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The Impact of Immigration Acts on Immigrants' Socioeconomic Status in the USA During Trump's Administration

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Dedication

We dedicate this humble work

To our families for their endless support, motivation, assistance, and love

To our teachers who were role models during our journey of study

To our friends, colleagues, classmates, relatives, and everyone who cares about us

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Abstract

The current study aims at investigating the effects of the Trump's acts on the socioeconomic status of immigrants' families in the USA. It is qualitative study which depends basically on historical and descriptive-analytical methods. The study based on tracing history of immigrant waves in America, describing and analyzing of short corpus composed of stories related to certain immigrants' families who have been affected by this policy. Serious results have been concluded; Trump's immigration enforcement orders tear families apart, harm children's short- and long-term mental health, undermine families and children's economic security, threaten children's access to education and basic needs, and endanger the lives of asylum-seeking children and families.

Keywords: Immigrants' Families, Immigration Enforcement Orders, Socioeconomic Status, USA

List of Abbreviations

CBP: Customs and Border Protection

DACA: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

DAPA: Deferred Action for Parents of Americans

DHS: Department of Homeland Security

DV: Diversity Visa

FY: Fiscal Year

ICE: Immigration and Customs Enforcement

RAISE: Reforming American Immigration for Strong Employment

TPS: Temporary Protected Status

USCIS: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

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General Introduction

1. Background of the Study

The United States is the nation of nations from its discovering until nowadays. It was inhabited by immigrants from all over the world. Immigrants strengthened and enriched the values of the United States as a country. It is why, after centuries of continued immigration, the United States is stronger than ever. The heritage of the U.S. laws teaches people to protect, welcome, and regard immigrants as their brothers. However, the country has enacted policies that run contrary to American ideals for restricting and reducing immigration during Trump's administration. The impact of these policies on immigrants is a controversial topic because a lot of protestors and critics have criticized it. Cunningham (2018) claimed that Trump's anti-immigrant campaign rhetoric generated much fear and confusion among the undocumented immigrant in America, and its impact could be disastrous. For him, these policies threatened the core of American values. It is due to Trump's immigration enforcement goals that deserve to be a topic of inquiry. This impelled the present study to examine the effect of the current immigration enforcement policies on the immigrants' lives.

2. Statement of the Problem

The United States of America has long been regarded as a nation of immigrants. Although they contributed to build and develop the nation socially and economically, attitudes toward new immigrants by those who came before have swayed between welcoming and exclusionary. In particular, since President Trump entered office, U.S. immigration policy has changed in many ways; for instance, the Trump administration has implemented policies on a wide of immigration issues, covering everything from asylum to deportation policy, the refugee resettlement program, and admission from certain majority Muslim countries. Research has shown that these orders have devastating consequences for immigrants' families and their children, most of whom are the U.S. citizens and unaccompanied children seeking protection.

For this reason, the present research has drawn attention to what anti-immigration law enforcements affect the socioeconomic status of immigrants in the United States.

3. The Research Aims

The study aims at investigating the effects of immigration acts on immigrants' socioeconomic status in the United States during Trump's administration. The Following research objectives would facilitate the achievement of this aim: first, exploring the history of the immigration waves in America in order to display how they contributed to the socioeconomic development of the USA. Second, examining Trump's immigration acts in reducing immigration. Finally, seeking to show and describe the conditions of immigrants under these acts.

4. Research Questions

To fulfill the aforementioned objective, the study will answer the following questions:

- 1- What are the effects of immigration acts on immigrants' socioeconomic status in the United States during Trump's administration?
- 2- How has the parental detention affected the left-behind children?

5. Research Hypotheses

The hypotheses of the research are formulated as follows:

- 1- Trump's anti-immigration enforcements have separated families and caused financial problems among immigrants' families.
- 2- The left-behind children have suffered from anxiety, depression, threats, and kidnapping.

6. Scope of the Study

The study focuses on the impact of Trump's anti-immigration policies on immigrants' families and their children in the USA.

7. Limitations of the Study

The study has potential limitations. Firstly, Trump's administration is still on course, so it is not possible to cover all the immigration acts that are recently issued. Secondly, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic: Trump has doubled immigration enforcement acts due to the spread of the virus; thus, it is not possible to reach their unexpected impacts. The above-mentioned limitations had an impact on our research.

8. Significance of the Study

The study relies on the fact that the major U.S. immigration policy shift would be a serious crisis in the Trump administration. It relates to the impact of the multiple executive branch policies during Trump's administration on the treatment of immigrants including families and their children. Hence, it could provide information about the current U.S. immigration policy and the condition of the immigrants' families. Furthermore, this study will be beneficial to up-coming research, particularly in the issue of human rights.

9. Research Methodology

The study adopts historical and descriptive-analytical methods where data was analyzed qualitatively. For the first chapter, the historical method is used to trace the origin of the socioeconomic development of the United States. The descriptive-analytical method is used in the second and the third chapters to describe and show the effects of U.S. immigration policy on immigrants' lives during Trump's administration. A short corpus of certain stories was compiled and analyzed for the sake of enhancing the readers understanding of the real impact of Trump's immigration policies on immigrants' communities.

10. Structure of the Study

This dissertation is composed of three basic chapters; the first two chapters are theoretical while the third chapter is practical. The first chapter devotes to how different waves of immigrants had contributed to the socioeconomic development of the USA. They had a demonstrative role in flourishing the nation.

The second chapter deals with the historical development of the U.S. immigration system focusing on Trump's administration. It exposes his reform on immigration and describes how immigration enforcement policies changed during his presidency in order to reduce undocumented immigrants.

Finally, the last chapter investigates the effects of the new acts, more specifically border security and interior enforcement on immigrants' families in the USA. It answers the main questions of the research on the socioeconomic situation of the U.S. immigration acts on immigrants by analyzing some traumatic stories.

Chapter One

The Contribution of Immigrants to Socioeconomic Development of
the United States of America

Introduction

Before studying the Immigration Acts pass during Trump's administration and their impact on the socioeconomic status of immigrants in the United States, it is necessary to give an overview about the economy and society of America where the immigrants lived. The arrival of immigrants was a turning point in American's history particularly their contribution either socially or economically. Immigrants came to America through different waves: the first wave came during the 15th and 16th centuries and the other new massive waves started coming in 1820. This chapter provides how early as well as new waves of immigrants contributed to the socioeconomic development of the United States. Specifically, during the colonial period and after the American's independence focusing on their role in flourishing the nation of the United States.

1.1. The Contribution of First Immigrants to Socioeconomic Status of the American Settlements

Immigration in America began with European explorers who followed by immigration waves. The first immigrants made a significant contribution to the growth of the colonial economy. They played an important role in shaping the colonial society and their culture.

1.1.1. The First Immigration Waves in America

The Europeans were not the first immigrants in America. In fact, they were greeted by people who had been settled long before their arrival. Shea (2006) suggested that these people came to western Hampshire from Asia by the way of an ancient land bridge from what is now Russia to Alaska. Others say they came by sea. As the time goes, European explorers who came to the New World in the late of 15th and 16th centuries opened a door for immigrants. Most of them were Spanish, English, French, German, Scots-Irish, and African.

Spanish explorers who reached the New World established the oldest American colonies in 1565 in St. Augustine, Florida till they reached the Appalachian Mountains, the Mississippi River, the Grand Canyon, and the Great Plains. The English were the largest group of European immigrants. They established English colonies in Jamestown, Virginia, Plymouth, and Massachusetts in the 1600s. Pilgrims, the Roanoke Island colonists, and Jamestown settlers can be considered as America's first immigrants. English colonists settled along the Atlantic coast where Spanish Florida began to settle although they were banned to settle beyond the Appalachian Mountains to avoid the madness of the natives, "British law forbade settling beyond the Appalachian Mountains for fear of stirring up the Native Americans who lived there." (Hazen, 2000, p. 2). However, some settlers ignored the law and pushed westward when all available lands along the coast were taken (Baily & Trujillo, 2008).

The French were another non-English group who came primarily to America due to the fur trade. French explorer Jacques Cartier established the first French colonies in North America in 1550 near Beaufort, South Carolina, and Jacksonville, Florida. Then, New French immigrants established a second colony in 1613 at St. Sauveur in what is now Maine. Later, the German and Scots-Irish began arriving in the New World. The former, they settled in Pennsylvania and established a Germantown colony in 1683. The latter, they immigrated to the United States from Northern Ireland in 1718. They settled in Boston. Then, they built their homes in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the Carolinas (Baily & Trujillo, 2008; Hazen, 2000).

African immigrants were the largest group. They began to arrive in North America in the 1500s as colonists with the Spaniards and then as unwilling slaves. All of these immigrants run away from bad conditions of their homelands; as Baily and Trujillo (2008) and Hazen (2000) explained that the Africans travelled abroad to escape from wars, diseases, poverty, and

religious persecution, or to seek fortune and happiness that could not be found in their native countries.

To sum up, the English was primarily who colonized the New World even though the Spanish and French were the first establish settlements there. Thus, American colonies are grouped into three groups: New England: New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, middle colonies: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, and southern colonies: Maryland, Virginia, Carolinas, and Georgia.

1.1.2. Economic Development in American Colonies

Throughout the colonial era, the thirteen colonies lived in distinctive regions marked by the agricultural, commercial, and industrial systems that played a key role in economic growth. Therefore, each colony made their wealth different from others. Some people made their money by fishing. Others depended on farming.

New England's long winter and rocky soil made farming difficult and agricultural opportunities limited. As stated by Reich (2016), only hardy crops could be grown in these conditions such as barely, corns, the white potato, pears, and beans. Thus, they had to find other ways to earn money. Smith (2005) stated that the most successful New Englanders relied on trade, shipbuilding, and fishing. The forest provided trees for building ships as well as animals, which lived there, helped the fur trade. It was a commercial exchange between Great Britain and the colonies to where the colonists sent furs, iron, lumber, fish, tobacco, and rice and England sent tools, guns, furniture, cloth, fine china, teas, and silks. According to Reich in exchange (2016), Colonial triangular trade went through three routes. New England traded rum to Africa for slaves. Then, exchanged food, horses, lumber, and fish with the West Indies for sugar. The third triangular route was to bring fish, food, furs, or lumber to southern Europe where they were exchanging for wine, silk, spices, or fruit. Unlike New England, the middle

colonies had a milder climate and fertile soil. They grew enough wheat, corn, grain, flour, barley, oats, and livestock to feed them and to be exported to the South and the British West Indies. Thus, they became known as the Breadbasket colonies. Cattle, hogs, and sheep were also flourished in these colonies and then exported to the West Indies. In addition to farming, they were interested in the iron industry that used to make axes, guns, and tools (Smith, 2005; Wolfe, 2016).

The southern colonies were highly suitable for agriculture because of the grown season was very long and the soil was moist and fertile. Tobacco, indigo, corn, rice, cotton, fruits, and vegetables were the most successful crops in the land. The crops raised on the plantations were called cash crops, meaning that, they planted a large farm that produced a single crop for profit. Tobacco was the main crop of Maryland, Virginia, and Carolinas, and gradually became main America's export to England. By 1770, Virginia and Maryland were exported over one million bushels of grain. The rise of cattle, horses, and sheep was significant to the southern farmers as well as beef and pork, which were exported to the West Indies (Reich, 2016; Smith, 2005).

The colonies were primitive agricultural economies with limited international trade relations. Over the years, they developed complex international trade and financial relations with England and other foreign countries. The Lack of gold and silver led the colonists to experience different means of exchange such as wampum, commodities (tobacco, wheat, rye, corn, rum, cattle, sheep, and fur), and bills. However, these forms were unsatisfactory to the colonies due to the difficulty of transportation and storage. By 1690, the colonists had printed the first paper currency, £7000 worth, issued by Massachusetts (Reich, 2016).

