Border Crisis

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Date: 14 April 2016

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in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Science in
Strategic Security and Protective Management
Abstract

The purpose of this project is to explore the issues of having an open border along the southern United States and addressing the problems and potential problems this means for national security. It is true that everyday immigrants come into this country illegally in search of the American dream. However, with 94 million Americans currently out of work and the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) that has declare a *fatwa* for our destruction, the United States no longer has the luxury not to keep a tight watch over the southern border. Crimes are being committed in the thousands by illegal immigrants and drugs that are being shipped across our borders are funding terrorism.
Table of Contents

Abstract .................................................................................................................................................. i
Table of Contents ....................................................................................................................................... ii
Introduction ................................................................................................................................................ 1
Chapter 1: Legislature .................................................................................................................................. 2
Chapter 2: Crime Rates Review ...................................................................................................................... 7
Chapter 3: Narco Terrorism .......................................................................................................................... 12
Chapter 4: Pros and Cons of Illegal Immigration ......................................................................................... 17
Chapter 5: Conclusion ................................................................................................................................... 21
References ................................................................................................................................................... 24
**Introduction**

A debate over the effects of illegal immigration from our southern border has, in recent years, heated up in both Congress and in other nonpolitical communities. Immigration is always a part of foreign policy for the United States, its effects are real and have social effects for both the immigrants and those communities receiving the immigrants. However, the effects of illegal immigration have very real impacts. Even as the nation discuss the effects of illegal immigration, many of the causes for this illegal immigration across our southern border are understood, yet we cannot overlook how it impacts our country regarding national security, our political will, and even our labor force.

There are certain factors that are affected by illegal immigration from our southern border. First examination will be legislature from the Secure Fence Act of 2006 to the Amnesty. Second, the escalation of crime rates along our border, along with analyzing the number of illegal immigrants now housed in our prisons are examined as social and security problems. Third, what is narcoterrorism and its impacts on national security? Next, an analysis of the pros and cons of illegal immigration illustrates conflicting views on illegal immigration. Finally, a recommended course of action for a way ahead.
Chapter 1: Legislature

Why aren't the U.S. southern borders more controlled? President Bush signed the Secure Fence Act in October 2006. This Act was supposed to help secure America’s borders, decrease illegal entry, drug trafficking, and security threats by building 700 miles of physical barriers along the Mexico-United States border. This law also authorizes more vehicle barriers, checkpoints, and lighting as well as authorizes the Department of Homeland Security to increase the use of advanced technology like cameras, satellites, and unmanned aerial vehicles to reinforce infrastructure at the border. To date this fence has not been constructed. In part because Congress approved $1.2 billion in a separate Homeland Security bill, while critics estimate there will be a needed $4.8 billion to complete the listed measures.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) came into effect in 1994. The primary purpose was a practical issue. “Canada and Mexico consistently rank among the top five trading partners of the United States. Given the sheer amount of economic activity shared by these North American countries, any reduction in trade barriers and obstacles to the flow of goods and services across borders should improve GDP” (What is the purpose of NAFTA, 2012). Logistics of supply chains were supposed to have been simplified.

On a successful note, NAFTA facilitated the movement of labor among these three countries, the United States, Mexico, and Canada, simplifying paperwork for businesses hiring temporary workers. With NAFTA in place, trade disputes have been reduced and takes clemency to the increase in trade volume.

“People still debate whether NAFTA has resulted in outsourcing US jobs to Mexico. Some argue that NAFTA has not benefited the average US taxpayer or worker, while other feel that it has benefited consumers through lower prices. Even some 20 years after its enactment,
economists still disagree about the pros and cons of NAFTA and who has benefited by it” (What is the purpose of NAFTA, 2012).

According to NAFTANOW.org, “since NAFTA came into effect, the overall job growth has been strong in all three partner countries. Across North America, total employment has grown by almost 40 million jobs since 1993” (Myths vs. Reality, 2012). However, what this site is not saying is how many U.S. corporations found it less expensive to move across the border, relieving many Americans of their jobs for outsourcing. What is also not mentioned, that yes it is true that Mexico’s economy between the 1993 – 2008 timeline grew by $156 billion, many dollars much of which is now in the hands of drug cartels that control many political elements in Mexico.

