Immigration

All men have been immigrants or the sons of immigrants since Adam and Eve left Eden. *(Evan Esar, in 20,000 Quips & Quotes, p. 413)*

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**America is still the land of opportunity. An immigrant came here broke eleven years ago. Today he owes $181,000. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Immigrants make up about 18 percent of the American workforce, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Nearly a third of construction and mining workers and three-quarters of farm workers are migrants. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 15, 2024)***

**Poll Watch: 60% of Americans think that the government's top immigration priority should be to develop a plan to "allow those in the U.S. illegally who have jobs to become legal residents." 90% would support offering legal status to immigrants who hold a job, speak English, and pay back taxes. 26% think that the top priority should be to "develop a plan to stop illegal border crossings." 13% want deportation to be the first priority. *(CNN/ORC, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 31, 2017)***

**57% of Americans think illegal immigrants should be allowed to stay and apply for citizenship. 11% prefer they get legal status without a path to citizenship. 29% think they should be required to leave the country. *(New York Times/CBS News, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 22, 2015)***

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**Are mass deportations possible? Donald Trump is vowing to “carry out the largest deportation operations in American history,” said Ed Kilgore. At the Republican National Convention in July, beaming delegates waved “Mass Deportation Now!” signs. But hunting down more than 10 million undocumented immigrants, locking them up in vast detention camps, and flying or trucking them back to their countries of origin would be wildly unpopular, impractical, and economically ruinous. A recent Pew survey found only 37 percent of Americans support such radical plans, which would necessarily require a vast national scheme of surveillance, racial and ethnic profiling, and daily “scenes of violence and misery.” In 2023, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) spent $420 million to deport 142,580 people. Deporting millions of people would easily cost tens of billions. There would be additional, “astronomical” costs for detaining migrants for weeks or months, and “a spectacular increase” in the burden on already clogged immigration courts. Meanwhile, the loss of millions of migrant workers in farming, construction, and other industries would raise prices, ramp up inflation, and likely trigger a recession. If Trump’s “un-American” plan comes to fruition, it will wreak havoc on our nation, and Republicans will come to regret it. *(The Week magazine, August 16, 2024)***

About 65 percent of those arrested by ICE from October 2017 to the end of March had no criminal convictions -- compared with 21 percent during the same period the year before, and 13 percent the year before that. *(Huffington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 1, 2018)*

**During World War II, many immigrants fought in the American military. After the war, immigrant groups began to get along better with each other. Kids of parents from different countries played together, and people from different religious backgrounds married each other. This is part of assimilation, or becoming more similar. *(Debby Debnam)***

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In the Irish uprising of 1848, the men were captured, tried and convicted of treason against Her Majesty, Queen Victoria. All were sentenced to death. Passionate protest from all over the world persuaded the Queen to commute the death sentences. The men were banished to Australia--as remote and full of prisoners as Russian Siberia. Years passed. In 1874 Queen Victoria learned that a Sir Charles Duffy who had been elected Prime Minister of Australia was the same Charles Duffy who had been banished 26 years earlier. She asked what had become of the other eight convicts. She learned that: Patrick Donahue became a Brigadier General in the United States Army. Morris Lyene became Attorney General for Australia. Michael Ireland succeeded Lyene as Attorney General. Thomas McGee became Minister of. Agriculture for Canada. Terrence McManus became a Brigadier General in the United States Army. Thomas Meagher was elected Governor of Montana. John Mitchell became a prominent New York politician and his son, John Purroy Mitchell, a famous Mayor of New York City. Richard O’Gorman became Governor of Newfoundland. *(Johnny Rocco, in Abundant Living magazine)*

A Briton flies into Australia and is asked by the immigration officer, "Do you have any felony convictions?" The Briton replies, "Sorry. I didn't realize that was still a requirement." *(Reader's Digest)*

