Biden’s Hard-Line Effort to Close the Border

0:01

from The New York Times I'm Sabrina

0:03

tavernes and this is the

0:06

[Music]

0:13

daily good

0:15

afternoon I've come here today to do

0:17

what the Republicans and Congress

0:18

refused to do last week President Biden

0:22

announced one of the most restrictive

0:24

immigration policies by a Democratic

0:26

president in decades today I'm

0:28

announcing actions to bar

0:30

migrants who cross our Southern border

0:32

unlawfully from receiving Asylum showing

0:36

just how much the politics of

0:38

immigration in America have changed to

0:41

protect America as a land that welcomes

0:43

immigrants we must first secure the

0:45

border and secure it now today my

0:49

colleague zolan Koo Youngs

0:52

[Music]

0:55

explains it's Tuesday June 11th thank

0:59

you you very

1:02

[Music]

1:07

much zolen we last talked in March and

1:09

at that point Biden was threatening to

1:12

take tough action on the border

1:14

crossings had been extraordinarily high

1:16

and you know this had been a real

1:18

political liability for Biden but it

1:21

wasn't clear what he would do or when he

1:24

would do it last week we got the answer

1:28

that's right so last week President

1:30

Biden took the most restrictive approach

1:35

we've seen at the Southwest border of

1:37

any modern democratic president

1:39

President Biden issued executive actions

1:42

drastically changing migration policy at

1:45

the Southwest border so at 12:01 a.m.

1:49

Wednesday the president suspended Asylum

1:53

at the Southwest border migrants

1:55

crossing the border would no longer have

1:58

the ability to seek asylum in the United

2:02

States and and this was a seat change

2:04

for decades the law has basically stated

2:07

that those that step on us soil had the

2:11

ability to seek Asylum these are people

2:13

that are crossing the border without the

2:15

necessary documents that they would need

2:17

to come into the country but they've had

2:19

the ability to make their case for why

2:22

they need Safe Haven and this is a

2:25

drastic change to that standard and what

2:27

exactly does this executive order do how

2:30

does it work basically it depends on the

2:33

number of people who are crossing the

2:35

Southwest

2:36

[Music]