Crime, drugs, illegal entry and other issues from our southern border led to a bill passed in 2006 known as the Secure Fence Act. This Act was to provide Americans with a more feel good sense of security along our southern border. Below is a list of examples from Public Law 109 – 396, dated October 26, 2006 (SECURE FENCE ACT of 2006), that are in the bill, nearly none of these have actually been enacted let alone even funded:

SEC. 2. ACHIEVING OPERATIONAL CONTROL ON THE BORDER. (a) IN GENERAL. — No more than 18 months after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall take all necessary actions to execute and maintain operational control over the entire land and maritime borders of the United States, to include the following—“(1) systematic surveillance of the international land and maritime borders of the United States through more effective use of personnel and technology, such as unmanned aerial vehicles, ground-based sensors, satellites, radar coverage, and cameras; and (2) physical infrastructure enhancements to prevent unlawful entry by aliens into the United States and facilitate access to
the international land and maritime borders by United States Customs and Border Protection, such as additional checkpoints, all weather access roads, and vehicle barriers” (Secure Fence Act, 2006).

SEC. 3. CONSTRUCTION OF FENCING AND SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS IN BORDER AREA FROM PACIFIC OCEAN TO GULF OF MEXICO.

This section provides a detailed layout of reinforced fencing that extends from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico to include type, topography restrictions, and responsibility. To date, this double layer fence has not been completed in part because it is too expensive, as reported by House Homeland Security Committee (Boyle, 2015).

So what do legislators do? On the one hand, illegal immigrants have historically aligned their vote with the Democrat party, while a Republican base notes that illegals provide cheap labor. This would point out that there is not just a lack of funding, but also a lack of political will. Here is what has been decided:

The Senate Immigration Reform Bill, also known as the Gang of Eight bill, passed in 2013. While Democrats and undocumented immigrants praised the bill, there is another word that could be used here, AMNESTY. The amendment would prevent green card status for undocumented immigrants until the government deploys 20,000 additional border agents, mandates E-Verify (an Internet-based system that compares information from an employee's Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, to data from U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Social Security Administration records to confirm employment eligibility) to prevent businesses from hiring unauthorized workers completes a 700-mile border fence and adds it to entry-exit systems to track whether foreign nationals overstay their visas. As has been already previously noted, the 700 mile fence will not be completed, and the Congressional
Budget Officer Cost Estimate for the immigration bill calculates, that adding the needed 3,500 Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents as proposed in the current version of the legislation would exceed $600 million annually – that’s around $171,400 per agent per year. Assuming Border Patrol agents cost about the same as all CBP officers, increasing the number of agents to 20,000, would cost over $3.4 billion a year. Basically, the excuses suggest that there isn’t going to be enough money, and therefore the Gang of Eight Bill, as it were, really does become ‘amnesty.’ This is because, as noted by Senator Chuck Grassley (Iowa), undocumented immigrants would receive provisional legal status to stay in the U.S. before border and enforcement measures are met.

Politicians are quick to point out that there has been a decline in border apprehensions since 2008. However, “the post-2008 declines are due to the recession and loss of jobs which had attracted unauthorized immigrants. Net illegal immigration from Mexico has fallen to zero or even fewer coming than leaving.” (Sherman, 2013).

It just seems odd that there isn’t enough political will to really deal with the situation, and over the last eight years it has certainly seemed that the current administration has given the impression that undocumented immigrants would not be deported once caught. Here is an example: “in a December 2015 statement and again at a congressional hearing, Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R-Virginia), Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, blamed U.S. immigration policy for the high numbers of unaccompanied minors and families, primarily from Central America, who are crossing the southwest border. Citing a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) report obtained by the Committee, Rep. Goodlatte affirms:

“From July 7, 2015-September 30, 2015, Customs and Border Protection agents interviewed 345 family units apprehended at the border. Of those interviewed, nearly 70% said
that they heard that if they came to the U.S. they would be released and/or receive some sort of immigration relief, such as asylum. Additionally, nearly 60% said it was the U.S. immigration policies that influenced their decision to come here.” (WOLA, 2016).
Chapter 2: Crime Rates Review

So what is going on down at the border? Is there really an increase in the amount of crime, or is it all fictitious media reporting? DHS, Department of Homeland Security (Border Security Overview, 2015) reports the following:

Patrols in the Southwest have substantially increased the amount of drugs, guns, and cash seized over the last three years:

- 74 percent more money
- 41 percent more drugs, and
- 159 percent more weapons have been apprehended.

