**Contention 1 is a Dystopia.**

**Carothers-23** (Thomas Carothers, 5-30-2023, “Is the Global Tide Turning in Favor of Democracy?” Carnegie Endowment.

https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2023/05/is-the-global-tide-turning-in-favor-of-democracy?lang=en //vy)

In his March 29 [address](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2023/03/29/remarks-by-president-biden-at-the-summit-for-democracy-virtual-plenary-on-democracy-delivering-on-global-challenges/) during the second U.S.-led Summit for Democracy, U.S. President Joe Biden declared that **democracies** are “**turning the tide**” **against** **democratic** **backsliding** and that “**democracies** of the **world** are **getting stronger, not weaker,**” while “**autocracies** of the **world** are **getting weaker, not stronger.**” In a recent Foreign Affairs [article](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/samantha-power-how-democracy-can-win-counter-autocracy) on countering autocracy globally, the head of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Samantha Power, wrote that **2022** might have been “a **high-water mark** for **authoritarianism**” and the “**autocrats** are **now on the back foot**.” This optimistic narrative builds on the case made by **various** **political** **observers** who in global political [retrospectives](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/09/briefing/dissent-democracy-freedom-house.html) at the end of 2022 **pointed** to **accumulating** [**good** **news**](https://edition.cnn.com/2022/12/01/opinions/democracy-autocracy-russia-china-iran-avlon/index.html) for **democracy** and **speculated** that a **new positive tipping point** for **global** **democracy** might be **at** **hand**.

**US tech policy is the linchpin.**

**Wang-21** (Maya Wang, 4-8-2021, [Associate Director at the Human Rights Watch, Board Member of the Hong Kong Democracy Council],“China’s Techno-Authoritarianism Has Gone Global,” Human Rights Watch.

https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/04/08/chinas-techno-authoritarianism-has-gone-global //vy)

**Washington can supply a genuine alternative to the encroachment of Chinese techno-authoritarianism,** but only if it first gets its own house in order. The United States should reform its [national security surveillance laws](https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/03/05/us-end-bulk-data-collection-program) and regulate how American companies can collect, analyze, and share personal data. Washington should better protect biometric data—for example, it should consider banning law enforcement from using facial recognition **and** strictly regulate the collection of sensitive personal information, including DNA, by the country’s tech giants. It should also explore ways to allow people to [shape and contro](https://www.adalovelaceinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Legal-mechanisms-for-data-stewardship_report_Ada_AI-Council-2.pdf)l the use of their data. At the same time, U.S. policymakers should consider escalating actions against companies that contribute to China’s mass surveillance state. The Global Magnitsky Act sanctions, which allow U.S. policymakers to sanction companies that abuse human rights, could be useful in this regard and could help delay the realization of China’s Orwellian ambitions. To enact long-term solutions to the problem of techno-authoritarianism, Washington can’t go it alone. The United States should **work with like-minded governments in various technical standard-setting bodies** such as the International Telecommunication Union, which sets 5G standards. These governments, along with those that join new initiatives to create democratic technology alliances, should reject attempts to regulate based on vaguely formulated [notions](https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/11/18/rules-new-surveillance-reality) of “ethics.” For instance, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development published hazy principles to guide the use of artificial intelligence, such as “autonomy,” “diversity,” and “fairness.” Instead, the United States and like-minded governments should push for legally binding rules and other regulatory interventions that holds tech companies accountable to human rights standards, such as [mandatory due diligence checks.](https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/11/09/q-proposal-eu-legislation-mandatory-human-rights-and-environmental-due-diligence) **Washington** should **work with its allies to ensure that people in China and around the world have access to an Internet that is free from censorship** and **surveillance**—an **alternative to China’s** [**Digital Silk Road**](https://c/Users/wangm/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/Q7DLRYD1/Will%20China%20Control%20the%20Global%20Internet%20Via%20its%20Digital%20Silk%20Road%3f%20-%20Carnegie%20Endowment%20for%20International%20Peace) **initiative**. A democratic [substitute](https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/the-uk-is-forging-a-5g-club-of-democracies-to-avoid-reliance-on-huawei/) for Huawei’s 5G should not be just any 5G company based in a democracy but one that meets human rights standards itself. **Washington** and its **allies should think ambitiously about how technology can reinvigorate democracies**. For instance, they might invest in developing [digital public squares](https://www.politico.com/news/agenda/2021/01/05/to-thrive-our-democracy-needs-digital-public-infrastructure-455061)—forums for public interaction and collaboration outside big tech’s social media platforms, which [sow division](https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/global-6) and **enable** disinformation in pursuit of profits. The United States can take a page from [Taiwan](https://www.noemamag.com/the-frontiers-of-digital-democracy/) and [Barcelona](https://www.wired.co.uk/article/barcelona-decidim-ada-colau-francesca-bria-decode), where technology is augmenting civic participation and democratic governance and may help **craft a truly democratic techno-political system**. The **U.S.-Chinese competition over technology could shape the future**. **If Washington is serious about protecting privacy** and **promoting human rights, it should seize the initiative from China** by **upholding these standards for everyone who uses U.S. technology**, **domestically** and **around** **the** **world**.

**It’ll spillover globally.**

**Brady-19** (Aaron Brady, 8-20-2019, “How the US Exported Its Border Around the World.” The Nation. https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/todd-miller-new-book-empire-of-borders-interview/ doobz)

Journalist Todd Miller’s Empire of Borders is about how dramatically and completely this easy simplicity can mislead us about what the border really is, where it is, and where it is going. Borders aren’t just there. Not only were they made (often arbitrarily and with great cruelty and violence), but the US border, in particular, extends far beyond the frontier line that separates one country from another, even far beyond the 100-mile range that Homeland Security considers the border zone. The US border is a massive **global apparatus**, an **interconnected network** of partnerships, funding, multinational industries, and international agreements, stretching across every continent and **saturating the world**. Most important, it’s **still growing**. With a climate-changed future on the horizon—and the **prospect of climate refugees** from around the globe growing exponentially—walls and fences and towers are proliferating, as the **global border security industrial complex** accelerates its efforts. From his home in Arizona, Miller tracks the border from Guatemala and Honduras to the Caribbean, Israel, the Philippines, and Kenya, interviewing subjects on every side of that multidimensional line. I recently spoke with Miller about tracking the border and reporting on it. Our conversation has been edited for style and content. Todd Miller: The idea first occurred to me in 2012, when I was on the west coast of Puerto Rico, on a research trip for my book Border Patrol Nation. I saw the same green-striped Border Patrol vehicles roving the west coast as in southern Arizona, where I live. When I learned that Border Patrol could legally operate only 30 miles away from the Dominican coast—since the Mona Island was a US territory—I thought, “Wow, this thing, the border, is so much more extensive than I realized.” Mind you, this was all happening a thousand miles from the US mainland. Then, when I went to the Dominican Republic to investigate US funding and training of the DR’s border patrol, for the border with Haiti, I really began to see the multiple, widespread, programs that were, as officials would say, pushing out the border. AB: What does that mean, “pushing out the border”? TM: Well, the idea that the US border is just the boundary line with Mexico, for example, is not true. It’s much bigger and more expansive. In 2004, [Customs and Border Protection] Commissioner Robert Bonner talked about “extending our zone of security where we can do so, beyond our physical borders—so that American borders are the last line of defense, not the first line of defense.” And during his confirmation hearing to be secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Gen. John Kelly said that “border security cannot be attempted as an endless series of goal line stands on the one-foot line at the ports of entry or along the thousands of miles of border between this country and Mexico.” “The defense of the southwest border,” he said, “starts 1,500 miles to the south, with Peru.” AB: But it also blurs borders into one another, into one single, continuous, global border regime. You write about the “Palestine-Mexico” border, for example, the way technologies, techniques, and even laws are being standardized across the world, the way border control is a kind of globalization. TM: The Palestine example is a good one to demonstrate how this works. “Smart wall” technology gets **tested out in the occupied Palestinian territories** first, like the West Bank wall**. “Smart wall”** means walls that are either equipped with or reinforced by **sensor systems, cameras, radar systems, drones, and linked to command and control centers**. These are technologies of segregation, of apartheid. But if a company can show that their technology is **effective**, like the Haifa-based company **Elbit** Systems claims in the West Bank, they can then **sell it to other countries** for their own border and homeland security enforcement systems. It’s **field-tested**. If it works in the occupation of Palestine, the argument goes, then it can work everywhere else. And that is exactly what is happening. In 2014, Elbit got a **contract from US Customs and Border Protection** to build 52 surveillance towers in southern Arizona, for the border with Mexico. But now that those towers are being deployed, they get **showcased to other countries as a model of what US border enforcement is**. This also leads to another big part of the US pushing out the borders—sending officials to the other borders around the world so they can diagnose the problems with that border and give recommendations that result in trainings and resource transfers and suggestions for technology deployments. They can suggest, for example, that other countries adopt **smart walls** that were first developed in **occupied Palestine**, **modeled in Arizona**, but coming to **a country near you**. So this is a way that the global border system propagates and standardizes itself, a **globalization** of essentially **oppressive technologies** of exclusion and division for **profit**.

