Research And Critical Analysis Essay

Immigrants or Americans?

Danny Zac Moncy

City College of New York

Throughout history, the Americas has been visited by many people. The Vikings visited the Americas in the early 1st Century B.C. Christopher Columbus and his band of explorers set foot on the continent in the early 15th century. The founding fathers followed soon after. When all of these people travelled from the East, the only inhabitants of the continents were the Natives. However, history tells us what happened to the natives and how the white man got his stronghold of the continent in the coming centuries. What is discussed here is that Illegal immigrants do not pose a threat to U.S. economic and social constructs, and making them legal residents is the moral and right thing to do, and it adds to the benefits the US receives from them.

The notion that America is a land of immigrants stands true since the beginning of history. One may ask, why America? Why did all the immigrants choose to come here? A perfect answer would be America was the land of opportunities for them. The Founding Fathers left Europe because of religious prosecution and needed a new home where they could live in peace and without fear of being targets of the Catholics and the Anglican Church. Christopher Columbus and his band of explorers were in the notion of getting Europe out of its miserable poverty. If we take a closer look at today’s immigrants to the US, we do not see any deviation from the reasons for them to come here. However, the US Government fails to acknowledge this.

Illegal immigrants have been a subject of debate for long; however, Trump’s election into the office of the President and his promises to deport the current illegal immigrants, and build a taller wall at the border have made it a controversial topic. Today an estimated 5.5 million illegal immigrants live in the United States, and to deport them is a nightmarish expensive undertaking. What the President Trump does not realize is that illegal immigrants have been beneficial for the US in the past and will continue to be.

Immigrants play an important factor in the growth of the US economy. Politicians and economists agree on this front due to several factors. Stuart Anderson, in his article in Forbes, “3 Reasons Why Immigrants Are Key to Economic Growth” state that “[immigrants are key to economic growth because of] Labor force growth, entrepreneurship and human capital.” Utilizing the example of Japan (immigrant-unfriendly country), Anderson argues that the US would have faced a demographic crisis due to shortage of workers, if it weren’t for the immigration population. Due to Baby Boomers approaching the retiring age, the US would not be able to find the steady workforce to replace them. Anderson also states that immigrant entrepreneurs make up more than half of the nation’s business owners and alike. Utilizing the study of 87 start-up companies valued at $1 Billion or more by the National Foundation for American Policy, he states 44 of these 87 companies had at least 1 immigrant founder. Quoting from Small Business Administration “Immigrant business owners make significant contributions to business income, generating $67 billion of the $577 billion in U.S. business income, as estimated from 2000 U.S. Census data.”

Aside from the human capital, labor growth and entrepreneurships, immigrants also help the US economy as they are a reason for companies to stay in the US and provide for both skilled and unskilled workforce. Former Mayor of New York City Michael R. Bloomberg testified before the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law, “… companies are seeking to fill low wage jobs that Americans just will not take, from fruit pickers to groundskeepers to custodians” and immigrants would be willing to work those jobs. He states that by the US making it difficult for companies to find the necessary workforce, more companies will seek to move to other countries, where workers are readily available and cheaper. Bloomberg also adds that legalizing the current illegal immigrants will only help the government further as it adds another million or so taxpayers for the country.

From these statements, we can understand that immigrants provide more benefits than harm to the US economy, and legalizing them allows for the country to further its growth. Quoting from Rupert Murdoch, “a path to legalization will contribute an estimated $1.5 trillion to the gross domestic product over 10 years.” These numbers cannot be ignored when lawmakers make decisions for the country’s future economic growth.

Some people believe that immigrants bring the crime and violence rates higher in this country, however, that’s not true. There are many illegal immigrants who lead their life morally and rightfully. They live in this country following all the laws but got in this country violating the laws to lead a good life. It is statically proven that the rate of crimes immigrants in lesser than that of born citizens here. According to a New York Times article “ Here’s the Reality About Illegal Immigrants in the United States” by Vivian Yee, Kenan Davis and Jugal K. Patel, it states that “ most undocumented immigrants are productive, law-abiding members of society, deeply rooted in communities all over the country, working hard, living quietly, paying taxes and raising families ”. It shows that not everyone comes here with an intention of committing crimes and to be a threat to the American society. This does not mean these immigrants does not commit crimes or felonies, but there are lesser percentages of people with a criminal background coming here. It is also proven that there are lesser rates of crime where there is a larger portion of immigrants which makes it another reason to make them legal in this country.