Additionally, since 2008, crime rates have fallen in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas.

Is this accurate or is there another story to tell? Is illegal immigration a victimless crime?

In recent testimony of District Attorney John M. Morganelli before the House Subcommittee on immigration, Border, Security and Claims he stated:

"Unfortunately, the majority of illegal aliens who are here are engaged in criminal activity. Identity theft, use of fraudulent social security numbers and green cards, tax evasion, driving without licenses represent some of the crimes that are engaged in by the majority of illegal aliens on a daily basis merely to maintain and hide their illegal status.” (Crime Summary: Impacts of Illegal Immigration, Wagner, Amato, 2014).

What about collateral damage or repeat offenders? Below is a list of statistics the Department of Homeland Security doesn’t like to discuss, nor will politicians give direct answers when questioned about much of the following information. It’s lengthy, however, but it is important to identify many of the crimes, as we are concerned about national security and
security for our communities. The following information is provided via (Crime Summary: Impacts of Illegal Immigration, Wagner, Amato, 2014)

- In Los Angeles, 95% of some 1,500 outstanding warrants for homicides are for illegal aliens. About 67% of the 17,000 outstanding fugitive felony warrants are for illegal aliens.
- There are currently over 400,000 unaccounted for illegal alien criminals with outstanding deportation orders. At least one fourth of these are hard core criminals.
- 80,000 to 100,000 illegal aliens who have been convicted of serious crimes are walking the streets. Based on studies they will commit an average of 13 serious crimes per perpetrator.
- Illegal aliens are involved in criminal activities at a rate that is 2-5 times their representative proportion of the population.
- In 1980, our Federal and state facilities held fewer than 9,000 criminal aliens but at the end of 2003, approximately 267,000 illegal aliens were incarcerated in U.S. correctional facilities at a cost of about $6.8 billion per year.
- At least 4.5 million pounds of cocaine with a street value of at least $72 billion is smuggled across the southern border every year.
- 56% of illegal aliens charged with a reentry offense had previously been convicted on at least 5 prior occasions.
- Illegal aliens charged with unlawful reentry had the most extensive criminal histories. 90% had been previously arrested. Of those with a prior arrest, 50% had been arrested for violent or drug-related felonies.
- Illegal aliens commit between 700,000 to 1,289,000 or more crimes per year.
• Illegal aliens commit at least 2,158 murders each year – a number that represents three
times greater participation than their proportion of the population.

• Illegal alien sexual predators commit an estimated 130,909 sexual crimes each year.

• There may be as many as 240,000 illegal alien sex offenders circulating throughout
America. Based on studies, they will commit an average of 8 sex crimes per perpetrator
before being caught.

• Nearly 63% of illegal alien sex offenders had been deported on another offense prior to
committing the sex crime.

• Only 2% of the illegal alien sex offenders in one study had no history of criminal
behavior, beyond crossing the border illegally.

• In Operation Predator, ICE arrested and deported 6,085 illegal alien pedophiles. Some
studies suggest each pedophile molests average of 148 children. If so, that could be as
many as 900,580 victims.

• Nobody knows how big the sex slave problem is but it is enormous.

• The very brutal MS-13 gang has over 15,000 members and associates in at least 115
different cliques in 33 states.

