Illegal Immigration

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"If immigration continues at 2.3 million per year, we won't have enough Americans to stand up for America."

Illegal Immigration Threatens America

Frosty Wooldridge

In the following viewpoint, Frosty Wooldridge contends that a massive influx of illegal immigrants is creating social divisions and undermining America's culture and economy. He argues that these disruptions could lead to a civil war in America. Wooldridge is a journalist and author whose articles and op-eds have appeared in several newspapers and national and international magazines. He is the author of Immigration’s Unarmed Invasion (2004).

As you read, consider the following questions:

1. What evidence does the author provide to support his view that America is breaking up?
2. How would granting amnesty to illegal immigrants perpetuate the immigration problem, according to Wooldridge?
3. In the author’s view, why is the upcoming civil war going to start in California?

ing look into the methodology and process whereby my own country was being destroyed before my eyes.

“History is littered with wars which everybody knew would never happen,” said Enoch Powell. Today, America fights a war 10,000 miles away [in Iraq] while its own borders suffer an invasion so vast, so powerful, so insidiously destructive, yet so subtle—even our own citizens can’t see it. Not yet, that is. Chittum writes, “America was born in blood.” He should know because he is a decorated Viet Nam veteran.

“Social, political and economic forces are pulling America apart and driving her toward a bloody conflict that may fracture the nation into several different countries,” he said. “Riots, gangs, militias, exploding crime rates, massive immigration, rising unemployment, falling wages . . . these fuel the fires of war.”

Nations Versus Empires
He talks about nations versus empires. “Empires consist of peoples of different religions, languages, cultures, races and nationalities,” he said. “Nations are dominated by one group that makes up a majority of the population. Nations are inherently stable while empires are always unstable.”

If you look around the United States, we were a stable nation before 1965 with a population mostly of European and African citizens and mostly one religion. Today, we’ve imported 60 million people from areas so incompatible with American culture that we recoil at the horrors of female genital mutilation from Middle Easterners, polygamy of Hmong immigrants, honor killings from Asia, forced 13 year old girls into marriages and 300 different languages. Los Angeles, Miami, San Francisco and other cities speak more foreign languages than English. “If you’ll notice throughout history,” he writes, “multiethnic empires break up in cataclysmic violence.” The former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia are classic examples of multiethnic empires that shattered in tribal violence. Today, France is on the same track of self-destruction.

Chittum talks about an unstable, tiered society. Aristotle said, “The only stable state is the one in which all men are equal before the law.” As any average American citizen can see, we’re developing a massive underclass of illegal, Third World, uneducated poor that have become our ‘indentured servants.’ They won’t remain down on the farm for long.

America supports 13 million illegal aliens that have no allegiance to our country. A dozen cities feature more foreign-born immigrants than American citizens. Last year [2003], 800,000 Californians fled their state. Over 200 Spanish-speaking radio stations own the airwaves in Los Angeles. Miami features over 100 Cuban stations. None have any allegiance to America.

The Problem of Amnesty
How will it get worse? Our politicians may grant amnesty to that 13 million which will encourage another 13 million.
There are so many illegal aliens that they hide more illegal aliens via ‘ethnic sympathy.’ But what they bring us is as dangerous as any armed invasion.

As their numbers grow, they are aided by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund. La Raza, another anti-American Mexican organization, works directly for the overthrow of America. LULAC is another group that supports the ‘Reconquista of Aztlan,’ or, the retaking of the American Southwest back into Mexico.

Notice that Mexican president [Vicente] Fox dictates to our leaders what they will do with his 13 million illegal immigrants in our country. Notice 46 Mexican consulates in our cities around America supporting his people in our country. Notice voter fraud by illegal aliens now able to throw our local and national elections.

After three chapters, Chittum’s writing sobered me, but I still wasn’t convinced until he offered concrete numbers. “In California in 1993, 665,229 firearms were sold. That’s 1,873 per day. Enough firearms were sold to equip an infantry battalion.” For the Californians remaining, there’s a lot of frightened people readying themselves for conflict.

