The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 or IRCA provided amnesty to 2.7 million illegal immigrants already in the U.S. and established sanctions for employers who knowingly hired illegal aliens. The law's primary purpose was to end undocumented immigration by legalizing certain unauthorized immigrants and preventing future inflows. In addition to granting amnesty to those 2.7 million undocumented immigrants, IRCA attempted to accomplish its objective by requiring employers to verify workers' eligibility to work legally and by increasing funding for the Border Patrol (Orrenius & Madeline, 2004). Almost two decades later it has become clear that IRCA has failed to reach its primary objectives because one, there are at least twelve million undocumented immigrants present in the U.S. today, and two, many of them are working for employers who pay them in cash thus avoiding taxation.
D. Massive Deportation

In 2006, a study was conducted by doctors Rajeev Goyle and David A. Jaeger entitled “Deporting the Undocumented: A Cost Assessment” who used publicly available data to project an insurmountable cost tag for this undertaking. The study’s estimates projected a $206 billion cost on the low end and as much as a $230 billion cost on the high end, over the course of a five year span beginning in 2006 and ending in 2011, to fund such an effort. The study states that on the low end of the estimate, $206 billion or $41 billion annually, deportation efforts would have:

- ... [Cost more than] entire budget of the Department of Homeland Security for FY 2006 ($34.2 billion).
- [Prompted costs that would] approach the total amount of money requested by the 33 federal agencies responsible for homeland security activities for FY 2006 ($49.9 billion).
- More than double annual spending on border and transportation security ($19.3 billion).
- Comprise half the annual cost of the Iraq War ($74 billion).
- More than double the annual cost of military operations in Afghanistan ($16.8 billion).

However, even though there are many lawmakers who are in favor of this method of expelling undocumented residents, there are even more on both sides of aisle who believe that this course of action is not only unethical but impractical and unrealistic as well (Goyle & Jaeger, 2005). The United States stands as a model to the world on how to treat people, both legal and illegal residences alike, but a massive deportation endeavor would only sever to undermine that image. For example, many of the targeted illegal population would be inevitably separated from family
members in legal standing that are dependent upon their support for survival. This scenario alone would cause a large spike in governmental dependency in addition to the above mentioned costs.

E. Discussion

The U.S. visa system has long been hobbled by prolonged waiting periods, at times lasting years, resulting in part from rigid quotas. Currently, the United States issues 140,000 green cards a year for employment-based immigrants, of which no more than 7 percent can go to applicants from any one country. Applicants from India and China tend to greatly outnumber those from other countries, and therefore face lengthy waits. "These workers can't start companies, justify buying houses, or grow deep roots in their communities" during these waiting periods, writes Vivek Wadhaw, vice president of academics and innovation at Singularity University. She states "They could be required to leave the United States immediately--without notice--if their employer lays them off. Rather than live in constant fear and stagnate in their careers, many are returning home" (Wadhwa, 2011).

1. Policy Recommendations

In order to properly address the US illegal problems migration problems, three areas of concern must be addressed. Priority number one is to eliminate the “pull factor,” namely illegal employment opportunities, which draws immigrants to America and prompts them to enter the country illegally. Secondly, the government must close the aforementioned physical routes that make crossing into this country via the southwest boarders undetected possible. Thirdly, take reasonable steps that are necessary to reduce the economic impact associated with illegal immigration. The following are ten steps that this author believes can be taken to effectively
address these three areas of concern while overhauling the entire United States immigration system:

1. For national security reasons as listed above, it is vital that the US regain control of its borders. Congress has to pass a narrowly written emergency border bill in order to finish the necessary fencing along the southwest US/Mexico borders that should target a completion time frame of one year or less.