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Facing up to the troubles migrants bring: Political correctness reigns in Austria, said Christian Ortner. Austrians are only too happy to distinguish themselves from neighboring Hungarians -- who have put up a border fence to stop the influx of migrants from Syria, Iraq, and Africa -- by "self-righteously" playing the welcoming host. Perhaps we are trying to compete with the Germans, who have ostentatiously flung open their doors. Any Austrian who raises a legitimate concern about the arrival of hundreds of thousands of poor Muslims who don't speak our language and aren't trained for our workforce is pilloried as some kind of racist. And yet there are grounds for worry. What will be the consequences of allowing thousands of unvaccinated children into the Austrian school system? Will there be outbreaks of measles, epidemics of rubella? To ask these questions is not to brand the Syrians filthy or pestilent -- it is merely prudent. Shouldn't we evaluate the political ramifications of giving social security benefits and free housing to newcomers while those who have worked here for decades and paid into the system still find themselves on long waitlists for subsidized housing? If we continue to "brand as a Nazi" every person who "lays an unpleasant fact upon the table," we will not find solutions to the very real problems of mass immigration. *(The Week magazine, October 16, 2015)*

This new Berlin Wall is meant to repel not terrorists but, "nannies, fruit-and-vegetable harvesters, (and) hotel maids" who want to fill jobs no American wants. *(The Week magazine, July 5-12, 2013)*

Ninety-two immigrants hailing from 35 different countries have become billionaires in America. With a combined net worth of $711 billion, th`1ese foreign-born U.S. citizens account for 15 percent of all American billionaire wealth. *(Forbes, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 6, 2022)*

In 2014, 7 percent of all U.S. births -- about 275,000 babies -- were born to parents who were in the U.S. illegally, according to the Pew Research Center. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 31, 2017)*

A growing number of migrants are trying to enter the U.S. via its relatively porous northern border with Canada. Northern border officials recorded 191,603 encounters with migrants crossing into the U.S. last year – up 41 percent from 2022 – the majority of whom requested asylum at official ports of entry. But more than 12,000 were apprehended crossing illegally, up 241` percent from 2022. Most were Mexicans, who can fly visa free to Canada. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 23, 2024)*

With scores of Venezuelan migrants arriving in Chicago every day, the city is struggling to find space to house the new arrivals ahead of winter. Some 2,300 migrants are sleeping at police stations, either in lobbies or outside in tents; more than 800 are staying at Chicago O’Hare International Airport, and about 10,000 are in city shelters. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 20, 2023)*

There are still 497 children in federal custody who were separated from their parents at the border, as lawyers for humanitarian groups try to track down the parents. Nearly two-thirds of those children have parents who were deported, including 22 “tender age” minors younger than 5 years old. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September* ***14****, 2018)*

About 40 percent of immigrants to the U.S. now choose to settle directly in the nation's suburbs, bypassing the major cities. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 2, 2007)*

**On our first visit to the United States, we stood in a long line at the airport waiting for clearance through immigration. The officer carefully examined everyone’s credentials. When our turn finally came, I jokingly remarked that it seemed to be more difficult to get into the United States than to enter the kingdom of heaven. Without hesitation the immigration official replied, “Buddy, there’s a lot more folks tryin’!” *(A. Cameron, in Reader’s Digest)***

**The financial and political cost of mass deportations, however, will be steep, said Christina Lu in Foreign Policy. To arrest, detain, and deport just 1 million people a year would cost $88 billion annually. Mass roundups would severely damage the construction, restaurant, hospitality, and agriculture industries, all of which depend heavily on undocumented workers. Removing this labor force would drive up prices and inflation, cause gross domestic product to plummet, and “reverberate throughout the U.S. economy.” Those unintended consequences won’t be popular, and “may be bigger than Trump has bargained for.” (The Week magazine, December 13, 2024)**

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We deport immigrants at our peril: President Trump's deportation plan isn't just cruel and unnecessary, said Joe Nocera, it's also a recipe for "economic suicide." If the administration does indeed begin to deport hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of undocumented immigrants, American businesses will pay the price. There were 11.1 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. in 2014, down from a peak of 12.2 million in 2007. The numbers have shrunk primarily because a booming Mexican economy has meant fewer Mexicans need to seek work north of the border. But that decline has hurt U.S. industries that rely on manual labor. Today, "many farms are as much as 50 percent short of the workforce they need." If the government were to crack down on the undocumented workers now toiling in American fields, the result would be devastating. Native-born Americans "simply don't want to pick crops," so farmers would have to plant fewer acres or pay higher wages to lure legal immigrants. Those costs would be passed on to consumers, and more fruits and vegetables would be imported -- likely from Mexico. "The building trades, which also rely on immigrants, have much the same problem: not enough workers for too much work." America doesn't need fewer undocumented workers. "It needs more of them. The economy depends on it." *(The Week magazine, March 10, 2017)*