All in all, due to the differences in the climate and soil, the level of specialization in colonial production was greatly improved. New England specialized in fish, livestock, whale product, rum, lumber, and furs. The middle colonies Breadbasket specialized in wheat, corn,

grain, flour, iron, cattle, hogs, and sheep. The most important products of the southern colonies were tobacco, rice, indigo, cotton, fruits, vegetables, and beef. On the other hand, the thirteen colonies depended on England for much of their manufactured and capital goods. Therefore, they became much more markets for English goods than they were suppliers of raw materials.

1.1.3. Society in Colonial Period

Immigrants made a substantial contribution to the social and cultural development of America. Throughout the colonies, they indulged their traditions to the new conditions within the New World. The colonists contributed to the welfare of the American colonial society.

The individuals' financial access led to the emergence of social class structure in the New World. The well-educated and wealthy colonists were a part of the upper class. The middle-class colonists were less rich than the gentry, and they owned small farms and businesses. They worked in skilled crafts. The colonial lower class included servants, slaves, and regular workers. The social prestige was determined by wealth. The English colonists brought the ideas about the government system developed in England for centuries. By 1760, with the growth of colonies, there were three types of colonies: charter colonies, proprietary colonies, and royal colonies, which influenced the development of the United States (Wirkner, 2005).

The English colonies gave a higher value to education as a means for a success. Education began at home where parents taught their children how to read and write. In New England and Pennsylvania, school systems were prepared to make sure that everyone could study the Bible. By 1636, the first college of training ministers was Harvard that established in Massachusetts. Other colleges followed such as William and Mary College in the South, College in Connecticut, and King's College in New York that later became Columbia University (McNeese, 2002). Wolfe claimed that Benjamin Franklin was the most famous

intellectual of colonial America, and his works led to the development of the lightning rod (2016).

America became home to immigrants who had different religions. Puritans, Anglicans and Quakers were the most important religious groups of first colonial America. By the 1700s, new religious sects appeared such as the Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians. From the 1730s to the 1740s, the great awakening movement was widespread in the colonies to return the strong faith of previous days. George Whitefield was one of the English influential preacher who inspired worshipers and opened fields in every American colony (McNeese, 2002).

In conclusion, the United States changed dramatically from its beginning. It is in continued progression. This development included religious freedom, education, self-government, and social status. Thus, immigrants' situation improved overtime and greatly contributing to the prosperity of American society.

1.2. The Role of Immigrants in Establishing a Country and a Nation

Due to the population movement and immigrant coming, America witnessed a fast development. Immigration embraced international, transnational, national as well as ethnic group levels of activity and experiences. As they are various in nature and background characteristics, they helped to settle and develop the interior of the nation. America became the envy of the world which is the most diverse and successful nation in the history of humankind.

1.2.1. The Economic Conflicts between the UK and the Settlements

In the 1500s, European countries explored America. The British built colonies along the Atlantic coast while the French lived and had its trade with the Native American. Both of the countries wanted to control the Ohio River Valley in order to make travel and trade easy. By 1754, they started to fight one another in North America. This battle became known as the French and Indian war, which lasted for more than seven years and ended with Britain as the

Victor in 1763. Consequently, the war had caused tension between Britain and the colonists, “The French and Indian war sparked a turning point in the relationship between the British Empire and the British American colonies” (Young, 2019, p. 109). Particularly, when George III became a king of England, he thought parliament had unfairly limited the power of previous kings so that he began to play a large role in controlling the colonies. Therefore, Prime Minister George Grenville decided that the American colonists should pay taxes to the mother country for settling its heavy financial debts (Burgan, 2005; Forest, 2013; Fradin, 2010).

1.2.2. Proclamation Act

When the British won the war, they gained the French colonists’ territory where many Indians and French supporters lived. While the colonists started moving west, the Indians attacked them. Hence, the new British king issued the Proclamation Act of 1763, which declared that the west land of the Appalachians belonged to the American Indians and could not be settled. In fact, the parliament passed the act to limit the trade between the colonists and other countries along with keeping trading only with Great Britain. Thus, the colonists became angry and disappointed. Their attitudes changed about the mother country because they felt that they should be able to enjoy the rewards since they helped to win the war (Forest, 2013; Ready, 2002).

1.2.3. Taxation Laws between 1764 to 1774

As the tension between Great Britain and its colonies increased, the relationship between them gradually started to weaken. Britain’s debt from the French and Indian war led it to try consolidating the control over its colonies and raise revenue through direct taxation. For example, Stamp Act, Townshend Acts, Tea Act, and Intolerable Acts.

After the Proclamation Act, numerous laws were passed. In 1764, the British parliament passed the Sugar Act, which enforced taxes on non-British imported sugar and molasses. The

colonists boycotted British luxury imports. The British merchants pressed parliament to repeal the act. Within the same year, the Currency Act was also issued to prohibit printing money in the colonies. After one year, the Quartering Act was passed to require the colonists to shelter and feed the troops who were sent to protect them from American Indians west of the Allegheny Mountains. Then, the Stamp Act was another law passed to demand American colonies to pay a tax on every printed-paper. However, the act provoked the colonists particularly the gentry, publishers, and merchants. Therefore, the colonists protested loudly in the streets in Boston to express their refusal of the act. Furthermore, they rejected to buy British goods and stopped buying printed papers with stamps. This action made the workers in Britain began to lose their jobs. Soon, the parliament was forced to repeal the Sugar and Stamp Acts in 1766 (Allen, 2009; Young, 2019).

Other acts were passed by the British parliament. In 1767, The Townshend Acts taxed imports like tea, glass, paper, and paint when they arrived in the colonies. Once again, the colonists protested and boycotted the British goods because these acts gave the British the right to search their homes and businesses to look for smuggled goods. By 1768, the British troops who upheld the acts were verbally attacked by a mob and threw with snowballs. As a result, the troops killed five of the crowd (known as the Boston Massacre). Later, parliament enforced to repeal all taxation acts except the tax on tea in 1770. After three years, the Tea Act was passed to allow only the British East India Company to sell the tea to the colonists. The colonists protested the tea monopoly in Boston by burning the tea. Moreover, men dressed as Native Americans boarded three ships, and threw the tea into the water. This incident became known as the Boston Tea Party (Ready, 2002; Young, 2019).

The colonists' reaction on the previous acts urged the British parliament to pass civil laws. By 1774, the Coercive Acts were passed to punish them. These acts actually contained four separate acts: First, Boston Port Act that says Britain closed the port of Boston until

payment was received for the ruined tea. Second, Massachusetts Government Act in which the charter of Massachusetts changed to give the royal governor more power. Third, Administration of Justice Acts that allowed the royal officials accused of crimes to be put on trial in England. Forth, the Quartering Acts that expanded all colonies. Within the same year, the Quebec Act was also passed which issued French Canadians the total right to practice Roman Catholicism and the act extended the boundaries of Quebec southward and westward. The American colonies feared the king who intended to settle loyal French speaking Catholics in the west. Finally, all of the thirteen colonies except Georgia decided to meet at the First Continental Congress in order to create the Continent Association. Its purpose was leading the ongoing boycotts and demanding the repeal of the Coercive Acts. The colonists supported Massachusetts' declaration to stop exporting to the Britain unless the acts were repealed in a year. Furthermore, they formally requested for assistance from the King George III who responded by sending more troops to oppose the rebels (Schultz, 2010).

In conclusion, the colonists felt that Great Britain ruled them unfairly. Specifically, when the king gave the land to the American Indians instead of giving it to the colonists who fought beside the British in the French and Indian war. Furthermore, King George III charged colonists taxes. The colonists became angry and they protested these taxes without representation in the British parliament. Therefore, the colonists went into battle and won the revolutionary war. Consequently, new country was formed with a new type of government.

1.2.4. The Role of Slaves in Developing the Agriculture

During the European exploration, the settlers grew crops to ship back to Europe. The planting of crops took a lot of work, which made the settlers in the necessity of a lot of workers. The settlers primarily forced the natives to work as slaves whom they ran away or died from diseases brought by Europeans. Then, the plantation owners began to use Africans as slaves who basically and strongly developed crop cultivation in America.

For many years, the Dutch, Spanish and Portuguese had been taking slaves from Africa to Europe, their colonies in North and South America. The passage from Africa to America was called the Middle Passage. The slaves' life on the small crowded ships were unpleasant and dangerous. The slave ships had very cramped quarters where the African slaves could not even stand up or even turn around. Most were chained together with a little bit of food. The majority of them died from diseases that spread quickly during the journey. The first slave ship arrived in Jamestown in 1619 followed by many more. Quickly, slavery spread throughout Spanish, Portuguese and England's colonies in the West Indies and North America (Boyer, 2012; Linde, 2011).

From the first arrival of the slaves to America, they played a key role in developing the USA. According to Rodriguez (2007), the greatest number of slaves concentrated on the tobacco, indigo, and rice in the colonies of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and South Carolina. As Tailly (1984) stated that the slaves' natural abilities and skills were a gift to the American plantation owners and enrichment of the entire nation; for instance, while many English planters had failed at growing and processing rice, rice-growing skills possessed by West Africans who gave them a success at cultivating the crop. Moreover, the increasing cultivation of rice was measured by the increase of the number of imported African slaves in Carolina. Carolinas practiced a different kind of agriculture and depended on trade for living. Therefore, they realized that the Africans were a valuable resource to the plantation colonies.

In conclusion, welfare and prosperity came to the American plantation owners due to the growing of slave population. In particular, the African slave who worked diligently and hardly to increase the production of crops multiplied their masters' wealth and improved the entire nation.

1.3. The Contribution of the New Immigrants to the Different Aspects of the Socioeconomic Life of Americans

The continued successive waves of immigration, from German and Irish from the 1800s to later arrivals from Italy, Eastern Europe, Mexico, Asia, and Africa, rekindled the economic, social, civic, and political adaptation and incorporation into the United States.

1.3.1. New Waves of Immigrants in the USA

After the American Revolution and Independence, the United States offered much to attract prospective immigrants. Waves differed mainly in the lands that came to America hoping to improve their life quality. Among these immigrants were from Ireland, England, Germany, and Southern and Eastern European nations.

The great waves of immigration began in about 1820s. Battle (2012) and Frost (2002) reported that more than 15 million immigrants arrived to the United States between 1820s and 1860s including four million immigrants from Germany. Germans left their homelands for different reasons: some left because there were more people in Germany than the land could support, farmers and their family faced famine, and others escaped from military service. Three million people each from Ireland and Britain immigrated a result of the potato famine that increased the starvation deaths. One million Scandinavians also emigrated to seek available lands. Moreover, Asian immigrants from China went abroad to in search for work after the discovery of gold in California in 1848.

With the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, 12 million immigrants arrived in America. Advances in transportation technology brought an additional 18 million immigrants to the United States including more than four million from Italy, 3.6 million from Austria-Hungary, and three million from Russia. Other immigrants from Sweden and Norway moved to the States of the Midwest searching for freedom and a better life. In addition to European

immigration, a large number of Asians, those from China and Japan, a few numbers from Greece and the Middle Eastern countries of Lebanon, Turkey, and Syria came to America. After the Second World War, the requirement for migrant and farm workers encouraged more than one million persons from Mexico to come to the United States. Later, Mexicans became the largest group of immigrants. In addition, Turkish, Croatian, and Serbian immigrants increased during this period, including professionals seeking better job opportunities. By 1985, almost 300,000 Russian Jews arrived and settled in the major cities of the Northeast (Battle, 2012).