• The overall financial impact of illegal alien crimes is estimated at between $14.4 and $81
billion or more per year. Factor in the crime as a result of the cocaine and other drugs
being smuggled in and the number may reach $150 billion per year

So what about national security? What about ISIS and are they testing where our borders
have weaknesses’? Armed with the information above, the obvious conclusion is there are gaps
in our southern border. In November 2015 Fox News published a report entitled “Testing the
gates? Syrians nabbed south of the border, Arizona arrests stoke terror fears.” “Two separate
reports of groups of America-bound Syrians detained below the U.S. southern border and the arrests of six other Middle Eastern men nabbed with smugglers in Arizona in recent days are raising concerns that Islamic State militants could be probing security – and stoking fears some may already be here.” (Fox News, "Testing the gates? Syrians nabbed south of the border, Arizona arrests stoke terror fears", 2015)

“On Monday (16 November, 2015), five Pakistani nationals and one Afghan were nabbed in Arizona along with two suspected smugglers, a Department of Homeland Security official confirmed. Then, on Tuesday, Honduran authorities arrested five Syrians they said were headed for the U.S. with stolen or doctored Greek passports, but later said the men were college students fleeing war at home. On the same day and 1,800 miles north, two Syrian families were taken into custody at a border checkpoint in Texas.” (Fox News, "Testing the gates? Syrians nabbed south of the border, Arizona arrests stoke terror fears", 2015). News report continues:

"We know that terrorist groups look for the weakest link, or any way they can gain entry," said Jessica Vaughan, director of policy studies for Center for Immigration Studies. "It is likely that terrorists have already managed to get through. The Border Patrol catches only a fraction of the people who try to cross illegally, perhaps 40 or 50 percent. They have already caught a number of aliens from countries associated with terrorism, but we can’t be confident they have caught everyone who has tried. To make matters worse, there is very little interior enforcement, so once they get past the border, they are relatively free to operate here, rent a place to live, get a driver’s license in some states, just like the 9/11 terrorists did," (Fox News, "Testing the gates? Syrians nabbed south of the border, Arizona arrests stoke terror fears", 2015).

This is a lot of information to digest, and for so little to be done with interior enforcement is confusing. So what does all of the above listed information mean to communities and tax payers?
Crime is actually going up, borders are being tested, politicians are in denial, and tax payers are spending millions to house many undocumented immigrants in prisons. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the primary points of illegal entry are: San Diego (CA), El Centro (CA), Yuma (AZ), El Paso (NM), Del Rio (TX), Laredo (TX), McAllen (TX), and Brownsville (TX).

“From 2000 to 2010, the number of immigration cases handled in civil and criminal courts increased substantially. The number of proceedings in civil immigration court increased by 49%, from 218,049 cases in 2000 to 325,326 in 2010.” (Motivans, U.S. Department of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Immigration Offenders in the Federal Justice System, 2010", 2013).

According to the Colorado Alliance for Immigration Reform, “From 1980 to 1999, the number of illegal aliens in federal and state prisons grew from 9,000 to 68,000. Today, criminal aliens account for about 30% of the inmates in federal prisons and 15-25% in many local jails.

Incarceration costs to the taxpayers were estimated by the Justice Department in 2002 to be $891 million for federal prison inmates and $624 million for inmates in state prison” (The National Center for Citizenship and Immigration, 2015).
Chapter 3: Narco Terrorism

Narco Terrorism, a relatively new term in classifying types of terrorist activities. However, the book entitled: Terrorism, An Investigators Handbook, written by William Dyson provides a working definition. His definition is as follows: “Narco-terrorism is the use of extreme force and violence by producers and distributors of narcotics against a government or population, intended to coerce that body to modify its behavior in their favor.” (Dyson, 2001). If there were to be anything added to that definition it would be: terrorist activities funded by the wholesale and distribution of narcotics in order to inculcate fear, coerce governments, or to achieve ideologies that are cultural, political, or religious in nature.

So how does it work? Basically terrorist organization take the profits from the drug trade industry in order to fund expenses to carry out their said group’s ideology. Terrorist and criminals mutually benefit from narcotic activities including: illegal arms trafficking, extortion and protection rackets; kidnapping; prostitution rings and human trafficking; credit card, social security and immigration fraud and identity theft; tax fraud; currency counterfeiting, etc. There are hundreds of billions of dollars in revenues that fall at the disposal of terrorists and criminals alike. For example, in March 2009 U.S. Department of State’s International Narcotics Control Strategy Report documents “a direct connection between traditional Colombian drug trafficking and money laundering organizations and Middle Eastern money launderers tied to Hezbollah.” Let’s examine this. In an article entitled “Hezbollah narco-terrorism a growing cross-border threat,” there are three key points that are made (Levitt, 2009):

- Hezbollah’s venture into the global narcotics industry began in the Bekaa Valley in the 1970s. The group used well-established drug smuggling ratlines across the Israel-Lebanon border for operational purposes.
• Historical drug trading routes eventually grew and enabled Hezbollah to access Europe from South America via West Africa across the 10th parallel, known as “Highway 10”.