**Reversing progress is existential.**

**Belfield-23** [Research Associate and Academic Project Manager at the University of Cambridge's Centre for the Study of Existential Risk (Haydn, “Collapse, Recovery, and Existential Risk,” in How Worlds Collapse: What History, Systems, and Complexity Can Teach Us About Our Modern World and Fragile Future, p. 74-76] //JC

**A world dominated by totalitarian states** **would be** more incompetent, **more war-prone,** **less cooperative,** **and** **more** **inhibitive of progress** than one dominated by democratic states. Our current world is not particularly competent, peaceful, cooperative, or progressive—a totalitarian-dominated world would be worse. **It would** **increase the risk of** another collapse and **extinction** **and could** **shape the future** **toward** **less desirable trajectories** (Beckstead, 2013). **Totalitarian states are** incompetent. They are **bad at forecasting and dealing with disasters** (Caplan, 2008).16 This can be seen most clearly in the great famines of Communist China and the USSR, in which millions died (Applebaum, 2017; Becker, 1996; Dikotter, 2010; Snyder, 2010). In comparison, functioning multiparty democracies rarely, if ever, experience famines (Sen, 2010). “Established autocracies” (or “personal”/“sultanist”) are particularly bad, as there are few checks or restraints on arbitrary rule and the whims and ideology of the single individual, even from other elites (Svolik, 2012). From the inside, the “inner circle” around Mao, Stalin, and Hitler seems incredibly chaotic, with elites strongly incentivized to conceal information and encouraged by the autocrat to squabble and feud—so they are divided (Conquest, 1992; Kershaw, 2008; Zhang & Halliday, 2006). **If totalitarian states are worse at addressing social, environmental, and technological problems**, then **a world dominated by them** **would likely be** **worse at** **responding to risks** **of** collapse and **extinction**. **A world dominated by totalitarian states is** **more likely to have** **major wars**. States with near-universal adult suffrage rarely (if ever) go to war with one another (Barnhart et al., 2020), so a world dominated by democracies has fewer wars. **Miscalculation** **might be** **a particular problem** **for totalitarian states due to personalization and disincentives for accurate information**, leading to well-known strategic disasters such as Hitler and Stalin’s blunders in World War II (Bialer, 1970; Noakes & Pridham, 2001), or at a smaller level, Saddam Hussein’s rejection of diplomacy (Atkinson, 1993). **War** **makes collapse and** **extinction** **more** **likely, by** **raising the chance of** **weapons** **of** **mass** **destruction** **being used**. Linked to this, **totalitarian states are less cooperative** than democratic states. While cooperation is possible (Ginsburg, 2020), their internal norms are characterized by paranoia and treachery, and their lack of transparency limits their ability to credibly commit to agreements. **This is bad for** **all risks that require cooperation** **such as** **pandemics or climate change** (Tomasik, 2015). Finally, **continued** **social and scientific** **progress** **is likely to** **reduce risks** **of** collapse and **extinction**. Social progress could **reduce global inequality and other risk factors. Scientific progress could** help **address natural risks and climate change** (Sandberg, 2018), **differentially increase defensive rather than offensive power** (Garfinkel & Dafoe, 2019), **and** **solve** **safety challenges in** **AI or biotech**nology (Russell, 2019). However, as we will now discuss **totalitarian states** **would** likely **inhibit social progress**. A central question from a longtermist perspective is: Which values should shape the future? I would argue that we should prefer it to be shaped by liberal democratic values. This is not to say that the current democracy-dominated world is perfect—far from it. The fate of billions of factory-farmed animals or hundreds of millions of people in extreme poverty makes that abundantly clear. However, democracies have two advantages. First, democracies have space for cosmopolitan values such as human rights, plurality, freedom, and equality. These are better than those that characterize life under totalitarianism: Fear, terror, subjection, and secrecy. Second, they have within themselves the mechanism to allow progress. In the last 100 (or even 50) years, the lives of women, LGBT people, religious minorities, and non-white people have dramatically improved. Our “moral circle” has expanded, and could continue to expand (Singer, 1981). The arc of the moral universe is long, but given the right conditions, it might just bend toward justice (King, 1968). A global society dominated by these values, and with the possibility of improving more, has a better longterm potential. A totalitarian-dominated world, on the other hand, would reduce the space for resistance and progress—distorting the human trajectory. **We should** **be** **particularly** **concerned about “bottlenecks” at which values are particularly important—where there is a risk of “locking-in**” some particular set of (possibly far from optimal) **values**. While they are currently far-off, **future** **technologies** **such as** **artificial** **general** **intelligence**, **space settlement,** **life extension** **(of autocrats),** **or** **much better** **surveillance** **could enable** **lock-in** (Caplan, 2008).17 Conditional on them avoiding new catastrophes, world orders dominated by totalitarians could be quite long-lasting (Caplan, 2008). Democracies can undermine authoritarian and totalitarian regimes through the following ways: Control, including conquest; contagion through proximity; and consent, promoting receptivity toward democratization (Whitehead, 2001). Democracies can actively undermine these regimes through war, sanctions, hosting rebellious exiles, or sponsoring internal movements. Passively, through contagion, they offer a demonstration that a better, more prosperous life is possible. For example, in the final years of the USSR, ordinary Soviet citizens were able to see that the West had a higher standard of living—more innovation, more choice, and more consumer goods. The elites were able to read books from the outside, and travel—Gorbachev’s contacts and friendships with European politicians may have made him more favorable to social democracy (Brown, 1996). Democracies can undermine the will and capacity of the coercive apparatus (Bellin, 2004). However, in a world not dominated by democracies, all these pressures would be far less. A world in which, say, totalitarian regimes emerged as dominant after World War II (for example if the USA was defeated) could be self-reinforcing and long-lasting, like the self-reinforcing relationship of Oceania, Eurasia, and Eastasia (Orwell, 1949). Orwell’s fictional world is characterized by constant low-grade warfare to justify emergency powers and secure elites, and with shifting alliances of convenience as states bandwagon and balance, thereby preventing any resolution. A totalitarian-dominated world order could be rather robust, perhaps for decades or even centuries. **A long-lasting totalitarian-dominated** **world** **would** **extend** **the period of time humanity would spend with a heightened** **risk** **of** **collapse or** **extinction, as well as** **increased** **potential for** distortion of the human trajectory and the possibility that a “**lock-in**” event may occur. This example illustrates the possibility of a “negative recovery,” resulting in a trajectory with less or no scientific and social progress and a less favorable geopolitical situation, which would threaten the destruction of humanity’s longterm potential

**C2) is Border Relations**

**Mexican relations are good and improving**

JACOB **POUSHTERAND** JORDAN **LIPPERT**, 4-30-20**23**, "6 facts about how Mexicans view the U.S. and their own country," Pew Research Center,

https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/09/08/6-facts-about-how-mexicans-view-the-us-and-their-own-country/, accessed 7-16-2024, //CL

**Mexicans have increasingly positive views of U.S.-Mexico relations. Overall, 63% of Mexicans have a favorable opinion of the U.S., while 30% have an unfavorable opinion**. A somewhat smaller share **(43%) has confidence in U.S. President Joe Biden, although this is significantly higher than the 8% who had confidence in former President Donald Trump in spring 2019. Nearly eight-in-ten Mexicans (77%) say relations between the U.S. and Mexico are good. This share has increased more than 20 percentage points since this question was last asked in 2019, during Trump’s presidency.** However, Mexicans are split on whether the U.S. takes their country’s interests into account when making foreign policy decisions: 51% say the U.S. does, while 48% say it does not. This is a significant change from 2019, when only 32% said the U.S. considered Mexican interests.