The U.S. deported 2,962 immigrants in April, the lowest monthly number of deportations on record, after the Biden administration directed Immigration and Customs Enforcement to focus on criminals who pose a public safety threat. During Trump's first three years in office, deportations averaged around 20,000 per month. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 21, 2021)*

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The immigration depot at Ellis Island was for third-class passengers. First- and second-class passengers were processed by officials while still onboard their ships. It took between three and five hours to be processed through Ellis Island. About 98 percent of arriving immigrants were allowed into the country. Ellis Island processed about five thousand people a day. The busiest year for Ellis Island was 1907, with 1,004,756 immigrants processed. ***(Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 244)***

The end of illegal immigration: Mass migration from Mexico may be “a thing of the past,” said Michael Barone. Between 1995 and 2000, 2.2 million Mexicans crossed into the U.S. in search of work, sparking a major debate over illegal immigration. But from 2005 to 2010, the influx into the U.S. essentially halted – in fact, 20,000 more Mexicans left the U.S. than arrived here. The reason is simple: Immigrants were badly hurt by the recession, the huge spike in unemployment, and the bursting of the housing bubble. Many of the subprime mortgages sold prior to 2008 went to Latino immigrants, who suddenly found themselves in deep debt and without a job. With their dreams dashed, many Mexicans began to “self-deport,” in Mitt Romney’s chilly phrase. When they returned home, they told their sad, cautionary stories. That’s why I doubt that as the economy rebounds mass Mexican migration will resume. Despite the headlines about the drug war in Mexico, it is rapidly becoming a middle-class country whose economy is growing faster than ours. Mexicans have discovered there is no paradise in El Norte, so they’ve stopped coming – probably for good. *(The Week magazine, December 21, 2012)*

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Europeans were once refugees: These desperate migrants crossing the Mediterranean, struggling to reach the safety of Europe, are my family 70 years ago, said Frans Weisglas. World War II sent thousands of Europeans, including Jews like my mother, scrambling across borders to safety. My mother wrote a book about her journey from German-occupied Netherlands through Belgium and France to the safety of neutral Switzerland. She was safe, and I grew up to become head of the Dutch parliament. Yet what if the Swiss had refused her shelter? "It is distressing how many similarities there are" between my mother's story and those of the Syrians and Africans "fleeing violence, oppression, and discrimination." Now, as we do every May, we celebrate the end of the war, and we "celebrate our freedom." Are we to do so by barring the door against those who have no freedom? Some of the most supposedly patriotic Dutch, who speak so proudly of our resistance during the war, are the very same who also call asylum seekers criminals. The lesson we should draw from World War II is not just the value of resistance but also the imperative of compassion. The Netherlands is now a wealthy democracy. We owe it to our own history to be "open and welcoming" to the less fortunate. *(The Week magazine, May 22, 2015)*

A record 107,500 immigrants reached Europe's borders in July, and 70,000 arrived in June. In 2014, there were only 280,000 registered arrivals over the entire year. Nearly half of this year's migrants are refugees fleeing the Syrian civil war. *(BBC.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 11, 2015)*

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America's fear of immigrants: Donald Trump is hardly the first prominent American to fan the flames of anti-immigrant hysteria, said Catherine Rampell. "The embarrassing truth is that the U.S. has always been hostile to immigrants," with a nativist tradition dating back to the Founding Fathers. Today, we romanticize Ellis Island as "a welcoming ward for generations of dreamers," but it was set up as an outpost of border control, to weed out undesirables. In the 1880s, while Emma Lazarus was penning her sonnet "The New Colossus," now carved on the Statue of Liberty, Congress was passing the Chinese Exclusion Act to keep yellow hordes from "polluting American culture" and stealing American jobs. In the mid-19th century an entire political party -- the Know-Nothings -- sprang from a fear of "morally and racially inferior" German and Irish Catholics flooding into the country. In retrospect, it's amazing that nativists of past eras repeatedly warned that we didn't have room to absorb the waves of Irish, Italian, German, Polish, Jewish, and Asian immigrants, and that their arrival would destroy America's "white" culture. Unfortunately, our national motto has always been: "After me, no more, please." *(The Week magazine, September 11, 2015)*

