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**The Impact of Illegal Immigration on the Employment
Opportunities of Black American Workers**

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Dedication

The dissertation in hand could have never been accomplished without our beloved families and friends

To the soul of my beloved father Mahmoud

To my mother TIDJANI Raihana for always loving and supporting me

Without the inspiration, drive and support you gave me, I might not be the person I am today

To my wonderful siblings Mebarka, Asma, Sidihamma and Mahmoud

Also special thanks devoted for my dearest friends

And to all my cousins who have been my best cheerleaders

A special feeling of gratitude to my loving parents, Mohammed and Radhia whose words of encouragement and push for tenacity ring in my ears. My sister Amel, all my brothers Ramzi,

Mohammed, Taleb, Mohi and especially Atef, who had done so much efforts during my educational journey and never left my side

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Abstract

This research identifies the issue of illegal immigration in the United States of America and its impact on African-American job chances. This study employs historical and descriptive-analytical methods. The research is based on examining the history of immigration to America and its different waves, as well as the government's immigration policy over time. It is based on economic study and statistics done by economists. It also attempts to offer a thorough understanding of the influence of illegal immigration on the socioeconomic condition of Black Americans, as well as the consequences for the international economy. This study explores and analyzes a corpus of shared accounts from American scholars who live with the issue and witness its consequences on the ground. The findings show that illegal immigration has both good and bad effects; it has benefited the country's economy in a variety of ways and expanded labor force in many industries. However, its negative consequences on black Americans were more severe in economic and social dimensions.

Keywords: Illegal immigration, Black Americans, Employment.

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

IRCA: Illegal immigration reform act.

DACA: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

DAPA: Deferred Action for Parents of Americans.

LPR: Lawful Permanent Residents.

TPSL: Temporary Protective Status Law

IIRIRA: Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act

FAIR: The Federation of American Immigration Reform

GAO: Government Accountability Office

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

List of Figures

Figure 1.1: Immigration to the US in the late 1800s.....	7
Figure 1.2: The proportion of the Immigrants in the first wave.....	8
Figure 1.3: The number of immigrants increasing over the years.....	9
Figure 1.4: The House of Representative vote to pass the immigration quota act of 1921.....	12
Figure 1.5: The Senate vote to pass the Immigration quota act of 1921.....	13
Figure 1.6: Unauthorized Immigrants and US-Born Works Occupational.....	15
Figure 2.1: The Increase in U.S. GDP per Capital.....	24
Figure 2.2: Unemployment Rates According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.....	32

Table of contents

Dedication	I
Acknowledgements.....	II
Abstract.....	III
List of Acronyms and Abbreviations.....	IV
List of Figures	V
List of Tables	VI
Table of Contents.....	VII
General Introduction.....	1
1. Background of the Study.....	2
2. Statement of the Problem.....	2
3. Research Questions and Hypothesis.....	3
4. Aims of the Study.....	3
5. Research Methodology.....	3
6. Structure of the Study.....	4
7. Significance of the Study.....	4
Chapter one: The History of Immigration to the United State of America and its Policies	
Introduction.....	5
1. Reasons of immigration.....	5
1.1 Wars	5
1.2 Economic Opportunities.....	6
1.3 Religious Freedom.....	6
1.4 Slavery.....	6
2. Immigration Waves.....	6
2.1 First wave 1607-1830.....	6
2.2 Second Wave 1830-1880.....	8
2.2.1 Second Wave's immigrants Origins.....	9
2.2.1.1 Irish.....	9
2.2.1.2 Chinese.....	10
2.2.1.3 Scandinavians.....	10

2.2.1.4 Germans.....	10
2.3 Third Wave 1890-1965.....	10
2.3.1 The Role of WW1 in Changing Immigration Laws.....	11
2.3.2 The Immigration Quota Act of 1921.....	11
2.3.3 The Great Internal Migration.....	13
2.3.4 Reasons of the Great Migration.....	13
2.4 Fourth Wave 1965- Present Day.....	14
3. Immigration Policies.....	15
3.1 Types of Immigration.....	16
3.1.1 Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR).....	16
3.1.2 U.S. Citizens.....	16
3.1.3 Undocumented Immigrants.....	17
3.1.4 Temporary Visitors.....	17
3.2 U.S. Migration Policies History.....	17
3.3 Immigration From Legal to Illegal.....	17
3.4 The Bracero Program 1942.....	18
3.5 U.S. Immigration Laws.....	19
3.5.1 Naturalization Act of 1790.....	19
3.5.2 The Page Act of 1875.....	20
3.5.3 The Johnson-Reed Act of 1924.....	20
3.5.4 Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1943.....	20
3.5.5 Landmark Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965.....	20
3.5.6 The Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986.....	20
3.5.7 The DACA & DAPA Programs.....	21
3.5.8 Temporary Protective Status Law of 1990.....	21
Conclusion.....	21

Chapter two: The Impact of Illegal Immigration on African-American workers

Introduction.....	23
1. Positive Effects of Illegal Immigration on the U.S. Economy.....	23

2. Labor Market Theory.....	24
3. Dual Market Theory in Practice: Illegal Immigration in the U.S.....	25
4. The Economic Impact.....	26
5. Fiscal Impact.....	27
5.1 Public Service Costs.....	27
5.1.1 Health Care	28
5.1.2 Education.....	28
5.1.3 Incarceration Costs.....	28
5.2 Taxes.....	29
6. The Impact of Illegal Immigration on the Employment Sectors.....	29
7. Illegal Immigration Costs Black Americans' Jobs.....	30
7.1 Black American Unemployment.....	31
Conclusion.....	33
 Chapter Three: The Practical Framework: Analysis of The Impact of Illegal Immigration on Black American Work Opportunities	
Introduction.....	35
1. Illegal Immigration and the Socioeconomic Status of African-Americans.....	35
1.1 Impact on the Black workers economic status	35
1.1.1 Employment Sector.....	36
1.1.1.1 Adults (25-64 ages).....	36
1.1.1.2 Young workers (age 16 and over).....	36
1.1.2 Impact on Wages.....	37
1.2 Impact on the Black Workers Social Status.....	38
Conclusion.....	44
General Conclusion.....	45
References.....	48
ملخص.....	55

General Introduction

General Introduction

1. Background of the Study

A country for less than two and a half centuries, the United States is a relatively new member of the global community. The early promise of the New World as a refuge and land of opportunity was realized dramatically in the 20th century with the emergence of the United States as a world power. . The metaphor of the “melting pot” had been introduced to symbolize the mystical potency of the great democracy, whereby people from every corner of the earth were fused into a harmonious and admirable blend. A steady stream of immigration, notably from the 1830s onward, formed a pool of foreign-born persons unmatched by any other nation; 60 million people immigrated to U.S. During the 17th and 18th century, the first immigration wave had appeared, where 500.000 Europeans went to the New World looking for religious freedom(Puritans),wealth and brighter economy and adventure. These new comers were mainly from Britain, Italy, France and Germany. In addition to the forced migration (slave migration)that have been part of the human history for millennia. The largest slave migrations were probably those compelled by European slave traders operating in Africa from the 16th to 19th c, where only 14.000 of Africans survived the harsh conditions on slave ship. Then, the modern mass migrations were produced by the population increase and the improved transportation that accompanied the Industrial Revolution. The largest of these was the so-called Great Atlantic Migration from Europe to North America. In late 1840s, mass movements of Irish and German immigrants have occurred. About 23 million people moved to America escaping the horror of World Wars and looking for job opportunities due to the mechanization; as America is known as the land of opportunities at that time. More than 10.000 permanent immigrants have been admitted legally since 1960s, for this reason the American government was pushed to restrict the number of immigrants. Thus, the illegal immigration has almost added several millions more.

2. Statement of the Problem

Due to the increasing rate of the worldwide immigrants, the government had to put a precise legal number of these immigrants to provide. The Immigration Act of 1924 which limited the number of immigrants allowed entry into the United States through a national origins quota. The quota provided immigration visas to two percent of the total number of people of each

nationality in the United States as of the 1890 national census. Yet, people kept entering the United States illegally searching for the job chances and better life conditions that they are looking for. As a result, the unplanned newcomers have an effect on the job opportunities on the American workers as a whole and the Black especially. This research investigates the impact of illegal immigration on job opportunities and Black American workers.

3. Research Questions and Hypotheses

For the purpose of achieving the research objectives, the study will answer the following questions.

1. Is there an impact of illegal immigration on black Americans' work opportunities?
2. What is the nature of this impact? Is it positive or negative?
3. Are there any marginal effects of illegal immigration on the American economy?

In the light of the questions cited above, we hypothesize that:

1. Illegal immigration has mainly a negative impact on the black American socioeconomic status.
2. Illegal immigration affects the US economy positively

4. Aims of the Study

This study aims at investigating the effect of illegal immigration on the job chances of black American people. The following research shall shed the light on the black American socioeconomic status, and discusses the outcomes of that issue on their lives as American citizens. Another major point is the results of illegal immigration and its impact on the economic and industrial system in the country.

5. Research Methodology

The study adopts historical and descriptive-analytical methods for explaining how illegal immigration affects black Americans' life and their economic status. For the first chapter, the historical method is used to investigate the history of immigration in the United States of America, how it started, and its outcomes. The descriptive-analytical method is used in the second and the third chapters to analyze the results of illegal immigration increasing on the black

American socioeconomic status, through detecting some testimonies and statements of some professors and researchers in the field of economics and labor economics studies in the U.S. who have conducted studies on the impact of illegal immigration on the wages and employment of black Americans.

6. Structure of the Study

This dissertation is sectioned into three basic chapters; the first chapter devoted to how did the different waves of immigration contributed in developing the United States of America from the birth of the country till this day, and how it became one of the most prominent factors in the prosperity of the country.

The second chapter discusses the effects of illegal immigration process on the U.S. economy and more specifically it tackles how does undocumented immigrants hurts the socioeconomic status of African-Americans, and what were the results of this issue.

Finally, the third chapter conducts the practical analysis of some scholars' testimonies concerning the proportion of Black Americans and unauthorized immigrants in the labor market. This Chapter explores the statistics of the U.S. labor market and employment rates over the past four decades.

7. Significance of the Study

This study will provide a crystal-clear analysis of the consequences of hiring illegal immigrants on the labor market in the United States, and to what extent it may affect American employees and the society as a whole. Therefore, this research will expand the understanding of academics and students who are interested in this field of study and enhance their intellectual knowledge. Where they open their horizons in order to explore global issues, and one of the most important and controversial issues is immigration and its negative and positive effects on the individual and community.

Chapter One

The History of Immigration to the United State of America and its Policies

Introduction

For the first 100 years of its existence, the United States encouraged immigration, allowing foreigners to live across its vast land. Beginning in the 1790s, the majority of the residents were of English, Irish, and German ancestry. However, the majority of immigrants in the 18th century were Africans who had been forced into slavery, but this did not last for so long. In the 1808s, the congress passes an act to abolish slavery in the country and prohibit the importation of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the US from any foreign kingdom, place or country. After the industrial revolution, thousands from Europeans drew to the US looking for works opportunities in factories and railroads. Also millions of immigrants came from Asia, specifically China in order to escape the economic chaos in their country chasing better opportunities in San Francisco, and many more came from Ireland seeking for refuge from the great famine. By the 1880s, Prostitutes, long-term employees, and Chinese immigrants were among many types of immigrants barred from entering the country; by the Exclusive Act of 1882s Chinese laborers were banned from entering the US for the next 60 years. In the beginning of the 19th century many immigrants entered the country to escape the violence and genocides in their homeland, like Jews fleeing pogroms in Russia and many alike. The migration process was classified into four main waves, where we notice many changes in the immigration laws system between these time periods. This chapter tackles the subject of immigration, its history and why people start emigrating from the first place; also the policies and laws imposed by the country on immigrants.