**And**

Gustavo Almaraz **Petrie**, Cecilia Farfan-Mendez, Alexandra Helfgott & 5 More, 6-20-20**24**, "Expert Take: How Will the Sheinbaum Presidency Impact Mexico?,"

Wilson Center, https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/expert-take-how-will-sheinbaum-presidency-impact-mexico, accessed 9-4-2024, //coop

US-Mexico relations will be tough to manage for the months ahead and could become more challenging to guide depending on the outcome of the November US

elections. **Yet, there is reason to be hopeful that Claudia Sheinbaum will bring a reasoned and better-coordinated approach to engaging with the United States. On a very basic level, current president Andres Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) regularly focused on feeding his domestic audience with morning press conferences during which he would often ad-lib his response to many controversial issues including those involving the US: a DEA statement about fentanyl, the State Department’s Human Right’s report, a critical New York Times**

**article, or a grating statement by a member of the US Congress.** President Sheinbaum will certainly defend her views and Mexico’s positions, but she does not appear to be as confrontational as her soon-to-be predecessor. **Those who have worked with her**

**over the years say Sheinbaum’s approach to dealing with problems tends to reflect the scientist she was trained to be -- methodical and listening seriously to a range of options.** These

terms rarely apply to AMLO, despite being a very skilled politician. Her problem-solving approach should establish a good basis for working through difficult issues

on the US-Mexico agenda, including on cross-border crime, migration management, and trade. **Unlike AMLO, who tends to view the US through the lens of Mexican domestic politics, Sheinbaum and her family members have lived in the US and know its strengths and weaknesses. This should give her and US counterparts a better opportunity to find shared solutions or identify additional channels for collaboration on big issues that arise, or at a minimum to better understand why the US may be “unreasonable.”** Yes, this happens. Sheinbaum understands that the key for Mexico’s continued growth and prosperity is to stay locked into the mutual production and value chains of North America. This will open opportunities for Mexico’s small and medium enterprises and attract job-creating investment and nearshoring. Sheinbaum has also already indicated an openness to pursuing renewable energy and partnering with the private sector from the US and elsewhere to attract the funding needed to develop these options for Mexico. In tackling public security and crime, Sheinbaum demonstrated during her tenure as Mexico City mayor that she supported establishing good policing and sound capacity building to get the criminals off the streets. Her public security team worked well with US counterparts, which bodes well for better bilateral cooperation going forward. This is desperately needed. Problems and differences will remain, but I am optimistic about the prospects for good collaboration.

**Surveillance marginalizes migrants**

**Amnesty ‘24** [Amnesty International, 5-21-2024, "Global: New technology and AI used at borders increases inequalities and undermines human rights of migrants", Amnesty International, [https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/05/global-new-technology-and-ai-used-at-borders-incre ases-inequalities-and-undermines-human-rights-of-migrants/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/05/global-new-technology-and-ai-used-at-borders-increases-inequalities-and-undermines-human-rights-of-migrants/)] // adam west

According to the briefing, many of the **digital tools** being used in the processing of movement of persons **are** developed, sold, and **deployed by private companies**, **who**se business models are often rooted in the **extract**ion and accumulation of **data for profit**. The invasive nature of these technologies has serious ramifications for the wellbeing of people crossing borders to seek safety and the ability to exercise their right to seek asylum. **Data intensive** technologies used at and around borders, **such** as military-grade biometric sensors and drone **surveillance**, can **perpetuate** further harm for displaced populations, who are already at high risk of exploitation and **marginalization** as a result of crossing borders to escape dangerous circumstances at home. “Governments around the world must work to rein in unregulated development and deployment of harmful technologies and fulfil their obligations under international human rights law to protect the rights of refugees and migrants,” Aspen said. “Companies that develop these technologies must incorporate safeguards into their use and conduct human rights due diligence and data impact assessments in advance of their deployment, not after abuses have already been committed.”

**That kills relations.**

**Martinez & Fletcher ‘24** [Marcos Martínez & Pascal Fletcher, 5-31-2024, "Mexico election: US closely watches as neighbour votes",<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cv22e75g4n4o>] // adam west But like Ms **Sheinbaum**, she **has** also **taken a** strongly **pro-migrant** stance, particularly with respect to Mexican migrants in the US. Aware that nationalist pride plays strongly in Mexico, both candidates made a point in a recent presidential debate of **stress**ing that **their government**s **would not** let themselves **be** cowed or **bullied by the US**, especially **over migration**. Ms Sheinbaum declared that **there would be** "**no more submission** in foreign policy", saying that centre-right predecessors of Mr López Obrador had allowed themselves to be "humiliated" by the US. "Coordination yes, subordination no," she said, summarising her vision of

relations with the US back in March. “We will always tell them [the US] it’s better to build bridges rather than walls," she added a few weeks later. Opposition contender Xóchitl Gálvez has also pledged a “frank, direct and clear” relationship with the US, which she has recognised as "our most important market".

**And the plan decks trade.**

**Jones and Rosenblum ‘13** [Vivian C. Jones & Marc R. Rosenblum, Vivian is a Specialist in

International Trade and Finance @ the CRS and Marc is a Specialist in Immigration Policy @ the CRS.

“U.S. Customs and Border Protection: Trade Facilitation, Enforcement, and Security”

https://ecommons.cornell.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/818204ef-3bf4-41d0-9fbf-4904dac87b3b/con tent] // adam west

**Trade facilitation is in tension with** trade enforcement and **import security because** trade facilitation involves promoting faster and more efficient trade flows, while trade enforcement and import **security** involve **identify**ing **and prevent**ing **illegal flows**—tasks that often **involve slower cargo flows** and **reduced efficiency**. These **competing pressures make** the **implementation of** import **policy** a **complex**

**and difficult** task, which CBP addresses through a process of risk management, as described below (see “The Import Process”). Many policy questions with respect to the import process concern how Congress and CBP balance these three goals. Some U.S. importers and some in Congress have criticized CBP for neglecting trade facilitation in favor of import security and trade enforcement. For example, somein the trade community view the paperwork and reporting requirements imposed on U.S. importers as burdensome, and they assert that these requirements run counter to U.S. interests by threatening America’s economic security.16 Others argue that **scanning and inspections**

at land ports of entry **result in unacceptably long** and unpredictable **border wait times**. Delays have

been described as particularly onerous at the U.S.-Mexico border, where trade has increased nearly fourfold since the North

American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was implemented in 1994.17 Several studies have estimated the economic consequences of border crossing delays, including a 2008 draft report by the Department of Commerce that estimated that crossing delays at the U.S.- Mexico border resulted in $5.8 billion in lost economic output, $1.4 billion in lost wages, 26,000 lost jobs, and $600 million in lost tax revenues—and would result in losses twice this size by 2017.18 A review of nine additional studies concluded that “one message comes through quite clearly—long and unpredictable wait times at the POEs are costing the United States and Mexican economies many billions of dollars each year.”19

**Which kills relations**

**Reuters**, 9/11**/23**, "Mexico urges against migrant-related US border closures hurting trade,"

https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/union-pacific-says-freight-traffic-hit-by-migrant-crisis-us-mexico-border-2023-09-21/, accessed 7-16-2024, //CL

MEXICO CITY, Sept 21 (Reuters) - **Mexico's foreign ministry urged U.S. authorities on Thursday not to take "unilateral measures" complicating trade at the border with the United States, as some ports of entry have been shut down. U.S. officials have temporarily closed some border crossings to shift Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers to process more migrant arrivals, limiting the flow of goods into the country.** Mexico added it was in constant contact with U.S. authorities and business leaders "to look for operations to be reestablished, given the situation." Rail operator Union Pacific said thousands of tons of customer freight were stalled as train traffic to Mexico via Eagle Pass in Texas has halted. The pass is one of the busiest gateways between the U.S. and Mexico and was shut as media outlets reported migrants from Mexico riding on rail cars to cross into the small Texas city. "(Our) other gateways cannot handle the extra traffic and we are notifying customers of an embargo at Eagle Pass, effective immediately," Union Pacific said late on Wednesday. The influx of migrants prompted Eagle Pass Mayor Rolando Salinas to issue emergency declaration, citing a "severe undocumented immigrant surge".