**Of people convicted of trafficking fentanyl in 2022, 89 percent were U.S. citizens, according to a Cato Institute analysis. The vast majority of fentanyl and other drugs is smuggled in vehicles at legal checkpoints. Just 0.009 percent of migrants apprehended at the border were carrying any fentanyl.*(Politico, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 8/September 15, 2023)***

The U.S. now has about 1.7 million fewer legal immigrants than it would have if pre-pandemic trends had continued, according to an estimate by the Global Migration Center at the University of California, Davis. About 10 million U.S. jobs remain unfilled. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 30, 2022 / January 6, 2023)*

**Immigrants fill a U.S. labor shortage: Since February, 2020, all the job growth in the United States has been driven by foreign-born workers, said Justin Fox in Bloomberg.com. Critics of immigration have used this remarkable fact to claim that foreigners are displacing American labor. But that’s hardly the case. Rather, the supply of working-age native-born Americans is falling. “The continued aging of the Baby Boomers, the last of whom will turn 65 in 2029,” is the main factor in the diminishing labor supply. Fewer young Americans will be entering the workforce to replace them, since U.S. births peaked in 2007 and the trend “has been almost all downhill since.” Without immigration, the labor shortages faced by employers would be much worse. If it seems like “immigrants are taking all the jobs,” it’s because “no one else is available.” *(The Week magazine, April 26, 2024)***

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Florida no longer recognizes the driver’s license issued to unauthorized immigrants by five other states. A new law signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis makes the licenses issued to immigrants by Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont invalid on Florida’s roads and highways. DeSantisdescribed the law as “the strongest anti-illegal immigration legislation in the country,” but critics say states cannot void other states’ laws. *(The Week magazine, July 21, 2023)*

Florida would lose 10 percent of its workforce and about $12.6 billion of the GDP if it expelled all its undocumented workers, according to the Florida Policy Institute, a left-leaning policy research organization. A new state law that takes effect July 1 will force employers to verify the work eligibility status of their employees with a federal database. *(NPR.org, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 16, 2023)*

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More than 14 percent of the U.S. population in 2016 was foreign-born, the highest level of immigrants in the U.S. since the turn of the 20th century. *(Axios.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 14, 2018)*

Immigrants to America who came through Ellis Island in the early 1900s had to prove they were free of disease or wait in a hospital until cured, if that waspossible. Those with incurable diseases were sent back, as were women traveling alone, or anyone with under twenty dollars, unless a sponsor or family member was there to meet them. **(Don Voorhees, in *The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 209)***

The 23 members of the French soccer team, which won the World Cup last weekend with a victory over Croatia, include 16 from immigrant families, mostly from Africa. *(Los Angeles Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 27, 2018)*

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Similarly stunt-like was Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis’s decision to fly 49 migrants to Martha’s Vineyard last year, which became a reliable applause line in the governor’s stump speech. Everything about that story stinks, including the fact that the aviation company involved, Vertol – which had close ties to DeSantis aides – made a handsome profit. *(Helen Lewis, in The Atlantic magazine) DeSantis spent $1.5 million of taxpayer money to send asylum seekers to Martha’s Vineyard. (David Frum, in The Atlantic magazine)*

Undocumented migrant workers are in high demand in Florida to rebuild after Hurricane Ian, just weeks after Gov. Ron DeSantis made headlines by flying Venezuelan migrants to Martha’s Vineyard. “We’d like them back,” said one real estate agent. Undocumented immigrants account for 23 percent of U.S. construction laborers and 38 percent of drywallers, according to a 2021 nonprofit report. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 4, 2022)*

**A great-great-grandmother of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis was an illiterate immigrant from Italy who would have been barred from entering the U.S. if she’d arrived three months later. Luigia Colucci arrived at Ellis Island on Feb. 21, 1917, pregnant and with two teenage daughters; in May of that year, a law aimed at stanching the flow of “undesirable” immigrants went into effect that barred illiterate people from being admitted into the U.S. (Tampa Bay Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 30, 2022)**

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Immigrants send $34 billion out of the U.S. every year to help family members still living in their home countries. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 27, 2005)*