2:38

border as soon as this went into effect

2:40

make no mistake Asylum is suspended but

2:43

say the average daily number of

2:46

Crossings dip below a certain level then

2:49

essentially these restrictions would be

2:51

lifted and at a time of surging

2:53

crossings they would be imposed

2:55

essentially sealing the Southwest border

2:57

to Asylum seeking migrants

3:01

but one key fact here is for most of the

3:03

Biden Administration we have been at a

3:05

time of surgent Crossings at the

3:07

Southwest border so what are the actual

3:10

numbers we're talking about here I mean

3:11

you're saying Crossings have been

3:12

surging sure so just last week officials

3:16

told me and my colleagues that Crossings

3:18

were still well over 3,000 a day and is

3:21

that a lot that is a lot that is a lot

3:23

in the Obama Administration government

3:25

officials said that a thousand Crossings

3:28

a day were chis oh wow and the 3,000 a

3:32

day Sabrina aren't even the peak that

3:34

we've seen under the Biden

3:35

Administration just this past December

3:38

the administration was scrambling in a

3:40

panic over 10,000 illegal Crossings a

3:44

day so all of this is context when we

3:46

look at the details of this executive

3:51

order and when you think about the

3:53

current level of crossings that we've

3:55

seen in the United States it doesn't

3:57

seem like these restrictions are going

3:59

to be lifted anytime soon so Biden in

4:02

essence just stopped our Asylum system

4:05

because you know it sounds like the

4:06

numbers are very high not going to go

4:08

down far enough in order to kind of

4:10

suspend this new policy so what's the

4:13

effect here I mean as of 1201 amm last

4:16

Wednesday what was happening at the

4:18

border it seems like there's a slow pace

4:21

of implementation right now based off

4:24

our reporting we have seen some migrants

4:27

already getting turned away um shock Ed

4:30

as well because for years the thinking

4:33

among those crossing the border there

4:35

was an awareness that you would cross

4:37

you'd be able to ask for Asylum you'd

4:39

essentially be given a ticket to show up

4:41

in court and crucially you'd be allowed

4:44

to stay in the United States while you

4:46

wait for that court appearance and there

4:48

are signs that that might not be

4:50

happening here right so you know we do

4:52

not yet have the DraStic reductions in

4:55

Crossings across the border but that's

4:58

not the only metric here

5:00

it's not just uh can we stop the number

5:03

of people approaching or crossing the

5:05

border the question is once they cross

5:08

the border will they be able to stay

5:11

according to this executive order most

5:13

of them will not be able to stay so what

5:16

does all of that mean effectively will

5:19

we be deporting all these people who try

5:21

to seek Asylum yeah I mean even though

5:23

this executive order has now been been

5:25

issued I mean there's also going to be

5:28

questions about just how effective ly

5:30

they can implement this in the weeks

5:31

ahead and whether or not they can do

5:32

this right you're essentially saying

5:35

that a majority of those who cross the

5:37

Southwest border now are not going to be

5:39

able to seek Asylum and could be

5:41

returned to Mexico or their home country

5:43

but it takes a lot of resources to do

5:46

that you need immigration officers to

5:49

encounter these migrants you also need

5:51

enough planes enough flights to actually

5:53

return people to their home countries

5:56

this executive order doesn't have those

5:58

resources it doesn't come with billions

6:00

of dollars in funding to actually carry

6:02

this out make no mistake I mean the

6:03

Biden Administration has been talking

6:05

about it for months there was a Senate

6:07

Bill bipartisan one in Congress that

6:09

would have many of these restrictions at

6:11

the border as well as billions of

6:14

dollars in funding for some of the

6:15

immigration agencies that would carry

6:17

this out but what we've seen here these

6:19

executive actions don't have the money

6:21

so will they have the resources to carry