“California is odds-on favorite to kick off Civil War II,” Chittum said.

Immigrant Gangs

“The instinctive need to be a member of a closely-knit group fighting for common ideals may grow so strong that it becomes inessential what these ideals are,” said Konrad Lorenz. Illegal Mexican border jumpers separate against being an American. The 20,000 member “18th Street Gang” in Los Angeles owns the streets. They coordinate all drug traffic, extortions of businesses, prostitutes and robberies. Their power, along with MS-13 gangs in 28 American cities, grows by the day. Over 60 percent of the members are illegal aliens and the other 40 percent are legal immigrants. Since they possess no working skills in our First World society, they find crime as an easier vocation. It’s termed ‘Third World Momentum.’ Its corruption is so deep, so wide and so embedded that it’s as intrinsic as the sewer systems in those cities.

How many and how much? Los Angeles sheriff files register 100,000 gang members. San Antonio features 5,000 gang members. Chicago estimates 50,000 members. Former Attorney General Janet Reno estimated over 500,000 gang members have imported themselves into the USA. They commit an average of 580,000 crimes annually in our country.

So why do our politicians sit and twiddle their thumbs? Why do they aid and abet by doing nothing? Can’t they see what’s happening to California? Texas? Arizona? The answer in a nutshell: No!

Why? Because Americans, like the proverbial frog being thrown into the pot of water and the stove being turned up to high, will keep adapting until we boil to death. The same thing happened to the Romans, French, Spanish and every other great nation that tumbled into the dustbin of history. Spain backed into submission by the Madrid train bombing. France stands on the doorstep of a crisis it won’t be able to contain.

I never thought I would have to fight for my own country inside my own country. But the time is fast approaching. Chittum adds that if immigration continues at 2.3 million per year, we won’t have enough Americans to stand up for America.
"None of the claims made by conservatives to inveigh against immigration hold up to scrutiny."

Illegal Immigration Does Not Threaten America

Tim Wise

Tim Wise is an activist and author of Great White Hoax: Responding to the Politics of White Nationalism. In the following viewpoint he responds to several of the claims made by critics of immigration. Contrary to the assertions of these anti-immigration forces, he argues, illegal immigrants are not taking advantage of the welfare system and are not to blame for high rates of violent crime in American cities. Wise concludes that most of the arguments made by anti-immigration activists are based in racism.

As you read, consider the following questions:

1. What evidence does the author present to show that the influx of illegal aliens has been exaggerated?
2. What flaws does the author identify in the study by Donald Huddle?
3. How does NAFTA contribute to the illegal immigration problem, according to Wise?

Before September 11, before the Patriot Act, before the latest round of racial profiling at airports, in which Arabs or those suspected of being Arab have been subjected to heightened scrutiny as potential terrorists, life was already difficult enough for immigrants of color to the United States.

In 1994, California voters approved Prop 187, the purpose of which had been to limit if not eliminate a wide array of income support, educational and health care benefits to so-called "illegal aliens." Although most of the law's provisions have been effectively blocked by the courts, the anti-immigrant backlash signified by the election result made clear that to be an immigrant to this country at this time was to be a suspect.

If not suspected of terrorism, being an immigrant was to be suspected of laziness, taking advantage of welfare programs, overburdening social services and health care facilities, lowering the quality of education with demands for bilingual instruction, or even worse, driving the drug trade and contributing heavily to the nation's crime problem.

But as with the overreaction to Arabs and Muslims so prevalent after September 11th, so too are the stereotypes, fears, and assumptions about immigrants from Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia false. When subjected to scrutiny, the reactionary ravings of white supremacist groups and even mainstream conservatives are shown to be wholly unsupported.

Exaggerated Claims

In this time of renewed Nativist impulses, perhaps we would do well to revisit some of the more traditional anti-immigrant rhetoric, so as to demonstrate the fallacies that permeate the discourse and restore some sanity, not to mention accuracy to the debate over this important issue.