1. Reasons of Immigration

There are several reasons why individuals move from their home nations to other ones. We shall discuss some of the most significant causes for migration:

1.1 Wars

The entire world has experienced many wars and conflicts, most notably the First and Second World Wars, which claimed the lives of many innocent people and harmed the economies of many countries, and this is one of the primary reasons that people migrated from their countries to new lands in search of stability and security (Montiglio, D., 2021).

1.2 Economic Opportunities

In other nations, aristocrats controlled the economic side, causing many middle-class owners to flee in pursuit of greater chances in better areas (Montiglio, D., 2021).

1.3 Religious Freedom

Many, if not all, immigrants left their homelands seeking religious freedom, a place where they could practice their own views and faith without fear of being criticized. Few examples are English Catholics, Puritans, Mennonites, French Huguenots, and Spanish Jews, who have moved to America to follow their religion in safety and peace, free from persecution and injustice (Montiglio, D., 2021).

1.4 Slavery

Africans were forced to move to America in order to work in plantation and slave trade, the latter grew in the 18th century where an estimated 800,000 slaves brought over to America, one in five Americans were slaves at the time of the first census in 1790 (Farley, J., 2006).

2. Immigration Waves

From 1607 to the present, America has had four waves of immigration. Immigrants of many nationalities from all over the world arrived in America in variable quantities, with certain waves recording massive numbers of immigrants, particularly during the time between the First and Second World Wars.

2.1 First Wave 1607-1830

Almost 10 million immigrants arrived from Northern and Western Europe, Ireland, Germany, Scotland, France, Africa, and other countries. Most immigrants arrived on their own will in search of better economic prospects and religious freedom. However, Africans were forced into slavery; by the 1808s, approximately 800,000 Africans had been carried to America against their will. The bulk of immigrants arrived for the same reason; they wanted the freedom to pursue their faith and beliefs since they experienced numerous challenges in their home countries. People arrived in America via the Plymouth Rock, which is considered the origin of America. The initial wave of immigrants came at several ports throughout the East Coast (Mr. Cunneen, 2000).

The American rulers were concerned about the flood of immigrants from all over the world. In 1755 President Benjamin Franklin stated that the recent German arrivals were “Those who came hither are generally of the most ignorant stupid sort of their own nation.” (Merelli, 2017), in his speech about the worries of how would Germans affect the American society and to which extent the white Anglo-Saxon Protestant would impact the American culture and traditions.

Also, Africans faced many problems, the most important of which was racial discrimination, where they were subjected to religious and ethnic prejudice. The Federal Party issued the first anti-immigration laws and added the eligibility requirement to obtain citizenship, during a period of residence that extends from five to fourteen years in the 1798. They also stipulated a decree that all those who pose a threat to the safety of the United States should be deported and expelled; the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 gave the President the power to arrest or expels all aliens (Nakamora, 2015). However, after the democratic republican took over the country, they overturned that decision.

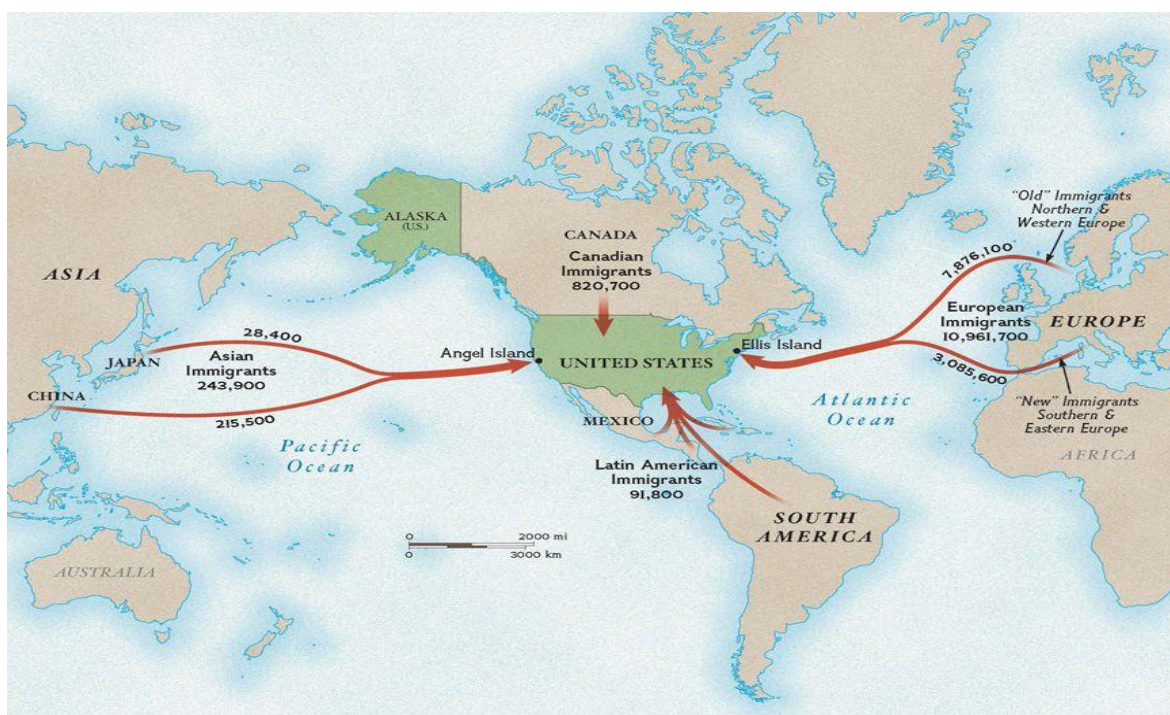


Figure 1.1: Immigration to the US in the late 1800s (National Geographic Society, 2013).

The population of the first census of 1790, as cited in the US Census Bureau, recorded the influx of many immigrants from different destinations and cultures, including the English, Africans, Irish, Scottish, German, French and many others.

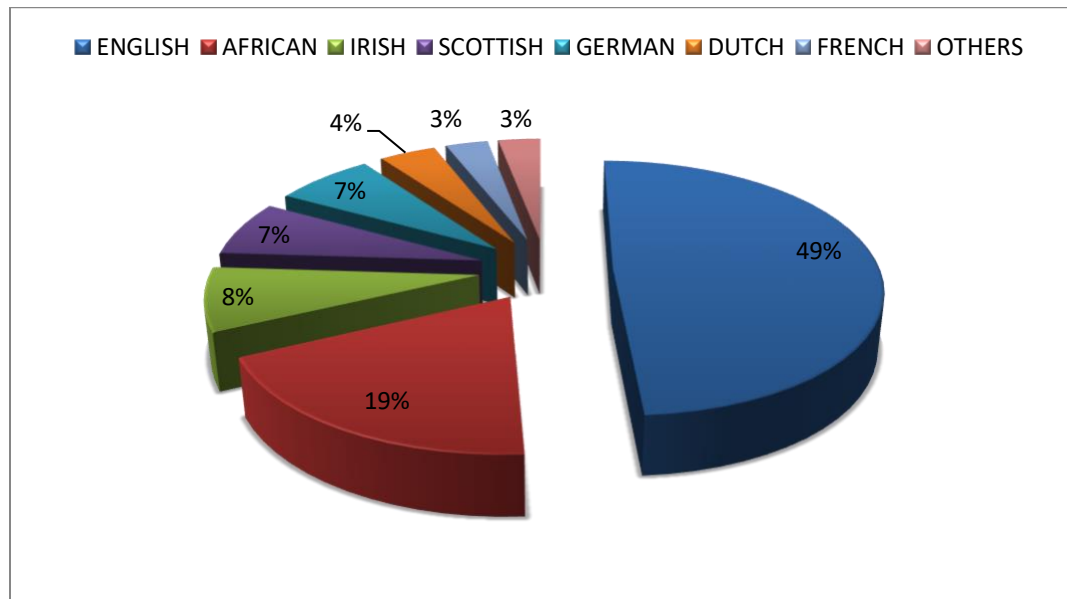


Figure 1.2: The proportion of the Immigrants in the first wave

2.2 Second Wave 1830-1880

New York City was the point of entry for new immigrants coming, mostly were Irish and German, while the Irish were seeking refuge from the great famine, and also because of the persecution they were subjected to in their country from the Protestant minority against the Catholics. The state established the Castle Garden an immigration center, In order To facilitate the entry of immigrants to the country. The number of new arrivals was not large, Previously, about six thousand or seven thousand immigrants entered in a year, but by the beginning of 1832, the number of immigrants increased to 50,000 a year which is the highest census at that time. The increase in the number of immigrants continued for a considerable period, in the late 19th century more than 5 million immigrants have been registered. The introduction of steam-powered ships made the journey to the US faster and cheaper for immigrants. Many of the Europeans were chasing a better life because of the war, famine, and industrialization, leaving their lands behind for a better future. As the American president George Washington (1732-

1799) stated that America's heart is open to embrace not only rich and respectable foreigners, but also the underprivileged and persecuted of all nationalities and religions (Berra, 2021).

America has always been and continues to be the land of dreams for many people throughout the world, where many emigrate due to social pressures or political oppression, and some even flee to invest their talents in a better location.

The Yearbook of Immigration Statistics (2000) documented a growth in the number of immigrants during a 150-year period. During the second wave, the population number reached 63 million between 1830s-1890s.

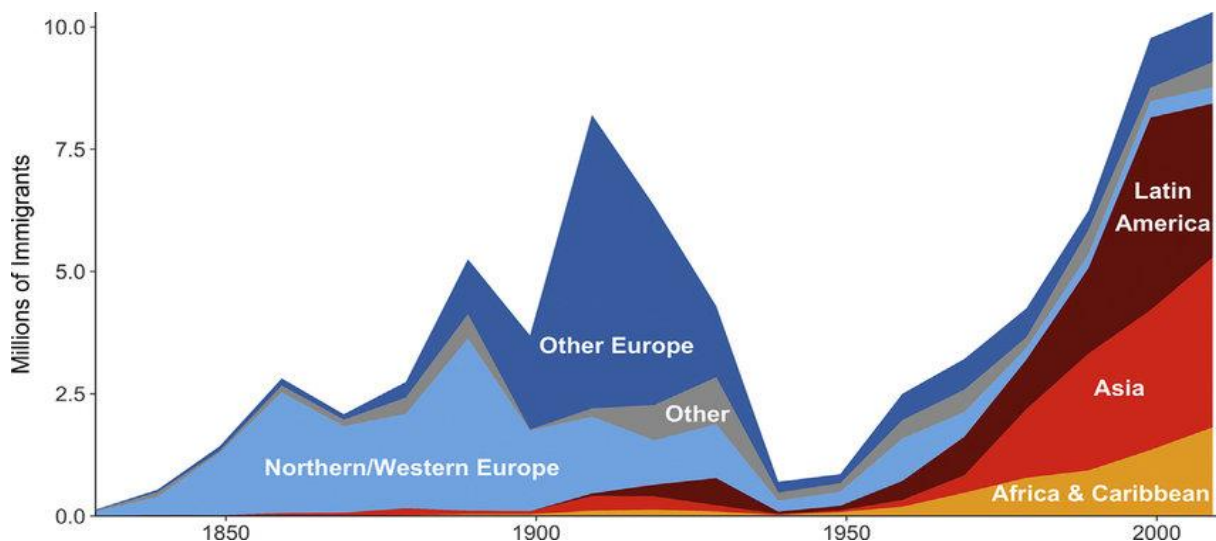


Figure 1.3: The number of Immigrants Increasing over the Years (Yearbook, 2000)

2.2.1 Second Wave's Immigrants Origins

The majority of immigrants in this wave, entered from the Castle Garden port of New York City. Most of them came from Ireland, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and china.