6:23

this out that's a primary question for

6:25

us covering this moving forward so there

6:27

are real limitations to how policy can

6:30

be executed limitations and logistical

6:33

questions absolutely it is not like as

6:36

soon as this was signed we are

6:38

absolutely certain that every single

6:40

migrant and Asylum Seeker will

6:41

immediately be returned to their home

6:43

country now often immigration policy

6:45

changes especially one that's this

6:47

seismic it's rare that it's just with

6:50

the snap of the fingers implemented

6:52

seamlessly right you're going to have

6:54

logistical hurdles in the way this is

6:57

carried out one potential outcome is you

7:00

essentially have some migrants getting

7:01

deported within days if not hours and

7:04

other migrants could be stuck in limbo

7:06

even in detention in the US I mean

7:09

thinking about this policy isn't it

7:11

possible that migrants once they learn

7:14

about it would just adjust I mean they

7:17

understand and I would assume the word

7:18

spreads quickly that Asylum is

7:21

effectively cancelled so wouldn't they

7:24

instead of running toward a border

7:26

patrol agent run away from that agent or

7:29

is it possible that they would just stop

7:31

coming all together stop coming all

7:33

together I doubt it history shows that

7:35

that tends to not be true just to take a

7:37

step back in the '90s early 2000s most

7:42

of the people crossing the border tended

7:43

to be individual single men primarily

7:46

from Mexico who were crossing the border

7:48

to essentially get work right and for

7:51

that you're not going to surrender to a

7:53

border patrol agent because you're not

7:54

asking for Asylum but then we saw this

7:57

shift in the Obama Administration like

7:59

think like 2010s to around 2014 that's

8:02

where you started to see actually the

8:04

demographics change no longer just

8:06

individual men but rather children

8:09

families as well no longer just from

8:11

Mexico but actually Central American

8:13

countries and also not necessarily

8:15

crossing the border just to get work

8:17

temporarily just to cross back into

8:19

Mexico no this was now families that

8:22

were crossing or children that were

8:23

crossing alone crossing the border and

8:26

asking for Asylum and in order to do

8:28

that in order to seek that protection

8:30

you're surrendering to an immigration

8:32

officer you're going to a border patrol

8:34

agent rather than avoiding them so in

8:37

other words it's a completely different

8:39

demographic people crossing Now versus

8:42

even in the early Obama administration

8:44

more families more fleeing violence in

8:47

their home countries than single men

8:50

looking for work that's right and just

8:52

to bring this full circle it is those

8:54

families that are likely going to be

8:57

subjected to the restrictions under this

9:00

order because it is those families that

9:02

are likely to be the ones that would

9:04

seek Asylum but if these people are

9:06

stopped and potentially deported this

9:09

policy change might actually have a real

9:11

effect on the number of Asylum seekers

9:13

in the US it could have effect on the

9:15

number of Asylum Seekers that are

9:17

allowed to stay in the US we know about

9:19

this well we see sort of the images of

9:22

overcrowding and Border communities of

9:25

buses packed with families that are

9:27

going to New York City to Denver we've

9:30

heard sort of the criticism from leaders

9:33

about the number of people that are

9:35

going into their cities the thinking

9:37

with this executive action here is that

9:40

maybe there are fewer families on some

9:42

of those buses that are now going into

9:45

these different American

9:47

[Music]

9:49

cities and that also brings you to sort

9:51

of the other point of this action

9:54

there's also a question of

9:56

Optics look this is about policy and how

9:59

it's going to be implemented but without

10:01

a doubt it's also about

10:04

politics and how President Biden sends a

10:08

message to

10:09

[Music]

10:13

voters we'll be right

10:18

[Music]