To begin with, the supposed "alien invasion" has been greatly exaggerated. A recent study by demographers in the U.S. and Mexico City found that the numbers of illegal immi-
Illegal immigrants entering the U.S. is only about 105,000 per year, as opposed to the millions claimed by anti-immigrant forces.

Other estimates place the total number of undocumented entrants into the U.S. at no more than 300,000 annually—even then a far cry from the proclamations of anti-immigrant groups. What’s more, the population of undocumented entrants into the U.S. has remained constant as a share of the national population for over two decades, at no more than two percent.

Myths About Immigrants, Welfare, and the Economy

As for immigrant use of welfare benefits, undocumented workers and their families are not eligible for cash welfare or food stamps. They are only eligible for emergency medical assistance, prenatal care and educational benefits, all of which are considered worth providing so as to reduce health emergencies, epidemics and the social problems associated with lack of schooling.

In fact, a proper analysis of welfare receipt rates shows that immigrants are not more likely than native-born residents to receive welfare. Excluding emergency refugees (who are eligible for several types of assistance in virtually any country to which they escape), recent immigrants receive public aid at lower rates than the native-born and immigrant use of welfare has been decreasing for over twenty years.

Contrary to common perception, today’s immigrants (largely of color) are actually less likely to receive assistance than were the European immigrants of the early 1900s. Over half of all welfare recipients in 1909 were immigrants, and these immigrants were three times more likely to receive assistance than the native-born.

As for the cost of immigration to the public sector, rather than draining taxpayer coffers, immigrants actually contribute positively to the economic health of the United States; indeed, recent immigrants create a net surplus to the public sector of nearly $30 billion annually, according to the Urban Institute.

Data from New York State—with the second largest immigrant population in the nation—shows that the foreign born population there pays about $18 billion in taxes each year, with a per capita tax payment that is hardly distinguishable from their native-born counterparts. Even those immigrants who are in New York illegally (only 16% of immigrants in the state) pay over $1 billion annually in taxes.

In California—home to 43% of illegal immigrants in the U.S.—undocumented workers contribute approximately seven percent of the state’s economic product: roughly $63 billion annually. According to a study by researchers at UCLA, the gross economic contribution by each illegal immigrant to the economy of California was nearly $45,000 per year.

Given that the average undocumented worker receives very low wages—typically less than $10,000 annually—this means that even with paltry social service benefits available to these immigrants, the net transfer of income is exactly the opposite of that implied by immigrant bashers. Instead of the state and nation subsidizing immigrants, it is more accurate to say that immigrants subsidize the economy and the companies for which they work.
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which they work by performing low-wage labor that is worth at least four times more, on average, than what they earn from income and welfare combined.

A Flawed Study
The study most often cited to “prove” the high cost of immigrants relative to the taxes they pay was conducted by Donald Huddle, of Rice University, on behalf of the anti-immigration group, Carrying Capacity Network. Yet further analysis of the Huddle study by researchers at the Urban Institute revealed several flaws which undermine its conclusions.

While Huddle claimed that immigrants cost U.S. public coffers $42 billion annually, this number was arrived at through a terribly flawed methodology. First, Huddle was basing his claims on one study of Los Angeles County, which he then extrapolated to the nation as a whole, despite significant differences in the costs associated with immigration in different parts of the country, and the different incomes earned by immigrants across the nation. Indeed, Huddle’s underestimation of immigrant income was so extreme, that he miscalculated the amount of taxes paid by these immigrants by roughly $21.3 billion.

Then, by ignoring altogether the FICA taxes (Social Security), unemployment insurance taxes, and gasoline taxes paid by immigrants, Huddle further underestimated the tax payments of immigrants by an additional $29 billion. These two mistakes alone (and there were others) torpedo Huddle’s conclusion—that immigrants are a net drain on the nation’s economy—by indicating that taxes paid by immigrants are higher than the amount they cost the country in public expenditures.

The Real Parasites
Of course there is a bitter irony in the claim that immigrants seek to take advantage of the U.S. welfare system; namely, if anything, it is U.S. corporations whose desire to take advantage of trade agreements and labor in exploited nations has led to the flow of immigrants to the U.S. in the first place.