2.2.1.1 Irish

The majority of Irish immigrants settled in eastern cities such as New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. The Erie Canal and railroads were built by Irish men, while Irish women worked as domestic servants (Mr.Cunneen, 2000).

2.2.1.2 Chinese

Due to poverty and war, over 100,000 Chinese immigrants had arrived on the West Coast of the United States by the 1880s. Many people worked on the Transcontinental Railroads. However, after a few years, the United States banned the entry of the Chinese to its lands by the Exclusion Act of 1882 (Mr.Cunneen, 2000).

2.2.1.3 Scandinavians

After the civil war they came to America and settled in the upper Midwest to work in small farms. They came to start new life, each for a certain reason. In doing so, they populated the Great Plains and northern cities, established new, separate towns from Connecticut to California, and contributed to the development of twentieth-century America (Mr.Cunneen, 2000).

2.2.1.4 Germans

Germans are the second largest immigrant category in the second wave, in 1848, the democratic revolution failed, which led German to leave their country looking for a better economic opportunities. They settled in the Midwest and Northeast of the country working in farms (Mr.Cunneen, 2000).

2.3 Third Wave 1880-1965

With the beginning of the third wave of immigration, the first federal immigration center was established in New York City, Ellis Island, as it served as a major port of entry for American immigration between 1898 and 1924. Another major point we notice in the third wave is that nearly 80% of immigrants came from Southern and Eastern Europe like Italy, Russia and Austro-Hungary (Mr. Cunneen, 2000).

One of the most important factors that pushed people to emigrate is the lack of the most important basics of life such as work in order to live in dignity or instability due to religious or political persecution as well as due to the large demographic growth in some cities, as happened in southern and eastern Europe, where there was a very large demographic growth that caused In the displacement of many people towards a better fate and a more secure future. One of the major factors why people choose America as their main destination, because it is considered to

be the land of opportunities and dreams where the people there enjoy democratic and religious freedom, and also people like to live in a safe and politically stable area where there is no tension between citizens and the government. Many of the immigrants worked in the steel mills and railroads industry.

By the third wave coming, the population of migrants grew from 63 million to 106 million by the 1920S. The Immigration Act of 1924 established a strict quota system that limited immigration for each nationality to 2% of the total number of people of that nationality recorded in the 1890 United States Census (Immigration, 2019).

The applicable quota has been determined 350,000 by the 1921st, but with the issuance of the Act of 1924, the quota reduced to 165,000. And it completely barred Asian immigrants from entering the country; even Asians who had previously been barred from entering the country would no longer be admitted (Milestones, 2016).

Only President McKinley's veto prevented the Immigration Restriction League from enacting an English language literacy requirement in 1894. When Anarchists were officially barred from entering America in the 1910s, standards were tightened at Ellis Island. Japanese immigration stopped in 1907, and all Asian immigration followed soon after.

2.3.1 The Role of WWI in Changing Immigration Laws

With the end of the First World War, the economic system of Europe collapsed, which led to a significant increase in the number of immigrants, in 1921, the number of immigrants reached 800,000. This is what led to the resentment of the American people and their complete refusal to receive and accept this new wave. Many problems emerged in this period, including Xenophobia and the spread of racism and discrimination between the Americans and the immigrants.

2.3.2 The Immigration Quota Act of 1921

This act sets the quota for immigrant visas to 2% for each nationality in the United States, and it completely eliminated immigrants from Asia (Milestones, 2016).

The immigration expert and republican Senator William P. Dillingham introduced a measure to create immigration quotas, which was estimated at 3% of the total foreign-born population of each nationality.

This act limited the immigration to the United States from 800.000 in previous years to 350.000 people comes legally to America. The only exemption in this policy was by allowing a special partiality for relatives of American citizens such as spouses, children under 18, siblings or parents in order to preserve family unity (Historic US Events, 2012).

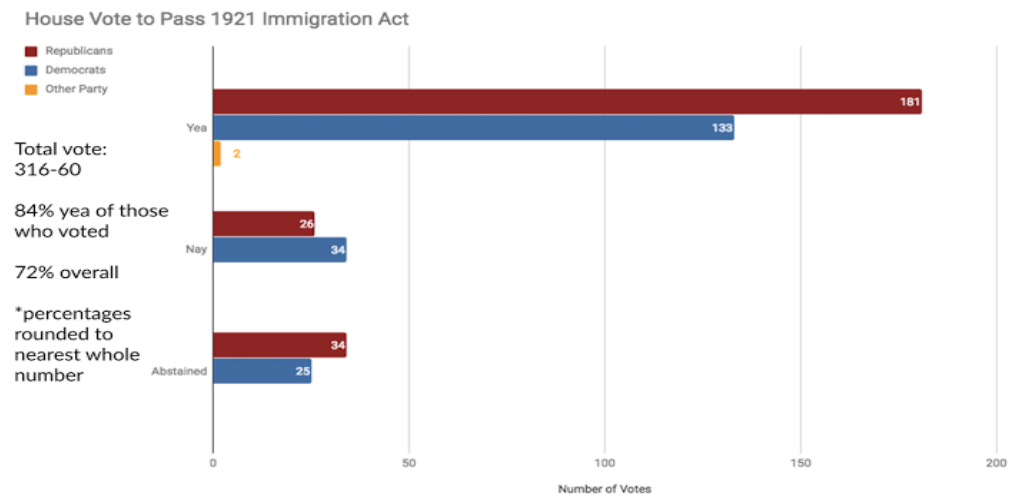


Figure 1.4: The House of Representative vote to pass the immigration quota act of 1921
(Wang, 2018)

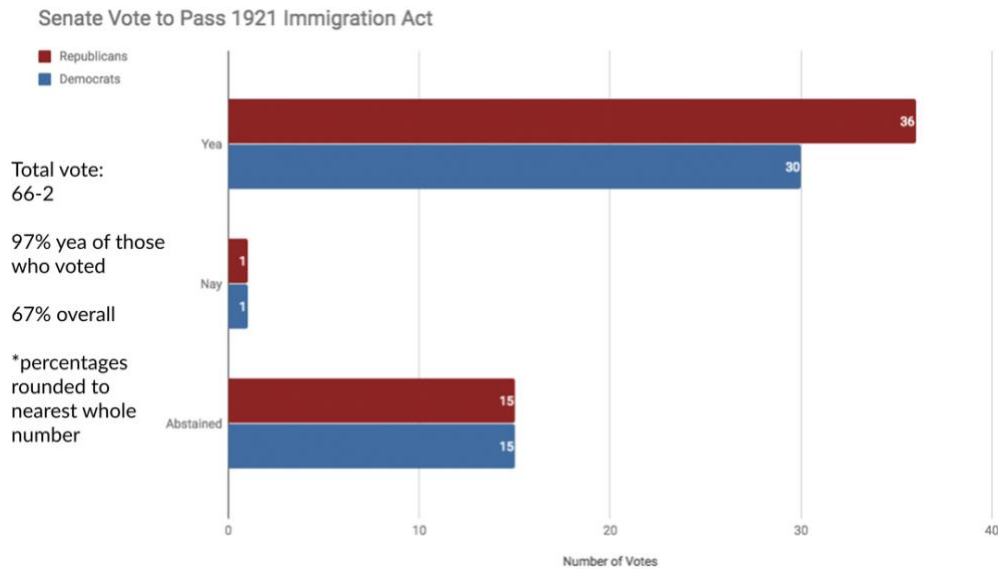


Figure 1.5: The Senate Vote to Pass the Immigration Quota Act of 1921 (Wang, 2018)

2.3.3 The great Internal Migration

After the closure of the immigration doors in the mid-20th century, America faced a shortage of labor, so they headed towards the countryside in South America, where they modernized the mechanism of work on farms, which led to the laying off of million poor black and white workers and they became unemployed. After WWI ended, many factories were established and jobs were provided in large numbers, and small towns were transformed into prosperous cities, which led to the exodus from the south towards the cities of the North. Over 6 million people moved from the South towards the North, west and Midwest of the country 1916-1970, 70% of them were black American (History.comEditors, 2010).

2.3.4 Reasons of The Great Migration

The main reason for both races leaving the South was the poor economic conditions. Harsh segregation laws of “Jim Crow”, the lack of basic freedoms like voting, legal protections, access to good schools, and intense southern racism, were major additional reasons for blacks. As a result, the black population of the South has declined dramatically from 32% in 1900 to around 19% since 1980 (History.com, 2010).

One of the most important factors that led to the exodus to the north was due to the existence of many job opportunities in various fields, where blacks worked in all high and low fields, which were not accepted by white people. Blacks suffered from racial discrimination in all respects in work, housing, or even health care, which led to their settlement in ethnic neighborhoods where they established their own centers and businesses such as restaurants, shops and churches as well.

2.4 Fourth Wave 1965- Present Day

More than 30 million legal immigrants and 20 million illegal immigrants have entered from Latin America and Asia over the previous four decades. There was a new anti-immigrants backlash, whether those who entered legally or those who entered without legal permission. This wave was the most diverse ever, with more than 80% of immigrants hailing from Latin America and Asia, bringing a veritable kaleidoscope of cultural traditions with them. (Fu, 2018).

The major factors of the fourth wave migration are the communist dictatorships and civil wars. This led to the immigration of huge numbers of the population of Latin America and Asia. The number of people of Asian and Latin American descent is estimated to be one million citizens' lives currently in the United States, and more than 10 million Mexicans (Mr.Cunneen, 2000).

Most of the newcomers enters legally with a temporary visa, and they stay after the visa expires. And many others enter without visa through the Mexican border. The majority of illegal immigrants are desperately poor, uneducated or unskilled workers who come to America to work in low-wage jobs which US born citizens do not like to work at. Overwhelmingly as farm workers, construction workers, housekeepers, dishwashers, gardeners, and meat processors are among them (Passel&Cohn, 2015).

According to a recent research from Passel and Cohn (2019), they posted statistics about the workforce of undocumented immigrants and US citizens, which shows that undocumented workers are fully prepared to work in any field no matter how high or low wages they get. The next document shows the difference between US-born workers and unauthorized workers depending on the occupational profiles.