Unlawful crossings into the U.S. from Mexico have increased again after dropping to a two-year low in June. Border patrol agents apprehended 132,652 migrants in July – still below last year’s peak of more than 220,000, but a 33 percent increase over the previous month. Officials said human traffickers are driving the surge. *(CBSNews.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 1, 2023)*

Illegal aliens have always been a problem in the United States. Ask any Indian. *(Robert Orben, humorist)*

**Inflaming division: Former President Trump doubled down this week on his new stump-speech line that undocumented immigrants are “poisoning the blood of our country,” dismissing suggestions that he’s echoing Adolf Hitler by saying, “ I never read Mein Kampf.” Trump’s attack on migrants, who he says come from “mental institutions,” drew criticism from some Senate Republicans, including Susan Collins of Maine, who called the remarks “deplorable” and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. But Trump’s allies appeared unbothered; Tommy Tuberville of Alabama said, “I’m mad he wasn’t tougher than that,” and Ohio’s J. D. Vance said it’s “obviously true” that “illegal immigrants were poisoning the blood of the country.” In recent speeches, Trump has also quoted Russian President Vladimir Putin saying that the U.S. “cannot pretend to teach others about democracy.” *(The Week magazine, Decemver 29, 2023/January 5, 2024)***

About 1,000 migrants a day who are allowed into the U.S. to await immigration or asylum hearings are being issued a special phone and an app that require them to regularly check in with the government and respond to monitoring calls from authorities. Nearly 250,000 migrants are currently being tracked by these digital monitoring devices or ankle monitors to ensure they show up at court hearings. *(CNN.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 17, 2022)*

Immigrants who "jumped the line": People who resent illegal immigrants often recite the mantra, "get in line like everybody else," said Julia Ioffe. As the child of Soviet Jews who jumped the line because of a presidential diktat, "I wonder what, exactly, they're talking about." Ten of millions of Americans are descendants of people who came here when there were no immigration laws or who were given exemptions to laws and quotas. Until the 20th century, there were essentially no immigration laws -- no line to wait in. "The ancestors of Bill O'Reilly and his ilk, setting sail in the 19th century from Ireland, England, Germany, France, Italy, Poland, etc., simply got on a ship and went to America." In the 1920s, the government regulated immigration with quotas heavily favoring "white" Protestants from Europe, while discriminating against swarthy Jews, Italians, and Greeks. Those quotas were later eased for "humanitarian" reasons. During the Cold War, Koreans, Vietnamese, Cubans, and Soviet Jews were allowed to "jump the line" as refugees, often by presidential order. Was that cheating? Face it: U.S. immigration law has never been consistent or fair, and politics often determines who gets in. *(The Week magazine, December 12, 2014)*

Since 9/11, an average of nine Americans per year have been killed by Islamic terrorists on U.S. soil. That compares with 12,843 killed per year in gun homicides and 37,000 who die in auto accidents. *(CNN.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 10, 2017)*

**We start the year with a government shut down over a wall -- a wall that is somehow supposed to protect us from the dangers of rapists and murderers, foreign laborers, and Central American children seeking asylum. The reality is that the number of undocumented immigrants in the United States has been falling for a decade. Many of those would be documented, were it not for the careless discarding of a painstaking, bipartisan immigration compromise after "amnesty" became a dirty word in the immigration debate. Meanwhile, in March, 2018, the total backlog of asylum cases stood at about 318,000. With a current U.S. population of 325 million, that means there is one person seeking asylum for every 1,000 residents. The U.S. has been processing the backlog slowly, it's true, deciding on about 40,000 asylum cases each year, with less than half of applicants getting permission to stay. Yes, there are more applicants now, but no matter how you count them, it's not exactly a deluge. Yet none of those facts matters, because we seem to live now in a state of perpetual fear. At this point, everybody understands that the wall is a metaphor. It says Keep out, of course. But it also says, somehow with no shame, that we are afraid. Where once fear was something we strove to overcome -- remember "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself"? -- it is now something many Americans embrace. We are a nation on lockdown, rushing to close the doors to every room and nail shut the entrances to the building. Our children practice lockdown drills in school every month. Yet all the indications are that the biggest dangers do not come from outside. It's just the beginning of the year, and it's an inauspicious start, reminiscent of the scene in every horror movie where the protagonist bars all the doors, turns around, and finds the monster staring right back at him. *(Mark Gimein, in The Week magazine, January 11, 2019)***