**And it prereqs the aff.**

**U**nited **S**tates **D**epartment **o**f **S**tate, 9-13-20**23,** "U.S. Relations With Mexico," https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-mexico/, accessed 7-21-2024, //CL

**The United States partners with Mexico to reduce the impact of illicit drugs on U.S. and Mexican communities, dismantle criminal organizations, manage migration, improve citizen security, reduce criminal impunity, combat illicit arms trafficking, and promote human rights**

**and the rule of law.** U.S.-funded training, equipment, and technical assistance complement Mexico’s own investment in building the capacity of Mexican institutions and

personnel to achieve these goals. Through the Bicentennial Framework for Security, Public Health, and Safe Communities, adopted at the 2021 High-Level Security Dialogue, the United States and Mexico are increasing joint efforts to combat production of synthetic and other illicit drugs; working to better understand and reduce drug demand; increasing drug interdictions; pursuing the illicit financial flows that fund transnational criminal organizations ; working to prosecute and convict transnational criminal organizations; and reducing the amount of illicit firearms, bulk

cash, and other illicit goods crossing the U.S.-Mexico border. **Because of this collaboration, the shared border is more secure, information sharing is more fluid, and both countries benefit from professionally trained**

**officials and state-of-the-art equipment to confront transnational crime.** The next High-Level Security Dialogue will take place in October 2023 in Mexico City. The United States and Mexico partner to combat transnational organized crime and drug trafficking while strengthening human rights and the rule of law. Between 2008 and 2023, the United States appropriated approximately $3.4 billion in equipment, training, and capacity building for Mexican justice and law enforcement sectors. Security cooperation between U.S. and Mexican law enforcement agencies helps police, prosecutors, and judges share best practices and expand capacity to track criminals, precursor chemicals, drugs, arms, and money to disrupt transnational crime.

#### **Chishti 24**

**Chishti 24** [Muzaffar Chishti, Colleen Putzel-Kavanaugh Muzaffar Chishti and Colleen Putzel-Kavanaugh, 3-27-2024, The Limits of the Go-It-Alone Approach: U.S. Migration Management Increasingly Requires Other Countries’ Cooperation, migrationpolicy.org, https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/us-immigration-management-cooperation, accessed 7-16-2024.] //aayush

**The Limits of the Go-It-Alone Approach: U.S. Migration Management Increasingly Requires Other Countries’ Cooperation** Even if federal courts clear Texas authorities to arrest and return unauthorized immigrants under a contested new state law, **the policy's effectiveness will turn in significant measure on an actor that has received little attention: the Mexican government**. Mexico is making clear it will refuse to accept migrants that Texas intends to push back across the border if the law, known as SB 4, ultimately survives legal challenge. “**Mexico will not accept, under any circumstances, repatriations by the state of Texas**,” the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs said last week. The country has a “legitimate right to protect the rights of its nationals in the United States and to determine its own policies regarding entry into its territory.” In a rare move by a foreign government, the Mexican government also has filed an amicus brief criticizing the law with a federal appeals court. **The statement and the amicus brief underscore a crucial and yet underappreciated reality of U.S. migration management: Increasingly, the United States cannot by itself dictate what happens at the border or how effectively it can remove and return migrants found ineligible to remain in the country**. While presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has promised “the largest deportation operation in American history” and President Joe Biden said a now-discarded Senate bipartisan border measure would allow him to “temporarily **shut down the border**,” **neither could occur without the acquiescence of Mexico and other countries that must agree to accept returned migrants and cooperate in halting the movement of others to the U.S. border**. This is **particularly the case given the dramatic diversification of nationalities arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border over the past three years**. More generally, **leaders in Mexico City, San Salvador, Quito, and many other capitals play key roles in shaping migration** before it reaches the United States. **Cooperation with other countries is critical both to deter migrants from arriving without authorization and for the U.S. government to return people who cannot legally remain**. **Without** migration controls by the governments of **Mexico** and other countries, **U.S. border authorities would surely be confronted with many more irregularly arriving migrants than even the current record number**. And **the U.S. government is unable to deport or return large numbers of migrants found removable**, in part because their countries of origin will not or cannot accept them. For example, the United States has limited diplomatic relations with governments in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela; some governments, such as in China, have long sharply limited their willingness to accept deportees; and as Haiti spirals further into chaos, international organizations have called on the United States and other countries to halt returns of Haitians. **More than any other country, Mexico can enhance—or undermine—U.S. border enforcement**. Farther away, **lax or restrictive visa policies in places such as Colombia, Ecuador, and Nicaragua can create or eliminate steppingstones** for would-be migrants from elsewhere to get closer to the U.S. border, **impacting not only the United States but also other transit countries**. Migrants transiting the Western Hemisphere have stretched immigration and humanitarian systems, especially since these systems in most Latin American countries are far more nascent than those in the United States. **National policies to limit or speed migratory movements may be shaped by U.S. pressure, but countries are also driven by their own internal politics and capacity challenges**.

**Graham**, Edward. “AI Can Enhance Border Security but Won’t Close Workforce Gap, Lawmakers Say.” Nextgov.com. Nextgov/FCW, July 10, **2024**. <https://www.nextgov.com/artificial-intelligence/2024/07/ai-can-enhance-border-security-wont-close-workforce-gap-lawmakers-say/397943/>. //arrguy

Rep. Lou Correa, D-Calif. — ranking member of the Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement — noted “advanced technologies will help [Customs and Border Protection] officers and agents work more efficiently and effectively to keep the American people safe,” but warned that “technology isn't enough.” Correa said 5,000 additional CBP personnel are needed at the southern border and that **the Border Patrol** is also **facing “a major shortfall” in personnel**, a problem that cannot simply be addressed through new AI capabilities. **“Even the best technology cannot fill these gaps,”** he said.

Nicholas **Wells**. *Study: Stricter US Border Control Increases Corruption*. 8 Oct. 20**19**, https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/10839-study-stricter-us-border-control-increases-corruption. Accessed 15 July 2024.//CT

**A new study is linking the United States’ attempts to enforce stricter border controls to increased corruption among officers at the nation’s crossings**, with the author **warning it’s “only the tip of the iceberg**.” The San Diego State University study, published in Security Journal, also examined the correlation between the length of a border agent’s service and the crimes they were most likely to take part in. “**The lack of low-level ad-hoc petty corruption and** the high percentage of drug and immigration-related cases … **suggest that trust-based strategic conspiracy between the corrupt partners is already the dominant form of border corruption** in the United States. **Tighter border security may further increase the level of** this type of **bribery**,” the research reads. The majority of the agents were paid in thousands of dollars, but some incidents stick out. **One agent was alleged to have received US$5 million for helping organized crime groups over five years**. Another officer, in El Paso, helped facilitate the smuggling of $288 million-worth of marijuana across the border before she was caught after three years. “Investigators suspected that she had sought employment with CBP in order to enable this smuggling operation,” David Jancsics, the study’s author, writes in the report. Speaking to OCCRP, Jancsics says the **desire from** Immigration and Customs Enforcement **(ICE) and** U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (**CBP**) **to expand their ranks and** help **enforce stricter border controls will** potentially **lead to more problems.**

**Independently, it decks the economy**

**Wang ‘20** [Katie Wang, 06-xx-2020, "The Impact of International Relations on Foreign Investing &

Investments — Georgetown Collegiate Investors, LLC", Georgetown Collegiate Investors, LLC, [https://www.georgetowninvest.com/blog/the-impact-of-international-relations-on-investing-amp-invest ments](https://www.georgetowninvest.com/blog/the-impact-of-international-relations-on-investing-amp-investments)] // adam west

International **developments** are particularly relevant in IR because they can **severely impact relationships** between countries **that**, in turn, **affect markets**. Another great example is the U.S.-China trade war; before the Phase One deal was signed in January, continued **escalations in tensions** and tariffs on both sides have **chip**ped **at investor confidence** and caused all three major U.S. stock indexes to drop significantly. While new developments such as China's attempts at reacquiring Hong Kong and Taiwan are masked by COVID-19 and nationwide protests, the U.S.-China relationship should be closely monitored as it will greatly impact both countries’ trade balance, tariff levels, and accessibility to international goods and labor, all of which affect domestic prices, consumer and investor confidence, and the U.S. market. From both Saudi Arabia and China, it is clear that IR has a pertinent influence on markets.