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 opened the United States for immigration from all over the world. The number and the origin of immigrants changed from being primarily European countries to those of Asia and Latin America. For instance, the rate of European immigrants decreased from 90% to 12% in the 1980s while immigrants from the Southeast Asian countries and the Pacific Islands, Asia, Central and South America, and the Caribbean increased to 85% due to the Korean and Vietnam War. Others from Mexico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba came to the United States between 1980 and 1990. Respectively (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996), 2.7 million immigrants from the Caribbean, and two million from Mexico came to the United States in 2000. Then, the number of immigrants increased from 20 million to 40 million in 2010. In addition to the documented immigrants, there were almost 11.2 million illegal immigrants from different origins such as Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Canada, Haiti, Poland, and the Philippines lived in the United States. Undocumented persons who entered the country such as Chinese intellectuals, scientists, and engineers stayed in the United States after their visas have expired (Battle, 2012).

People from Africa and the Middle East came in large numbers. According to U.S. census data in 2007, 1.7 million foreign-born Africans estimated to be in America. Their number continued to grow and to be comprised of people from at least 48 different countries

in particular West Africa made up 36% of the total. The major groups from this region were Nigerian and Ghanaian. Other Africans came from Mali, Niger, Mauritania, Togo, Senegal, Liberia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cambodia, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, and Guinea-Bissau. The Second World War and Israel war of independence in 1948 led many Arabs from the Middle East to immigrate to the United States. Between 1948 and 1967, the total number of Palestinians who were seeking a better standard of living in America were 4.806. With the breakup of the Ottoman Empire, the borders of the Middle East had been reshaped. New countries had emerged, and new immigrants were arriving from Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Algeria, Kuwait, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Syria, Libya, and Yemen (Barkan, 2013).

America experienced a strong immigration flows consisted of various nationalities and groups who came from different geographical areas. The recent immigration is also contributing to population growth. Immigration contributions were not just restricted to large areas; it also continued to extend into different parts of the country that played a greater role in contributing to the growth in areas large and small as the population spread out.

1.3.2. Economic Contribution

The United States is a home to the largest immigrant population in the world. Immigrants are at the forefront of innovation and ingenuity in the United States. In addition, their presence creates opportunities for less-skilled workers to become more specialized in their work. Thus, immigration generally improves the overall economy of America.

Low skilled immigrants contributed to the U.S. economy variously. From the early immigration period to the mid-1900s. Unskilled laborers harvested crops, worked as servants, staffed factories, built railroads, and worked in the mines; for example, Italians in California harvested oranges and grew grapes to make wine which later their successful businesses became large wineries and grocery companies. Other unskilled and uneducated immigrants

were Irish Americans who dug ditches, moved rocks, and laid railroad ties. Many of them were willing to work for less pay than many American workers would not. Moreover, they had been in demand to fill factories and service jobs like Chinese people who hoped to find gold in California, but they did find work as servants, cleaning and cooking for low wages. Another low-paying job that many home care workers needed to hold was nursing homes and caring for America's elderly near the end of their lives. The number of baby boomers rapidly aging, therefore, the United States would need more of these workers to provide help for American families' needs (O'Hara, 2002; Olson, 2002; Todd, 2002).

In addition to low skilled laborers, highly skilled immigrants played an important role in the innovation. These skilled immigrants filled jobs in health care, teaching and technology. As stated by Frost (2002), Germans who came to America were scientists, artists, writers, journalists, lawyers, ministers, and teachers. They contributed to share their knowledge and talent in America as Carl Schurz who was the famous German immigrant served as a Union general in the Civil War and he was a noted American journalist. Marvasti and McKinney (2004) informed that Middle Eastern Americans also contributed significantly to mathematics, medicine, and sciences. In this area, they included Elias Zerhouni who was the director of the national of health, Farouk El-Baz who helped to plan the Apollo moon landings, and two Nobel Prize winners in Chemistry. Like other Middle Eastern Americans, Bailey and Trujillo (2008) added that medical professionals from Korea and Philippine immigrated to the United States to work as nurses. Thus, immigrants not only raised innovation, but also attracted additional resources, and improved specialization that benefited all Americans.

Immigrant continued to vitalize the American's economy through their contributions as workers, consumers, and taxpayers. They flourished their economy by increasing the labor force as Bailey and Trujillo (2008) stated that the number of foreign-born workers grew to 21 million from 13 million, and immigrants accounted for nearly one-half of the U.S. labor force

growth since 1994. In addition, these legal and illegal immigrants contributed to the national taxes; for instance, immigrants paid sales tax on goods, incomes, and payroll taxes on job earnings, particularly on the education level. The Public Broadcasting System in the Mix Program reported that immigrants earned \$240 billion a year instead they paid \$90 billion a year in taxes. Furthermore, undocumented aliens paid income tax for their getting jobs without collecting Social Security payment.

In summary, the United States benefited from low-skilled as well as high-skilled immigrants, which were more responsive to broader economic conditions. They made higher incomes, less poverty and unemployment, more urbanization and higher educational attainment. Hence, the immigration led to more innovation, a better-educated workforce, greater occupational specialization, better matching of skills with jobs and higher overall economic productivity.

1.3.3. Social and Cultural Contribution

Although immigrants were forced to adapt to new and various environments as soon as they arrived to America, the country had embraced the cultural contributions newcomers made. Hence, the successful integration of immigrants contributed to the socio-cultural vitality of the United States.

The immigrants offered their foods, arts, cultures, and athletics, which became valued in American society. Italian, Mexican, and Chinese foods became so inherent in American culture. Thus, Italian restaurants, French beauty shops, German breweries, Belgian chocolate stores, Russian ballets, Chinese markets, and Indian teahouses are essential and precious in the United States. The immigrants improved the music and arts which Hollywood directors and performers from abroad received multiple academy awards. For example, the actor Salma Hayek from Mexico and the dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov from Latvia who enriched the world

of television. Additionally, the immigrants played an important role in American sports particularly athletes from Japan, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Cuba, and Venezuela integrated with Major League Baseball in America. Moreover, they integrated holidays from their homelands into the boarder American culture; for example, people of all ethnic backgrounds in the United States respectively celebrate both Cinco de Mayo and St. Patrick's Day that are national holidays in Mexico and Ireland. Hanukah (Jewish), Kwanza (African American) and Christmas (Christian) are a multi-ethnic celebration of December in the United States (West, 2010).

Furthermore, the new immigrants brought with them different backgrounds like languages and religions, which made a linguistic and religious diversity. Respectively (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011), more than 55 million persons speak a language more than English at home. More than 34 million people in the United States speak Spanish or Creole only at home; in addition, Chinese, French, German, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Italian are spoken by more than one million persons. Fewer than one million residents also speak other languages including Arabic and African languages, Persian, Urdu, Greek, Hindi, and Gujarati. In addition to the multiple languages, religious diversity continued to extend when the Slavic Christian and Jewish immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe established Judaism and orthodoxy as major religious bodies. Muslims as well as Hindu and Buddhist are doubled since 1990. Several million persons practice 60 other religions in the country (Bailey &Trujillo, 2008).

In conclusion, immigrants and their descendants were also in the development of popular American culture and in creating the positive image of immigration in the American mind. Immigrants and the second generations played a pivotal role in creative food, art, and sport of the United States. They made America a country of mixed languages and religions.

Therefore, immigrants enriched American culture by contributing to the success of American society.

Conclusion

This chapter was an attempt to highlight the contribution of the different immigrants' waves coming to America. It started with an overview about early immigrants and their contribution during the colonial period. It continued with a more detailed investigation of their role in building the country and the nation through the economic conflicts between the UK and the settlers. It referred to how slaves developed the American agriculture. Finally, the chapter dealt with the contribution of new waves of immigration to the vibrancy of American economic development and the richness of its socio-cultural life. The immigrants became a significant driving force in the creation of new business and intellectual property in the United States, and their contributions have increased over the past decade.

Chapter Two

U.S. Immigration Acts: Immigration Enforcement Under the Trump Administration

Introduction

The United States has long been considered as a land of opportunities for immigrants. However, in both the past and today, immigration was a problematic subject to legislation by U.S. policymakers. In this chapter, U.S. immigration policy is examined through two phases. The first deals with the historical development of U.S. immigration acts from the United States' establishment to the Obama administration. This phase is divided into eras: the open-door era, the door-ajar era, the pet-door era, the revolving-door era, and the storm-door era. During all these eras, many acts were passed to manage early and newly waves of immigrants. The second examines Trump administration's policies which focus on reducing immigration to the United States and aggressively enforcing laws against unauthorized entries. Soon after assuming the presidency, Donald Trump issued a series of executive orders promising major changes to the U.S. immigration system such as building a wall along the entirety of the southern border, eliminating the so-called sanctuary cities, ending Barack Obama's programs that protected unauthorized immigrants from deportation and implementing a merit-based system.

2.1. American Immigration Policies Before Trump

The United States has a long history of immigration. Since its establishment, it has changed its immigration policies numerous times. Historically, the U.S. immigration policy is divided into several different eras, each characterized by the image of a door.

2.1.1. The Open-Door Era

From the founding of the nation until 1880, U.S. immigration policy can be viewed as promoting unrestricted entry. As stated by LeMay (1987), the U.S. policy entailed virtually no restrictions on immigration and kept its gates open to all. In 1790, the census bureau recorded a population of 3,227,000, including black slaves, Native Americans, and different people from Europe. This population occupied land that was vast and rich in soil and natural resources.

These people obviously felt free and wanted to share their freedom with all who desired to be free. President George Washington summarized the prevailing view and policy when he stated:

The bosom of America is open to receive not only the opulent and respectable stranger, but the oppressed and persecuted of all Nations and Religions; whom we shall welcome to a participation of all our rights and privileges, if by decency and propriety of conduct they appear to merit the enjoyment. (LeMay, 1987, pp. 8-9)

Washington thus adopted a generous attitude toward immigrants. He wanted all immigrants, rich or poor, skilled or unskilled, and all who had escaped the oppression in their nations, to be allowed to participate in American life and enjoy all American rights. The governor of Connecticut Jonathan Trumbull shared his view, writing in a 1782 letter:

Our interests and our laws teach us to receive strangers, from every quarter of the globe, with open arms. The poor, the unfortunate, the oppressed from every country, will find here a ready asylum; and by uniting their interests with ours, enjoy in common with us, all the blessing of liberty and plenty. Neither difference of nation, of language, of manners, or of religion, will lessen the cordiality of the reception, among a people whose religion teaches them to regard all mankind as their brethren. (Sebree & Steffoff, 2020, p. 11)

In other words, Trumbull believed that immigrants should be welcomed regardless of their culture, language, or religion. According to Sebree and Steffoff (2020), Congress passed the first national law in 1790. This law did not limit immigration, but it did stipulate that only certain immigrants could become U.S. citizens. The decades that followed brought a series of immigration laws. Some of these laws determined which immigrants could become naturalized citizens. LeMay (1987) stated that the Act of 1819 required all entering ship passengers to be listed according to their sex, age, occupation, and country of origin.

2.1.2. The Door-Ajar Era

This era lasted from 1880 to 1920. During this time, an incoming flood of newcomers caused fear among the American public and lawmakers because of their differences in physical and cultural features. Hence, many immigration acts were passed to limit immigration by excluding a certain kind of person. Among them were the Immigration Act and the Chinese Exclusion Act, which were enacted in 1882. The Immigration Act barred the immigration of lunatics, idiots, and those with public charges. It also excluded those suffering from contagious diseases. Meanwhile, the Chinese Exclusion Act suspended all immigration by Chinese laborers for 10 years and prohibited the naturalization of Chinese immigrants in 1883. In addition to these laws, Congress passed the Alien Contract Labor Law of 1885 prohibiting any company or individual from bringing unskilled immigrants into the United States to work under the contract. In 1911, the restrictionist policy makers implemented a literacy test for admission and an English language test for naturalization. By 1917, Congress had prepared a list of aliens who were to be excluded and had prohibited all immigrants from Asia (LeMay, 1987, 2004, in press).