For example, as a result of trade agreements that open up Mexico and Latin America for U.S. corporate penetration, companies have moved south of the border in search of low-wage labor and intent on developing markets for exports, especially in agriculture. As a result of the shift from local subsistence farming to profit-oriented corporate agriculture, Mexican peasants are driven off the land, at which time they head for Mexican cities in search of jobs. But the lack of jobs in the cities and large pool of unemployed labor there—which allows employers to drive down wages since workers are desperate—then results in a stream of workers from the Mexican cities into the United States.

Current research estimates that over 300,000 Mexican farm workers have lost their jobs due to NAFTA [the North American Free Trade Agreement], thereby fueling the desperate rush for the U.S. border in search of subsistence. In fact, if anyone is taking advantage or “sponging” off of others, it is the American corporations who run to Mexico where low wages and non-existent environmental laws allow them to save as much as $25,000 per worker compared to what they would have to pay in the United States.

Myths About Immigration and Crime
As for criminality, it appears that immigrants only pick up these bad habits after being in the country a while. A study at the University of North Carolina found that it is only after immigrant families become more “Americanized” that they experience dramatic increases in drug use, weapons use, violence and sexual promiscuity.

Indeed, Mexican immigrants have drug abuse rates that are only half as high as their U.S.-born, Mexican American counterparts, indicating that it is acculturation and American-
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It is not immigration, which presents the larger problem. Studies have found that immigrants nearly always exhibit lower crime rates than native-born persons, and there is simply no evidence to indicate that as immigrants move into an area crime goes up.

Evidence from Miami—a large city with a substantial number and percentage of Latino and Caribbean immigrants, and the largest percentage of Latino residents of any large county in the U.S.—indicates how flawed the “immigration brings more crime” argument really is. Despite the city’s large presence of immigrants, the fact remains that Cubans, Jamaicans, and Haitians are actually less likely to be involved in homicides than the native-born, and as the rate of Latino immigration to Miami increased in the 1980s, the murder rate there actually declined.

Haitian immigrants, in fact, typically commit murder less often than whites and have the lowest rate of homicides of any ethnic group in Miami. Likewise, there are no significant differences in the rates of homicides between Latinos and whites in Miami. While it is true that Miami led the nation in terms of its homicide rate throughout most of the 1980s, this was also the case in the late 1940s and early 1950s, long before the immigration explosion that would transform the town in more recent decades.

Dreaming of a White Nation

Ultimately, however, the battle over immigration is not about money, welfare programs, language or crime: it is about the desire by a large segment of the U.S. citizenry to define what it means to be an “American” in explicitly racial terms. Not only do such persons fail to recognize America as a continent, which includes the very dark-skinned neighbors to the South they so fear, but they also fail to conceive of the U.S. as anything less than a white nation.

Of course, such a racialized conception of the United States is intriguing, precisely because this country, unlike many others, has long been a multiracial, multicultural land, which would be unrecognizable as the nation it is today but for the contributions of people of color from distant and not so distant shores.

From the beginning of conquest and colonization of the Americas, the land that is now the U.S. was always multiracial. Not only were there millions of indigenous American Indians, representing over two hundred separate nations, but the numbers of African slaves often equaled or even surpassed the numbers of “free whites” in many communities, particularly in the south.

Until the massive increase in European immigration beginning in the mid-1800s and lasting until the 1920s, people of color were a substantial portion of the population in many communities as much as a third or more. Only by changing the inherent makeup of United States demography via “white” migration did the U.S. become 90% white in the 1950s.

In the final analysis, none of the claims made by conservatives to inveigh against immigration hold up to scrutiny: immigrants are no more and perhaps less likely to receive public assistance than the native-born, they are no more and often less likely to engage in serious criminal activity; and ultimately, their desire to live in the U.S.—especially given the anti-immigrant backlash of recent years—is testament to nothing so much as their desire to take advantage of the greater opportunities still available here, relative to the places from whence they come.

Of course, a few more years of Bushanomics might well remedy the situation: after all, if there aren’t any jobs being created, no one will want to come to the United States.