• Hezbollah has significantly expanded and institutionalized its narcotics logistics and money laundering enterprises, to the point where narcotics proceeds are a major funding stream.

So what is Hezbollah funding with all this money, some estimated $200 - $500 million annually (including $100 million from Iran)? Hezbollah has been fighting a proxy war against Israel on Iran’s behest. Known to view Israel as “little Satan” and the United States as “the Great Satan,” Hezbollah (and Iran alike) would like nothing more than to see the fall of both countries. “In October of 2015, two Beirut residents have been arrested, in New York, on charges that they took part in an alleged scheme to help Hezbollah launder drug money, and to funnel thousands of weapons and military parts to criminal groups in Lebanon and Iran” (Stempel, 2015).

What does this mean for the everyday citizen? Well, in a nutshell, those who are using drugs are funding terrorism. There is no way around it nor any way one can explain it away. When someone purchases drugs (pick your flavor) that money is either directly transitioned to a terrorist or criminal organization or the money is laundered to support an organization.

For example, the estimated $518 million that the Taliban collected from the heroin trade in 2007, according to the International Narcotics Control Board, facilitated their resurgence, growing influence and violence and forced the U.S. to deploy 17,000 additional troops to Afghanistan — in addition to the 38,000 already there. In a paper titled “Afghanistan Poppy Seed Production Paper — Target Recommendation,” the author had made this comment: “It’s no secret, narcotic corruption runs to the highest level of the Afghan government. Do we allow Afghanistan to fall to become a narco state? “After the fall of Taliban in late 2001, these
warlords were called the “heroes of Jihad and champions of peace.” Following the Bonn Conference, they became ministers, governors, commissioners and senior officers in the Interim Authority and Transitional Administration of Afghanistan. After the first “democratic transition of power” and the establishment of a newly elected government and parliament, the warlords filled key security positions, became members of parliament, and formed political opposition to the government. Over these years, they became rich on the backs of the U.S. military and other contractors. They created construction and logistics companies that were contracted by the United States government agencies in Afghanistan” (Otto, 2015).

This is not anything new for the United States, having dealt with the narcotics trade of Columbia for years. Back then burning fields and executing cartel leaders did not seem to help, as we have seen cocaine still plagues our streets. Destroying the poppy seed fields will slow down but not stop, execution of the warlords will not help. As noted they are identified by the people as the “heroes of Jihad and champions of peace.” This will be a long process for guided correction, however the first thing that needs to be conducted is the removal of governmental funding and termination of all current contracts instituted by these same parliamentary members.

Iran and Pakistan have long been known to have labs under the guise of refugee camps, that covert the poppy into opium. The drug trade routes extend out from there. However, neighboring countries have to have the resolve in order stop the trade through their borders. Caution should be taken when viewing this route, as fictitious drugs may surface as a result of a loss of opium trade. For example, lack of opium led to addicts in Russia to develop what is called Krokodil (aka, the zombie drug). A form of drug made from methamphetamine from pseudophendrine and iodine.
There are no good solutions, nor any silver (magic) bullet that will solve the issues with the Afghan poppy seed production. The Afghan government needs to develop the resolve, the ISAF should not continue to pump billions of dollars into a government that refuses to help itself.

The sales of opium around the world led to the resurgence of the Taliban and continued Al Queda’s wanton destructive behavior. As we watched history unfold, and Iraq implode we saw the rise of the Islamic State (ISIS) that now tests our borders and has declared a fatwah for the destruction of the United States.

An interesting article was written in the DailyMail.com, about how $1 billion in drug sale annually was being conducted by ISIS. “A new study of the Islamic State's finances has revealed previous that estimates suggesting the terror group earns $2billion every year could be far too low.