The longer immigrants live in the U.S., research shows, the worse their rates of heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes – mainly due to their increased consumption of fat-and sugar-laden junk food. Immigrants’ American-born children have higher incomes than their parents, but on average live shorter lives. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 31, 2013)*

Immigrants have a lower crime rate than native-born people, and provide little or no job competition to natives, since they take mostly menial jobs. *(The Week magazine, October 16, 2015)*

Many an American whose ancestors came over on the Mayflower is lucky -- there were no immigration laws then. *(Evan Esar, in 20,000 Quips & Quotes, p. 413)*

Unauthorized migrants made a net contribution of about $12 billion to the Social Security system in 2010, the most recent year for which such figures are available. They are barred by law from drawing benefits from the program. *(The Week magazine, July 26, 2024)*

Many of the nation's major cities would be shrinking dramatically were it not for the influx of immigrants in recent years, the Census Bureau reported. The New York metro region, for example, added 1 million immigrants between 2000 and 2006. Without them, the region would have lost nearly 600,000 people. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 27, 2007)*

U.S. immigrants make up 13 percent of the population, 16 percent of the workforce, and 28 percent of small-business owners, according to a report by the Fiscal Policy Institute and the Americas Society. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 30, 20150*

Immigrants landing at Ellis Island received an initial six-second medical exam. If doctors noted any potential problems, they marked the immigrants’ clothes with a code letter in chalk, indicating what was suspected and that further examination was required. ***(Don Voorhees, in The Indispensable Book of Useless Information, p. 238)***

Melania Knauss was granted a green card while dating future husband Donald Trump in 2001, under the elite EB-1 program -- the so-called Einstein visa designed for scientists, authors, multinational business executives, Olympic athletes, and other professionals who can demonstrate "sustained national and international acclaim," Knauss, then an obscure model, was one of the 1 percent of immigrants who received green cards that year through the EB-1 program. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 16, 2018)*

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Mexico now takes in nearly $60 billion a year in remittances, mostly from workers in the United States sending money to family. *(Reuters, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 18, 2023)*

Every month, Mexicans living in the U.S. send $2 billion across the border to their families. More than 6 million Mexicans, or about 7 percent of the adult population, benefit from such remittances, which collectively account for nearly 3 percent of the country's economy. *(FiveThirtyEight.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 10, 2017)*

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**Four hundred thousand immigrants a year enter the United States, happy to share the troubles of which the natives complain. *(Quoted in Chicago Tribune)***

**Since the Biden administration instituted a new asylum policy requiring migrants to apply from their home countries, arrests at the U.S.-Mexican border have plunged by nearly 50 percent, federal officials report. Arrests have dropped from between 8,000 and 9,000 a day at the end of 2022 to between 4,000 and 5,000. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 10, 2023)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**New York City is now spending nearly $5 million a day to house and feed migrants, including tens of thousands who were bused there from the border by the Republican governors of Texas and Arizona. Caring for migrants will cost the city some $4.2 billion in this fiscal year and the next, and Mayor Eric Adams is asking the White House for federal aid. *(New York Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 17, 2023)***

**New York City has converted about 100 hotels and other facilities into housing for 50,000 migrants who’ve been bussed to the city from the southern border. They include tourist hotels in midtown Manhattan that now solely house migrant families. Mayor Eric Adams says housing the migrants could cost $4 billion over the next two years and could lead to cuts in city services. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 7, 2023)***

**Overwhelmed by the arrival of 130,000 migrants in the past year, New York City is now offering new arrivals free plane tickets to almost anywhere in the world. The cost of a one-way trip is sometimes cheaper than the $380 it costs to house a migrant in a shelter for a single day. Some migrants who have taken the city’s offer have flown to destinations including Morocco and Colombia. *(Politico, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 10, 2023)***

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**About half of the 675 immigrants rounded up in deportation raids by the Trump administration in February had either no criminal convictions or only traffic offenses. Deportation arrests from January to mid-March have surged 32 percent compared with the same time last year. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 12, 2017)***

**Immigration arrests rose 32.6 percent in the first weeks of the Trump administration, with newly empowered federal agents detaining 21,362 immigrants between January and mid-March, compared with 16,104 during that same period last year. Arrests of immigrants with no criminal record more than doubled, to 5,441. *(WashingtonPost.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 28, 2017)***