2.1.3. The Pet-Door Era

From 1920 to 1965, pro-restrictionists forced Congress to pass a series of laws basing immigration on quotas of national origin to close the door for all immigrants but a favoured few. According to Harris and Katz (2019), the Emergency Quota Act of 1921 limited immigration from Northern and Western Europe to 198,081 people per year. It also restricted immigration from other countries in the Eastern Hemisphere. By 1924, Congress had set specific quotas to encourage Protestant immigration from Great Britain while minimizing Catholic, Jewish, Asian, and African immigration. Additionally, between 1919 and 1927, the government organized mass deportations of Mexicans by prohibiting any Mexicans from becoming U.S. citizens. Later, the United States accepted 400,000 refugees who had lost their

homes in the Second World War. In 1952, a new immigration bill proposed removing the racist rules that prevented Asians from becoming citizens. However, President Harry Truman vetoed the bill in which he said:

The idea behind this discriminatory policy was, to put it boldly, that Americans with English or Irish names were better citizens than Americans with Italian or Greek or Polish names. . . Such a concept is utterly unworthy of our traditions and our ideals.
(Harris & Katz, 2019, p. 46)

According to Truman, only people of Western European descent were worthy adopting American traditions and ideals. LeMay (2004) stated that the above repressive laws reduced immigration from about 25 million in the door-ajar era to just over six million in the pet-door era. Further, the source of immigration to the United States in this period shifted from Southern, Central, and Eastern European countries to Northwest European countries.

2.1.4. The Revolving-Door Era

The period from 1965 to 2001 was regarded as an era of liberalization. In 1965, President Lyndon B Johnson signed the Hart-Celler Act, which ended the race-based quota system and removed restrictions on Asian immigration. Although the act allowed 50,000 more immigrants from the Eastern Hemisphere than from the Western Hemisphere, supporters argued that the preference given to adults who had a family in the United States would ensure the majority would continue to be Europeans (Berkin, Miller, Cherny, & Gormly, 2016). By 1966, the Refugee Act was passed to deal with the situation of refugees from Cuba. Throughout the 1970s, economic problems emerged that were associated with a flood of undocumented aliens, of whom Hispanics comprised the vast majority, attempting to cross the nation's border with Mexico. Because of the crisis of border control, the Refugee Act of 1980 was enacted to indicate that Congress was ready to reexamine immigration policy. However, because of the

increase in the number of legal and illegal immigrants, Congress failed to implement policies to control the border, leading to new policies and the two parties working together to formulate a new law (LeMay, 2004). Liebert (2010) stated that an anti-immigration movement characterized the 1990s, peaking in 1994 when California passed Proposition 187, which would bar illegal immigrants from most public services. Congress passed the Immigration Control and Financial Responsibility Act in 1996, which focused on stricter border control by doubling the number of border patrol agents, building a fence south of San Diego, and instituting tough sanctions against migrant smugglers. The act made no difference, however, because illegal immigration to the United States continued to increase.

2.1.5. The Storm-Door Era

The terrorist attacks of September 11st, 2001, had a dramatic impact on U.S. national security, particularly the protection of America's land borders. In that year, George W. Bush became president; and he viewed illegal immigration as a problem caused by inadequate laws and wanted solutions dealing with those who illegally crossed the borders of the United States. Six months later, the Immigration and Naturalization Service approved student visa applications for two people who had legally entered the United States. These two people hijacked four planes on September 11st and flew two of them into the World Trade Center in New York City and one into the Pentagon building in Washington, DC. Another plane crashed in a Pennsylvania field. In the aftermath of 9/11, Bush created the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to assess how the United States handled immigration. The penalty for overstaying visas became much more severe, and deportations became far more common to prevent terrorists from entering the country. Furthermore, Bush pushed for a bill that would consolidate all the earlier Dream Act provisions that allowed young people who entered the United States as children but lacked the legal standing to acquire documentation (Sebree & Steffoff, 2020). Moreover, Sosa, Cox, and Alvarez (2017) reported that Obama also introduced

the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in 2012. Under the program, certain individuals without lawful immigration status who were brought to the United States as children would be considered for release from removal from the United States for two years. President Obama also implemented a program to prevent deportation for selecting unauthorized immigrants who came to the United States. The program, called Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA), covers illegal immigrants who have lived in the United States since January 1st, 2010, and have a son or daughter who is a U.S. citizen. These acts were enacted to protect individuals who have lived in the United States from the threat of deportation.

2.2. U.S. Immigration Policies Under the Trump Administration

Politicians characterized immigration as a positive factor for the country and an integral part of its heritage although they differed on specific policies. Under Donald Trump, afore consensus broke down. Since entering office in January 2017, Trump administration has taken serious steps to redefine U.S. immigration policies, including broadening which is prioritized for deportation, reducing refugee admissions, narrowing the eligibility criteria for asylum, ending temporary protections, and slowing visa processing. Trump has also focused more on other serious objectives such as building a wall on the southern border with Mexico, cutting legal immigration, banning refugee admissions from certain Muslim countries, and deporting millions of unauthorized immigrants (Pierce, Bolter, & Selee, 2018a).

2.2.1. Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements

In Obama administration, immigration was significantly weakened through various executive actions. According to Margolis (2019), Obama effectively reinstated “catch and release” by ordering Border Patrol agents not to even bother arresting illegal immigrants. Conversely, Trump’s first executive order addressed illegal immigration, “Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements”, directed the DHS to secure the southern border by

designing and constructing a border wall, ending catch and release, and applying a zero-tolerance policy.

On January 25th, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order that included plans to build a costly wall at the southern border and provided additional resources to Border Patrol agents to increase detention along the border (Chen & Murray, 2017). He promised repeatedly during his 2016 campaign to build a big beautiful wall along the southern border to block immigrants from illegally crossing into the United States. Since becoming president, he has struggled to secure federal funding for the project (Lawson & Lawson, 2019).

Fontana (2019) claimed that the border between the United States and Mexico is 1,933 miles long. The State of Texas contains 1,241 miles, or about 64% of the entire border. The rest of the border is located within Arizona, New Mexico, and California. Generally, the border begins in the Gulf of Mexico and ends in the Pacific Ocean. It contains border cities, deserts, mountain ranges, wildlife preserves, Native American territory, and rivers. Lawson and Lawson (2019) informed that the cost of the wall was estimated to be \$15 to \$25 billion. However, Mexican authorities indicated that their nation would not pay for a wall erected by the United States, and President Enrique Peña Nieto cancelled a meeting in January 2017 with President Trump the day after he signed an executive order calling for immediate construction of the wall. Trump based his executive orders on the assumptions that immigrants from Mexico were bringing their problems to the country, committing crimes, and taking away jobs from Americans in which he said, “When Mexico sends its people, they’re not sending their best. They are not sending you. They are not sending you. They’re sending people that have lots of problems, and they’re bringing those problems with us.”(Gitlin, 2018, p. 14). The construction of the border wall was the keystone of Trump’s presidential campaign.

The end of the “catch and release” policy meant that all people crossing the southern border would be detained. The DHS was directed to end the widespread use of catch and release and to ensure that immigrants were detained by law enforcers to await their removal hearing. In contrast, illegal immigrants during Obama’s administration were not disturbed or arrested by Border Patrol agents. Although the DHS did not have enough capacity to implement this order fully, Congress did expand its detention capacity by ordering the DHS to immediately construct detention facilities, conduct interviews, and initiate removal proceedings with asylum officers and judges. Moreover, the DHS was directed to expand expedited removal throughout the country and the Secretary of Homeland Security was encouraged to expand the problematic 287(g) Program, which empowered state and local law enforcement to enforce immigration laws (Chen & Murray, 2017). Furthermore, the DHS implemented a “zero-tolerance” policy at the U.S.-Mexico border in May 2018, criminally prosecuting everyone who crossed the border without authorization for the crimes of illegal entry or reentry (Pierce et al., 2018b).

In conclusion, Trump has aggressively sought to secure the border and enforce immigration laws. He pledged to build a separation wall on the southern border to prevent illegal immigrants from crossing the border into the United States and to protect it from those who caused problems and crimes. Therefore, Trump’s administration enforcement increased by border security and interior enforcement.

2.2.1.1. The Apprehensions at the U.S.-Mexico Border

President Trump entered office promising to ramp up U.S. immigration enforcement by removing millions of unauthorized immigrants inside the United States and building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Thus, his immigration enforcement measures are characterized by border detentions. From January to August 2017, the number of arrests reported by the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) decreased by 50% compared to the same period the year before. Although the total number of illegal entrants fell down, the number of families and

unaccompanied minors continued to increase. From April to December 2017, the average monthly apprehensions of migrants' families increased from 1,000 to 8,000 whereas the monthly apprehensions of unaccompanied minors increased from 1,000 to 4,000. In spring 2018, the Trump administration announced its intention to arrest and prosecute anyone caught crossing the border without authorization regardless of whether they were asylum-seeking or traveling with children (Hillstrom, 2020). Based on a few research center surveys, the number of migrant apprehensions at the U.S.-Mexico border rose in the fiscal year (FY) 2019 to its highest annual level in 12 years. Figure 1 shows the 851,508 apprehensions recorded the last FY (October 2018-September 2019) were more than double the number the year before (396,579), but still well short of the levels in the early 2000s. The increase in apprehensions had come as a growing number of migrants seek asylum. People who were traveling in families, not single adults were from northern triangle countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, which had struggled with violence and a lack of economic opportunities. That represents a notable break from the 2000s and early the 2010s, when Mexican accounted for the vast majority of those apprehended (Tardis, 2020).

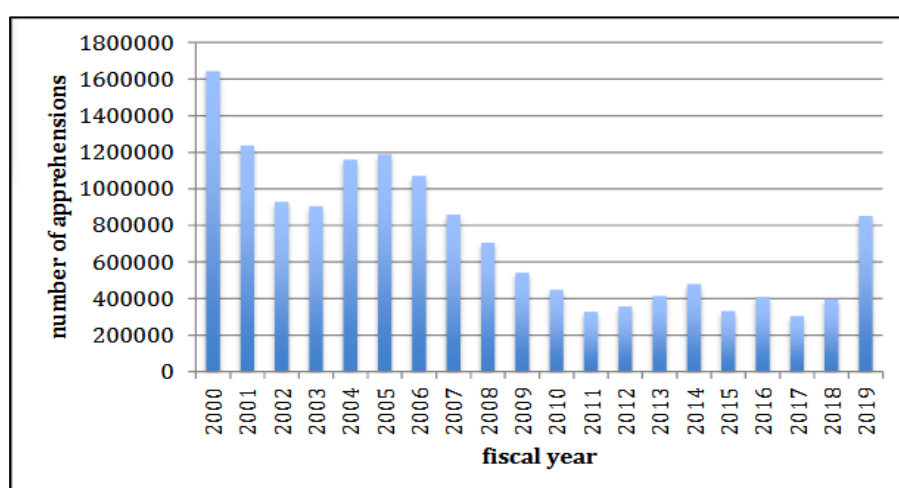


Figure 1. Apprehensions at the Southwestern Border (Tardis, 2020, p.17).

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the globe in early 2020. The DHS further closed the U.S. land border in March 2020, banning unnecessary travel through land ports,

effectively ending cross-border tourism. As a result, the number of migrants arriving at the U.S. southwest border has shifted. In May 2019, before most of these policies implemented, people traveling as families made up almost two-thirds of U.S. apprehensions at the border whereas in June 2020, adults traveling without children made up 90%. Correspondingly, migrants from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras accounted for 12% in June 2020 (Pierce & Bolter, 2020).