2. The executive branch of the federal of government, who in charge of the U.S. Treasury Department that the Inter Revenue Service reports to should mandate an immediate IRS target shift. The IRS should focus its resources on auditing companies that deliberately hire and exploit undocumented immigrant workers. By taking this direction, the government could reduce the costs and inhumanity associated with the deportation of illegal aliens. U.S. companies would be punished for intentionally circumventing immigration laws by avoiding paying employee benefits and the taxes associated with hiring employees because they are paid in cash. The fines for companies knowingly hiring illegible persons should be significantly increased, which would make it simply too expensive to cheat in this manner. This strategic plan would greatly reduce the attraction of illegal jobs for both employers and illegal immigrants; stemming the flow of undetected people into this country. The plan would ultimately encourage illegal workers to return home voluntarily thus avoiding problems associated with deportation.

3. The government should outsource to credit card companies such as American Express, Visa, and MasterCard or background checking agencies the job of
creating a real-time verification system. The purpose of this system would aide honest companies with confirming the legal status of their employees while flagging and identifying those presenting forged identification before they are hired. In addition, a measure being purpose by several states seeking to provide illegal immigrants with driver’s license should become a federal mandate. In this way illegal immigrants can be identified and held accountable for their actions on the highways they currently driving now illegally.

4. Focus deportation efforts on the criminal element associated or intermingled with illegal immigration. Simply put, criminals should not be afforded the opportunity to have a future in the U.S. Our system needs reforming so that those looking for an honest day wage for an honest day’s work can do so while illicit behavior would be grounds for immediate expulsion. Gangs that are native to America are bad enough but mix in gangs from foreign countries then by attrition crime rates will climb. One study estimates the illegal gang member population to be upwards of 30,000 or more. This method would send a strong message to the illegal residence population which says if you break the law, then you face immediate deportation.

5. Severely reduce or eliminate any and all federal aid to a city, county or state that refuses to investigate the legal status of a criminal suspect or arrestee. In this country, there are so-called “sanctuary cities” that are inadvertently aiding foreign criminals in the violation of American law by neglecting to establish their legal statuses and reporting violators to the appropriate federal agency.
6. The government must establish that America’s official language is English while offering classes that focus on teaching the English dialect to those wishing to learn. This strategy will reinforce the ideology of assimilation into the American culture which historically has been a part of the immigration process.

7. A mandate should be established for those seeking citizenship that a test on America’s history in English must be passed and voter rights in their countries of origin has to be relinquishing.

8. Within the context of these proven changes, establish an economically driven temporary worker program like the one the Krieble Foundation proposes. Any temporary worker would have to pass a background check to ensure they are not a criminal, would have to give biometric information (retinal scan and thumbprint) for a special card that would be outsourced to American Express, MasterCard or Visa so it would be harder to defraud and counterfeit, and they would have to sign a contract committing them to pay taxes and obey our laws or be removed from the United States within two weeks, which would avoid long court processes (The Washington Times, 2006).

9. Put a premium on visas where the workers who bring specialized skills such as: academia, talents, and/or an entrepreneurial spirit that would enhance the country’s prosperity; these individuals would be streamlined if citizenship is one of their primary goals.
10. Illegal residents that have forged a solid standing in their respective communities and who have become productive members of society should be given preferential treatment, as it relates to obtaining a temporary work visa. However, they must still be made to return to their native country to obtain those visas. The purpose for sending them home is so when they return, they will be returning in observance of our laws in addition to being counted as an asset instead of a burden. This will require a complete overhaul of the immigration system and a shorting of the processing time frames.

This author’s plan, as laid out above, has multiple benefits if they are implicated within the next 10 years. However, the primary goals of these ideas are to enforce the rule of law premise that everyone should be made to follow not just U.S. citizens. The longer the illegal immigration problem is allowed to stay stagnant the less likely the rule of law will matter, due to the unspoken message sent to the world at large that America cannot or will not enforce its own laws.

2. Conclusion

The study has shown that illegal migration from Mexico certainly benefits U.S. employers and the economy in general due to the expansion of the labor force in addition to increase productivity. However, the study also shows that the vast majority of the expanded labor force comes from low skilled workers who put higher strains on governmental resources than what they pay in taxes. The 13 trillion dollar deficit that this country in now facing comes from years of controlled borrowing to fund both social programs and various wars. The positives and
negatives associated with illegal migration from Mexico illustrates how just one segment of the entire US illegal migrant population can affect the future viability of this nation.