**President Trump is keeping his promise to crack down on undocumented immigrants. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) made more than 41,000 arrests in President Trump's first 100 days -- an increase of 37.6 percent over the same period in 2016. About 25 percent of those arrested had no prior criminal convictions. *(NationalReview.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 2, 2017)***

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Poll Watch: 76% of Americans oppose an immigration policy that separates children and parents who enter the country without permission, including 91% of Democrats and 79% of Independents. But 53% of Republicans who watch Fox News support family separation. *(Public Religion Research Institute, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 6, 2020)*

Lawyers working to reunite immigrant parents and children separated by the Trump administration report that there are still 506 outstanding cases where the parents are yet to be found; in more than 300 cases, the parents were deported while their kids stayed behind. Over the past month, the parents of 105 kids were located. *(NBCNews.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 19, 2021)*

Washington finally appears to be coalescing around a plan to reform immigration policy. But as the issue is debated in coming weeks, let’s remember our history. As far back as the 17th century, Americans have viewed the latest wave of immigrants with ambivalence, if not disgust, and deemed many of them unworthy of citizenship. In colonial New England, Puritans incensed by the “accursed tenets” of the Quakers desperately tried to keep them from landing on their shores. Later, there was resistance to conferring citizenship on Native Americans and African-Americans, Chinese and Irish, Poles and Italians. Yet we are all still here. And more of us than we’d like to admit – or even realize – have some ancestor who came to America through the back door, as a stowaway, deported criminal, debt dodger, or other delinquent. I recently learned about one of my own, a Dubliner named Peter Coyle. He served on a privateer that preyed on American and French merchant ships during the Revolutionary War until it was sunk and he was brought to Yorktown, Virginia, as a prisoner of war. When he was set free, no one made him leave, so he married an Irish girl and moved to Pennsylvania and then on to Kentucky. The sole requirements for American citizenship then were to be free, white, in the country for two years, and of “good moral character.” Somehow, Peter qualified, even though his loyalty to America wavered. According to an account written by his grandson, “While under the influence of intoxicating liquors, his mind would revert to his former allegiance and he would hurrah for King George of Great Britain.” I’m glad the guy caught a break. *(James Graff, in The Week magazine, February 8, 2013)*

Immigration was responsible for 48 percent of U.S. population growth during the past fiscal year, up from 35 percent in fiscal year 2011. One in 10 Americans counties experienced population growth primarily due to immigration. *(The Week magazine, May 3, 2019)*

**Reading makes immigrants of us all -- it takes us away from home, but more important, it finds homes for us everywhere. *(Hazel Rochman, in Against Borders)***

People who believe in restricted immigration believe that the worst is yet to come. *(Evan Esar, in 20,000 Quips & Quotes, p. 413)*

For the first time in four decades, more Mexican immigrants returned to their home country in recent years than entered the U.S. Between 2009 and 2014, an estimated 870,000 Mexicans came to the U.S., while about a million went back to Mexico -- a net reduction of 130,000. *(USA Today, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 4, 2015)*

**Remember always that all of us are descended from immigrants. *(Franklin D. Roosevelt)***

More stringent security measures adopted after 9/11 have had little impact on illegal immigration. During the last four years, an estimated 3.1 million undocumented migrants came to the U.S., compared with 3.6 million in the previous four years. *(The Atlantic Monthly, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 12, 2005)*

Migrant stunt: California Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom called Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis a “small, pathetic man” this week for sending 36 Latin American migrants on chartered planes to Sacramento – continuing DeSantis’ stunt of shipping migrants to liberal cities. Newsom said those involved could face charges for tricking the migrants, who allegedly were told at an El Paso, Texas, shelter that they’d get help finding work in California, only to be left outside a church. Florida officials took credit for the two flights, releasing video of migrants celebrating their arrival. “For left-leaning mayors,” state spokespersonAlecia Collins said, “the relocation of those illegally crossing the United States border is not new. But suddenly, when Florida sends illegal aliens to a sanctuary city, it’s false imprisonment and kidnapping.” A Texas sheriff this week recommended criminal charges tied to Florida flying migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard, Mass., last fall. *(The Week magazine, June 16, 2023)*