ISIS' finance chief Sheikh Abu Saad al-Ansari, who operates from ISIS' Iraqi stronghold Mosul, is understood to have recently approved the terror group's first annual budget, revealing and estimated spend of $2 billion this year, plus an expected surplus of $250 million.

The budget suggests ISIS' annual income could be as much a quarter of a billion dollars more than experts previously suggested, with the bulk of the terror group's revenue coming from oil sales, organ harvesting, ransom and extortion payments, and the looting and sale of ancient antiquities. Experts believe that roughly $1billion of ISIS' income comes from the sale of heroin and that half the heroin on sale in Europe has passed through the terrorists' hands and helped to fill its coffers. (Mailonline, 2015). This level of ISIS funding represents a clear threat to both Israel and the U.S

What’s the cost? At the lowest level, for one example, a study conducted by the Rand
Corporation found that most of the “violent predators among prisoners had a history of heroin use. The social cost of drugs or drug abuse has been estimated at nearly $60 billion per year, with nearly half being in loss of job productivity” (Chaiken, 2008). Drugs and drug sales have had nothing but a negative impact on our society and pose a significant risk to our national security.
Chapter 4: Pros and Cons of Illegal Immigration

When it comes to national security there should be no such thing as pros and cons; there should only a consideration of what needs to happen in order to keep our citizens safe.

However, we live in a heavily politicized establishment as of late, and this is a sensitive topic. So taking a neutral position for the time being, let’s examine some facts.

There are several reasons that people may legitimately want to leave their country and enter along our southern border. Using the example of the Northern Triangle, consisting of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, to demonstrate how these countries have undergone extensive loss of life due to drug cartels and guerilla activities that would motivate one to leave their country. A report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics reveals the following:

- El Salvador, a nation of 6.4 million people, is racked by drug-fueled violence, with entire city neighborhoods controlled by powerful gangs known as maras. El Salvador recently overtook Honduras as the murder capital of the world. Officials recorded 6,657 people murdered in El Salvador in 2015, a 70 percent increase from 2014.

- Guatemalans face epidemic levels of violence and a government that is unable and unwilling to protect them. The criminal insurgency by transnational criminal organizations and gangs against the state reflects a serious and pervasive armed conflict within Guatemala. Moreover, cumulative environmental disasters have plagued Guatemala including earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes, tropical storms, floods, drought, and landslides. Guatemala has declared a state of public calamity on various occasions and received limited international humanitarian assistance.
With a homicide rate of 57 per 100,000 people, Honduras suffers 10 times more homicides than the world average and four times the number of homicides than the average country in the Americas. Criminal gangs often target children and young adults for recruitment and to commit crimes. Disturbingly, for young adult males between the ages of 20 and 34, the murder rate in Honduras exceeds 300 per 100,000. Gangs also regularly target girls and women for forced recruitment, sexual harassment, and exploitation.

The above reasons are certainly disturbing and would give anyone living in those conditions to run the risk of going through Mexico, a country still contending with its seven cartel war, in an attempt to illegally enter the United States. This is especially true when we have an administration, that as previously noted, leaves non-citizens with the impression they will be allowed to stay. However here are some pros and cons of the immigration issue provided by (balancedpolitics.org):

Pros:

- Some of the most intelligent and ambitious individuals, who are unsatisfied with their own countries, bring their skills to America.
- It increases the diversity and expands the culture of the country.
- Immigrants often taken the low-paying jobs (like food service & hotel cleaning) that most Americans don't want to do at such low wages.
- Decreasing or eliminating legal immigration will inevitably create more incentive to come to the country illegally, which leads to less assimilation and fewer taxpaying, law-abiding citizens.
• It improves the overall image of America internationally, as it is seen as an open, welcoming country; and immigrants who return home or maintain contact with family back home have a true image of America, not the one propagandized in much of the international media.

• Adding an additional group of cheap labor adds to the flexibility of business, leading to cheaper prices, better quality products, and higher profits.

Cons:

• More immigrants means more opportunity for terrorists, drug dealers, and other criminals to enter the country.

