

Quest Paper: *Immigration, Past, Present and Future*

Franklin A Johnson; January 24, 2014

While the topic is huge in information, I will begin with a true story on the problems with immigration, which I labeled, "*the importance of a ballpoint*".

A Burmese migrant and father of four uses his good heart to welcome and aid the transition of other Burmese immigrants as they arrive in Fort Wayne. Besides his regular job, he spends his other waking hours giving Burmese migrants refuge, helping them find jobs and the right connections. His wife is employed and the four children are doing very well in school. The short story is that this Burmese migrant was charged with a crime. He was not advised properly of his rights and pled guilty so he could ultimately do the only thing he wanted, go back home to his family and continue helping others. He misunderstood through his pro bono attorney that pleading guilty would create a condition for deportation. Therefore, Immigration subsequently arrested him, to his surprise, picking him up in a padded van. He spent several hours in this van only to understand later he had been transported to a Federal facility in Wisconsin. He was later transported for his third hearing in Chicago. This hearing was important because a petition, if signed by the prisoner, would offer great promise to reopen the criminal charges thus cease the deportation process. Important, as death was certain as soon as he arrived in Burma. The hearing didn't go well. No interpreter was available for the hearing so he was confined to a cell. The court allowed that a petition could still be signed in the presence of a notary and Federal guard. There was one notary in the building, but, for a very short time. Finally located, she proceeds to the cell meeting the guard who does not have a ballpoint pen. After a desperate search, a Federal Guard consented to take his pen to the prisoner, only to find the notary had already left. So, how much does a ballpoint pen cost? Well, to the family, it was near priceless let alone the prospect of this man's life in balance! To the taxpayer and supporters, let us guess:

3 magistrates who were at the hearing for 3 hours

Court recorder

4 guards

Use of the federal building

Transport of the prisoner from Wisconsin

Guards to accompany the transport

Cost of the vehicle to transport

Cost to the People showing up to support the prisoner:

14 people missing a day of work each

2 vehicles traveling from Fort Wayne to Chicago and back

Accomplished: the prisoner was able to talk with friends and family through 2 inches of glass.

The lack of a ballpoint, by my rough estimate equals nearly, \$103,000.00.

And now, the rest of the story...

While in Federal custody, he did get the petition ultimately signed in Chicago after another costly trip and the aid of his high school daughter, who managed to re-opened his previous criminal process to investigation. The miscarriage was righted and the deportation hearings suspended indefinitely and he is now back home with his family after two years of incarceration and the mishandling of a legal process from the beginning.

There are countless stories such as this one in every State. It is interesting to note briefly a couple:

"I came here with my family when I was 13. I'm from the Philippines. I love America and what this country has to offer me - the ability to be independent. I also observed that Americans take their independence for granted. I don't understand why some Americans hate this country and have little respect for its opportunities. Don't they

realize how lucky they are? I guess you have to be an immigrant to realize that. For those immigrants who are struggling, please keep your faith. You made it this far. We are all immigrants at one point, even the Americans. This is a great melting pot, if we all learn to work with our differences rather than making excuses.”

Marissa

Ohio

“When I was young I considered myself an American. I ate hot dogs and hamburgers on the 4th of July, and I even have a cousin who served his country in the Iraq war. I am one of five children, of which three are US citizens and two are not. I am not. My parents are not "legal" either. Currently, my father is in Mexico after being deported. I live in an area where half of all people are Mexican and half are white. The white residents seem to think that all Mexicans should be deported. This would have terrible consequences for America because nearly all migrant workers, contractors, and people involved in certain industries are illegals. Life for an immigrant is hard. We are often treated poorly and cannot have licenses or other necessities. I have lived in the United States for most of my life and because I am older than sixteen I do not benefit from the law. Why can't there be some leniency to these new immigrants. I understand deporting criminals but why hard working non-criminals such as my father who lived in America for twenty five years. My father was deported under President Barack Obama. He has deported more immigrants than any other president. I heard him say once he would change immigration laws and maybe not make them stricter. I hope so. But I still love America.”

Ruben

Illinois

Having looked at past, present and future, I guess I am courageous enough to say, we have never had an Immigration policy or system that has worked, ideally. It seems to have worked when we were near “open door” and let “free enterprise” or the laws of “supply and demand” work.

I have a chart on your table illustrating a brief history of the US immigration policy periods. You will quickly see the trend.