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**Texas has spent roughly $150 million over the past two years to bus more than 100,000 migrants from the state to self-declared sanctuary cities such as Chicago; Washington, D.C.; and New York City. Despite early promises from Gov. Greg Abbott that private donations would cover the costs of busing, more than 99.5 percent of it has been borne by taxpayers. *(CNN.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 29, 2024)***

**Texas can’t kick out all its migrants: Blinded by his own “zenophobia,” Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has overplayed his hand, said Israel Lopez Gutierrez. Abbott’s defining trait is “his blatant rejection of Mexicans and Mexico” – he’s the one who insisted on putting razor wire along the border between Texas and Mexico, which is supposed to be policed not by him but by federal agents. Now he’s come up with a new state law, SB4, that would let state police arrest and deport the undocumented. SB4 is currently on hold pending judicial review, and if it does go into effect, it would cause an immediate rift with Mexico. But it would also be a catastrophe for Texas. The state is 40 percent Hispanic – will it check papers on all those people? Both the Texas and the U.S. economies depend on immigrants, including undocumented ones; the Congressional Budget Office says these workers will contribute $7 trillion to the U.S. economy in the next decade. Look, “these are campaign times,” and Abbott is clearly giddy at having recently been floated as Donald Trump’s possible running mate. “Talking about kicking migrants out” plays well. But even if Trump wins the election, he won’t “shoot himself in the foot by doing without that powerful immigrant workforce.” Abbott’s plan is doomed. *(The Week magazine, April 5, 2024) \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\****

The U.S. has resettled only about 690 Ukrainians since October – and only a handful of the more than 3.5 million who have fled since the Russian invasion. Though Congress has approved $1.4 billion to help with the Ukrainian refugee crisis, the refugee administration process became so backed up after the Trump administration – which capped refugee admissions at 15,000 – that Ukrainians have no hope of coming to the U.S. *(CNN.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 1, 2022)*

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Immigrants started more than half of the current crop of U.S.-based startups valued at $1 billion or more, according to a study by the National Foundation for American Policy, a nonpartisan think tank. The 44 biggest immigrant startups generated 760 jobs per company. *(WSJ.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 1, 2016)*

The U.S. last year spent $18 billion on immigration and border enforcement, more than the combined annual budgets of the FBI, the Secret Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 30, 2013)*

About half of U.S. startups that are estimated to be worth more than $1 billion were founded by immigrants, according to the National Foundation for American Policy, a think tank. Apple co-founder Steve Jobs was the son of a Syrian immigrant, and Google co-founder Sergey Brin is a refugee from the *former Soviet Union. (WashingtonPost.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 17, 2017)*

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The U.S. immigration agency this week reached the 65,000 cap on visas for skilled foreign workers within hours of making those slots available. In past years, the cap wasn't reached for weeks or even months. *(Los Angeles Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 27, 2007)*

Why Mexico will never halt migration: If the U.S. really wants to stop illegal immigration, said Ruben Navarrette Jr., “we can’t count on Mexico to be a partner.” Various Mexican presidents have pretended to help the U.S. keep people from streaming across the border, but the Banco de Mexico – the nation’s central bank – recently revealed that in 2021, Mexican migrants sent a staggering $51.6 billion back home to relatives. That’s a jump of 27 percent in a year – during a pandemic in which legal and illegal migrants did “essential” jobs. These remittances have grown from 2 percent of Mexico’s GDP in 2010 to 3.8 percent in 2020. “The river of money” sent home by Mexican farm workers, construction workers, landscapers, cooks, dishwashers, elder-care workers, and nannies helps keep Mexico’s economy afloat. Their strenuous, low-paid labor, at jobs very few native-born Americans will do, also keeps the American economy humming. So while Americans argue endlessly about immigration, “let’s get real.” Mexico won’t block its people from crossing the border, and the 20,000 Border Patrol agents, drones, fences, walls, and electronic sensors can’t stop them from coming. A steady stream of migrants from Mexico serves both nations’ interests – whether our leaders admit it or not. *(The Week magazine, March 4, 2022)*

Without the arrival of new immigrants, the U.S. working-age population will drop from about 173 million today to some 166 million by 2035, according to the Pew Research Center. If the current rates of legal and illegal immigration hold, the number of working-age adults will rise to an estimated 183 million in 2035. *(CBSNews.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 24, 2017)*

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