It is extremely hard for these illegal immigrants to become legal in this country if they are not channeled properly and checked in with proper papers. Even if they live for years in the U.S, it is difficult for illegal immigrants to get a green card or become legal immigrants in this country. They can have a settled life, U.S citizen spouse, U.S born children, a good business, etc. all these factors can still be against some of these illegal immigrants as they still wouldn’t get documented in this country and will sometimes get deported too. This can destroy their life completely as they are being rooted out of their settled place and placed in another country which makes them start all over again.

Most of these illegal immigrants come here on the basis of work and living a better life than back in their country. When the Congress makes laws for illegal immigrants, they must also look into where and why the immigrants came to America. It's mostly because their country of origin’s government has failed in fulfilling their basic needs to either protect or provide for these illegal immigrants who have come here. These people come here with an expectation of getting paid better and living their life free of fear. They have a hope that the U.S economy would provide them a better life style than their lifestyle given back in their country.

Patt Morrison, an author wrote that not all people that come here illegally have a desire to live in this country permanently. Some of these people come here for securing the economic status of their families. There are many who come here for getting paid better so that they can send the money back home to where their family is and would like to return to their country properly and legally. But because of their undocumented living in U.S, it makes their life more difficult to go back with enough money to live there with their family.

Some of the reasons that people move here illegally are for safety and protection. There is violence in most of the poorer countries outside U.S. One other reason for them to leave their country is the poverty, as that makes their future life unsecure and unprotected. Also, another goal of these illegal immigrants would be to lead a healthier life as most of the poorer countries creates a vast number of diseases which makes these people sick and thereby making them unsuitable for employment. By entering this country, it gives them opportunity to have a healthy and protected life. Therefore, not all people come here in for rewards from this country but because of their helplessness and weakness.

Many states have been helping the undocumented people from being jailed for unnecessary identification issues. For example Yessenia Funes am author says that the people and the police department from North Carolina are helpful and friendly towards the undocumented immigrants that lives in their community. These officials provide them with a form of photo identification so that they can use it in schools, health places, etc. This simple help would keep these illegal immigrants by pertaining from unnecessary circumstances. They have been looking and trying different solutions to protect and help the undocumented people from losing their lives here.

Many Americans agree and support that illegal immigrants should be given the equal rights to citizenship. Some of the reasons for this is that they have equally labored in this country to get a better economic status here. Deportation of these people can negatively affect our economic growth too as there is a large percentage of illegal immigrants residing in this country. Also, as stated by Marshall Fitz, legalizing the undocumented people would benefit the US economy as we would gain approximately $1.5 trillion over time. This is because they would be paid higher when legalized unlike the lower wages when they were illegally working here. This would enable them to utilize the money over country's goods and things like houses, cars, etc. This would only profit the US economy more. The same articles states that the naturalized citizens are more useful and beneficial for the country than the legal permanent residents ( Fitz, Marshall). This is said because of their ability to show their talents and their education level when it’s completed here. Therefore, its always better to keep these immigrants here and legalize them rather than deporting them away as that could be a loss to the American economy too.

The undocumented immigrants come from various places but about more than half of these are from Mexico. According to Noel Marino, Some of the other places that the illegal immigrants came from are El Salvador, Guatemala, India, China, Philippines, Honduras, etc.

It Is almost impossible to deport 11 million people from this country to their land of origin. It is not just through crossing the borders illegal people have come in here, it’s also through the legal visa’s they obtained and never went back by overstaying it. An example of this can be when a person applies the visa to the US for studying, they will over stay their due date and not go back to their place which makes them illegal here. Some people come here with a tourist visa and stays back even after their visa expires, this is also known as being illegally here or illegal immigrants.