**Crisis!**

**Nofsinger ‘03** [NOFSINGER Professor of Finance at the UAA and KIM 2003 John, William H. Seward Endowed Chair in International Finance Professor of Finance at the University of Alaska Anchorage ;and Kenneth, Infectious Greed: Restoring Confidence in America’s Companies, chapter pdf retrieved here:<https://www.pearsonhighered.com/assets/samplechapter/0/1/3/1/0131406442.pdf>] // adam west

The level of the stock market is very important to the economy. Both consumer purchasing and business

**investment drive the economy**. We have already discussed the association between investor confidence and consumer purchasing. When **investors lose confidence**, they tend to **purchase fewer big-ticket items** and postpone buying a new car. A prolonged **slowdown** in consumer purchasing will slow down the **economy** as well. However, a **depress**ed **stock market** also **affects business investment**. To see this relationship, first consider the effect of a high stock market. Indeed, consider what happens when the market is overvalued, as it was during the bubble of the late 1990s. If a company manager thinks the stock price is overval- ued relative to the true fundamentals of the firm, then he or she will be inclined to issue new stock. In other words, the stock can be sold at an inflated value. The company can receive more money for it than it is worth. Thus, it seems easy and cheap to raise capital when the stock is overvalued.7 Cor- porations can issue new stock and use the capital to make business investments. Business investments are the equip- ment needed to conduct and expand business operations. Cor- porations buy trucks, machines, factories, computers, and other capital items. These purchases improve the economy. Now consider what happens if the company’s stock is per- ceived by the managers to be undervalued. If the firm wants to raise equity capital, it would have to issue new stock at a low price—a price lower than the managers think it is worth based on the fundamentals of the firm. This seems like a poor deal. Thus, **firms** tend to **issue less stock** and, therefore, make **fewer** business **investments** when the stock market is low. Or, at least, firms take such actions when managers feel the stock market is undervalued. This relationship between the stock price level and business investment is particularly strong for smaller firms with good growth opportunities.8 Larger firms have better access to other capital markets (like the bond market), and firms without growth opportunity do not need capital./ An example of the relationship between the stock market level and business investment is illustrated by the real (infla- tion adjusted) Gross Private Domestic Investment, a measure that the U.S. Department of Commerce uses to track the busi- ness investment made in the United States. The record amount of investment was $1.7 and $1.8 trillion in the quar- ters near the top of the stock market bubble in late 1999 and early 2000. Since then, business has dropped off to less than $1.6 trillion per quarter—a decline of $100 billion per quarter. Consider also how the level of the stock market affects the ability of new firms to raise capital. During the height of the market bubble in 1999, a record 548 companies obtained cap- ital through initial public offerings (IPOs). The first half of 2002 can be characterized by a depressed market with con- cerned investors. It is no wonder that only 46 IPOs were offered in the first six months of 2002. Company executives are under attack for being loose with the books. Often, the public’s perception is that executives are spending their time rebuilding profits and balance sheets. Executives must certify their financial numbers to the SEC and defend against a sustained media and political attack for mis- deeds, and they are not spending as much effort on business expansion activities requiring new capital spending. Companies that sell products that support expansion—like the hardware and software, respectively, of IBM and Siebel Systems—report that they are seeing reduced sales and orders for their products.9 If the stock market is only temporarily depressed, it should not create a big problem for the economy. As argued above, the recent market depression is caused more by a lack of investor confidence than poor economic conditions. However, if the stock market remains depressed for long, it may begin to slow down the economy as well. The lack of investor confi- dence causes consumers to delay their spending. The lower stock market, caused by the **confidence crisis**, will eventually affect business investment too. **With lower** consumer pur- chases and business **investment**, the economy could **sink into** another **recession**. Therefore, it is imperative that investor confidence is restored quickly.

**Contention Three is the Economy**

The US economy achieves a soft landing now.

**Kanowsky**, Scott. “Here’s How Capital Economics Thinks a Fed Easing Cycle Could Impact Asset Returns.” Investing.com. Investing.com, **September 13, 2024**. <https://www.investing.com/news/economy-news/heres-how-capital-economics-thinks-a-fed-easing-cycle-could-impact-asset-returns-3615764>. //arrguy

‌Investing.com -- **The Fed**eral Reserve is widely expected **to cut interest rates** when it holds its next two-day meeting on **Sept. 17-18**, although investors are split over whether it will cut rates by 25 or 50 basis points. While sticky inflation data released this week saw expectations shift towards a 25-basis point cut, some soft labor market data has bolstered bets for a steeper 50-basis point cut. Traders were seen pricing in a 51% chance for a 25 bps, and a 49% chance of a 50 bps cut, CME Group's closely-monitored FedWatch tool showed on Friday. Next week’s decision is likely **to mark the beginning of an easing cycle** for the Fed, with the central bank expected to cut rates by at least 100 bps this year. But investors were now seeking more concrete cues on this front, given that while Fed officials have signaled potential rate reductions, they have not provided any clear cues on the scale of any planned cuts. In a note to clients on Thursday, analysts at Capital Economics said that one of the key issues policymakers must gauge is whether the US economy will slump into a period of recession, adding that, historically, the Fed has cut rates more during such a downturn. They predicted that **a recession will not transpire** and, as a result, the Fed's potential series of **rate reductions will not be as deep** as "investors seem to be discounting." In turn, they project that the US Treasury yield curve will steepen, with the rate-sensitive 2-year yield slipping and benchmark 10-year yield rising, creating a greater spread between short- and long-dated bond yields. Rising long-term borrowing costs can tighten financial conditions, making it more expensive for businesses to invest or get credit.

Migrant flows fuel growth.

**Wiseman**, Paul, Gisela Salomon, Christopher Rugaber, and The Associated Press. “‘The Way to Solve an Inflation Crisis Is to Endure an Immigration Crisis’: The Mystery in the Labor Market Finally Gets Explained.” archive.ph. Fortune, April 12, **2024**. <https://archive.ph/yCRqk>. //arrguy

How has the economy managed to prosper, adding hundreds of thousands of jobs, month after month, at a time when the Federal Reserve has aggressively raised interest rates to fight inflation — normally a recipe for a recession? Increasingly, the answer appears to be immigrants — whether living in the United States legally or not. The influx of foreign-born adults vastly raised the supply of available workers after a U.S. labor shortage had left many companies unable to fill jobs. More workers filling more jobs and spending more money has helped drive economic growth and create still-more job openings. **The availability of immigrant workers eased the pressure** on companies **to sharply raise wages and** to then **pass on** their **higher labor costs to** their **customers via higher prices that feed inflation**. Though U.S. inflation remains elevated, it has plummeted from its levels of two years ago.

Labor decline tanks the economy

Daniel **Costa**. Economic Policy Institute. “Immigrants Are Not Hurting U.S.-Born Workers: Six Facts to Set the Record Straight,” **2024**. <https://www.epi.org/blog/immigrants-are-not-hurting-u-s-born-workers-six-facts-to-set-the-record-straight/>. //arrguy  
‌Immigrants are an integral part of our labor market, filling gaps caused by demographic changes in the United States and contributing to strong economic growth. The immigrants that make up 18.6% of the U.S. labor force are playing key roles in numerous industries and are employed in a mix of lower, middle, and higher-wage jobs. And as the Congressional Budget Office recently reported, **immigration is contributing to strong economic growth**—with future immigration forecasted to boost real gross domestic product by 2% over the next 10 years—as well as increasing government revenue. Immigrants are also complementing U.S.-born workers by contributing to overall population and workforce growth. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that **if the U.S. were to have lower-than-expected immigration levels**, the population would begin to decline in 20 years, and if there were suddenly zero immigration, **the population would begin to decline** next year, deeply **harming economic growth**.

Increases in surveillance deter migration.

**Devadoss 11** (Stephen **Devadoss**, 6-28-**2011**, "IMPLICATIONS OF IMMIGRATION POLICIES FOR THE U.S. FARM SECTOR AND WORKFORCE", Wiley Online Library, https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1465-7295.2010.00300.x, DOA 7-15-2024, \\SL)

