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The United States Immigration Policy and System

Globalization and international disasters re two main causes of immigration to other countries. In this era of Americanization, people dream is to live in the United States as named it land of opportunities. Although United States accepting immigrant as is the land of immigration, there is some restriction has been put to it because of some terrorist attacks and cause that security situation limits the entrance of immigrant to the United States.

In the 2019 Chicago Council Survey finds many deep divisions between supporters of both parties over immigration. Republicans see immigration as a critical threat to the country, say restricting immigration makes the United States safer, and support using US troops to stop migrants from crossing into the United States. Democrats, on the other hand, do not consider immigration a critical threat and their views on policy actions substantially and consistently differ from Republicans (Hammer and Kafura 1).

Hammer and Kafura pointed out that strong majority of Republicans consider immigration a critical threat, they believe that restrictions would help improve US security. Eight in ten Republicans (78%) believe that restricting immigration makes the United States safer, while only one in four Democrats agree (24%). Instead, most Democrats say it makes no difference to US safety (57%). Independents are largely split between seeing immigration

restrictions as making the United States safer (42%) or making no difference (41%), (Hammer and Kafura 3).

Republicans and Democrats also divide over the policies they consider effective in dealing with illegal immigration. Nearly all Republicans (93%) say increasing border security is very or somewhat effective, compared to just over half of Democrats (55%). And more than eight in ten Republicans (83%) believe that imposing new fines on businesses that hire illegal immigrants is very or somewhat effective, versus 54 percent of Democrats.

The United States Immigration System

The United States immigration system is based on the Nationality Act of 1965 and the Immigration Act of 1990 (INA). The Citizenship and Immigration Services are responsible for refining immigration applications and administering the immigration process. The INA allows the United States to grant approximately 675,000 permanent immigrant visas each year (Wikipedia, 2022).

American Immigration is described that, in addition to the 675,000 permanent visas, the INA does not have a limit on the annual admission of U.S. citizens (e.g., spouses, parents, and children under 21 years of age).[19] Family relationships, employment ties, or humanitarian protection are main causes for immigrant seeking temporary or permanent U.S. residence. Also, each year the President (currently Joe Biden) is required to address the congress and place an annual number of refugees to be admitted into the United States through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. When a person legally migrates into the United States, they obtain an immigrant visa and become a lawful permanent resident (2014).

To seek entry to the United States, prospective immigrants must apply and be accepted for a travel visa. Immigrants seeking permanent residency are given a green card, which designates them as lawful permanent residents. Approximately one million green cards are granted annually. Between 2013 and 2017, 45% of green card recipients were immediate relatives of American citizens, and another 21% were family sponsored. 14% of recipients received green cards for employment, and 13% received green cards as refugees. The Diversity Immigrant Visa program also grants 55,000 green cards for applicants around the world each year. Immigrants seeking temporary residence in the United States apply for a temporary visa. Approved applicants are authorized to stay for a certain length of time, and they may also be authorized to work or attend university in the United States, depending on their visa category (Julia, 2019).

- **Asylum Policy**

Asylum policy of the United States is governed by the Refugee Act of 1980. Under this law, the United States recognizes refugees as individuals with a "well-founded fear of persecution" in line with the definition established by the United Nations. It also established the Office of Refugee Resettlement within the Department of Health and Human Services to oversee asylum policy. The Refugee Act also provides a mechanism to raise the cap on annual refugee intake (National Archives Foundation 2022).

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in response a question described that applying for refugee status is a separate process from applying for entry as an economic migrant, and refugees may apply from their home country or within their first year of entering the United States. Spouses and children of those seeking asylum are also considered in the application, and unaccompanied children can also apply independently. In order to qualify for asylum,

applications must meet the legally recognized definition of a refugee, must have no record of serious crimes, and cannot have already been resettled in another country (2022).

- **Naturalization Policy**

Naturalization is the mechanism through which an immigrant becomes a citizen of the United States. Congress is directly empowered by the Constitution to legislate on naturalization. Naturalization in the United States is governed by the Immigration and Nationality Acts of 1952 and 1965, and it is overseen by the Citizenship and Immigration Services. To be eligible for naturalization, an applicant must be at least 18 years old, have established permanent residence for at least five years, have basic English proficiency, and have a basic knowledge of American civics. Applicants must also participate in an interview with the Citizenship and Immigration Services, to prove English proficiency and take the American Civics Test (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services 2022).