Unauthorized Immigrants and U.S.-born Workers Have Different Occupational Profiles

% of each status group's workers who are in each major occupation, 2012

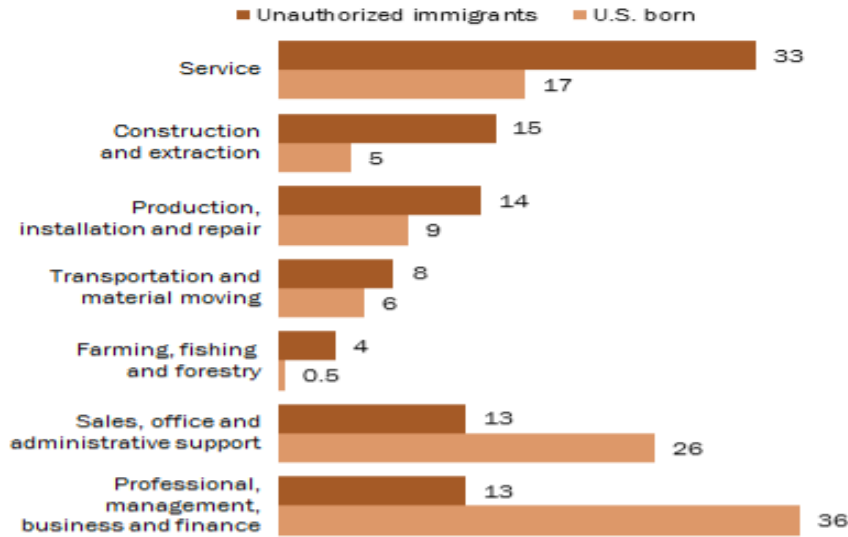


Figure 1.6: Unauthorized Immigrants and US-Born Works Occupational.

3. Immigration Policies

America has always been, and stills, a nation of immigrants. It was born out of immigration, and it continues to this day, attracting large numbers of immigrants annually from all parts of the world. Among the most prominent countries that came to America during the first wave of immigration were the countries of Northern and Western Europe, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, Asian and African countries. Immigrants continued to enter the country and settled in the most important agricultural and industrial areas in the country, where they invested in revitalizing the economic aspect of the country and helped raise the value of the global economy of America. European immigrants dotted the eastern seaboard by the late 1600s, including the Spanish in Florida, the British in New England and Virginia, the Dutch in New York, and the Swedes in Delaware. Some, such as the Pilgrims and Puritans, came in search of religious liberty. Many people desired better economic opportunities. Others, including hundreds of thousands of enslaved Africans, were forced to come to America (Onion et al., 2018).

Immigrants of different cultures and nationalities came to the United States for many reasons, the most important of which is religious, political and cultural freedom, and there are those who immigrated in order to search for material and economic stability, but as for the Africans, they were displaced against their will to be sold and exploited as slaves in the private sector in the country until the congress act of 1808 attended the sale of Africans as slaves, documented and naturalized them, then they settled in South America.

Immigration policy encompasses all policies through which states regulate the influx of people seeking to settle inside their borders: standards governing admission to the territory, authorization to work, the rights of asylum seekers and refugees, the rights of immigrants to bring family members, and the rules governing the acquisition of citizenship by immigrants and their family members (Perez, S. A., 2015).

3.1 Types of Immigration Status

There are four types of immigration status; any newcomers may fall into, Lawful permanent resident, United States citizens, undocumented immigrants and temporary visitors (Law, 2015).

3.1.1 Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR)

This category represents people who have a green card and have obtained a permit to work or live in America permanently and legally, they are sponsored by a relative or employer in the United States. Others may obtain permanent residence through an asylum application or other humanitarian programs. Another type in this category, which is Conditional residents who married less than two years before obtaining the green card, in this case, the spouses, must submit a petition to remove the condition before canceling their card and deporting them, because in this case they will be considered illegal residents (Law, 2015).

3.1.2 U.S. Citizens

Anyone born in the United States or persons who have been naturalized after living three or five years as permanent residents can legally work and benefit from public benefits such as health care, They can only be deported if it is discovered that they have obtained citizenship

through fraud, they can also obtain the legal status of a relative as a partner, children, siblings, or parents (Law, 2015).

3.1.3 Undocumented Immigrants

They are people who entered the country legally by a visa card, but after the visa expired they stayed in the country. Or those who came to the country without permission, i.e. illegal immigrants, who are not authorized to work and do not have the right to take advantage of public benefits such as obtaining a driver's license, or if they are exposed to illness or injury, they cannot benefit from health care. They may be deported at any moment, this makes them live in constant anxiety and tension (Law, 2015).

3.1.4 Temporary Visitors

People who get a temporary visa, either to visit a family, study or work for a specific period of time (Law, 2015).

3.2 U.S. Migration Policies History

America has worked diligently to improve the immigration system, as it has become very carefully selective of those who enter its lands, and special programs and sites have been allocated for this. They set a certain policies to control the influx of persons who want to be a US citizens, and want to have the rights to participate in the labor market, the right of asylum seekers and refugees, and the right to bring their family members (Perez, 2015)

Prior to 1965, the United States had no numerical restrictions on immigration from any Western Hemisphere country, and it had a sizable guest worker program with Mexico. It had around 450,000 Mexicans coming in every year on guest worker permits by the late 1950s, thanks to the Bracero Program, a bilateral agreement reached with Mexico in 1942. At the same time, approximately 50,000 permanent resident aliens were entering from Mexico.

3.3 Immigration from Legal to Illegal

Immigration to America in its infancy was done legally, but with the passage of time and after the large increase in the population in America, the immigration system was changed and

certain restrictions and conditions were put in place. The American expressed their dissatisfaction with the arrival of some immigrants, such as Catholics, Italian and Chinese.

Despite imposing laws and restrictions on immigration policies, it was not fully implemented until the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Although the proportion of the Chinese population in that era was considered a very small percentage compared to other nationalities, white Americans believed that they had reduced their wages and caused economic problems for the country, so the radical law banned all Chinese immigrants from entering American lands (Little, 2019)

People start crossing the border into America illegally in large numbers, this is because of the laws and restrictions imposed on people who want to enter the country, especially the Chinese, who were prevented from entering the country after the Exclusion Act of 1882. Many of them had their relatives, family members or even jobs in America which they can leave behind.

3.4 The Bracero Program 1942

The Bracero program (guest-worker program), was an agreement between U.S. and Mexican governments which permitted Mexican citizens to take temporary agricultural work in the United States for 9 months of a given year. It was founded after the WW2, as a response to the severe labor shortages in agriculture caused by millions of workers leaving farms for high-wage wartime production jobs in the nation's metropolitan areas. Workers also left to join the United States military, which grew to include millions of men and women in uniform (LeMay, 2007).

The Program was terminated in 1964 as part of an agreement to garner support for the passage of what became the Immigration Act of 1965. Its controlled entry of temporary farm workers has thus been replaced by an influx of illegal immigrants, primarily from Mexico. These were essentially the same employees who took part in the Bracero Program (LeMay, 2007).

Numerous studies and scholars have emphasized the significance of Mexican immigration patterns to the United States established during the Bracero period, which essentially established chain migration patterns that have persisted long after the end of the Bracero Program, in fact,

these patterns even influence today's undocumented immigration flows. Hundreds of thousands of Mexican immigrants who had been coming to the United States regularly and annually for a temporary work simply continued to come without authorization, and their numbers gradually grew to an estimated half-million per year. Similarly, employers who had legally hired workers in the Bracero Program continued to hire them after the program ended (LeMay, 2007).

3.5 U.S. Immigration Laws

After the independence of America from Britain, the latter established a system of immigration laws and set restrictions and conditions that favored the Europeans. But the 1965 law opened the doors of immigration wide to all parts of the world. Here are some of the most important changes that took place in the system of immigration laws (Cohn, 2015).

3.5.1 Naturalization Act of 1790

This act allows only white Europeans to obtain US citizenship after residing for at least two year, while it excluded the Native Americans (US Capitol, 2018).

Thomas Paine wrote the pamphlet "Common Sense," which advocates for American independence. The majority of colonists consider themselves British, but Paine makes the case for a new American. "Europe, and not England, is the parent country of America. This new world has been the asylum for the persecuted lovers of civil and religious liberty from every part of Europe." He writes (Onion et al., 2020).

1790 Congress passes the first law governing who is eligible for US citizenship. The naturalization act of 1790 allows any free white person with a good personality who has lived in the United States for at least two years to apply for citizenship. Non-white residents are denied basic constitutional protections without citizenship, including the right to vote, own property, and testify in court (Onion et al., 2018).

The first US census was conducted in 1790. Among the 3.9 million people counted, the English are the largest ethnic group, though nearly one in every five Americans is of African descent (Gauthier, 2021)

3.5.2 The Page Act of 1875

A series of restrictions were placed on immigrants from China, Japan, or any Oriental country, which outlawed the recruitment of their employees who were brought to the country against their will (Rotondi, 2021). This act also banned the entry of persons with a criminal record or polygamists, beggars, and those with serious and contagious diseases (Cohn, 2015).

3.5.3 The Johnson-Reed Act of 1924

At the beginning of the 20th century, immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe flowed to America 1924 a quota law was issued based on the nationality of immigrants, which preferred the countries of North and West Europe over the rest of the nationalities (Diamond, 2020).

3.5.4 Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1943

1943 only few Chinese were allowed to immigrate to America, after that the legislation allowed a very limited number of visas for the other Asians in 1952. Also the race was officially removed as a reason for exclusion (Immigration History, 2019).

3.5.5 Landmark Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965

This law was approved due to political, social and geopolitical factors, which prefers family reunification skilled immigrants rather than quotas. It also imposed the first limits on immigration from the western hemisphere. Since the enactment of this act, people born in Asia and Latin America have outnumbered those born in Europe in terms of immigration (Chin & Villazor, 2015).

3.5.6 The Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986

This act granted legal status to millions of undocumented immigrants, primarily from Latin America, who met certain criteria. Employers who hired undocumented immigrants were also subject to penalties under the law. Following legislation was enacted in 1996, 2002, and 2006 in response to concerns about terrorism and unauthorized immigration. These measures prioritized border control, enforced immigration laws, and tightened admissions eligibility (North, 2022).

3.5.7 The DACA and DAPA Programs

2012 President Barack Obama passed a resolution allowing young immigrants who entered the country illegally to apply for exemption from deportation and a work permit. In 2014, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was expended, and established a new program to provide similar benefits to some unauthorized-immigrant parents of U.S.-born children. Because of a legal challenge by 26 states, the DACA expansion and the new program Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) are on hold (Bruno, 2017).

3.5.8 Temporary Protective Status Law (TPSL) 1990

1990 law, established temporary protective status, which has protected immigrants, primarily Central Americans, from deportation to countries dealing with natural disasters, armed conflicts, or other extraordinary circumstances (Segerblom, 2007).