PAST:

Throughout our history, many have harbored deep doubts and fears about the impacts imposed on American society by foreigners coming to this country. Do I really want this different person as my neighbor? Twenty years *before* the American Revolution, Benjamin Franklin worried that heavy German immigration into Pennsylvania would leave the English colonists unable to preserve their language or government. Poses the question, have our 200 plus years of Immigration Policy really changed much?

Average European migration to the US per yr. increased in 1850 to 300,000, then to, 600,000 per yr. in 1870's, then 1,000,000 per yr. by 1900 and beyond. The causes: demographic bulge, political upheaval, persecution, labor market, rural life, food, new taxes, erosion of rights to common land, lower risk and cost to sea travel.

By 1920, 13% of the US population was foreign born. Entry to US remained open to Europeans and Latin Americans but was closed to the Asians and Chinese in 1880's.

The period 1914 to 1973, began attempting to restrict the flow into US, i.e. passports, quotas; tighter border controls. An elusive goal was to control the movement of people in the US.

In 1917, several US groups tried to impose literacy as a requirement forcing an understanding of English to the forefront through document requirements. At the same time, the 1917 Immigration Act started

doubling the head tax. In 1921, the Emergency Quota Act began limiting among other things the number to 350,000 per year and, subsequently, reduced this further to 150,000 per year through the Johnson-Reed Act of 1924. By the 1930's the flow fell to 50,000 per year.

An interesting time to note was, during WWII, Congress introduced the Bracero (manual labor) guest worker program so that we could produce enough food to win the war. They brought in migrant agriculture workers from Mexico and Central America, with the known metric of 4.6 million admitted on temporary work permits, between 1943 and 1965. It must be confusing for the decedents of those earlier work permit holders given that border control enforcement in play today. This reinforces that, recent history has allowed a message, "We will let you in when we need you and keep you out when we don't".

Despite the former, however, there is a cost benefit analysis theory in immigration: people (migrants) will assume financial and psychological cost (or pain & risk) of migration in order to achieve the greatest return on their skills. For example: A Mexican laborer moving to the US could increase his earnings from \$4750 per year to \$38,000.

Given the foregoing economic incentive, while a bit disturbing, in the 90's the US strengthened border enforcement and diverted resources away from investigating and deporting. This, thus, created the fact that undocumented immigrants have 1% to 2% chance of being apprehended. There are an estimated 12 million undocumented migrants living in the US. This is understood when you consider that the wage gap between the US and Mexico is 8:1.

Allow me to give you an example of our shift to boarder enforcement and maybe further away from investigation: Our robot guards for the boarders make up an \$8 billion system which introduces acoustic and vibration sensors designed to trigger automatic camera and surveillance drones along the Mexican border. The multi-billion dollar systems created after 9/11, include the US-VISIT program which images

biometric and personal data such as digital facial images and biometric (inkless) fingerprints. Fourteen (14,000,000) million visitors have now been tracked through this US-VISIT process but only three hundred seventy (370) people have been prevented from entering. The system is questionable, when you consider 45% of the undocumented immigrants entered the country illegally while once here become relatively invisible. The number of people crossing the border who have died increased steadily over the past decades and doubled since 1995.

Do we bring anyone in anymore who contributes to our country other than bringing in folks to fill labor shortages? In the 90's, 30% of the documented immigrants were highly skilled. In 2004 China, India and the Philippines contributed heavily with India representing over 60% of the migrants working in the computer industry. The Philippines exported 85% of the nurses they trained.

While I have commented on resources which have moved away from investigation and deportation, I must reflect, however, that since 1996, the number of detainees has multiplied almost five fold.

Detention is supposed to be in the public's best interest, protecting us from criminals and terrorists, however, but more than half of the detainees have no crimes. This echoes how I began the paper with the "importance of a ball point". Another several thousand are detained because they are from countries that do not have good diplomatic relations with the US. Having brought forward these facts, we must realize that detention has increased, while at the same time, the resources to manage effectively the process has decreased. This has pinched heavily those in detention and those in deportation proceedings.

Some of the Impacts of migration? Some positive and some negative!

Even modest migration produces gain in the global economy. Completely opening the borders, some economists predict, would produce gains as high as \$39 trillion for the world economy over 25 yrs.

Migration produces its own multiplier effects. History demonstrates that even with massive inflows of migrants, it did not displace local workers or increase unemployment to the countries of migration or the receiving countries.