- **Illegal immigration**

Illegal immigration is the act of an immigrant entering the United States without prior authorization. These undocumented immigrants are subject to removal from the United States. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is responsible for the prevention and investigation of illegal immigration. The illegal immigrant population of the United States is estimated to be between 11 and 12 million (Sherman 2015).

- **Deferral policy**

The United States has policies in place that provide for deferred action on removal of undocumented immigrants. When undocumented immigrants are placed under deferred action, the federal government does not take legal action against them for their immigration status and removal proceedings do not take place.

The Obama administration implemented the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in 2012 to support undocumented immigrants that arrived in the United States as children. Under this program, eligible undocumented immigrants are granted a two-year deferral from removal and be authorized to legally work in the United States (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services 2022).

- **Removal Policy**

Removal proceedings are governed by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. The Executive Office for Immigration Review operates immigration courts, which oversee removal proceedings of immigrants. An immigration judge presides over removal proceedings, which determine whether an immigrant is subject to removal from the United States. Immigrants facing deportation are eligible to apply for cancellation of removal if they have established residence in the United States for at least 10 years, have not committed serious crimes, and provide for a lawful American resident (Gania 2004).

Immigration and U.S national Interest

United states cannot permit everyone in the world who want to live here to do so. Immigration laws are designed to maintain limits to entry. They are intended to enforce quotas that restrict who can come here and to keep out those who are deemed undesirable.

Immigration has become increasingly central to American foreign policy, and crafting a more workable immigration policy is vital to U.S. foreign as well as domestic interests. The Task Force considers the six issues that follow—the economy, national security, America’s image in the world, its core values, development policy, and the vital relationship with Mexico—to be the central foreign policy dimensions at stake in how the United States deals with immigration (Bush and others 12).

- **The Economy**

Immigration has helped make the U.S. economy, despite its recent difficulties, into the world's strongest and most dynamic; maintaining that economic advantage is the foundation of America's influence and power in the world. More than half the recent growth in the U.S. labor force has come from immigration, and nearly all the future growth will come either from immigrants or from current workers delaying retirement (Bush and others 13).

- **Public Diplomacy**

Allowing people to come to the United States helps America's image by exposing foreigners directly or indirectly to the realities of life in this country. Polls of foreign attitudes toward the United States indicate strongly that those who have spent time here, or have friends or family-lies who have spent time here, have more positive views of the United States than those who have not.

- **National Security**

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States has had to confront a difficult paradox: a generous immigration and visa system is potentially a threat to U.S. national security, yet is also critical to maintaining security. The nineteen hijackers who carried out the attacks were able to exploit weaknesses in the U.S. visa and border security regime to enter the United States and remain here unnoticed while they plotted and prepared for the attack. The ease with which they entered the country led to a series of measures aimed at making U.S. borders less vulnerable to infiltration by terrorists. Overall, as a result of such measures, the country is more secure from another terrorist attack than it was before 9/11. The link between immigration policy and national security was institutionalized with the creation of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in 2003 that brought restriction on immigration (Bush and others 2009)

- **American Values**

America's immigration policy is an important part of its core values as a nation. The American dream remains a compelling ideal. Many people around the world believe fervently in the United States as a country where anyone, no matter how humble his or her origins, can start anew and succeed in building a better life (Bush and others 27).

- **Development**

United States has rarely thought about how its policies to encourage economic development in poorer countries might affect immigration; similarly, it has rarely thought about how its immigration policies might affect development. For a variety of historical and institutional reasons, the United States has generally separated economic development policy from immigration policy (Bush and others 33).

Conclusion

Immigration has long been a hotly divisive issue in American politics and, as Council data shows, the partisan gaps on immigration have never been wider. These differing levels of concern over immigration between Republicans and Democrats are reflected in the types of policies each group considers effective. And though majority agreement exists on certain measures to deal with illegal immigration, partisan divides underlie and would complicate adopting and implementing any of these measures.

Security situation and also US troop withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan caused that there would be more budget and more issuance of Special Immigration Visa confirmation by congress and in the past year the number of immigration visa increased in the 2021 and still is ongoing for 2022 and will close for the year 2023.

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