Conclusion

This chapter attempts to highlight the issue of immigration history in America during the different immigration waves. America has been attracting immigrants from all over the world for hundreds of years, where immigrants were one of the major reasons for the population growth of America and the diversity of its cultures. The United States of America is the largest country in the world in terms of the number of immigrants, which reached 47 million in 2015; this represents 19.1% of all immigrants around the world and 14.4% of the population of the United States. The reasons for which millions of people left their lands, homes and families behind are different, but one of the most important and greatest reasons is the American dream. Many immigrants saw America as the land of opportunities because it provides job opportunities in many fields and encourages newcomers to invest, form companies and run businesses, especially for skilled immigrants. However, many of them were refugees fleeing wars or political instability in their country or weak economy. Finally, the chapter dealt with the immigration laws and policies, and how America dealt with the massive influx of immigrants from all sides over the years.

Chapter Two

The Impact of Illegal Immigration on African-American workers

Introduction

In this chapter, the influence of illegal immigration will be concerned on many perspectives in the United States. It is affected positively in terms of the economic growth. The American economy benefited from the continuous inflows of immigrants (permitted and undocumented) throughout history, creating a source of cheap labor that helped as a result of the great economic productivity of the country. Its economy is taken as a dual model of labor market in relation to the impact of unauthorized migration, and segmented to primary and secondary labor market. The U.S. economy and primary sector labor who are expensive for employers to acquire, train and lose; whereas, low-skilled would just fulfil the unstable poor earning employments in bad working conditions that native workers refuse to take. These illegal immigrants impose an overall budgetary cost in terms of public services and taxes. Despite the fact that, the undocumented immigrants complete the high-skilled workers growing the nation's economy, they compete the low skilled labor resulting some negative and harmful impacts on these secondary sector native workers. That is, the economy is enriched more and more by the unauthorized influx of mainly the low-skilled workers; thus, some economists claim that some ethnic groups suffer the most from this illegal, inflow. African-Americans tend to be the victims from this immigration, which causes the increase of unemployment rates. Finally, as it affects economically and socially on the Black workers in terms of raising the number of crimes, imprisonment, drugs and other negative factors in the Black communities.

1. Positive Effects of Illegal Immigration on the US Economy

According to certain economists and many business executives, the American economy is dependent on illegal workers; they take low-wage employment, pay taxes, and spend money, all of which grows the national economy. The corporations that hire illegal immigrants, as well as their investors, stand to benefit the most (Gallup, Inc., 2022).

Inflows of skilled immigrants appear to have a positive pay effect at the higher end of the wage range, according to study by George J. Borjas (2016).

This is consistent with economic complementarity theories, which argue that high-skilled immigrant and native-born individuals have talents that complement rather than compete with

each other (NASEM 2017, as cited in Marrow et al. p. 5-6). According to scholarly studies, the presence of immigrant workers (both permitted and undocumented) in the labor market has increased the US economy by an estimated 11%, reflecting a gain equal to \$2 trillion in GDP in 2016. (Borjas 2013, cited in NASEM 2017, p. 282). At the same time, the presence of undocumented workers adds disproportionately to lower pricing, notably in services relied on by native-born Americans, such as childcare, food preparation, cleaning, landscaping, gardening, and construction (NASEM 2017, as cited in Marrow et al p. 292).

According to experts, limiting the illegal immigrant population would be disastrous to the US economy since illegal immigrants perform tasks that no US worker would complete (Lerman and Schmidt, 1999, as cited in Nadadur,2009).To study the labor market implications of illegal immigration in depth, this part will look at a dual model of the US labor market and attempt to illustrate the effects of illegal immigrants on jobs and earnings in the US.

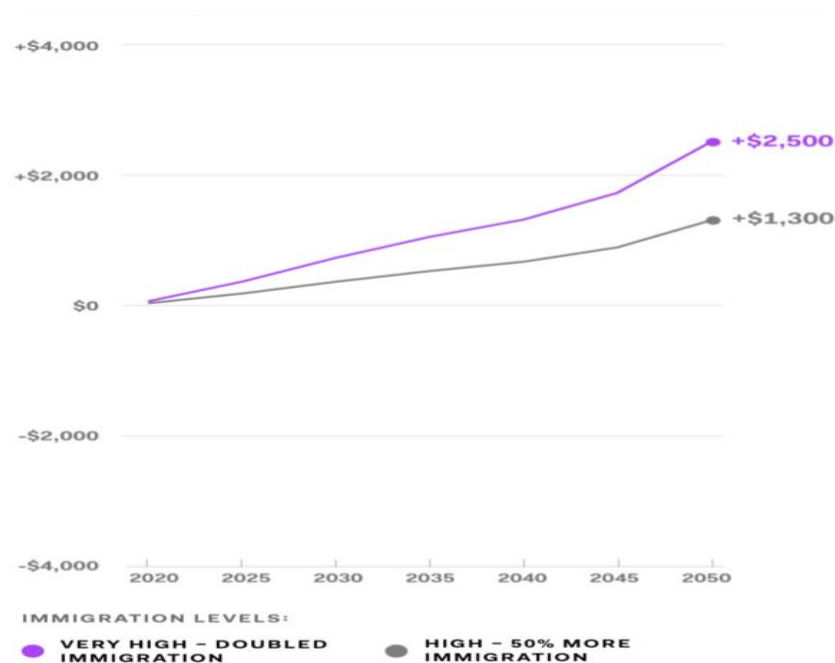


Figure 2.1: The increase in U.S. GDP per capital

2. Labor Market Theory

According to the theory, the economy is split into two labor markets: primary and secondary. Short-term job ties and little or no opportunity for internal advancement distinguish

the secondary sector from the primary. In terms of vocations, this sector largely comprises of low or unskilled work or service jobs that are connected by poor pay, employment insecurity, and low returns on schooling. Primary labor markets, on the other hand, are distinguished by skilled labor, job security, job ladders, successful trade unions, and efficient management. Production functions in a dual labor market model comprise three variables: capital and two forms of labor input (Smith and Edmonston, 1998, as cited in Nadadur,2009 p. 15). Labor market segmentation arises as a result of how companies use capital and primary labor as opposed to secondary labor to deal with economic uncertainty. Workers in the primary sector are 'capital intensive,' meaning they are expensive to acquire, train, and lose; workers in the secondary sector are less expensive to train and lose. Employers have an incentive to deploy skilled labor to fulfill steady sections of demand and unskilled labor to meet unpredictable portions of demand because they confront unstable demand for their products. As a result, the secondary labor market is characterized by employment instability, poor earnings, and limited opportunity for advancement. When used in combination with immigration, this idea states that native people choose positions in the primary sector of the economy, where greater skills are necessary, compensation is higher, and job security is guaranteed.

3. Dual Market Theory in Practice: Illegal Immigrants in the US

Other theories attempt to explain immigration and its impact to the labor market. Dual labor market theory, on the other hand, is useful in explaining illegal immigration because it accounts for the features that distinguish the illegal immigrant, low-wage sector from the rest of the labor market.

A primarily dual labor market methodology is most suited to modeling illegal immigration in the US labor market. First, illegal immigrants are more temporary than legal immigrants and meet the labor profile required for secondary-sector occupations. Furthermore, illegal immigrants are more eager than legal immigrants and native employees to choose positions where high labor turnover and bad working conditions have been the norm (Marcelli, 1999, as cited in Nadadur,2009). As a result of the intrinsic features of illegal immigrant labor, many immigrants are forced to work in the secondary sector.

Moreover, because they pose low risk of crossing across between markets, illegal immigrants are good representatives of the dual labor market paradigm.

4. The Economic Impact

Marcelli contends that illegal immigrants do not compete for employment held by native US employees, and that a sustained influx of undocumented immigrants will benefit the majority of people living in the US by supplementing rather than fighting for their labor market position. (Marcelli, 1999, as cited in Nadadur,2009). When the impacts of illegal immigrants on skilled native employees in the primary sector are examined, it is discovered that illegal immigrants provide considerable economic advantage by serving as gross complements to native skilled workers (Newman, 2006, as cited in Nadadur,2009).

According to dual labor market theory, competent natives are resistant to employment that require manual labor or have bad working conditions. Consequently, when illegal workers fill secondary-sector occupations at a lower cost, qualified employees in the United States may fill primary-sector positions where they have a competitive advantage. The result is greater economic productivity. Although unskilled native employees may suffer as a result of the flood of illegal immigrants, the overall income of the native population rises; in principle, losses to native low-skilled labor are offset by gains to native skilled labor (Massey et al., 1993, as cited in Nadadur,2009). Illegal immigration also benefit all participants in the US economy by lowering consumer expenses. As low-wage undocumented workers arrive to the United States to fill the secondary labor market, items and services become less expensive because illegal immigrants work for lower salaries, offering a sort of subsidy to American customers. For instance, a considerable number of farm laborers in the United States are illegal immigrants who often work for lower salaries. As a result, the Economic Research Branch of the Agriculture Department discovered that American consumers spend less for food than people of any other industrialized country (Katel, 2005, as cited in Nadadur,2009). As a result, because illegal immigration allows businesses to reduce their production costs in the secondary sector, it boosts the income of all native employees by lowering consumer expenses. Illegal immigrants help to boost economic growth and lower consumer expenses in the United States. Illegal immigrants also contribute to the US economy as market customers. Though there have been no major quantitative assessments of illegal immigrants' contributions, it is crucial to recognize their influence.

According to Hinojosa (2005), 90% of the salaries earned by the illegal community are now spent within the United States.

As a result, he believes that the total consumptive capacity of illegal immigrants still in the United States is roughly \$450 billion (Cater et al., 2005, as cited in Nadadur,2009).

5. Fiscal Impact

This section examines whether undocumented residents in the United States receive more in publicly supplied social services than they pay for in taxes.

In summary, illegal immigrants cost the government money by enrolling in public schools and using emergency medical services. Furthermore, many illegal immigrants pay payroll taxes (such as Social Security) that are deducted automatically from their paychecks, as well as excise taxes that are integrated into the pricing of items such as gasoline. Unfortunately, research on the budgetary impact of illegal immigration conducted by, among others, Borjas and Hilton (1996) and Berk et al. (2000) has produced a range of contradictory estimates. As a result, while an exact monetary value cannot be determined, it appears that illegal immigrants impose an overall fiscal cost, a cost that is concentrated at the state and municipal levels.

More study is needed to arrive at credible data to assess the budgetary impact of illegal immigration.

5.1 Public Service Costs

In examining the use of public services by illegal immigrants, three distinct costs stand out: health care, education and incarceration. Though the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996 barred illegal immigrants from most public services, federal law continues to provide illegal immigrants with access to emergency medical services and assistance for pregnant women and infants. In terms of education, the Supreme Court judgment *Lau v. Nichols* (1974) concluded that public schools violated the rights of non-English-speaking children by failing to teach them the language of instruction. Furthermore, the ruling of *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) provided public education to illegal immigrant children. As a result, public schools must educate all pupils regardless of immigration status and are banned from requesting evidence of status. The third major source of public expenses associated with

illegal immigration is incarceration of illegal immigrants who commit crimes while in the United States.