In the words of one Immigration academic, Stark: comments, "Migration is a harbinger of human capital gain and not the culprit of human capital drain. Often, the highly skilled return to their country of origin with experience and connections to create high gain thus furthering world economic growth."

A somewhat disturbing study of US data, finds that the majority of migrants arrive in good health and a healthy weight, however, after adapting to many of our convenient food choices and life style choices, experience a decline. This particular point should not make many Americans proud. There is a condition known as, "the healthy migrant" phenomenon, which is, were the migrant shows better health outcomes than the native citizen. Understanding this, it is interesting to note that incidents of infant mortality, breast and cervical cancer, sexually transmitted infections, heart disease, diabetes, teen pregnancy, suicide, tobacco use and alcohol use were found to be generally lower among immigrants than the native US born citizen.

Before touching on brief look at the future, I will summarize why the US would benefit from increased migration.

Gray = silent; only used if asked a question

Five Reasons Why the U.S. Economy Needs Immigrants:

1. Immigrants are more likely to be entrepreneurial and to start new businesses, which, in turn, create jobs for U.S.-born workers.

- Immigrants started [28 percent](#) of all new U.S. businesses in 2011, employing one in 10 U.S. workers.
- Immigrants represent 18 percent of small business owners in the United States—exceeding their share of the overall population (13 percent)—and are more likely than those born in the U.S. to start a small business. Immigrant-owned small businesses employed an estimated 4.7 million people and generated an estimated [\\$776 billion](#) in receipts in 2007. More small business owners are from Mexico than any other country.
- Over the past two decades, immigrants made up [30 percent](#) of the growth in small business creation.
- Immigrants founded 18 percent of 2010 Fortune 500 companies, creating jobs for 3.6 million people. When including immigrants and their children, the number of Fortune 500 companies with immigrant roots jumps to 40 percent, employing more than [10 million people](#).

2. Both high- and low-skilled immigrant labor creates additional jobs across the U.S. economy.

- With immigration reform, newly authorized immigrant workers would produce enough new consumer spending to support [750,000 to 900,000 jobs](#).
- Every additional foreign-born student who graduates in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) and remains in the U.S. creates an estimated 2.62 American jobs.

- Every low-skilled, non-agricultural, temporary worker who comes to the U.S. to fill a job that may otherwise be left open creates an average of [4.64 U.S. jobs](#). These low-skilled jobs are the necessary backbone to support higher-skilled positions.
- Passage of the DREAM Act would add [\\$329 billion](#) to the U.S. economy and create 1.4 million new jobs by 2030.

3. Immigrants boost tax revenue, enlarge the taxpayer base, and help to keep down the price of goods.

- On average, immigrants, including the undocumented, pay nearly [\\$1,800 more](#) in taxes than they receive in benefits.
- Households headed by undocumented immigrants paid [\\$11.2 billion](#) in state and local taxes in 2010. That included \$1.2 billion in personal income taxes, \$1.6 billion in property taxes and \$8.4 billion in sales taxes.
- Immigrants lower the price of products used by highly educated consumers by [0.4 percent of GDP](#) and for less-educated consumers by 0.3 percent.

4. As baby boomers retire, immigrants will increasingly be critical for continued economic growth and for ensuring a steady flow of new workers.

- Without immigrants, the U.S. will not have enough new workers to support retirees. Seventy years ago, there were 150 workers per 20 seniors; 10 years ago, there were 100 workers per 20 seniors. By 2050, there will be [only 56 workers](#) for every 20 seniors. The

U.S. needs new taxpayers to help fund Social Security and Medicare and new workers to fill retirees' positions and provide their health care services.

- Current levels of immigration will temper the aging of the U.S. population over the next two decades, slowing the increase in the old-age dependency ratio by more than [one-quarter](#).
- Nearly [65 percent](#) of Latino immigrants in California who stayed more than 30 years are homeowners, making them a critical pool to buy the homes of baby boomers as they downsize.

5. The majority of immigrants in the U.S. today are from Latin America, representing a huge potential economic opportunity due to the region's accelerating economic standing.