2.2.2. Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States

Unlike border enforcement, which is largely controlled by the federal government, Trump's next executive order, "Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States", focuses on expulsion illegal aliens from the country. It increased enforcements of immigration laws by prioritizing all undocumented immigrants for removal, encouraging states and localities to implement federal immigration laws and enforcing countries to accept their nationals.

The interior immigration enforcement relies on cooperation between the federal and local authorities. Over the past decade, some jurisdictions have restricted cooperation with federal immigration authorities particularly Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), while others have actively encouraged it. However, in times of controversy, a growing number of local jurisdictions declared themselves sanctuary cities and limited police participation in immigration enforcement. These localities became a focus of debate. In response, the federal government has exerted pressure on jurisdictions that limit cooperation with federal immigration enforcement agencies. However, some sanctuary cities challenged the order in the court; thus, it adopted other strategies such as reducing their access to federal law enforcement grants, issuing subpoenas for information on detainees, and filing lawsuits against non cooperative jurisdictions to force local cooperation with the ICE. It conducted a four-day nationwide enforcement operation in September 2017 focusing on non cooperative cities such as Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and Philadelphia. Only four countries changed their

policies to cooperate with the ICE: Miami-Dade County, Florida; Clark County, Nevada; Suffolk County, New York; and Clarke County, Georgia (Peirce et al., 2018a; Pierce & Bolter, 2020).

In addition to put pressure on U.S. states and localities, the administration has ramped up demands on foreign countries in order to facilitate enforcement actions. The Trump administration has used its authority to limit the visas granted to people from countries that refuse to take back their nationals who have been deported from the United States. By June 2020, his administration has successfully reduced the number of recalcitrant countries from 23 to 13, who were from Cambodia, Eritrea, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Vietnam, Mauritania, Laos, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Ghana, Pakistan, Brazil, and Burundi (Pierce & Bolter, 2020).

In short, the order entails the investigation, arrest, detention, and removal noncitizens in the interior of the United States. Thus, Trump administration's approach will have devastating consequences for immigrant communities and will undermine public safety.

2.2.2.1. Arrests of Unauthorized Immigrants in the Country's Interior

While CBP enforced immigration laws at the border, ICE was tasked with apprehending unauthorized immigrants in the interior of the country. During the first 100 days of the Trump presidency, federal immigration officers arrested 41,318 immigrants, over 75 of them had criminal records. Another 10,845 immigrants with no criminal convictions were also arrested during that time. Unlike Trump, Obama had actively lobbied since the start of his administration to pass an immigration bill that would create a path to legal residency for the 11 million illegal immigrants in the United States (Garcia-Zamor, 2018). However, Hing, Johnson, and Chacón (2018) pointed out that early signs of increased interior enforcement under the Trump administration were clear. In 2016, Obama administration apprehended and removed an average of 1,250 individuals each week from the interior. However, only a small number of them were directly arrested by ICE itself. Given the changes under the Trump administration

such as jurisdictions that were afraid of losing federal funds, the reinstitution of the Secure Communities Fingerprint-Sharing Program, the re-expansion of 287 (g) agreements between ICE and local officials, and widespread reports of ICE arrests without local assistance, an increase in removals from the interior was a reasonable possibility. Figure 2 shows that the number of interior arrests made by ICE rose 30% in FY 2017 after Trump signed an executive order giving the agency broader authority to detain unauthorized immigrants, including those without criminal records. The number went up again in FY 2018 but decreased in FY 2019 and remained far lower than it was during President Obama’s first term in office.



Figure 2. Number of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Arrests (Gramlich, 2020).

2.2.2.2. Deportations of Unauthorized Immigrants

Urbina and Álvarez (2018) reported that the new deportation rules under the Trump presidency claimed many families. ICE agents detained families and children across the country and deported some people and children to countries where they fled decades ago to escape violence and persecution. Figure 3 shows that removals of unauthorized immigrants rose 17% from 2017 to 2018 remaining below recent high levels. According to DHS, in FY 2018, CBP and ICE together carried out 333,287 removals of unauthorized immigrants, a 17% increase from the previous year. However, removals remained below the levels recorded during much of Obama’s administration, including a three-year period between FY 2012 and 2014

when there were more than 400,000 per year. Thus, unauthorized immigrants who are apprehended at the border or in the country's interior can face deportation.

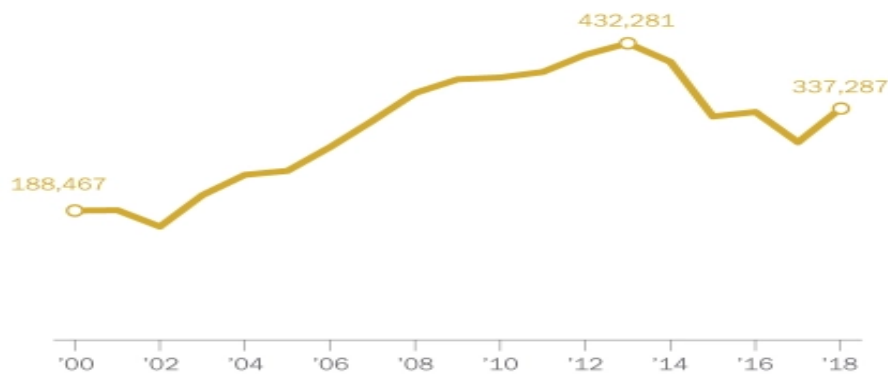


Figure 3. Removals of Unauthorized Immigrants (Gramlich, 2020).

2.2.3. Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry

The purpose of the executive order, “Travel Ban”, was to protect U.S citizens from terrorist attacks, including those committed by foreign nationals. Among other actions, it suspended the entry of certain aliens from seven countries for 90 days: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. (Hing, 2019). Wadhia stated that the order also suspended the United States Refugee Admissions Program for 120 days and imposed an indefinite ban of Syrian refugees (2019). Preference would be given to asylum claims based on, “religions-based persecution, provided that the religion of the individual is a minority religion.”(Hing, 2019, p. 226). The order did not provide a basis for discriminating for or against members of any particular religion, but it did prioritize asylum claims from members of persecuted religious minority groups. This priority applied to refugees from every nation, including those of which Islam is a minority religious group. According to Brock (2020), Trump promised that he would ban Muslims from entering the United States until America’s representatives could figure out what was going on.

Throughout Trump's campaign, he said, "Islam hates us . . . We can't allow people coming into this country who have this hatred of the United States." (Brock, 2020, p. 70) and claimed that, "we're having problems with the Muslims, and we're having problems with Muslims coming into the country." (Brock, 2020, p. 70). However, critics believed that Trump's fear and hatred of Muslims is a form of racism and religious intolerance. Pierce et al. (2018b) stated that, during Obama's administration, the refugee admission ceiling increased to 110,000 in FY 2017. This number was reduced to 45,000 refugees in FY 2018 during Trump's administration. Therefore, President Trump had no humanitarian-driven outlook on refugees compared to Obama. Pierce and Bolter (2020) reported that since the start of the pandemic, the current president has banned foreign nationals traveling from 31 countries including most employment and family-based immigration, and non-immigrants on certain temporary work visas. Amongst them were in travel from China, Iran, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and the Schengen Area of Europe.

2.2.3.1. Completing the Biometric Entry-Exit System

The executive order, "Travel Ban", included an order that DHS expedites the completion and implantation of a biometric entry-exit visa tracking system for all lands, air, and seaports. The system is not a new idea; the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act called for the creation of an automated system to record arrivals and departures of ports of entry. Because too many people were crossing the border to make a biometric check of each port of entry feasible, the idea fell through. Trump revived the idea after becoming president. Trump's biometric entry-exit tracking system will also apply to American citizens, unlike the travel ban, which only applied to aliens seeking admission to the United States (Castela, 2017; Girasa, 2020; Pierce et al., 2018a).

2.2.4. Ending Obama-Era Programs that Protect Illegal Immigrants

Trump administration has taken applicable steps to end longstanding benefits granted to illegal immigrants particularly Obama-era programs that prevent some unauthorized immigrants from being deported, including DACA, DAPA, and Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

2.2.4.1. Termination of DACA and DAPA

President Trump pledged to reverse these Obama-era policies. He claimed, “We will immediately terminate President Obama’s two illegal executive amnesties. . .” (Christenson & Kriner, 2020, p. 164) in a promise to end DACA and DAPA programs. In September 2017, the Trump administration formally announced that it would stop processing new applications for the DACA program; this decision would expose 800,000 young people to the risk of deportation (McPherson, 2019). Although the federal courts blocked and then rejected Trump’s announcement, the president reiterated his call to Congress to act in his 2018 State of the Union address. He demonstrated why he wanted to terminate DACA: he believed that the young people it protected would become members of violent gangs across the country. However, this argument was insufficient for terminating the program. Hence, the future of the program is still undecided (Christenson & Kriner, 2020; McPherson, 2019). In addition, Trump opposed DAPA which encouraged chain migration. A successful immigration lottery winner could bring many other family members to live legally in the United States. The policy provided deportation relief to parents who were residing in the United States without legal permission and had children who were U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents (Margolis, 2019; Pierce et al., 2018a). Trump administration indicated that it planned to delay the complete termination of the DACA and DAPA programs.

2.2.4.2. Termination of TPS

Pierce et al. (2018a) defined TPS as, “A temporary form of humanitarian protection offered to nationals of certain countries who are present in the United States and unable to return to their countries due to violent conflict or natural disaster.”(p. 16). For example, El Salvador was originally designated for TPS after a series of earthquakes in 2001. To qualify for TPS, people had to have a clean criminal record and pay a fee; in addition, they had to live in the United States when their nation received TPS. However, Trump administration ended the TPS designation for many immigrants, putting at risk more than 413,000 beneficiaries from El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua, Sudan, and Honduras. Those who lost their TPS had three options: they could return voluntarily to their homeland, they could stay in the United States until their date of deportation, or they could continue to live in the United States illegally (McPherson, 2019). Thus, Trump administration’s decision to cancel TPS for these countries stranded thousands of people who had long enjoyed protection in the United States.

2.2.5. Reforming the Legal Immigration System

Trump’s administration wills to propose legislation that would reform the legal immigration system. LeMay (2019) reported that Trump administration began to take measures to slow down legal immigration, especially, increasing merit-based economic preferences, reducing family-based immigration, and terminating the visa lottery program.

2.2.5.1. Increasing Merit-Based Economic Preferences

In 2017, President Trump supported the Reforming American Immigration for Strong Employment (RAISE) Act, which would replace the Immigration and Nationality Act with a skill-based points system, similar to the systems used by Canada, Australia, Great Britain, and New Zealand. Under the system, applicants would earn points for a variety of characteristics such as a high-paying job offer, high English test scores, educational achievements, and an age close to 25. Each year, those with the most cumulative points would be permitted to apply for

a green card. The point system would be more acceptable to the public because the government would be selecting new immigrants based on national economic priorities. This system would also favour immigrants who could financially support themselves and their families, and demonstrate skills that would contribute the U.S. economy (Pierce et al., 2018a).

Parsons (2018) discussed the idea of whether the point-based immigration would work for the United States. According to him, such immigration system would fail in the United States. If the United States focused mainly on skilled immigrants, the strength of the immigrant labor force would be reduced and domestic labor needs would not be met. Migrant and temporary guest workers would be needed to fill the gap, and the United States would have to expand immigration again. The RAISE Act could be devastating for the U.S. economy because it would depress its gross domestic product resulting in 1.3 million fewer jobs in the decade after its enactment. The drastic decrease in the number of lawful immigrants would lead to economic decline despite the higher number of educated immigrants. Parsons (2018) concluded that the merit-based system would certainly not help immigrants better integrate into life in the United States. Helping immigrants achieve success in a new country depends not only on the process by which they are accepted but also on the support provided to them after acceptance. The author advised that the United States should rethink the RAISE Act so that it can provide the various skill levels. Its labor market needs without compromising either the social functions served by immigration or the needs of immigrants themselves.