America was never intended to be an isolationist nation that bars immigrants from relocating here and starting new lives. It simply cannot be emphasized enough about the immeasurable value immigrants bring to this country and how its prosperity is directly linked to decades of migration. Immigrants should be viewed as valuable assets and not burdens because the vast majority of US citizens are descendants of immigrants. The study has revealed that a mass deportation undertaken of illegal immigrants would not only hurt the US reputation on a global scale but it has the potential to negatively impact its economy. Mass deportations would enviably break up families leaving the most vulnerable segments of the illegal immigrant population defenseless; most civilized societies are typically judged by the way they treat children and the elderly.

Nonetheless, we live in the age of terrorism were terrorist are constantly seeking ways to exact revenge and to inflict as much damage to on U.S. soil as possible. 9/11, where 19 Muslim extremist infiltrated the U.S. by taking advantage of it extremely relaxed immigration laws, is a haunting reminder of this fact. The U.S. government as well as each business and individual U.S. citizen bears a portion of responsibility in the protection of America’s sovereignty. Therefore, the problems associated with illegal immigration in this country must be addressed in a way that celebrates current, as well as incoming, immigrates while respecting the rule of law.

It is this author’s belief that the research questions posed in the “Purpose of Project” portion of this paper have been answered, albeit in a limited and non-all-inclusive degree.
1.) Will continual breaches to America’s borders increase the likelihood of a terrorist attack on its soil? Yes. The research found in this paper suggests that terrorist groups such as the Taliban are working with Mexican drug cartels. Experts believe that it is only a matter of time, if it has not already happen, that members from these terrorist organizations will exploit existing unmanned gaps in the southwest border used by illegal aliens to cross into the U.S. undetected.

2.) Does illegal immigration have an adverse effect on America’s cultural dynamics which jeopardizes its national identity? Yes. According to the projections of the U.S. population growth of immigrants (both legal and illegal) by the year 2050, traditional America may have a different look as more foreign ideologies are assimilated its culture. The total U.S. population in early 1900s totaled approximately 77 million but today it reaches upwards of 311 million according to the U.S. Census Bureau and 43% of this growth can be contributed to Hispanic population. This fast growth makes the assimilation of foreigners into America’s democratic ideology almost impossible which means the cultural tides that immigrants’ have their countries origin divides their patriotism to this country.

3.) Do illegal immigrants help or hurt America’s economy and can this be rectified? Hurt. According to the information found in this study, while the expansion of America’s labor force helps to expand the gross national product, many of the low skill jobs primarily taken by Mexican immigrants (i.e. agricultural, house cleaning, nanny services, etc.) are low paying jobs. These types of low paying jobs leave immigrants in need of governmental services to “fill in the gaps” if you will with aide in housing, schooling and health care services. The amount of taxes these jobs produce, if any, does not offset the expenditures associated with the aforementioned governmental support. This can be rectified by holding employers responsible for hiring illegal immigrants and avoid paying them a fair day’s wage for a fair day’s work. Employers should be
made to provide undocumented workers with benefits in addition to paying their fair share of the tax burdens associated with having employees that other law aiding business are forced to pay.

Finally, the evidence produced in this paper explains the benefit that immigrants bring which adds to the prosperity of this nation. Many would agree that a Mexican national sneaking across the border to find work in order to support his/her family does not pose the same national security threat as a Taliban terrorist. While the evidence presented in this paper puts the probability of terrorist accessing the country via the southwest border at a minimum, it shows that illegal migration from Mexico must be appreciated from a societal perspective. The study concludes that by allowing uncontrolled migration from Mexico and abroad to continue, we risk jeopardizing is this country’s national identity, social structure, economy, and its future viability.
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