5.1.1 Health Care

According to a study produced by the Federation of American Immigration Reform (FAIR), uncompensated medical care accounted for \$1.4 billion in illegal immigrant costs in California in 2004. (FAIR, 2004). These analyses, however, do not fully account for the fact that a major percentage of this service benefits US citizen children and is thus not a budgetary cost imposed directly by illegal immigrants. This is consistent with the findings of a Government Accountability Office GAO report, which concluded that unless reliable information on illegal aliens and the costs of their care is accessible, an adequate assessment of their financial impact on hospitals would be impossible (GAO, 2004, as cited in Nadadur, 2009).

5.1.2 Education

According to a 1995 Urban Institute research, education was the biggest public cost imposed by illegal immigrants, accounting for a total of \$3.08 billion dollars in the seven states evaluated, with California suffering a \$1.3 billion yearly burden. As a result, the monetary numbers discovered by the research summarized here, like health-care expenses, do not paint a consistent picture. As a result, according to a GAO education assessment, current information available is insufficient to calculate the expense of teaching illegal immigrant schoolchildren (GAO 2004, as cited in Nadadur, 2009 p. 1).

5.1.3 Incarceration Costs

Finally, in examining imprisonment expenses, a report issued in 2000 by the Urban Institute based on preliminary figures from the 1995 survey found 14,262 illegal immigrants among state inmates in California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois, Arizona, and New Jersey in 1995. According to the FAIR Report (2004), imprisonment cost California alone \$1.4 billion in 2003. As a result, the gap in measures suggests that adequate consensus on the imprisonment costs of illegal immigrants has not been established.

However, the overall conclusion that can be made from these numbers is that illegal immigrants do impose a significant budgetary cost in terms of health care, public education, and jail.

5.2 Taxes

Given that the rest of the US immigrant community paid \$15.1 billion in income and payroll taxes in 2004 (Camarota, 2004), the pattern appears to show that illegal immigrants pay far less in taxes than legal immigrants. According to Passel (2005), illegal immigrants paid 19% of immigrant income and payroll taxes in 2004, although accounting for 29% of the immigrant population in that year. Though this may seem that illegal immigrants are receiving advantages without contributing to tax revenue, it is also crucial to highlight that illegal immigrants earn substantially less than legal immigrants and hence pay less in taxes. According to the Washington Post, more than \$20 billion went unaccounted for in the Social Security system between 1990 and 1998; the government suspects that a large percentage of this payment originated from illegal immigrants who provided their employers bogus Social Security numbers (Sheridan 2001, as cited in Nadadur,2009).

6. Impact of Illegal Immigration on the Employment Sectors

For many Americans, the influx of immigrants hurts their prospects significantly. This concept may be difficult for many Americans to accept, but anyone who claims that immigration has no negative consequences does not understand how it works. When the supply of workers increases, so does the price that businesses must pay to hire workers. Salary trends over the last half-century show that a 10% increase in the number of employees with a specific set of abilities reduces that group's wage by at least 3%. Even after the economy has fully adjusted, skill categories with the most immigrants will continue to pay less than those with fewer immigrants. Immigrants have an impact on both low- and high-skilled natives. However, because a disproportionate number of immigrants lack skills, low-skilled American workers have borne the brunt of this wage decline, particularly many blacks and Hispanics. In a website called "City & State Pennsylvania" **James Williams** commented on March 2, 2017 on "African American leaders have long called for tougher immigration laws". The comment stated that In March 2016, **Peter N. Kirsanow**, a member of the United States Civil Rights Commission, testified before the

United States Senate that illegal immigration has a disproportionately negative impact on blacks' wages and employment levels, particularly black males. Progressives who profess to serve the interests of Black workers should take note: our African American leaders have held similar roles for decades. For years, we have been engaged in a national discussion over illegal immigration. Nothing has been more devastating to the African American worker. Isn't it past time to include the consequences of illegal immigration on African American workers in the discussion? Isn't it past time for our elected African American representatives to speak out for their constituents?

7. Illegal immigration costs Black Americans' Jobs

According to **Dr. Hanson's** co-authored research, a 10% rise in immigrant-induced labor supply is connected with a 4% fall in black earnings, a 3.5 % decrease in black employment, and a 0.8 % increase in black imprisonment. According to him, this association remained true in both national and state-level statistics. According to the same data source, the effect of immigration on white males resulted in a 4.1% fall in salaries but had a considerably smaller effect on employment and imprisonment rates. Thus, salaries for the skill group as a whole fell, but black males lost proportionally more employment and had disproportionately higher imprisonment rates. **Dr. Hanson** believes that the economic changes brought about by the substantial immigrant intake from 1980 to 2000 (half of which he blames to illegal immigration) resulted in a labor supply shock that increased the number of employees in the United States by 10%.

According to **Dr. Jaynes**, Black male high school dropouts had dramatic rises in unemployment throughout the same time span. By the mid-1980s, black high-school dropouts had a 45% jobless rate, compared to an 85% employment rate in 1970. However, he emphasized that a slew of socioeconomic developments offer an alternate explanation for low-skilled black people' deteriorating economic conditions.

Dr. Vernon Briggs claims that, over 12 million illegal immigrants are now working in the United States, accounting for approximately 30% of the entire foreign-born population in the country. He said that there have been seven amnesties since 1986, and that future legalization of such immigrants with family reunion, in his opinion, would be economically disastrous to low-wage employees of all races, particularly black people. He stated that while blacks account for

around 10% of the entire low-skilled workforce, which numbers around 50 million, they had the worst unemployment rates of any of the four racial or ethnic groupings in the statistics, at 12.8% in February 2008. Black teens also had the highest unemployment rates 31.7% in February 2008, not including those deterred from pursuing job or those jailed.

He noted that both black Americans and illegal immigrants are disproportionately concentrated in many big metropolitan regions' centre cities, where employment rivalry is likely to be intense. Blacks are found in large numbers in non-metropolitan areas only in the rural Southeast, a legacy of the region's history of slavery, he said, but in recent decades, they have been joined in that labor market by the foreign-born, who have grown to be a significant population segment in these rural areas.

Dr. Camarota summarized studies on the impact of immigration on minority salaries, claiming that it is difficult to assess because we live in a national economy:

-Augustina Kposowa discovered in a 1995 statistical research that non-whites appear to lose employment to immigrants and their earnings are decreased by immigration.

-According to a 1998 research conducted by Howell and Mueller, each 1% rise in the immigrant share of an occupation lowered earnings for blacks in that occupation by around half a percentage point.

-A qualitative study of the Harlem fast food sector by anthropologists Newman and Lennon found that immigrants had an edge over native-born blacks, and that this advantage almost definitely reflected employers' preconceptions and biases.

7.1 Black American Unemployment

Dr. Swain cited national surveys demonstrating widespread support for immigration reform among all Americans, and said that well-known difficulties caused by illegal immigration harm the social, political, and economic well-being of black and other Americans alike. She continued by suggesting that blacks would continue to face growing competition for jobs from immigration.

She also claimed that black unemployment may be a contributing cause to African-American neighbourhood dysfunctions. Violent, crime, single-parent homes, illegitimacy, infant mortality, drug usage, and infectious illnesses are additional examples of dysfunctions. She proposed that an independent commission be charged with regulating immigration by making it more expensive for companies to discriminate against native-born workers and raising penalties for those in the country illegally.

She said that investments in education, training, and a tamper-proof Social Security card will help safeguard all disadvantaged employees.

Dr. Swain demonstrated how blacks, Hispanics, and low-income whites believe immigration has harmed the American worker. She stated that the conversation should consider ethnic violence between blacks and Hispanics, as well as how perceptions contribute to violence. She also noted that black unemployment contributes to dysfunctional situations in black communities such as violent crime, single-parent homes, illegitimacy, infant mortality, drug use, and infectious illnesses, all of which are loosely related. She believes that immigration has a negative influence on African-American men's salaries, employment, and imprisonment rates.

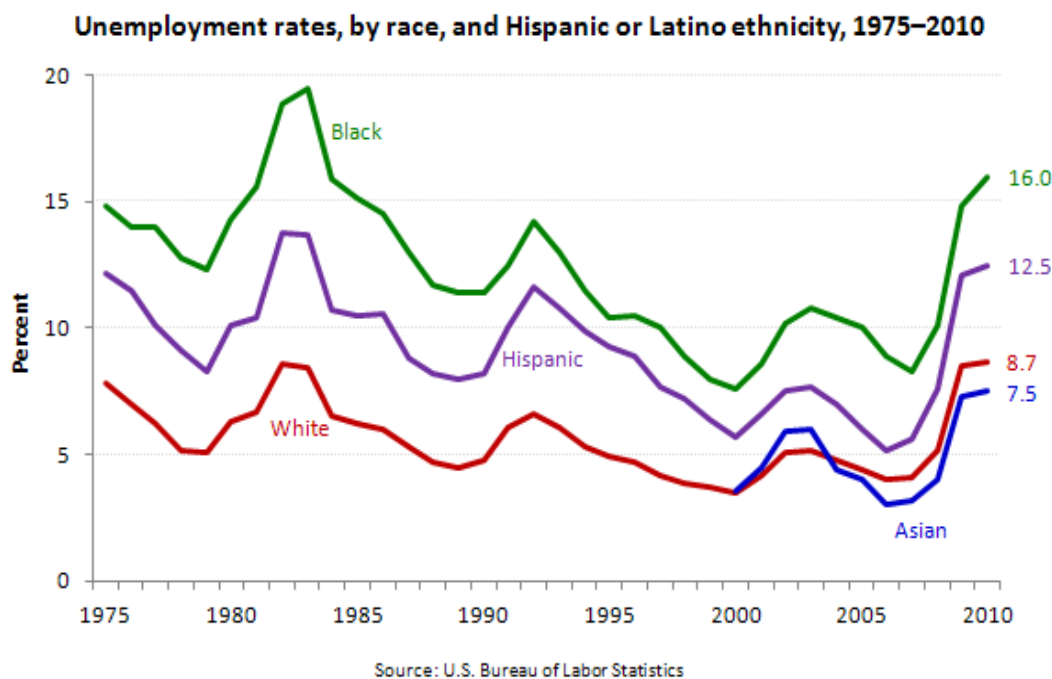


Figure 2.1 Unemployment Rates According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Conclusion

The U.S. economy had increased by the presence of immigrants(legal and illegal) in the labor market, which is illustrated and studied by the dual market theory to explain how the undocumented immigrants ,are more eager for job chances, accept low-wages employment with horrible working conditions. Thus, employers take the advantage of these unskilled labors to fulfil many gaps of poor pay employments that natives refuse. As a consequence these illegal immigrants help to increase the economic growth of the nation. On the fact that, unauthorized residents, they impose an overall fiscal costs that is significant in terms of health care, education, jail and taxes. As the influx of these illegal immigrants boosts the U.S. economy as a whole (fulfilling the second sector market),it also harms these native second sector workers. In other words, some ethnic minorities, low wages workers, are affected negatively by the illegal immigration, which decreases the available job opportunities for American citizens. Furthermore, Black communities are the most who suffer economically and socially from this influx of illegal workers. As a result, the unemployment rate within the African-Americans increases resulting poverty, and automatically the crime and imprisonment number raises in relation to the more immigrants come the more black communities suffer. Finally, a Black community, of a significant number of joblessness, crimes, drugs and diseases, is harmed the most from the illegal immigration.