Because illegal immigration was not a serious problem in the 1960s and 1970s, legislation addressed only the number of legal immigrants allowed to enter the United States. But in the 1980s, illegal immigration began to emerge as a national problem, and extensive debates entrenched around issues such as preventing the entry of unauthorized workers, providing public services to illegal immigrants, and even legalizing these workers. Consequently, the U.S. Congress attempted to address the immigration problems by enacting the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA). The goals of IRCA were to eliminate the stock of undocumented workers through amnesty2 and domestic enforcement of employer sanctions and curb the influx of illegal immigrants by increasing the border surveillance. Amnesty failed to eliminate the stock of illegal immigrants because only about half of the illegal immigrants filed for citizenship, and it created future expectation of amnesty and more illegal unauthorized entry. Furthermore, domestic sanctions on employers of undocumented workers and deportation of these workers were scantly enforced. **To stop the influx of immigrants, IRCA focused** heavily **on tightening border control**. The IRCA also legislated the H-2A program, which allowed agricultural employers to bring in guest workers during seasonal operations (ERS 2007). However, farmers complained that the cumbersome paperwork of H-2A and bureaucratic delay were not conducive to procure seasonal laborers at the time of peak farm operations such as vegetable and fruit picking.3 In spite of IRCA's amnesty provision and strengthened control measures, illegal immigration continued to rise—about 12 million unauthorized immigrants resided in the United States in 2007 (Martin 2007) which is reaffirmed by many popular press reports—leading to an extended congressional debate that began at the start of this decade to solve the illegal immigration problem. Several bills were proposed by the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the White House, addressing issues related to increased domestic and border enforcements,4 paths to citizenship, and guest-worker programs (Montgomery 2006). These bills were not passed because of major disagreements among lawmakers over providing citizenship and guest-worker programs. As a result of the failed legislations and the September 11 attack, the government primarily focused on border security. Accordingly, funding for border enforcement has steadily increased,5 and resources were diverted from domestic to border enforcement. However, Boucher and Taylor (2007) documented that increased funding to secure the border did not deter undocumented workers from crossing the border because determined immigrants eventually find a way to enter the country by repeated attempts. Following September 11, 2001, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) further decreased the number of human hours devoted to worksite inspection because monitoring critical infrastructure took priority (GAO 2005). For example, from 1999 to 2003, the number of human hours for domestic enforcement decreased from 480,000 to 18,000.6,7 But, by late 2005, the U.S. government started to intensify domestic surveillance. For example, only 25 criminal arrests relating to illegal immigration occurred in 2002, but increased to 716 by 2006 and 1,103 by 2008 (U.S. Department of Homeland Security 2008c). Domestic surveillance has further intensified under the current administration (Meyer and Gorman 2009). According to Passel (2008), a decreasing trend in the unauthorized immigrant population is recently occurring.8 This is largely due to worksite and border enforcements and the recent U.S. economic recession. These enforcements have exacerbated U.S. agricultural labor shortages before the 2008/2009 economic crisis. According to the National Agricultural Worker Survey, 80% of the newly hired farm labor force is from Mexico, of which 96% are unauthorized (U.S. Department of Labor 2005). Therefore, **as border** and domestic **enforcements intensified, entry of undocumented immigrants into the U.S.** farm **labor force was thwarted, which led to** an **acute labor scarcity**. For example, the Wall Street Journal (2007) reported that in 2006, about **20% of agricultural products were not harvested** nationwide. Furthermore, the Rural Migration News (2007) provides a detailed and specific list of these shortages and the adverse effect on crucial cultivational operations which resulted in heavy losses. As a result, farm groups are one of the strongest allies of overhauling the current guest-worker program to bring immigrants to legally work in U.S. agriculture. For the last several decades, **immigrants played a crucial role in the development and competitiveness of U.S. agricultural production** (Torok and Huffman 1986). For example, Devadoss and Luckstead (2008) provide evidence of the importance of immigrant farm workers to vegetable production which is highly labor intensive. The United States has a great land endowment and ideal growing conditions; however, **without immigrant labor who perform the back-breaking labor-intensive operations that U.S. low-skilled workers are unwilling to perform, agricultural productivity and total production would decline. Consequently, costs to U.S. consumers of agricultural products would increase and net exports would also decrease**. In recent years, Mexican immigrant labor contributed significantly to the expansion of U.S. agricultural exports, particularly between the United States and Mexico. For example, between 1994 and 2008, net U.S. exports to the world and to Mexico increased by 82% and 200%, respectively (U.S. Department of Agriculture 2008f). Devoid of these laborers, this dramatic increase would not have been possible. Because of the failure of the 1986 IRCA legislation to eliminate the stock and reduce the inflow of illegal immigrants and the heightened national security concern after the September 11 attack, the U.S. government stepped up the border enforcement beginning in 2002. Because of the legislative impasse to pass immigration reform, the U.S. government also tightened the domestic enforcement starting in 2005.

Brandon **Drenon**, 9/1/**2024**, "Migrant farm worker deaths show cost of the 'American Dream'," BBC, https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4nn1w169kno, accessed 9-8-2024 //RP

In total, **about 70% of farmworkers are foreign born, and over three-quarters are Hispanic, according to the National Center for Farmworker Health**. “Immigration is the key source of workers for many jobs in the US,” Chloe East, a University of Colorado Denver economics professor who focuses on immigration policy, says. “We know for a fact that foreign-born workers are taking these types of dangerous jobs that US-born workers don’t.” A 2020 federal investigation into agricultural H2A labourers in Florida, Texas and Georgia described conditions akin to “modern-day slavery”. Due to the investigation, 24 people were charged with trafficking, money laundering and other crimes. “The American dream is a powerful attraction for destitute and desperate people across the globe, and where there is need, there is greed from those who will attempt to exploit,” Acting US Attorney David Estes said in a press release at the time. Migrants that enter the country illegally can have even less protections if they’re hired to work, experts say. **And almost half of agricultural workers are undocumented, according to the Centre for Migration Studies.** “Undocumented immigrant workers are concentrated in the most dangerous, hazardous, and otherwise unappealing jobs in US,” according to an article published in the International Migration Review.

Immigration is key.

Representatives **Zoe**, 3-18-**2021**, "Immigrant Farmworkers and America's Food Production," FWD.us, https://www.fwd.us/news/immigrant-farmworkers-and-americas-food-production-5-things-to-know/, accessed 8-27-2024 //RR

1| **Farmworkers are essential workers - and most are immigrants. Immigrant farmworkers make up an estimated 73% of agriculture workers in the United States.** Farm labor is absolutely essential work that puts food on our tables across the country, powers the economy and supports our communities, from dairy farms in Wisconsin to strawberry fields in Florida and apple orchards in Washington. All together, food and agriculture sector is a $1.053 trillion industry.1 Every state is involved in food production, but California, Iowa, Texas, Nebraska, and Minnesota make up more than one-third of total U.S. agricultural-output value. While some sectors like livestock production are scattered across the country, others are concentrated in certain regions, such as lettuce grown in Arizona or poultry farming in southeastern states like Georgia and Alabama.2 Agricultural work requires great skill and is relentless, exhausting, and can be extremely dangerous. All across the country, farmworkers spend extremely long hours harvesting crops in all types of weather while risking injury or illness from heavy equipment or pesticide exposure. In recent years, workers in states like California and Oregon have also faced wildfires and record heat waves, in addition to the threat of COVID-19. Underscoring the critical importance of farmworkers, the Department of Homeland Security has deemed the food and agriculture sector as “critical infrastructure” during the pandemic. They deserve protections — not just the label "essential." 56% of California farmers reported being unable to find all the workers they needed over the last five years. California Farm Bureau Federation 2| Even before COVID-19 struck, America's farms faced a chronic labor shortage crisis The American Farm Bureau Federation estimates that, in total, **U.S. agriculture needs 1.5 to 2 million hired workers each year. Farmers have been struggling to fill these positions; in 2019, 56% of California farmers reported being unable to find all the workers they needed over the last five years. This is partly because, even when wages and benefits are increased, there are still not enough U.S. citizens applying. The current agricultural workforce is also aging, requiring younger workers to replace them.** Immigrants have filled these shortfalls in the workforce for decades, but in recent years, fewer immigrants are coming to the U.S. to work in agriculture, a result of current U.S. immigration policy and rising incomes in Mexico. The labor shortage puts American agriculture at a competitive disadvantage. American growers’ inability to find dependable sources of labor is a major reason for the significant increase in the amount of fresh fruit and vegetables that are imported into the U.S, costing billions in sales and tens of thousands of jobs. **Without workers, crops wither in the fields, contributing to food waste and millions of dollars in lost production. In 2020, this chronic labor shortage was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced employers to keep workers at home and restricted access to foreign-born workers that farmers had been planning to employ. 3| Legalizing the undocumented workforce is an economic and moral imperative Undocumented farm workers make up approximately 50% of the farm labor workforce.** Without their hard work, millions of pounds of food would otherwise go unharvested. While these workers pay taxes and contribute to the economy, they are not protected by U.S. labor laws, and they live every day under the threat of arrest and family separation – all while working in extremely difficult conditions. Despite lacking a legal immigration status, these workers and their families have lived in the United States for a long time. In general, the majority of undocumented immigrants have lived in the U.S. for more than ten years. Likewise, the average farmworker has worked for their current farm employer for seven years, and more than 80% of hired farmworkers work at a single location within 75 miles of their home. Relying on large numbers of undocumented individuals to fuel an industry is bad policy for workers and employers alike. But **forcing them to leave would be** even more **devastating to our food supply**, and fundamentally unfair, given what they’ve contributed. For example, the dairy industry estimates that retail milk prices would nearly double if farmers lost their foreign-born workers. Overall, **agricultural output would fall by** $30 to $**60** **billion**. Above all, the United States has a moral imperative to find a solution for undocumented families who have called this country home for so long, who have contributed greatly with little recognition, and who have more than earned their place in the American story.