It would be very harsh for the US government to deport these people not only for them, but also for our nation. Yes, there are many factors that citizens of other countries migrate to US legally and illegally. Among them, the three main ones are for protection, more money in order to have a settled life, a better and secure future. But also, there are factors for our government to keep them here as it would negatively affect the work growth, economic growth and financial growth of our country. Coming from different countries these immigrants struggled and worked hard to change their lives for better, it would be harsh and devastating decision for them to move out from the place they have been living for years and go back to their place of origin with shattered dreams to start all over again. These dreams and goals keep many people from committing crime in our country as there are people who are very thankful for being here and for their betterment from this country which would make them less dangerous and threat for the country.. They may be illegally residing in this country but they are humans with many dreams and goals in life who lives a very normal and secure life in a society here. No matter where they came from or why they came here, they trusted this country to make their lives better and resourceful. Therefore, illegal immigrants is not a threat to the U.S. economic and social constructs, and making them legal residents would be morally right, as it would add to the benefits the US would receive from them.

Bibliography

Funes, Y. (2018). Sanctuary Policies Are Not the Only Way to Welcome Immigrants. In *Opposing Viewpoints Online Collection*. Detroit: Gale. (Reprinted from You Don’t Need a Sanctuary City to Help Your Immigrant Neighbors, *Yes! Magazine*, 2017, June 26) Retrieved from <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/VSUWEN150869935/OVIC?u=nysl_li_hfchsl&sid=OVIC&xid=bc0de1b0>

Unauthorized Immigrants: Who They Are and What the Public Thinks. (2016). In N. Merino (Ed.), *At Issue*. *Immigration Reform*. Farmington Hills, MI: Greenhaven Press. (Reprinted from *http://www.pewresearch.org/key-data-points/immigration/*, 2015, January 15) Retrieved from <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/EJ3010962202/OVIC?u=nysl_li_hfchsl&sid=OVIC&xid=2ecb5129>

Immigration Reform as a Path to Conscience, Not Just Citizenship. (2016). In N. Merino (Ed.), *At Issue*. *Immigration Reform*. Farmington Hills, MI: Greenhaven Press. (Reprinted from *Christian Science Monitor*, 2013, January 28) Retrieved from <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/EJ3010962214/OVIC?u=nysl_li_hfchsl&sid=OVIC&xid=584f25cc>

Fitz, M., Oakford, P., & Wolgin, P. E. (2016). Legalization of Unauthorized Immigrants Would Benefit the US Economy. In N. Merino (Ed.), *At Issue*. *Immigration Reform*. Farmington Hills, MI: Greenhaven Press. (Reprinted from Immigrants Are Makers, Not Takers, 2013, February 8) Retrieved from <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/EJ3010962209/OVIC?u=nysl_li_hfchsl&sid=OVIC&xid=b7c2dac7>

America's Voice. (2018, January 14). Immigration 101: Why Can't Immigrants Just "Get Legal", "Get in Line" and Get Their Papers? Retrieved May 14, 2018, from <https://americasvoice.org/blog/immigration-101-why-immigrants-cant-just-get-legal/>

Morrison, P. (2014, November 25). Why do people cross the border illegally? It's not what you think. Retrieved May 14, 2018, from <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-morrison-ryo-immigration-20141126-column.html>

Myths and Facts About Immigrants and Immigration. (n.d.). Retrieved May 14, 2018, from <https://www.adl.org/resources/fact-sheets/myths-and-facts-about-immigrants-and-immigration>

Yee, V., Davis, K., & Patel, J. K. (2017, March 06). Here's the Reality About Illegal Immigrants in the United States. Retrieved May 14, 2018, from <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/03/06/us/politics/undocumented-illegal-immigrants.html>

Anderson, S. (2016, October 03). 3 Reasons Why Immigrants Are Key To Economic Growth. Retrieved May 14, 2018, from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/stuartanderson/2016/10/02/3-reasons-why-immigrants-key-to-economic-growth/>

Doak, M. J. (2011). Testimony of Michael R. Bloomberg Speaking in Favor of Broader Immigration, Hearing on the Role of Immigration in Strengthening America's Economy, September 30, 2010. In *Information Plus Reference Series*. *Immigration and Illegal Aliens*: *Burden or Blessing?* (2011 ed.). Detroit: Gale. Retrieved from <http://link.galegroup.com.ccny-proxy1.libr.ccny.cuny.edu/apps/doc/EJ1529100308/OVIC?u=cuny_ccny&sid=OVIC&xid=79fe355e>