2.2.5.2. Reducing Family Reunification Preferences

Since 1965, family reunification has been a key principle underlying U.S. immigration policy. It is embodied in the Immigration and Nationality Act which specified numerical limits for family-based immigration categories. According to Kerwin and Warren (2019), the Department of State reported that in November 2018, nearly 3.7 million people had been found by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to have a close family relationship with

a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident, qualifying them for a visa. These backlogs in family-based preference is one of the most negative examples of dysfunction in the U.S. immigration system. This population would also be negatively affected by the DHS's proposal to expand the public charge ground of inadmissibility and the Trump administration's support for reduced family-based immigration. Kerwin and Warren (2019) also reported that it proposed that Congress pass, and the president sign into law, legislation to legalize family-based immigrants who had been mired in backlogs for two years or more. Moreover, the legislation should define spouses and minor unmarried children as immediate relatives. The administration should also reuse the visas of legal immigrants who emigrate each year to reduce backlogs without increasing visa numbers. Indeed, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights acknowledged that the family is the fundamental group unit of society. Many presidents, including George H.W. Bush, have supported the notion of family as the essential unit of society by increasing the number of immigrant visas allocated on the basis of family ties. However, Pierce et al. (2018a) claimed that the Trump administration slowed down the entry of certain family-based immigrants in the first nine months of his presidency (Table 1).

Table 1.

Approvals and Denials of Applications for Immigrations

Year	Received	Approved	Denied	Approval Rate
2017	194,526	32,565	13,727	70.35%
2016	212,090	108,659	16,344	86.93%
2015	180,306	185,208	30,503	85.86%
2014	191,568	174,156	25,707	87.14%

Source: USCIS Relative Petitions From 1-130 Performance, as cited in Pierce et al., 2018a, p.

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Approvals for family-based preference categories dropped drastically compared to prior years. Whereas the approval rate during 2014–2016 hovered around 85%, during 2017, it dropped to 70%, and the total number of approved applications fell by 70%. Therefore, under sustained pressure from the Trump administration and U.S. immigration policies, the family reunification system became weaker.

2.2.5.3. Ending the Visa Lottery Program

In 2017, President Trump called for the implementation of a merit-based immigration system and the end of the visa lottery program, which selects people at random for entry into the United States without consideration of skills or merits. The U.S. Green Card Lottery program is a Congress-mandated lottery program providing 50,000 United States Permanent Resident Cards to the winners of the lottery each year. It is called a visa lottery because the United States must grant an immigrant visa to a foreign national before issuing a green card. Thus, the visa lottery is intended for anyone who wants to become a permanent resident of the United States. The diversity visa lottery system is often referred to as the DV-lottery. It is identified with the “DV” (Diversity Visa) symbol followed by the FY in which the visas are finally awarded; for example, the lottery in calendar year 2014 was known as “DV-2016” because the green cards were awarded in FY 2016. The U.S. government’s 2016 FY began on October 1st, 2015, and ended in September 30th, 2016. The main purpose of the program is to promote diversity in the United States. Some countries are not eligible to participate in the program. Additionally, unlike most other U.S. visas, the lottery program visa requires minimum application requirements for education and country of origin. To further promote diversity attract a large number of applicants, participation in the visa lottery is totally free. The winner is issued a permanent resident card, as are their spouse and unmarried children under the age

of the 21. Upon issuance of the card, they are considered permanent residents. Trump has supported many critics of the diversity lottery. He believed that the diversity lottery should be canceled and its visas used to reduce the backlog of visas in other categories. They also warn that the lottery is vulnerable to fraud, misuse and may be used as a means for terrorists to enter the country. It is difficult to conduct background checks in many countries that are eligible for the diversity lottery. Trump signed an executive order, “Buy American and Hire American”, which pressed agencies to suggest reforms ensuring that skilled temporary worker visas were awarded to the most skilled or highest-paid beneficiaries. Trump claimed in his speech on June 2nd, 2018 that the country needs a 21st century merit-based immigration system and called the visa lottery program outdated. He claimed it would hurt U.S. economic and national security (Faro & Walton, 2011; “*The Tweets of President Donald J. Trump*,” 2020; Wilson & Rael, 2014).

Conclusion

Immigration policies in the United States evolved in response to the debates surrounding on who may become a new citizen of the United States or enter the country. The first laws regarding immigration were enacted in the late 1800s, opening doors to immigrants from other parts of the world. These laws progressively changed throughout history to include bans on criminals, people with contagious diseases, and Asian immigrants. President Trump’s U.S. immigration policy painstakingly dismantled Obama’s legacy. Trump presented proposals to amend U.S. immigration policy. His goals directed to reduce immigration by constructing a wall, ensuring stricter enforcement of existing laws on illegal immigration, ensuring stricter enforcement of detention of illegal immigrants, eliminating temporary protection of non-citizens, and sharply reducing refugee admission. Both legal and illegal immigration have declined significantly in the United States since Trump’s election.

Chapter Three

The Impact of Immigration Acts on Immigrants' Socioeconomic Status in the United States During Trump's Administration

Introduction

This chapter attempts to show the consequences of Trump's immigration policies on immigrants' families in the United States. Specifically, it displays how aggressive detention and deportation affect the mental health, the social and the economic security of family members. It also provides traumatic stories, followed by brief analysis for each in order to gain insight into how the current policies affect the daily lives, well-being, and the health of immigrants' families, including their children.

3.1. Socioeconomic Impact of Trump's Immigration Enforcements

Trump's Immigration Enforcement Orders have committed socioeconomic impacts on left-behind families in the United States. They force children and their families to face numerous serious traumas that harshly affect their lives. Breaking families apart and harming children's short- and long-term mental health certainly will cause emotional distress and socioeconomic insecurity let alone the psychological disorder

3.1.1. The Psychological Harm: The Experience of Gaby

Undocumented families are more likely to be deported because of prioritizing the deportation of every illegal immigrant. Thus, parental detention and deportation harm the psychological well-being of the family members and communities.

A Colorado's mother, Gaby, shared a tragic story of her husband being deported after interacting with the local police in 2018. Gaby's two children received mental health services as both had experienced emotional stress including problems with sleeping and communicating. The kids no longer wanted to leave the house because they were worried that they might interact with the police. The younger sibling cried when he saw his mother was not nearby. As the sole breadwinner, Gaby spent \$20,000 on legal support for her husband and was

still \$15,000 in debt. Even with second job and the support of her church, it was simply not enough to care for herself and her two kids (Turcios, 2018).

Trump's immigration policies, the ending DACA and DAPA programs, are linked to uncertainties about family deportation which contributed to harm the mental health of immigrants' families and their children. This story reflects the consequences of these policies on Gaby's family. They had experienced and suffered from husband, by the mother's side, and father, by the kids' side, deported.

Losing parent to detention or deportation harms a child's psychological well-being, which negatively affects overall health. In addition to suffering from irregular sleeping habits and communication difficulties, the left-behind Children often suffer from anxiety, post-traumatic stress, behavioral regression, depression, frequent crying, disrupted eating, and difficulty in school. Moreover, fear manifested itself in the children's everyday lives; for instance, many children, like Gaby's kids, get scared of leaving home or hearing someone knocks on the door because they assumed it was the local police. In effect, the persistent stress—called toxic stress—can hurt children's short- and long-term health and even hurt their developing brains. Fathers, in many immigrants' families, are often the breadwinners and are more often detained or deported. Therefore, removals lead a large number of single mothers left behind to care and provide the basic needs for the family like Gaby who obliged to work extra jobs trying to return her husband and care for her children.

In short, the story relied on the detention, enforced deportation of parents, and closed family members putting children and families at great risk of mental and emotional distress and material difficulties. The fear and anxiety that children feel because of President Trump's immigration policies will not fade when a new administration takes over. The experiences that this generation of children have now will continue to affect them for the rest of their lives.

Therefore, psychological abuse is one of the impacts of Trump's administration policy on immigrants' families with their children.

3.1.2. Endangering the Lives of Asylum-Seeking Children and Families

Trump's Immigration Enforcement Orders also compromise the safety and well-being of vulnerable families and children who seek protection in the United States. They abused their physical health and resulted many deaths at the southern border and detention centers.

3.1.2.1. Bearing Witness: Voices From the Southern Border

The detention at the U.S.-Mexico border caused serious psychological harm and threatened the physical health of immigrant detainees. To collect information about the status of immigration detention centers and the treatment status of immigrants, including children, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights held a public forum on April 12th, 2019. A total of 37 people shared their testimonies.

An immigrant from El Salvador described his experience at a detention center in New Jersey. After crossing the border, immigration officers put him in a small cold room with 40 other people without having beds or chairs. They only gave them aluminium blankets and shouted at them by accusing them of being smugglers. Then, he was sent to a detention center in Pearsall, Texas where he was humiliated by the guards, "They gave us used underwear. The meals were very small portions and sometimes we were hungry. Many people got sick from the food they gave us."(p. 6). In the detention center, a detainee hurt and threatened him, "I tried to speak to a supervisor but she shouted speak English and she did not even try to call an interpreter." (p. 6). They took him to a hospital in handcuffs and put him in solitary confinement in the detention center, "I felt very bad. I could not eat and I was shaking with fear."(p. 6) (*"Trauma at the Border,"* 2019).

Trump's zero-tolerance policy aims aggressively at making families and their children suffer as a means of punishing whoever attempting to cross the southern border. This Salvadorian witness described the torture's custody and physical control he experienced. The detention centers include severe pain and suffering, which are intentionally inflicted on the detainees. This immigrant suffers from a lack of chairs, beds, blankets, nutritious food, adequate medical care, water, soap, and clean clothes. In fact, all the detainees are discriminated even if they get sick from poison food, they will wait a long time to see a doctor regardless of their dire situation. Additionally, language barriers pose to detainees' ability to offer appropriate medical and mental health treatment. Indeed,

Another formerly detained migrant, originally from Mexico, explained that:

My experience in jail was that I was detained in Orange Country. My experience, what I saw there, it was horrible, terrible. What I experienced was the worst experience in my life. I was not allowed to eat for weeks. And I was not allowed to bathe. I lost my dignity as a human being there. I was sexually and psychologically abused. I tried to ask, to talk the immigration officers asking for help. I needed that someone listens to me, to listen to what was happening to me at that moment. I talked to the officers. They did not listen to me. (*Trauma at the Border*," 2019, p. 6)

The situation of the witness is more difficult than the previous one. According to his description, the pattern of government exploited his fear to justify rights violations; for instance, the officers was treated them as animals and criminals, and they did not worthy of their basic human dignity.

As a result of the zero-tolerance policy, children and their parents have faced the consequences of having inflicted the torture of jail. Although Trump believes that his policy will protect the United States from criminal records, Trump's administration will continue to

contradict human rights law unless it stops criminalizing them and ends the unreasonable detention of families.

3.1.2.2. The Physical Abuse

The majority of children and families are asylum seekers who suffering from extreme violence at their home countries. They endure a journey through Mexico in search of protection and safety, but they are subjected to the trauma of physical abuse. In 2017, Amnesty International interviewed dozens of migrants and asylum seekers in the border cities of Nuevo Laredo, Reynosa and Matamoros.