• Immigrants, especially the poorer ones, consume a high amount of government resources (health care, education, welfare, etc.) without paying a corresponding high rate of taxes.

• The national identity and language is disappearing. The great "melting pot" is being replaced by divisive multi-culturalism.

• The emigration to the United States hurts the home country, as much of the male population, workers, and top intellectuals often leave their country.

• Less-skilled American citizens earn less money and have fewer job opportunities because they must compete with immigrants in the job market.

Both segments make good arguing points. There is also the sympathetic plea, and that is the question of how can we separate children from their parents. In 2015 our nation saw thousands of children bussed into communities without the approval or in some cases even the knowledge of community administration that they were coming. In location such as California, Ohio, and Colorado, several townships set up blockades not allowing these undocumented children into their townships. Not only due to financial reasons or even administrative reasons, but also, due to
the significant health concerns. There was a new cold/flu virus making its way around through Central America that many of these children were later found to be carrying. To date, there has been no real identification of the total number of millions of dollars this cost the American taxpayers in medical expenses.

The United States is a country with a heart. Our country has taken in refugees since our foundation. However, when looking at the rise in crime, the terrorist threats, and the gaps in border security, our national security becomes a risk. Looking at the above list of pros and cons, and taking into consideration costs such as crime, education, potential diseases, health care, and employment, there is no way one can legitimize illegal immigration nor grant amnesty.

On the other side, there is no projection that ICE is going to be funded or provided a means of removing those illegal immigrants that are already in our communities, especially when we still have these gaps in our border. The question is then, what should we, as a nation, do?
Chapter 5: Conclusion

According to a 2006 Zogby poll, “Americans were questioned about the immigration issue, in which 67% of Americans overwhelming stated that the time has come to reduce immigration so we can assimilate the immigrants already here” (Center for Immigration Studies, 2006). Even though this is what the majority of Americans polled responded, our politicians would differ. Because this is a huge problem and not one easily fixed. Before one can realistically look at removing illegals, one has to first figure out how to slow down and then eventually stop the flow of illegals into the country. So how does one do that?

The first step, we have to quit with the political correctness and call things what they are. One is not an undocumented immigrant, one is an illegal immigrant, here illegally either by border crossing or violating their Visa status. Here would be some recommendations:

- We need to recognize that there is a real and credible threat of terrorism by those that are testing our borders for weaknesses and to see what they can cross into our country.

- We cannot win against illegal immigration without having immediate and trusted verification system of whether or not somebody is in the U.S. legally. As President Reagan used to say, “Trust but verify.”

- This is a recommendation in several news articles over the last 2 -3 years from Fox News, noted by Rush Limbaugh, and has been spoken by several conservative politicians. Any state, city, or municipality that receives federal funding of any sort shall be required to cooperate with DHS and ICE and enforce the immigration laws under Sec. 133 of the 1996 Immigration Reform Act. Not cooperating, ignoring enforcement, or providing "sanctuary” is aiding and
abetting criminals and should result in the cessation of all federal funds targeted for law enforcement activities and a proportional reduction of all other social welfare funds based on the percentage of illegal immigrant reported on the previous U.S. Census.

- Mandate that English is the official language of the nation and mandate that schools shall teach classes in English. Non-English speakers should be given a 1-2 year redemptive course to catch up.

- Laws need to be changed to prohibit foreign nationals from giving political contributions, directly or indirectly, to US political parties and all candidates for elected offices.

- Mandatory citizen ID cards to be displayed to ensure citizenship prior to any voting forum. This prevents any party making promises of amnesty to cater a vote. In Hampton Roads, it was found out after the last Presidential elections were held that many of the voters that voted Democrat in Hampton were not legal citizens.

- The Governor of any state should have the authority to activate their state guard force to protect their borders as necessary without federal interference. Many National Guardsman and women, though they did great things with honor, and should always be left to protecting the homeland and letting the active duty forces deal with international security.

This is a lengthy list and there are certainly many other recommendations that could be put forth to protect our nation, our educational system, our medical system, and our way of life. However, the first thing that needs to happen is the development of political
will. No one wants to live through another 9/11 incident to have to drive home that message.
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