10:24

back so zolan you said that Biden really

10:27

has his eye on the election and one

10:29

thing thing of course that you and I

10:30

both know is that immigration is a key

10:32

issue for voters what does Biden expect

10:36

to get out of this executive action in

10:38

terms of Voters yeah that's right I mean

10:41

this has been an issue that has sort of

10:44

caused concern in the White House and

10:46

and anxiety in the White House really

10:48

since President Biden came into office I

10:50

remember me and my colleagues we

10:51

reported that President bid's own

10:53

pollsters warned him early on that this

10:56

could rise to be one of the real points

10:59

concern among voters in the United

11:01

States and that has come to fruition

11:03

that has turned out to be true this is

11:05

now one of the top concerns if not the

11:07

top concerns for many voters across the

11:10

United States so if you're the White

11:12

House you've basically been listening as

11:15

Democratic Mayors and governors and

11:17

voters across the country have all

11:19

expressed their concern about the rising

11:21

numbers of Crossings at the border for

11:24

years now and they see this executive

11:27

action as sort of the answer to those

11:29

concerns so Biden is trying to defuse

11:33

this pretty dangerous political issue

11:35

that he feels like he's at this point

11:36

kind of on the wrong side of but of

11:38

course Olan as we talked about last time

11:40

you were on the show that is a very hard

11:42

move to pull off he's the guy who's been

11:44

in charge for the past three years yeah

11:46

that's right there's so many kind of

11:48

political risks here I mean you

11:50

essentially have a Democratic party and

11:54

a president who are trying to flip the

11:57

script here to change the narrative and

11:59

go on the offensive against Republicans

12:02

when it comes to the border and say hey

12:03

we're actually taking action here but so

12:06

far we haven't seen Republicans

12:08

relinquish any ground on this issue

12:10

former president said today on Truth

12:11

social that Biden was just making this

12:13

move for show because he knows there's a

12:16

debate coming up in three weeks actually

12:18

just the day after this Trump was

12:20

already on true social he did a town

12:22

hall in Arizona Biden's order is not a

12:26

border security plan it's a concession

12:28

to the fact that he has lost control

12:31

over a border he's totally lost control

12:33

over the Border criticizing this plan

12:35

saying that it was far too weak on day

12:38

one of my Administration I will be

12:40

resending crooked Joe's outrageous

12:43

executive

12:44

order and once again accusing him of

12:47

sort of being responsible for the

12:48

soaring Crossings we've had that we know

12:50

is much more complicated than any one

12:52

president's actions and that's what

12:54

makes this so challenging here the

12:56

politics of it you're essentially moving

12:58

ahead with a policy action to try and

13:02

neutralize somebody in former president

13:05

Donald Trump and his Republican allies

13:07

that have proven that no matter what

13:09

this situation is at the border this

13:12

will be a line of attack for them when

13:14

it comes to this white house so Trump is

13:17

out there being Trump On the Border but

13:19

it's kind of weird because you know what

13:22

he wants fundamentally is the border to

13:24

be closed and that's what Biden just did

13:27

yeah that's right I mean that's kind of

13:28

what makes this ironic in a way the

13:31

action that President Biden just took

13:33

largely mirrors an action that Trump

13:36

took in 2018 even cites the same

13:39

provision in immigration law to

13:40

basically eliminate the ability for

13:43

migrants that cross in between ports of

13:45

Entry to seek Asylum so that is just

13:48

another sign of how we are seeing sort

13:52

of the pendulum of immigration politics

13:55

shift to the right and see President

13:57

Biden in a way take a out of Trump's

14:00

Playbook when it comes to the border so

14:02

given that

14:04

move how are Democrats responding I mean

14:07

I would imagine that they would not like

14:09

this yeah let's start with progressives

14:13

we have to honor the humanitarian

14:16

obligations that we have made as soon as

14:19

this as President Biden came out and

14:21

sort of announced that this was

14:23

happening you saw progressives such as

14:26

Senator Alex Padilla comparing this

14:28

action to that of an action taken by the

14:31

Trump Administration I I don't think it

14:33

is the right direction I'm disappointed

14:36

uh by the executive order you had other

14:38

progressives saying that it was a matter

14:40

of abandoning sort of values L held by

14:43

the United States and Americans you also

14:46

had other Democrats including more

14:48

moderate Democrats who were saying this

14:50

was long needed as well and were sort of

14:53

celebrating this issue the Asylum is a

14:55

very important part of America's history

14:56

but now the system is being abused

14:58

thought it was interesting that

15:00

representative Tom swazi of New York who

15:02

largely won his special election with

15:04

this same sort of Playbook by

15:06

challenging Republicans on immigration

15:08

the White House had him at President

15:11

Biden's speech announcing this measure

15:13

I'm a very Progressive person on

15:14

immigration I want to see a pathway to

15:16

citizenship for dreamers and for TPS

15:18

recipients but we have to have order at

15:20

the border so I guess it's complicated

15:22

when it comes to the Democratic party it

15:24

kind of shows just how divided the party

15:27

is when it comes to the this issue you

15:29

had some praising President Biden saying

15:32

that it was needed and necessary and

15:34

others who were saying that who are very

15:37

ready to make the comparison to that of

15:39

the Trump Administration do we think

15:42

that this policy will hold up I mean it

15:45

is an executive order and those tend to

15:47

be flimsy as we know it's an excellent

15:49

question I mean that's why the

15:51

administration says they wanted to move

15:53