Chapter Three

The Practical Framework: Analysis of the Impact of Illegal Immigration on the Black American Work Opportunities

Introduction

Many scholars have investigated the conditions of American society, which have clashed with the entrance of significant numbers of illegal immigrants, who have created numerous difficulties and challenges for American residents, both economically and socially. Undocumented immigrants have been chastised for monopolizing the US labor market, where they account for around 4.4 percent of the workforce. In the United States, around 7 million illegal immigrants work in a variety of industries. Many of the population were unable to find employment due to the enormous number of immigrants; nevertheless, many of the high-skilled employees were compelled to accept low salaries, while low-skilled individuals could not even find a low-paying job.

This chapter focuses on the impact of illegal immigrants on black workers in particular, as they are regarded the most vulnerable group in this environment. There are several issues confronting Black Americans in the American society, including racial and ethnic discrimination based on skin color or religion. This study will look at the primary cause of African Americans' socioeconomic status worsening in recent decades and examine the findings.

1. Illegal Immigration and the Socioeconomic Status of African-Americans

A public discussion on immigration reform was conducted in 2008, during which the US commission invited several well-known scholars and economists who voted to explore the possible consequences of illegal immigration on low-skilled workers in the US, notably low-skilled black men. The terrible economic crisis affected all American employees, but those without a certification or a professional degree had an even larger impact on many levels.

1.1 Impact on the Black Workers Economic Status

With the growth in the number of immigrants, whether legal or illegal, during the last four decades, Americans have encountered a lot of challenges and obstacles, particularly in terms of securing job and a respectable income. Illegal immigration is one of the most significant factors affecting the labor market and raising the unemployment rate for Americans, particularly blacks. Between 1960 and 2000, the employment rate of black males, particularly low-skilled black men, declined drastically. At the same time, the imprisonment rate for black men increased

dramatically. The relationship between immigration and these developments in black employment and imprisonment is investigated in this research (Borjas et al., 2009).

1.1.1 Employment Sectors

Black workers and illegal immigrants compete in a low-skilled labor market where companies prefer to recruit immigrants because they are flexible and work menial tasks for extremely little pay (Briggs, 2008)

1.1.1.1 Adults (25-64 ages)

74 percent of the illegal immigrant population (ages 25-64) has just a high school diploma or less, with 29 percent having less than a 9th grade level of educational attainment. Thus, the illegal immigrant work force is concentrated mostly in low-skilled occupations of farming, food preparation, construction and ground keeping sectors (Briggs V. , 2010). Where the sector is supposed to occupy American workers with the lowest degree of education, especially blacks, because they are the most oriented to these jobs. Black Americans typically have lower degrees of education than whites. About every 10 black people have a high school diploma or fail to graduate, while for white Americans out of every 10 people only four have a high school diploma or less. Unemployment rate for Black men in particular is over 13 percent, while for the white Americans it is about 7 percent. (Camarota, 2008)

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the civilian labor force in the United States totaled 153 million employees in 2009. However, the illegal immigrant labor force accounted for 8.3 million employees, or 5.4% of the total or even higher (Briggs V. , 2010).

The unemployment rate for Americans and immigrants aged 25 and over without a bachelor's degree, the native-born is estimated 6.2 percent, and for the foreign-born it is 6.4 percent. Compared with those with a bachelor's degree at least the Americans reached 2.7 percent while the immigrants counted for 4 percent (Camarota, Richwine, Zeigler, 2021)

1.1.1.2 Young Workers (age 16 and over)

In the latest studies of unemployment in America in 2021, the unemployment rate for Americans over the age 16 reached 5.5 percentage points, or 7.3 million unemployed Americans,

while the unemployment rate for both legal and illegal immigrants reached 5.6 percentages, or 1.5 million unemployed immigrants. Black youth between 16-19 years old, they had the highest unemployment rate for about 31.7 percent in 2008, those statistics only apply to those who are still looking for jobs and are not institutionalized. Some of them believe it would be futile to even try to find a job in these conditions of high unemployment among their peers. Among all such workers in the U.S. labor force, low-skilled black people face difficulties while looking for work (Briggs, 2008).

The greater the rise in immigration, the lower the incomes and employment opportunities for low-skilled black workers especially for young people those with a high school degree or less. This is what drives black laborers to seek illicit jobs and into the criminal world, and in order to supplement their income, they promote the drug and gun trades and organize into gangs.

1.1.2 Impact on Wages

George Borjas showed that the increase in the undocumented immigrant workers population, the price that firms must pay to hire workers decreases. Wage trends over the last half-century indicate that a 10 percent increase in the number of workers with a specific set of skills reduces the wage of that group by at least 3 percent. Even after the economy has fully adjusted the sectors with the most immigrants will still offer lower wage than those with fewer immigrants.

Both high and low skilled laborers are affected by the influx of immigrants, but since most of the undocumented immigrants have low degrees of education the majority is a high school dropout or has at least a high school diploma or less.

For high school dropout workers, they earn around 25,000\$ annually. According to the U.S Census Bureau data, unauthorized workers admitted without a high school diploma in the last decades have increased the size of the low skilled workforce by roughly 25 percent. Which caused a high fall in the earnings of the low-skilled workers between 800\$ and 1500\$ per year (Borjas, 2016).

1.2 Impact on the Black Workers Social Status

One of the most significant effects of illegal immigration on low-skilled black laborers, it makes the low-skilled work force significantly larger than it would otherwise be. It also raises the poverty rate, which leads to the homelessness of many residents owing to a lack of work opportunities or poor earnings if they find a job. The rising poverty levels leads to a widening inequality in income distribution across the country. Poverty is also the most crucial cause that may motivate people to conduct violations and crimes in order to earn money to meet the most basic needs of life, such as finding a place to live, eating, or caring for family members.

As the illegal immigration increase in the U.S., the unemployment rate for low-skilled American workers has risen, particularly for Black workers, who have less access to educational institutions and training centers. As a result they commit crimes and offenses, such as drug dealing, theft of people and homes. This may cause insecurity in neighborhoods, popular ones in particular, and people will live in a constant fear of being subjected to burglary or assault.

Those who are likely to commit crimes, most of them are young people under the age of 30. They are the victims of illegal immigration, who have lost any hope of getting a decent job and a stable wage like their peers. Because all types of works directed to their category is taken over by immigrants, such as construction, food services, house holding, nursing, farming and so on. Not because they do not prefer those kinds of jobs but because they do not accept to do such jobs at the cut-rate wages and sometimes substandard work conditions; however, undocumented immigrants will accept any type of job, no matter how low the wage is.

According to the previous results, we can say that illegal immigration has a negative impact on the employment sector in the U.S. as a whole, but it influences the low-skilled group in particularly black workers.

However, **Michael Yaki**, is obviously against the ideas which claim that there is a negative impact of illegal immigration on the employment and wages of Black workers. He shared his views with a panel of experts in economy, at the commission on civil rights which held in Washington DC in 2008, where they discussed the issue of illegal immigration and its impact on job opportunities and wages of Black American workers.

In a telephonic meeting of the U.S. 5 Commission on Civil Rights. Friday, February 26, 2010. The Commission convened by teleconference at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Commissioner **Yaki** is obviously against the opinions or ideas that claim for the negative impact of illegal immigration on the employment and wages of Black workers. That is clear when commissioner **Kirsanow** suggested a motion that needs other commissioners' approvals and votes:

Commiissioner **Kirsanow**: Number 5 is "illegal immigration to the United States in recent decades has tended to depress both wages and employment rates for low-," dash, "skilled American citizens," comma, "a disproportionate number of whom are black men," period. "Expert economic opinions concerning the negative effects range from modest to significant," period. "Those panelists that found modest effects overall nonetheless found significant effects in industry sectors such as meat packing and construction," period (Gross, 2010, p. 36).

With the exception of Commissioner **Yaki** who voted no, the remaining Commissioners voted in favor of the motion. (Gross, 2010, p. 37).

In The commission heard testimony about the impact of illegal immigration on the wages and job opportunities of African American workers. When **Dr Briggs** talked about illegal immigrants starting with the statistic that 30% of the U.S. total foreign-born population are "illegal" about 12 millions. Also, 81% of the undocumented immigrant population are in the low-skill sector of job market. They compete with the enormous low-skilled population in the United States; 43 million adult in the county in addition to the 7 million illegal ones who are believed to be in the labor market. Then, the Blacks who count for a 10% of this total low-skilled workers from 50 million adults. Also, they have the highest unemployment rates of any of the four ethnic groups of what the data has collected in Februray 2008 rate was 12.8%.

Dr Vernon believes strongly that the illegal immigration is an issue that affects the whole low-wage sector as a whole and blacks in particular since they have the highest rate of unemployment.

However, commissioners' **Yaki** and **Dr Briggs** disagree on some points of this issue.

1h:17min : Commissioner Yaki argues that he is concerned about the balance at this first panel where there is an unspoken representative on behalf of immigrant community (Commissioner Melendez). Referring to himself, he mentioned that it's an issue when someone characterizes the American nation as divided between "Natives" and "Foreign-borns", because except for the absent commissioner who is Native American, everyone in the country was a foreign-born at some point of time. He thinks that there is immigration heritage in the country which strengthens the nation. Also, his disagreement is obvious (1h19min) when he said:

What really bothers me about some of the statements here today is as if there is this characterization that there is some "negativity" associated with it..... We have heard some of testimony about dislocation of African-Americans..... There is an individual basis black by black, family by family, something that is important to everyday American. I think that's wrong and I think what we have heard here today is wrong and simply jump to conclusion (C-SPAN, 2008)

His point of view is strongly opposite in terms of any immigration's bad impact neither on the country nor on the black American community.

Commissioner **Yaki** also questioned: To what extent is race in this area the issue of African-American race? He also said that Blacks in America are simply a "proxy" for lack of educational opportunity, lack of job training..., etc. He is against any negative opinion that concerns the immigration's negative effects.

When **Dr Vernon Briggs** responded to **Yaki's** argument saying that every country in the planet is a nation of immigrants, and that immigration is a Public Policy that he has supported it ,but he also supports an Enforceable Policy, because illegal immigration is something that is almost half of the foreign born population either legal or came illegally so that is something "wrong", not something to be "proud of ".That is what undermining our Immigration Policy and said that Illegal immigration is something we must eliminate anyway, yet many people do not take it seriously (Briefing Report, 2008, p. 8).

Briggs argues his strong point of view saying:

who pays wages below the minimum wage? Do not worry about companies that can't pay below minimum wage. Public Policy says workers don't get paid below that... I believe very "strongly" of worker rights, no worker should not have to compete with an illegal immigrant because they can't, you cannot, I can't, I guarantee you if you get this illegal immigrant who could do your job, they will get your job, my job because they will do whatever it takes, no matter how low the wage your work is . And, that's what the institutional literature shows; that's why it is an important part of statistics (C-SPAN, 2008, 01h:32).

It is obvious how **Dr Vernon** is worried and concerned about the serious impact of the illegal immigration that he cannot accept this term because of what is called already "illegal".

Once again **Yaki** responding to the previous point of **Briggs** stating:

I just got to laugh at that because, this scare tactics what really bother me about how this debate is conducted. There could be a reasoned rational debate on illegal immigration....when you start talking in broad language and terms,.. and engaging rhetorical scary language, you could be the next person to be supplanted. That's where I tended to draw a line; we need to have much more reasons and not scaremongering basis (C-SPAN, 2008, 01h:33).