They reported a kidnapping incident at the U.S.-Mexico border, and numerous asylum seekers escaped from kidnapping ;for example, one Guatemalan woman was kidnapped and taken to a house for three days and was not released until her father was able to pay the kidnappers \$500. Moreover, transgender women felt violence at the southern border waiting for the Mexican authorities to decide on their humanitarian visas or asylum applications. The majority of them did not feel safe owing to the presence of some criminal gangs that attacked them and forced them to leave. These women told Amnesty International that they had suffered discrimination and violent attacks by gangs. In addition to these transgender women, Katherine, who was living in El Salvador fled with her partner and arrived in Tapachula on the southern border with Mexico in March 2017. They received repeated death threats and were shot multiple times (Amnesty International, 2017).

Since Trump increased immigration border enforcement, the construction of a separation wall on the U.S.-Mexico border has caused another crisis. The border patrol agents have been instructed to turn away asylum seekers at the southern border and force them to wait for the outcomes of their proceedings outside the United States. Tens of thousands of asylum seekers are trapped in danger at southern border, facing daily violence and dealing with the

physical health toll of constant risk. The interviewees exposure their threats of kidnapping, extortion, murder, and forced recruitment into gangs. In addition, the policy has a greater harmful effect on gender-based individuals. Women and girls seek protection in the United States from rape, domestic abuse, abduction, torture and other forms of gender-based violence are subjected to prolonged detention while they are waiting for their claims to be adjudicated.

All in all, the afore mentioned stories proved the danger they face because of Trump's policy actions on immigration which caused mental harm violence, torture, and physical abuse to asylum seekers. Asylum applicants are obligated on this side of the border, regardless of social status, will manage to pay a ransom when they have kidnapped conditions. Hence, this policy clearly jeopardizes the safety of the lives of children, men, and women.

3.1.2.3. Children's Death Stories

Children of the immigrants suffer and terribly affect by Trump's policies. Their sadness and crying cannot be measured. The following stories provide critical insights into the negative effects of active detention and deportation on children and parents.

In 2019, more Guatemalan minors died in the custody of the DHS. In addition, Juan de Leon, a 16-year-old, died after being transferred 160 miles from the migrant shelter where he was detained to a hospital. In May, an unnamed 2-year-old child, detained with his mother, died after about a month of hospitalization. Another 16-year-old, Carlos Gregorio Hernandez Vasquez, passed away after becoming sick while in U.S. custody. In addition to those children who died in custody, Mariee Juarez, a one-and-a-half-year-old migrant from Guatemala, died after being released from Immigration and Customs Enforcement Custody in 2018 (*"Trauma at the Border,"* 2019).

Trump's rhetoric against immigrants whether legal or illegal alike. His administration's negligence of the immigrants' basic humanitarian needs in border patrol stations continue to

take its toll on human life. These stories show adults and children who died either in custody or after being detained by Federal Immigration Agencies at the border. They came to the United States desperate for shelter and safety but found inhumanity and suffering, under the government's care, instead. Their deaths show that the detention of children who were forced to wear dirty clothes for a few days has made detention facilities dangerously overcrowded. As a result, they get sicker than adults, especially in infectious diseases that lead to their deaths.

Furthermore, one of the consequences of U.S. border enforcement is to increase the deaths of immigrants who attempt to cross the border. These deaths are the result of legal actions or illegal killings mainly caused by shooting incidents or car chases. The deaths occur in a variety of circumstances including actions caused by agents' dereliction of duty, but include well-documented instances in which the agents on duty killed unarmed immigrants. For example, according to FitzGerald, López, and McClean (2019), agent Lonnie Swartz was tried in Arizona in 2018 on second-degree murder charges over the death of a 16-year-old Mexican national, Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez, who was shot in the back 10 times after throwing rocks at agents while standing on the Mexican side of the border in Nogales, Sonora. The terrain of the southwest border has claimed the lives of many Mexican citizens, but no human remains have been found because unknown bodies are lost in the deserts, mountains, and rivers along the border.

In conclusion, a range of detention threats affected people throughout the community whether they were undocumented or U.S. citizens. Overcrowding, lack of access to proper care, prolonged detention of adults and children in border patrol facilities have resulted in many deaths. The deaths of these innocent children demonstrate the devastating consequences of the dangerous conditions of border detention, as no child, should be detained for a long time without medical treatment.

3.1.3. Breaking Family's Unity: The Story of Shaima Swileh

Trump's so-called Muslim ban has been both inhumane and unconstitutional, disrupting tens of thousands of lives and tearing families apart. People shared their stories about how the ban affected their lives in the United States or abroad. Communities across the country are struggling with what it means to be Muslim in the United States, living under a president who says, "Islam hates us" and has spun that prejudice into the actual policy.

As related by Irwin (2019), Shaima Swileh, a 21-year-old mother in Yemen, was banned from coming to the United States with her husband and toddler son because her son needed treatment for a degenerative brain disease. Because of her boy Abdullah's condition and the civil war in Yemen, the parent agreed that their entire family needed to be together in the United States. They contacted the embassy to ask about her visa, but they were many times told to wait. After a year, Abdullah's condition continued to deteriorate, so her husband decided to go with his son to the States for the boy to receive treatment without his mother. Ms. Swileh remained behind waiting, trying to contact the embassy to ask about her visa, but they kept telling her to wait. It was only after media attention and public pressure that Ms. Swileh was granted a visa. She came to the United States on December 19th, 2018, and Abdullah died nine days later.

Thousands of families have felt the horrific effects of this unconstitutional and discriminatory ban. This policy is a quieter form of family separation than what has happened at the southern border. The most well-known case is the Yemeni mother Shaima Swileh. She was a victim of a travel ban that forced her to separate from her family. She remained banned for months waiting for her visa unable to be with her child. As his condition deteriorated so severely that he was put on life support. The ban not only prevents family reunification, but also puts vulnerable groups in a precarious position; the visa application process puts many multinational families into poverty and debt. The case of Nicolas Hanout who also reported by

Irwin (2019) that he is a U.S. citizen who spent all his financial resources to support his wife in Syria and find a way to visit her. In fact, Trump's discriminatory ban has had a devastating impact on people from different countries, including Syria, Somalia, Iran, Libya, Iraq, and many others around the globe. Thus, innocent people, including mothers, fathers, teachers, and doctors, are being harmed every day by this unfair policy.

In short, from its start, Trump administration's ban has vilified and stigmatized Muslims. Millions of Muslims were banned from the United States regardless they have family members, jobs, or education. In fact, the impacts of Muslim Ban go far beyond travel restrictions, which based on race, religion, or national origin, as well as the devastating impacts of family separation, which, therefore, are cruel and unnecessary issue and this ban does not make Americans safer and lead them to more outrageous conditions.

3.1.4. Threatening Children's Access to Education and Basic Needs: The Story of Danial

President Trump has heightened priority and removed protections for groups that had previously been granted leniency including parents of citizen children and young immigrants who came to the United States as children. The threat of deportation has also affected children of immigrants' families and their parents who have become fearful of leaving their homes; thus, they stop accessing public assistance programs.

Daniel, a 6-year-old U.S. citizen, has unauthorized parents who came to the United States as young children. For the past several years, Daniel has been living in Texas with his mother Carmen while his father, Miguel, has been working in California. Both Miguel and Carmen are a part of the DACA program instituted by the Obama administration in 2012. In 2017, President Donald Trump indicated that the future of DACA is unclear. As attorney's general from several states would threaten to sue the administration to end DACA if the program was not terminated by September 5th, 2017. While Miguel had initially planned to join his family in Texas this past January, after the election, he put his plan on hold as he faced

greater uncertainty about whether he would remain protected under his DACA status (Schochet, 2017).

Daniel's parents worried about their life especially their 6-year-old son under the administration that was openly targeting the unauthorized immigrant community. At the beginning, they feared and stressed about telling their son the details of deportation, but they finally decided to be open with him concerning their situation as Miguel said, "And we do not go too much into detail, is that he just turned six, so we do not want to scare him too much." (Schochet, 2017, p. 1). Trump's approach to immigration enforcement had forced immigrants such as Miguel and Carmen to face the threats and consequences of deportation.

While the threat of deportation is increasing, families and their children have also become targets of heightened racism and discrimination. Specifically, at schools, whether students are afraid of their own deportation or their parents as Daniel's case. This fear interfered students' learning. These political beliefs among some students carry consequences beyond the schoolyard with many recent examples of racist beliefs leading to violence, verbal abuse, and bullying and reminding them that they are going to be deported as their families, which are part of a larger wave of hate speech. These boundaries stand as a possible window into a perturbing their future. As Daniel's situation, he will be separated from his parents, which is an important guide for children because the parents share the values of kindness, patience, and respect for others. Thus, Daniel will listen to others' anger and hate. Furthermore, regardless of whether they are separated from parents or only facing the threat of parental deportation in the case of Daniel's parents, immigrants' families are exposed to increased stress and fear in their households and communities. They became fearful to access health care, nutrition, and early education programs. While the services provided by these programs can help mitigate the detrimental effects of toxic stress on young children, not having healthy food or proper medical care can exacerbate the impact.

Finally, Miguel and Carmen decided that in the case of their deportation, Daniel would stay in the United States with his grandparents, who are now U.S. citizens, to maintain stability in his life. In fact, not all children are lucky enough to have a family member with whom they could stay in the case of parental deportation. Some parents must bring their citizen children back to their home country which can force children to make a challenging transition to an unfamiliar culture and system. The U.S. immigrant children have difficulties adapting to a new education system and often do not have adequate foreign language skills to reach their full potential at school; these children may also return to the United States at some point with limited English skills and interrupted schooling, leaving them perpetually behind.

In conclusion, Trump administration's anti-immigration policy is engendering heightened levels of stress and anxiety among children of immigrants' families and keeping them from accessing healthcare and attending school. Therefore, the experiences that this generation of children have now will continue to affect them for the rest of their lives.

3.1.5. Undermining Families' Economic Security: The Real Cost of Deportation

When the immigrant parents of American children are expelled, the lives of their beloved fall apart. In the United States, thousands of American families are coping with anguish compounded by steep financial decline after a spouse or parent's deportation. A more enduring form of family separation than President Trump's policy that took children from parents at the border. The following story of Seleste's family is an example of a family who faced financial ruin.

Before her husband was deported, Seleste Hernandez was paying taxes and credit card bills. But after her husband, Pedro, was forced to return to Mexico, her family lost his income from a job at a commercial greenhouse. Seleste had to quit her nursing aide position, staying home to care for her severely disabled son. Now she is trapped, grieving for a faraway spouse and relying on public assistance just to scrape by. She went from paying taxes to depending on

taxpayers. Seleste is now the sole caregiver for her 30-year-old son Juan, barely able to haul his 140-pound frame from his bed to his wheelchair and living with a pinched nerve in her back. Back in 2004, when Seleste Wisniewski met Pedro Hernandez in her hometown of Elyria, she was a harried single mother from Ohio's battered working class, raising three children, including a son with cerebral palsy. They alternated the care of her son Juan, who does not talk and cannot eat or move on his own. Together Pedro and Seleste had a son, Luis, now 11. Pedro was given a chance under Obama's policy to gain legal immigration status. Under Trump, that chance was taken away. On August 8th, 2017, ICE agents went to the Hernandez home, ordering Pedro to leave by September 30th. An ICE spokesman, Khalid Walls, said the agency had acted because Pedro was a "repeat immigration violator." On September 28th, he was put aboard a flight to Mexico. At the door of the plane, ICE officers handed him a notice: he was barred from returning for 20 years (Preston, 2020).

