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United States Immigration

United States immigration has been a huge topic of discussion, especially within the past few years when President Donald Trump stated in his presidency campaign that he was going to build a wall along Mexico’s border to keep out the Mexicans. The migration from Mexico to the United States began to skyrocket during the mid-1990’s when unemployment began to sharply rise in Mexico. The economy only generated around 120,000 jobs annually, which left tens of thousands of people jobless. With the economy in this huge crisis many Mexicans began migrating to the United States so they can find steady work. Between 1995 and 2002 the number of Mexican births residing in the United States increased from 6.7 million to 9.6 million. Then by 2004 the Mexican-born United States population increased to 11.2 million. The Mexican people were very hardworking people, as they were willing to work with their hands and do a lot of manual labor that most people were not willing to do. Most employers were happy to hire them because they can pay them a fraction of what they would pay an American worker. They were a vital part of the United States labor force; however, many Americans were getting upset because the Mexican’s proved to be better workers and many American’s became jobless.

In class we watched a similar situation take place in the film El Norte. El Norte told the story about how a brother and a sister named Ricardo and Rosa traveled to the United States to make a better life for themselves after both their mother and their father passed away. They illegally cross the United States border with the help of an old family friend living in Oaxaca and they begin living in Los Angeles. At the beginning of the film, Ricardo and Rosa’s godmother would talk highly about the United States and how they are all so privileged, so Rosa and Ricardo were very excited because they thought they can finally make some money and have some nice things. As soon and Ricardo and Rosa got to the United States they put a lot of work in to try and make a name for themselves. Ricardo and Rosa even put in a lot of work trying to learn English so they can become more valuable at work. Ricardo’s English starts to come along very nicely and he eventually gets promoted at his job for all of his hard work. At one point he even gets an opportunity to work in Chicago and within a few years of being there he will be granted his citizenship; however, all of that went to shreds when one of the American workers got mad Ricardo got promoted and he didn’t so he called Immigration control to deport Ricardo and just like that Ricardo was out of work and had nothing going for him anymore.

What happened to Ricardo has probably happened to countless Mexican’s illegally entering the country. People from Mexico are coming to the United States only to make a better life for them and their family. Jobs are very scarce in their country, so they come here looking for work and because they are willing to work harder than most Americans, the Americans get jealous and report them to immigration control. It really makes you feel bad for them because they don’t mean any harm. They are only trying to support them and their loved ones.