He shows a direct opposition to how the statistics of the scholars and arguments are not that reasonable to him and that the issue of the negative impact of illegal immigration is not well convincing. He keeps defending that illegal immigration is taken under immigration and it is maybe counted as the legal one. Also that it is not the problem or the cause of the low-wages or Blacks unemployment as a minority. Finally, he tries to show each time how historically immigration had that great effect for the American nation regardless to its demerits.

The labor economist professor David Card is a leading proponent of that theory as well, he claims that low-skilled immigrants may benefit the American society. He stated that:

More than two decades of research on the local labor market impacts of immigration has reached a near consensus that increased immigration has a

small but discernible negative effect on the relative wages of low-skilled native workers. Less is known about the impact on the average level of native wages, but theoretical reasoning, as well as the evidence presented here (and in a few other studies, mainly at the national level) suggests a small positive effect. . . . Taken together with the labor market evidence, it seems that the direct economic impacts of immigration on existing native residents of major U.S. cities are relatively small, and may well be positive (Card, 2007, as cited in Briefing Report, 2008, p. 79-80).

Card's fellow economists' **George Borjas** and **Lawrence Katz** of Harvard University opined in 2005, that between 1980 and 2000, immigration resulted in an 8.2 percent pay decrease for native-born high school dropouts. Given that high-school dropouts are assumed to be low-skilled employees, this statistic represents almost double the impact that Card calculated.

Dr. Carol Swain intervention in the commission on civil rights conference in Panel Two 2h:18min, before she give her statement, she presented herself as a political scientist but also a “product” of the lower class who grew up as a one of 12 children in rural poverty, whenever she thinks of this issue she thinks of people who were not as fortunate as she was, those who left behind and trapped in poverty. Therefore , Carol ,as one of those who lived the hard life as many other Blacks, is an important figure who tries to commend the Civil Rights Commission to take a decision and investigate about how negatively the illegal immigration influence the wages and employment prospects of low-income of all the Americans and especially Blacks.

In the beginning of her speech she said:

It is remarkable that the Civil Rights Commission chose to hold this crucial conversation today, the 40th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s killing in Memphis. It is noteworthy because Dr. King was in Memphis to assist striking black sanitation workers due to terrible working conditions, and now we gather to discuss contemporary dangers to black employment Dr. King called for us to address issues of injustice and equitable treatment for all of our people in his mountaintop speech the night before he was assassinated (Briefing Report, 2008, p. 62).

She thinks that Dr. King could have predicted that black Americans would confront obstacles to their capacity to work from noncitizens, illegal immigration. But though much has changed in 40 years, yet there are hardships and mountains to climb.

Her remarks focused mostly on black unemployment and some of the variables she thinks account for the overrepresentation of blacks among the jobless in the United States. .

Overall unemployment was 5.6 percent in June 2004, with white unemployment at 5.0 %, Hispanic unemployment at 6.7 %. And black unemployment as the highest one at 10.2 %. By June 2005, the overall economy appeared to be improving. The national unemployment rate fell to 5.0 %. However, the job condition for blacks remained unchanged. Indeed, black unemployment rose to 10.3 %, up from 10.2 % the prior year. So, although white unemployment fell from 5.0 % to 4.3 % and Hispanic unemployment fell from 6.9% to 5.8. (C-SPAN, 2008)

Also, one of the few possible causes of the high rate of blacks' unemployment that she thinks is the oversupply of low-skilled worker. As **Dr. Swain** stated that people on the outskirts of society face the most competition, including poorly educated blacks, whites, and Hispanics who fight against each other and new immigrants for low-wage, low-skill employment (C-SPAN, 2008)

She concluded her statements by claiming that Blacks are the country's biggest losers and most despised minorities. Few individuals believe that illegal immigrants will be deported. When Congress finally gets around to legalizing the country's millions of illegal immigrants, there will be even greater competition for social assistance programs, educational opportunities, employment, and low-income housing. If history repeats again, black Americans will remain the nation's greatest losers. The persistent black unemployment is worsened by an excess of labor as well as company policies that favor new immigrants and white ex-felons over blacks with no criminal records. Persistent and ongoing prejudice drives the rage and frustration that many blacks feel toward America and it adds to increased ethnic conflict and ethnic violence in urban communities between blacks and Hispanics.

Dr. Swain added that Black unemployment is also a likely contributor to some of the dysfunctional circumstances prevalent in some black neighborhood including high rates of violent crime, single parent homes, illegitimacy, infant mortality, drug use, and infectious illnesses. This does not have to be the case. Simply by assisting in the reduction of black

unemployment, we may have a favorable influence on a variety of circumstances (C-SPAN, 2008)

Also, Dr. Swain, in her book "Debating Immigration," said about those who are opposing the great inflow of immigrants as a whole, that it creates competition in the low-wage sector. The most powerful anti-immigrant organization was organized labor, which saw immigrants as low-paid rivals for its members' jobs and a drag on wage growth. (Swain, 2007, p24).

Her arguments and point of view are quite reasonable, that are persuasive and acceptable in terms of the serious impacts of the so called "new threat" to Black people, in other words, the unauthorized immigration has the negative influence on the black communities in which the unemployment rate is increased because of the high competition on the secondary sector of labor market. Consequently, people go to commit violent crimes(acts of theft and drug using and dealing),the hatred and anger against other ethnic groups due to their significant number of illegal immigrants will raise, the number of single mothers who are responsible of children to raise also increases due to the men in jail who leave their families alone(one-parent household),diseases that could be brought by the new comers ,and the number of high school dropouts increases more when each of the factors is interrelated to the other. So, the unemployment that is affected by the massive influx of the undocumented immigrants might cause many other social impacts in the particular case of the African-Americans who suffer from the dysfunctional conditions of the lower class society.

Conclusion

This chapter discussed the major impacts of illegal immigration on the employment sector and wages of black low-skilled workers. In the first part, it investigates the sectors which are affected the most by immigration. It shed the light on the issue of unemployment of various age groups of society and its consequences for the individual and the community. In addition, it presents the opinions of researchers opposing the theory and addressing that if there is any kind of influence from the immigration whether legal or illegal on the nation or individuals, then it must be a positive one. Finally, the last part shows the statements and facts by experts and researchers in the field of economy, which provide some real-life results and statistics about the unemployment rate in the country and the outcomes of these high rates.

General Conclusion

General Conclusion

America has opened its doors to everyone from all over the world, and it still gives opportunities to many people who have dreams and ambitions to enter its lands and invest their talents and ideas in the nation. This is why it is known as “the Nation of Immigrants”. Immigration began since the birth of the country, when millions of immigrants entered America, each with its own reasons; some came seeking refuge escaping from wars and political problems in their countries, others, were only looking for religious freedom to practice their own beliefs in peace without being subjected to persecution or violence. The reasons are different, but the destination is the same, America is the land of dreams and opportunities, however, it found itself in a difficult situation with the increasing number of arrivals, those who are seeking stability and want to be a part of the society by obtaining the citizenship, which led the American authorities to enact strict laws to prevent the entry of immigrants and set certain conditions and numbers, for accepting the immigration application. As a result, an increase in the rates of illegal immigrants who crossed the borders, these immigrants did not meet the necessary qualifications. Several laws were enacted in order to reduce illegal immigration, but it was not of a good benefit and it could not control the issue. The great inflow of these illegal immigrants who were in the low-skilled labor market, the contribution of these undocumented comers was greatly beneficial in terms of the whole U.S. economy that has been improving with the inflow of the low-skilled workers that took the low wage jobs that many natives refuse. It is advantageous for the investor’s employers for fulfilling the undesirable jobs because of the bad work conditions and low income. So, these illegal immigrants have a positive impact on the nation’s economy that has been growing meanwhile the inflow increased. However, these illegal immigrants took over many industrial and agricultural sectors in the country, at the same time many citizens found themselves competing for jobs with these undocumented immigrants, particularly for individuals with less education, who are often diverted to the low-wage labor market. The group with the highest rate of unemployment recorded is the black workers of all ages, especially those with low skills, where the unemployment rate for black Americans reached 6.6 percent in February 2022 (FRED, 2022), compared with white Americans unemployment rate which is estimated by 3.6 percent in 2022 (BLS, 2022). Throughout history, black Americans have faced many conflicts and hardships, but in the last four decades, they have faced many economic and social struggles. the most significant of these challenges is unemployment, all what they asked for is to live in

stability and security in their country, but this social class did not take advantages as such. The most recent research on poverty rates in the United States in 2020 recorded the proportion statistics of black families in the U.S. who live below the poverty level 19.5 percent, compared with white families which is 8.2 percent almost half of the proportion of blacks (Statista, 2021). Significant number of experts discussed this issue as a remarkable reason for this increase of Black Americans' unemployment. It is believed that black communities, as a group of marginal minorities in the American society, suffer the most of these continuous inflows of unauthorized immigrants who compete them in the low-wages of the low rate of available job opportunities. Therefore, these black communities seem to be dysfunctional because of the bad situation the people live. The increase of criminal acts, high school dropouts and one-parent households are proportionally the high rate of blacks' unemployment that is mainly caused by the oversupply of the illegal competing workers in the low income sector. Other scholars argue that the illegal immigration is not the only causative factor of the high rate of the joblessness of African-Americans, but there are more other important factors that need to be investigated by the government. Finally, some of the reforms that can be suggested, to eliminate the adequate number of the illegal immigrants and to reduce the decrease of the black Americans' joblessness, are to improve the educational system and trainings in the low class societies, also to penalize the employers who hire illegal workers instead of a low-skilled native, in addition to defending the workers' rights whom get paid below what they are required to get.

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الملخص

هذا البحث يحقق في قضية الهجرة غير الشرعية في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية وتأثيرها على فرص العمل للافارقة الامريكيين. تستخدم هذه الدراسة الأسلوب التاريخي والأسلوب الوصفي التحليلي. حيث يعتمد البحث على تتبع تاريخ الهجرة إلى أمريكا وموجاتها المختلفة، وكذلك سياسة الهجرة الحكومية عبر الزمن. يعتمد على دراسة بحوث وإحصائيات قام بها باحثين في الاقتصاد. كما تحاول تقديم فهم شامل لتأثير الهجرة غير الشرعية على الحالة الاجتماعية والاقتصادية للأمريكيين السود ، فضلاً عن نتائجها على الاقتصاد الدولي. تستكشف هذه الدراسة وتحلل مجموعة من الروايات المشتركة من العلماء الأمريكيين الذين يتعايشون مع القضية ويشهدون عواقبها على ارض الواقع. تظهر النتائج أن الهجرة غير الشرعية لها آثار ايجابية وسلبية. لقد أفادت اقتصاد البلاد بطرق متنوعة و ساعدة في ازدهار قطاع العمل في العديد من الصناعات. ومع ذلك، كانت عواقبها السلبية على الأمريكيين السود أكثر حدة اقتصاديا و اجتماعيا

الكلمات المفتاحية: الهجرة الغير شرعية, الأمريكيون السود, التوظيف.