- Immigrants are a vital link with their home countries and offer new prospects for the U.S. to capitalize on Latin America's economic expansion, which saw 3 percent growth in 2012—double the 1.5 percent growth in the United States. In addition, 11 of the 20 U.S. free-trade agreements in force are with Latin American countries. Immigrant-owned small businesses have a unique opportunity to connect to the global marketplace.
- Immigrant-owned small businesses are more likely to be able to connect to the global marketplace. Over [7 percent](#) of immigrant firms export their goods and services, whereas just over 4 percent of non-immigrant firms export.
- Mexico boasts the second largest economy in Latin America and grew at a rate of 4.0 percent in 2012, with a projected 3.5 percent growth in 2013. With 29 percent of all immigrants and 58 percent of undocumented immigrants coming from Mexico, this

demographic represents a human gateway to one of Latin America's fastest-growing economies.

Did you know?

- Of the 40 million immigrants in the U.S. today, 29 percent are from Mexico and represent 13 percent of the U.S. population. In addition, the 53 million Latinos in the U.S. account for about 17 percent of the population and 10 percent of voters in the 2012 election. However, the demographics of new immigrants have changed in recent years, with Asians having overtaken Latinos as the largest group of new immigrants.
- Google, Procter & Gamble, Kraft, Colgate Palmolive, Pfizer, and eBay are among companies with immigrant founders.
- Hispanic immigrants help revitalize communities across the U.S., including Ottumwa, Iowa, a 30,000-person city southeast of Des Moines, which according to *The Wall Street Journal*, saw its taxable property value double in the last 10 years after making a concerted push to bring in new immigrants who opened up shops to replace shuttered storefronts.

The Future:

We have gained an understanding through the charts and information presented that over the past 25 years the number of immigrants has doubled.

Globalization is a complex process of expanding cross border relationships and flows. Current communication capabilities will be a strong contributor to accelerate migration in the future. A key reason, over 60% of the people in the world have a cell phone, thus, greater connectivity only makes it easier to keep in touch with friends and relatives after leaving.

In 1950, the life expectancy age was 66. In 2005, the expectancy moved to 77, and, by 2050 it is expected to be 83 years of age. While there are studies proving the metrics and outcomes, you can speculate generally the effects of folks worldwide living longer and the impact to migration.

There will logically be a "war for talent" where people and countries will be trying to out maneuver each other for more cross-cultural skills only possible through a more diverse population.

Our conscious thinking about global migration should, as we look toward the future, follow more of the Principals of Global Migration:

I would offer these proposed five key principals:

- I. Extend transitional rights
- II. Promote social and economic advancement for migrants
- III. Widen the umbrella of legal migration
- IV. Combat xenophobia (the irrational or unreasoned fear of that which is perceived to be foreign or strange), combat discrimination, and combat abuse

V. Improve data collection

Genetic and other evidence has placed the old arguments for ethnic purity as “obsolete and untrue”. While the world may still hold tightly to its national traditions and origins, as an excuse for restricting human liberties, they are being eroded by the tides of history. The idea of freer movement and the need for a global institution to promote and protect it will likely end up with a few of the other big ideas of history - democracy, free trade, global peace, however, we are challenged to better the world and must not ignore the principals that could move us to global migration improvement. I quote an author’s summation: “As our distant ancestors would have told us, the earth is one country and all of humanity its citizens”.

Welcome neighbor!

Collateral:

Among the more detailed findings of the Partnership’s report are that Fortune 500 companies founded by immigrants:

account for 18% (or 90) of all Fortune 500 companies.

generate \$1.7 trillion in annual revenue.

employ 3.7 million workers worldwide.

include AT&T, Verizon, Procter & Gamble, Pfizer, Kraft, Comcast, Intel, Merck, DuPont, Google, Cigna, Kohl's, Colgate-Palmolive, PG&E, Sara Lee, Sun Microsystems, United States Steel, Qualcomm, eBay, Nordstrom, and Yahoo! –

See more at: <http://immigrationimpact.com/2011/06/16/new-americans-are-among-the-nation%E2%80%99s-top-entrepreneurs-report-says/#sthash.IE67uu4o.dpuf>

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OPPORTUNITY AND EXCLUSION:

A Brief History of U.S. Immigration Policy

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Sources: Krista M. Perreira, Ph.D. (University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill), “Immigration Timeline”; Harvard University Library, Open Collections Program, “Immigration to the United States 1789-1930: Timeline”; *Encyclopedia of American Foreign Policy* (2002), “Immigration”; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services,

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Mobility: Past, Present and Future – Inevitable and Desirable?

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