That’s devastating.

Arturo Castellanos-**Canales**, 11-4-**2022**, "America's Worker Shortages in the Agriculture and Food Industries: Direct Impact on Food Waste and Inflation", National Immigration Forum, https://immigrationforum.org/article/americas-worker-shortages-in-the-agriculture-and-food-industries-direct-impact-on-food-waste-and-inflation///EEdoa09/03/24

**Product shortages, rising input costs**, and expectations of future inflati**on all contribute to increases in inflation.** In the case of the United States, **labor shortages in the agricultural sector reduce output** – **both in terms of** **growing less and the generation of more food waste. On the latter point, approximately one-third of edible produce remains unharvested in the United States due to several factors, including labor unavailability, causing severe impacts on the economy.** This wasteful process not only increases food prices but also exacerbates global food insecurity. This is one of the reasons why a recent report conducted by Texas A&M revealed that **higher admissions of immigrant workers are directly related to lower prices** of meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fruits, and vegetables. Given today’s globalized agricultural commodities market, it is difficult for individual countries to reduce food prices on a worldwide basis. That said, **the United States – the world’s largest exporter of food** and the second-largest importer of food in the world – **is uniquely positioned to help alleviate high food prices,** with agricultural immigration reforms playing a significant – although not determinative – role.

Inflation would spiral.

**Zahn**, Max. “Why the Jobs Boom Could Worsen Inflation and Help Trigger a Recession.” ABC News. ABC News, December 9, **2022**. <https://abcnews.go.com/Business/jobs-boom-worsen-inflation-trigger-recession/story?id=94769664>. //arrguy

**A tight job market fuels rising wages, which** often **push companies to raise prices to make up for** the **added costs**. In turn, **inflation worsens and recession risks rise**, they added. In addition, rising wages have offered less to workers than they appear to have at first glance, since income gains have trailed the pace of inflation, effectively slapping workers with a pay cut, the economists said. Here's what you need to know about how the hiring spree could deepen inflation and help trigger a recession, while leaving some workers worse off:

And.

**Rovella**, David. “Bloomberg Evening Briefing: US Companies Want More Immigrants.” Bloomberg.com. Bloomberg, March 5, **2024**. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2024-03-05/bloomberg-evening-briefing-us-companies-want-more-immigrants>. //arrguy

**‌Companies across America are scrambling for workers, making the same appeal** they’ve made for years: **admit more immigrants to ease a severe labor shortage** and fill jobs Americans don’t want. Indeed, immigration may be one of the key reasons the US avoided a recession as it emerged from the pandemic. As migrants poured over the southern border during Covid’s upheaval, the influx may have been a potential solution to a shortage that, by the end of this decade, could lead to $1.75 trillion in unrealized economic output. All of a sudden, big cities were filled with people eager to work and start building their own version of the American dream. But in 2024 America, that is not how it’s playing out. The newcomers who qualify for work permits often struggle to secure them, because government bureaucracy has been overwhelmed. **Business groups** say the process is broken and **are ramping up calls for changes** to bring in more workers through legal channels. Jay Timmons, CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers, says he “can’t have a conversation with any business owner that doesn’t revolve around the fact that they simply cannot find the skilled workforce they need.” But their pleas aren’t being heeded in Washington, where lawmakers are scrambling instead to respond to inflamed anti-immigrant sentiment.

Action is taken preemptively.

EntreLeadership. “Finding Good Talent during a Labor Crisis with Mike Rowe.” **Ramsey** Solutions, **2024**. <https://www.ramseysolutions.com/business/labor-shortage?srsltid=AfmBOopYuPM00rZ5EcQ3Ld-4_zfR6Sy8agFRWM-xjGnIRw8QN8ju0LoR>. //arrguy

‌America is dealing with a massive labor shortage, and it’s sending shockwaves throughout the country. Thousands of **U.S. businesses** have cut their hours or completely closed shop because they can’t fill their open positions. And entire industries **have slowed production because they simply don’t have enough workers** or supplies **to keep their normal pace**. All of that leads to unavoidable price squeezes on big-ticket items like cars, furniture and appliances. And don’t forget about random shortages of everyday goods like baby formula, cleaning products and even cream cheese. As a business leader, you’re having to fight harder than ever just to attract and keep workers so you can serve your customers, stay competitive, and grow your business. In 2022, more than 50 million U.S. workers left their jobs—the most ever recorded in the history of the Job Openings and Labor Turnover survey.1 Economists have slapped slick labels like “quiet quitting” and “the Great Resignation” on the disruption. But let’s be real—there’s nothing slick about America’s current state of work.

Independently, border technology is expensive.

Lindsay **Koshgarian**, 3-13-20**23**, “After 20 Years, the Department of Homeland Security Is a Money-Guzzling Failure | Opinion”, Newsweek, <https://www.newsweek.com/after-20-years-department-homeland-security-money-guzzling-failure-opinion-1786484> //amanda

Twenty years ago this month, the U.S. government took a sharp turn toward surveillance, racial profiling, and an immigration policy based on fear. In March 2003, **the newly christened Department of Homeland Security, or DHS, opened its doors.** The department took everything from immigration enforcement and counterterrorism to airport security and disaster response under one gargantuan bureaucracy. Despite these wide-ranging missions, the department's unifying logic in the post 9/11 era has been to wage the so-called war on terror at home. **The result has been systemic abuse of minority communities, a dangerous militarization of American life, and a massive waste of money that sapped resources from addressing the real threats to our homeland.** From its earliest beginnings, DHS has been associated with some of our country's worst scandals. **Ranging from the Bush administration's creation of a "special registration" process for Muslim men from certain countries to the "Muslim ban" instituted by President Donald Trump, DHS has been a key executor of government policy that officially targets a specific religion.** And **it's been a unique terror for immigrants and refugees from Latin America, separating migrant children from their parents** even before Trump supercharged the abuse. These abuses aren't peripheral to the department's operations—they're central. **About a third of DHS funding goes to** Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (**CBP**) alone. **Over the past 20 years, DHS has overseen the deportation of more than 5 million people, most of whom had broken no law other than being in the country.** Those deportations represent countless family separations and lives disrupted for no discernable gain, and often at a great cost to local communities. In a few extreme cases, an overzealous DHS has **even deported U.S. citizens.** But that's just the beginning of its impact on U.S. communities. **DHS agencies have militarized U.S. streets, sending officers in tactical gear to respond to civilian protests and conducting surveillance of U.S. citizens engaged in constitutionally protected activities. There are stories of DHS drones surveilling Indigenous water and land protectors and DHS forces spying on Black Lives Matter protesters. DHS even monitored journalists who reported on the department's tactics. None of these abuses have come cheap.** Since its founding in 2003, **the U.S. has spent $1.4 trillion on the agency**. That's more than seven times what the government spent over the same period on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including the CDC's COVID-19 pandemic response—and more than five times more than on the Environmental Protection Agency. COVID-19 is now responsible for more than 1 million deaths in this country. Meanwhile the EPA is struggling to respond to the train derailment and subsequent toxic chemical burn-off that has threatened the very existence of an Ohio town and put communities as far as 1,300 miles away at risk. Clearly, we've been budgeting poorly when it comes to protecting our homeland. The militarization of immigration policy may even be creating new threats, including the rapid rise of a far-right extremist fringe both outside and inside the department. Nearly 10,000 DHS and ICE agents belonged to a private Facebook group that shared extremist content before it was revealed in 2019. **Yet DHS funding, especially for immigration enforcement, keeps going up.** Annual spending on ICE and CBP has more than doubled since the agencies were created, **accounting for more than $442 billion over the past 20 years**. The opportunity costs are only compounding. **Annual spending on the**se two **agencies** would be enough to provide early childhood education for half a million kids—a step proven to give kids a better start in life, with long-term outcomes like higher incomes, lower rates of incarceration, and better health. Or we could use that money to hire 230,000 nurses, easing the dire nursing shortages that are threatening patients' health across the country. Either would do more to protect the health and safety of Americans than deporting otherwise innocent people who are active members of their families and communities. The Department of Homeland Security was supposed to be about making the U.S. safer. But it has failed. There are now proposals to take a step back, ranging from **cutting spending** on the most egregious parts of DHS to dismantling the agency entirely. After 20 years, either **would be better than leaving the Department of Homeland Security to its money-guzzling**, abusive **ways**.