When both Pedro and Seleste were working, they paid taxes and had health insurance through their employers. Now Seleste must draw on public services to survive. She had to leave her job at an elderly care center to care for Juan. The household income dropped to zero, and her housing subsidy, which she had long received as disability assistance for Juan, soared from \$90 to \$811 a month, with the county housing authority now paying her entire rent. She receives \$509 a month in food stamps. She lost her private health insurance and was on Medicaid. She was paid \$1,200 from the federal coronavirus stimulus. Leaders in the community took note of the family's fall. Seleste organizes her day around four or five fleeting conversations by WhatsApp, when Juan is calmed by hearing Pedro's distant voice from Mexico. With the coronavirus threatening his frail health, Juan can never leave the house. Pandemic travel restrictions have cut Luis off from his summer visit to his father (Preston, 2020).

Since the ending DACA and TPS, Seleste's family in northeastern Ohio, a region where Trump's deportation have taken a heavy toll, show the high price of these expulsions. After an

immigrant breadwinner is gone, lots of families that once were self-sufficient must rely on social welfare programs to survive; for example, Seleste Hernandez is now the sole caregiver for her son Juan and relying on public assistance. President Trump has broadened the targets of deportation to include many immigrants with no criminal records like Seleste's husband. Thus, Trump's anti-immigrant agenda compromises the economic security of immigrants' families with children, which can negatively affect child outcomes. Deporting the primary breadwinners from a home can throw his family into deep emotional and economic turmoil: relying on unauthorized residents from mixed-status households—those with both authorized and unauthorized members—could reduce the median annual household income in the Seleste's case when she left her job. For immigrants' families with children's legal income experience greater material difficulties, such as difficulty in paying for basic expenses, utilities, and medical costs, which puts the children into poor status. These outcomes can lower job prospects and inhibit people's ability to reach their potential in the workforce.

All in all, the consequences of economic insecurity on young children severely affect the nation's future workforce. Declining economic security pushes children in low-income immigrants' families deeper into poverty. Poverty exerts great pressure on parents and weakens their ability to provide the level of attention needed for children to grow into healthy adults. This outcome could lower job prospects and inhibit people's ability to reach their full potential in the workforce, representing a lost opportunity for the economy.

3.1.6. Threatening the Rights of legal Immigrant Workers: The Story of Sengupta

The fact of family reunification is that the government taught to be selecting the immigrants as individuals and it is about who is allowed to be a part of America. Thus, Trump administration revoked the rule that allows some spouses of high skilled foreign workers to hold jobs in the United States.

In 2002, Sudarshana Sengupta moved from Kolkata, India, to Louisville, Kentucky, where her husband Sadhak could start a postdoctoral fellowship. Sengupta is a biomedical researcher who worked at Harvard and the University of Chicago, and she was going to launch a start-up on developing cancer immunotherapy strategies. They believed that the United States had better opportunities for scientists than India and the environment of innovation there does not exist elsewhere. Nowadays, they do not know what is going to happen a year and a half ahead if she launches her company today. Thus, she has to fight for her right to work in the United States. Sengupta mused that perhaps she and her husband would uproot their 9-year-old son, Josh, who was born in Indianapolis and is a U.S. citizen and move to Canada where is welcoming to immigrants. It is supposed to be the country where if citizen works hard, he or she will get ahead and reap the rewards, but that has all become futile now in the USA (Jan, 2017).

As the story of Sudarshana Sengupta who considers herself a successful immigrant that her way is to achieve the American dream. She is a scientist who worked previously at different universities to pay taxes and started the lengthy process of becoming a permanent resident. However, after Trump has made the elimination of the work authorization that these visas allow companies to hire cheap foreign labor while shutting U.S. citizens out of the job market. The end of the program could be devastating for families because the work authorization is only available to individuals who have already been living in the United States for several years. Thus, the ban could upend the lives of long-time residents who would be forced either self-deport or be separated from their spouses as Sudarshana's situation whose her life is in danger.

In fact, highly educated wives like Sengupta give up her own high skilled visas for the spouse. Furthermore, if Sengupta or another high skilled worker begin to think about starting his or her own company, the issue of single income household will hinder him or her. Therefore, the spousal work authorization will endanger workers because being American

worker means the president could undermine protection for American workers in the entire of immigration system.

In summary, the administration aims at ending legal immigration to the United States and to keep high skilled foreigners out of the country and to dismiss the value of their spouses who really contributing to economic growth in order to protect the interests of U.S. workers and to prevent fraud and abuse in the immigration system.

3.1.7. Hindering the Dreams of Immigrants: The Story of Casanova

The winners of the diversity visa feel cheated by Trump's visa ban. Trump administration's latest step to reduce legal immigration has upended their lives, Many found themselves stuck in a worse situation than the one they were trying to escape.

Katia Elena Casanova from Cuba, an industrial chemist who, along with her husband, won the Diversity Lottery. Their dream was to go to the United States to meet their family and work hard to realize their dream as professionals. Casanova's husband believed in the power of the Law of Attraction. They never doubted that they would win the lottery, but their hearts fell when President Trump signed the new decree. In order to meet the requirements of the United States to grant her an immigrant visa. Casanova and her husband sold some of their belongings because they needed almost \$2,500 per person to travel to Guyana for the interview. Therefore, they had debts and they took away the hope of traveling. They were university students, young people, and workers who wanted to bring the best of them to the United States and made that country their home (Pentón, 2020).

Nothing worse than giving hope to people, and then revoking that hope. Indeed, Casanova and her husband really want to contribute and make the United States a better country so that they spent thousands of dollars on fees, travel expenses to consular interviews and other procedures, such as medical appointments in order to complete the process of their immigrant

visa application until they stuck in financial problems. Then, they become out of luck with Trump's ban on the program.

To sum up, President Trump opposes the diversity program and banes those who are legally immigrating to the United States. Thus, immigrants from different countries, and many highly educated workers are hindered by the lack of opportunity or chance to live in a better country.

3.2. Investigating the Impact of Trump's Policy on the Immigrants' Social and Economic Status

The Trump's policy effects the life of the illegal and legal immigrants in several ways; basically, economically and socially. The first is shown in the separation of families, which critically influence their child's psychological development and future success, meaning that the sudden loss of a parent can significantly harm long-term outcomes, education system, and basic needs. For instance, left-behind children suffer from anxiety, stress, depression, irregular sleeping, difficulties in school, bullying, and discrimination. In addition to psychological abuse, asylum-seeking children and families are physically harmed. For example, they were kidnapped, died at the border and in the detention center, sexually abused, and threatened by gangs. The second is also resulted from increasing the risk of parental deportation, which push children in low-income immigrants' families deeper into poverty and financial problems. Consequently, poverty can lead to a lack of such necessities as food, clothing, medical care, or safe housing.

Conclusion

The analysis of immigrant stories who have been affected by Trump's aggressive acts showed that immigrant' families across different backgrounds and locations feel increased levels of fear and uncertainty. Thus, Trump's policies had a serious negative impact especially

affecting the mental and physical health of children, breaking families apart, undermining economic security, threatening children's access to education and basic needs, and endangering the lives of asylum-seeking children and families. Additionally, those with lawful status worried about the security and stability of their status. The purpose of showing the practical side of the dissertation is to display the analysis of some documents related to the real sufferings of those families. According to what has been analyzed, those stories reveal the inhumane treatment on immigrant's lives is at the hands of the U.S. government under the Trump administration.

General conclusion

General conclusion

The study aims at investigating the impact of Trump's anti-immigrants on the socioeconomic status of immigrants' families. The present research is divided into three chapters. It was carried out under historical and descriptive-analytical methods.

The first theoretical chapter, the contribution of immigrants to socioeconomic development of the United States of America, discussed the historical backgrounds of the immigration waves in the colonial era. America has been a nation of immigrants starting with its original inhabitants who crossed the land bridge connecting Asia and North America thousands of years ago. Then, the first Europeans began establishing settlements in what would become the United States. In addition, another group of immigrants who arrived against their will were slaves from West Africa. More specifically, this chapter shed light on a set of economic facts about the role of immigration in the U.S. economy. Immigrants generally had positive impacts on both government finances and the innovation that led to productivity growth. This chapter also focused on another major wave of immigration, which occurred from 1815 to 1865, and most of the newcomers came from Northern and Western Europe. America also received a large number of Asian immigrants. In fact, many of them came to America to seek greater economic opportunities. As a result, these immigrants changed America and provided labor for the huge industrialization sweeping the country. They gave their language, religion, traditions with different experiences, which contributed to the enrichment of cultural life, until the image of the melting pot became a popular metaphor at that time.

The second theoretical chapter, U.S. immigration acts: immigration enforcements under the Trump administration, explained how the United States continues to have the most open immigration policy in the world. It encouraged more than open immigration to settle in its empty lands passing through Obama's administration that considered the importance of immigration as well as his campaign rhetoric and assessed Obama's engagement with

immigration in the context of other presidents such as President Donald Trump. This chapter revealed the anti-immigration policies implemented by President Trump to reduce immigration. Trump first strengthened border enforcement at the Mexican border, which led to the longest government shutdown in U.S. history, and secondly related to the legalization of unauthorized immigration in the United States. In his immigration policies, no aspect can range from legal immigration to refugee resettlement programs. These policies declined both legal and illegal immigration during his presidency.

The third chapter is the practical part which displayed certain immigrants' families and their children who have been affected by Trump's harsh actions on immigration. Some traumatic stories were provided for each experience, and their different situations were analyzed. These affected families and their children were: Bearing witness who suffered in the border detention facility, the experiences of Gaby and Shaima Swileh who faced the trauma of deportation, many children and families were harmed physically and psychologically, and other victims were affected by other aggressive acts. The aim of the former analysis was to answer the basic question of this research related to the impact of Trump's acts on immigrants' lives. After the analysis, this study revealed the struggles of millions of immigrants' families and their children who suffered isolation, the struggle to pursue an education, fears of detention and deportation, being forcibly taken or separated from their families, financial hurdles, and continuing the cycle of poverty. These stressful experiences led to a number of negative emotional and behavioral outcomes including anxiety, fear, depression, anger, frequent crying, sleeping patterns, and lack of a sense of belonging. Furthermore, they led to more severe issues like post-traumatic stress disorder, poor identity formation, feelings of persecution, acting out behaviors and difficulties at school. The suggested hypothesis was confirmed; thus, Trump's acts made immigrants' lives worse in all fields especially in socioeconomic status.

As a conclusion, the immigrants' families lived under these misguided, unfair, and inhumane U.S. policies. In fact, it is everyone's duty to foster an environment of support for all children regardless of their parents' immigration status. Immigrants' children deserve the same opportunities for health and well-being as any child growing up in America. Future research should be done to investigate the impact of the future changes of U.S. immigration policies on immigrants' families especially during the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the globe in early 2020. Because Trump's administration is not ended, this study could not cover all its impacts so further research should be done to complete the investigation of other impacts.

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الملخص

تهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى التحقيق في تأثير قوانين الرئيس الأمريكي ترامب على الوضع الاجتماعي والاقتصادي لأسر المهاجرين في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية، وهي دراسة نوعية تعتمد بشكل أساسي على الأساليب التاريخية والوصفية التحليلية. اعتمدت الدراسة على تتبع تاريخ موجات المهاجرين في أمريكا، ووصف وتحليل مجموعة قصيرة من قصص تتعلق بعائلات مهاجرة معينة تأثرت بهذه السياسة. لقد توصلت الدراسة إلى نتائج مهمة: قوانين تنفيذ الهجرة التي أصدرها ترامب تفرق العائلات، تضر بالصحة العقلية للأطفال على المدى القصير والطويل، تهدد الأمن الاقتصادي للأسر والأطفال، تهدد وصول الأطفال إلى التعليم والاحتياجات الأساسية، وتعرض حياة الأطفال والأسر طالبين اللجوء للخطر.

الكلمات المفتاحية: أسر المهاجرين، الوضع الاجتماعي والاقتصادي، الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية، قوانين تنفيذ الهجرة.