**Cutsinger**, Bryan. “Does Government Spending Lead to Inflation?” *AIER*, 27 Dec. **2022**, [www.aier.org/article/does-government-spending-lead-to-inflation/](http://www.aier.org/article/does-government-spending-lead-to-inflation/). Accessed 21 Aug. 2024.// AA

**Po**[**lling data**](https://today.yougov.com/topics/economy/articles-reports/2022/11/04/what-americans-know-about-inflation-yougov-poll) **suggests that many Americans see government spending as one of the primary drivers of** [**inflation**](https://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/Inflation.html)**.** Economic theory, however, tells us that the relationship between the two phenomena is less strong than the American public seems to believe. To understand why government spending is not the source of inflation, we need a rigorous-yet-manageable way of thinking about the effect that changes in government spending have on the determinants of inflation. Fortunately, economists have developed a relatively straightforward model that we can use to answer this question.

That causes inflation.

Carlo **Pizzinelli**. "Hall of Mirrors: How Consumers Think about Inflation." IMF. September **2022**. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2022/09/hall-of-mirrors-how-consumers-think-about-inflation-pizzinelli>. //AR

The answers won’t affect just individual households but the economy as a whole. The reason: central bankers and academic economists view **inflation** partly a**s a self-fulfilling prophecy. If consumers believe prices will rise** at a faster pace, **they** may **behave in ways**—buying a refrigerator or asking for a raise—**that** will **fuel more inflation.** More money chasing a fixed number of refrigerators will drive up their price, and **more people asking for a raise will prompt employers to mark up the prices of goods or services they sell to make up for higher labor costs**. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell expressed that concern at a recent press conference, when he announced a half-point increase in the Fed’s key interest rate: “We can’t allow a wage-price spiral to happen,” he said. “And we can’t allow inflation expectations to become unanchored. It’s just something that we can’t allow to happen.”

We’re on the brink, affirming tips the scales.

**Lynch**, David J. “Inflation Is Falling, but the next President Could Bring It Back.” archive.ph. The Washington Post, August 21, **2024**. <https://archive.ph/p4fPq>. //arrguy

**Inflation is just about dead — unless the next president brings it back to life**. Both Vice President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump are pushing economic ideas that — whatever their merits — could raise prices on many goods and services, some economists said. Harris has proposed an expanded child tax credit and wants to give some first-time home buyers $25,000 toward their down payment. Both moves would add gas to an economy that is already growing faster than its long-run potential. Trump says he will eliminate taxes on Social Security payments, remove millions of workers from the labor force with the largest deportation of unauthorized migrants in history and impose new tariffs on everything that the United States imports. Those moves would boost costs throughout the economy. Investors view Trump as the greater inflation risk, according to analysts at Macquarie Group, a global investment firm based in Sydney, Australia. His policies could add a full percentage point to the annual inflation rate, said Thierry Wizman, Macquarie’s global foreign exchange and rates strategist. “There’s still this sense out there, among traders, that Trump is more inflationary,” he said. The former president’s tax, tariff and **immigration policies would** likely **trigger** a faster pace of **price increases** and higher interest rates to combat them, which would raise the value of the U.S. dollar, Macquarie told clients this week.‌

Inflation triggers recession.

**Sharkey 23** (Sarah **Sharkey** --- a personal finance writer, “5 Effects Of Inflation On The Economy,” 07-20-**23**,<https://www.quickenloans.com/learn/effects-of-inflation#:~:text=Is%20Inflation%20Good%20Or%20Bad,and%20other%20negative%20economic%20effects>.) //AL

Although it might only seem like the trend impacts your budget, **inflation** often **has far-reaching impacts across the economy**. Let’s explore the most prevalent effects of rising inflation rates. **1. Lost Purchasing Power** The most obvious impact of inflation is the loss of purchasing power. As purchasing power erodes, many feel the impacts on their budget. But those on a low income or fixed income often feel the effect the most. As inflation takes hold, it’s important to monitor how well your income keeps pace with the changes. If it’s within your power, negotiate for a raise or switch up your income streams to keep up with rising costs. **2. Higher Interest Rates** The Federal Reserve (commonly called the Fed) has a relatively limited toolkit to tame inflation. The option they commonly turn to first is usually raising interest rates. As the Fed pushes interest rates higher, it gets more expensive to borrow money. The average consumer takes advantage of borrowing to make major purchases, like a home or vehicle, a reality. This means rising interest rates impact household purchases across the country. If you have any debt with a variable interest rate, you’ll face higher costs as your interest rates increase. **3. Higher Prices For Everything** When everything is more expensive, the impacts are felt by everyone. After all, it’s impossible to go without the basics such as food or electricity. But with rising costs, it can become more difficult to make ends meet. The older and lower-income wage earners are the first to feel the bite of higher prices. But eventually, it works its way up the income chain and begins to threaten companies or even entire industries. **4. Economic Growth Slows** As inflation runs rampant, the Fed tightens its monetary policy. With the money supply drying up, credit becomes more expensive and credit requirements tighten. The cost to borrow money is intentionally increased with the hope that this will decrease consumer spending and slow inflation. However, consumers looking to make major purchases will find this challenging. Since most need credit to make a major purchase, the end result is that it slows down the economy. **5. Anti-Inflationary Measures Can Cause A Recession Inflation is a major threat to the economy**. But as the Fed tries to adjust the market with monetary policy and interest rate hikes, sometimes it overcorrects. If the market isn’t ready for the Fed’s actions, that can mean lower economic growth for the country. When this happens for one quarter, it is usually referred to as a contraction. But if this happens for two quarters in a row, it is generally considered the start of a recession. During a recessionary environment, the Fed often lowers interest rates to encourage economic activity. But as the cycle continues, it can be a painful ride for everyone. Is Inflation Good Or Bad? Inflation is measured by the consumer price index (CPI), and at low rates, it keeps the economy healthy. **But when the rate of inflation rises rapidly, it can result in lower purchasing power, higher interest rates, slower economic growth and other negative economic effects.** Let’s take a look at some of the ways in which inflation can have both positive and negative impacts. Why Is Inflation Bad? In general, inflation is considered a bad thing for many consumers. Typically, those with low incomes or fixed incomes feel the impact of inflation the most. When the costs of goods and services rise, everyone’s wallets feel a little bit pinched. You might have seen the impacts of inflation for yourself when your monthly food bills or utility bills start to rise. The reality is that rising costs don’t necessarily equate to rising wages, which means many households face challenging times when inflation is on the rise. As prices begin to tick upward, some start tightening their budget. However, if you do have the money to invest during times of economic downturn there’s potential for long-term gains. Since higher interest rates can eventually translate to higher returns, investors look to stable low-risk investments like treasury bonds, securities, and high-yield savings accounts. The spending trend can push prices even higher, and the markets can be slow to catch up to the changing consumer demands. For example, often the housing market still sees high housing prices even when sales are slowing. If inflation gets too high, it can be painful for everyone as the Fed tries to control the trend through tighter monetary policy and higher interest rates.

A US recession goes global.

**Ryssdal**, Kai. “If the U.S. Economy Gets Sick, Other Countries Could Catch ‘Pneumonia’ - Marketplace.” Marketplace, July 23, **2020**. <https://www.marketplace.org/2020/07/23/if-the-u-s-economy-gets-sick-other-countries-could-catch-pneumonia/>. //aayush + //arrguy

**The U.S. economy** contributes more than half of the world’s stock market capitalization, **accounts for over 15% of global GDP and is a** pretty **crucial import market** to boot. It’s no wonder, then, that **economic crises in the U.S. spill over** into the global economy. Marketplace host Kai Ryssdal spoke with University of Michigan provost and international economist Susan M. Collins about how the health crisis in the U.S. could translate into a global economic crisis. The following is an edited transcript of their conversation.

That’s devastating.

**Bradford**, Harry. “Economic Shock Could Throw 900 Million People into Poverty, IMF Study Warns.” HuffPost. HuffPost, April 5, **2013**. <https://www.huffpost.com/entry/global-poverty-900-million-economic-shock_n_3022420>. //arrguy

A recent study by the International Monetary Fund warns that as many as **900 million people could fall back into poverty in the event of an economic shock** like the Great Recession. That figure is three times the size of the U.S. population. According to the World Bank, 1.2 billion people are currently living on less than $1.25 a day.‌