forward with legislation rather than

15:55

executive action when it comes to the

15:56

Border because of exactly that point

15:59

that if you have congress come together

16:01

to sort of push forward a solution here

16:04

that is less likely to be blocked in the

16:06

courts than unilateral executive action

16:09

by a president and I even asked the

16:12

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro

16:14

mayorcas this directly recently at a

16:17

round table I was asking him about this

16:19

potential executive action before

16:21

President Biden issued it and he was

16:23

saying the preference was to have a

16:25

legislative solution because he and

16:28

others in the White House fully expect

16:31

that this will at least be challenged

16:34

based off its legality and we're already

16:37

seeing signs that that's that's going to

16:38

be true I mean look almost immediately

16:41

after President Biden announced this

16:43

measure the American civil liberties

16:45

Union told us that they had every

16:47

intention to challenge it in the courts

16:50

and they were saying in their statement

16:52

that they said it was illegal when Trump

16:54

did it in 2018 and it's illegal now and

16:58

the clu is the entity that challenged

17:01

Trump when he tried this in 2018 that

17:05

attempt ended up getting blocked in the

17:06

courts and the ACLU won that Pursuit so

17:10

it'll be interesting to see how it goes

17:11

this time around but I guess in some

17:14

ways maybe it doesn't matter if this

17:16

gets struck down by the courts like it

17:18

doesn't matter if the policy is lasting

17:20

what matters is the Optics before a very

17:24

important presidential election in a

17:25

couple of months time uh without doubt

17:27

but it's not just about sort of how this

17:30

plays out on the ground the

17:32

administration essentially wants to

17:34

shape perception about this issue when

17:36

it comes to the actions that President

17:39

Biden has taken when it comes to the

17:41

Southwest border they want voters to

17:43

basically see hey look we actually have

17:46

moved forward with enforcement minded

17:50

policies at the Southwest border even if

17:53

those policies are shortlived right so

17:56

zolen stepping back for a second here by

17:58

bid is implementing this very tough

18:01

border policy Because he believes that's

18:03

where most Americans are on this issue

18:06

he's talking to the right which seems

18:08

like in a way an acknowledgement that

18:10

the Democrats had kind of been blown off

18:13

course when it comes to immigration and

18:15

he's trying to course correct course

18:18

correct I mean I think that's right I

18:19

mean this is really a pretty huge

18:21

pendulum shift when we talk about

18:24

immigration politics in the United

18:25

States particularly how the Democratic

18:27

party approaches immigration

18:29

in the United States Democrats in the

18:31

past have pushed for border security

18:33

measures but it always sort of was an

18:36

exchange for some type of protection for

18:40

the millions of undocumented immigrants

18:43

already in the United States they wanted

18:45

some carrots for those sticks that's

18:47

right they wanted some carrots for those

18:49

sticks and and we're not seeing the

18:51

carrots here it's really you're

18:52

approaching just with the stick at the

18:54

border just with enforcement it's also

18:57

not the first time we've seen a

18:58

president used his executive power on

19:01

immigration but just to show you kind of

19:04

how much we're in a different place here

19:06

I mean think back to the Obama

19:07

Administration approaching a different

19:09

reelection campaign

19:11

2012 he used executive power not up for

19:13

border security but to essentially

19:15

provide protection for millions of young

19:17

undocumented immigrants in the United

19:20

States I'm of course referring to

19:22

dreamers or the DACA program as people

19:24

may know right so I mean just big

19:27

picture here we are see seeing both

19:29

parties increasingly coming to a

19:31

consensus on this issue that enforcement

19:34

will be prioritized we're seeing public

19:37

officials continue to try and sort of

19:39

compete with each other on who is going

19:41

to be stronger on the border and again

19:45

that is just a remarkable shift from how

19:48

the United States approached migration

19:49

and immigration in the

19:52

[Music]

19:53

past and what this means for migrants

19:57

approaching the Southwest bort moving

19:59

forward where they will go if not the

20:02

United States that's also going to be an

20:05

open question as we move ahead

20:08

particularly as the politics of

20:09

immigration increasingly centers on not

20:13

allowing people in but seemingly turning

20:15

people away

20:26

[Music]

20:28

zolan thank you thank

20:34

you over the weekend the times reported

20:37

that Biden is considering protecting

20:39

undocumented spouses of US citizens from

20:42

deportation and allowing them to work in

20:45

the country legally it appeared to be a

20:47

nod to progressives in Immigration

20:49

Advocates as Biden tries to navigate the

20:52

complex politics of immigration

20:57

[Music]

21:01

we'll be right

21:08

back here's what else you should know

21:11

today after far-right parties made

21:13

dramatic gains in the European

21:15

Parliament elections over the weekend

21:17

France's president Emanuel macron has

21:20

dissolved his country's lower house of

21:22

parliament he called for new elections

21:24

at the end of the month macron's move is

21:27

a high stakes gamble after the far-right

21:30

party of Marine Le Pen Drew nearly a

21:33

third of the vote in those EU elections

21:35

crushing macron's own party mcon is

21:39

betting that new snap elections could

21:41

result in a power sharing agreement with

21:43

Le Pen's party and that that in turn

21:46

would help stall Le Pen's inexorable

21:49

rise ahead of a crucial presidential

21:51

election in

21:55

2027 and an activist in self described

21:59

documentary filmmaker surreptitiously

22:01

recorded Supreme Court Justice Samuel

22:03

Alo saying he agreed with her assertion

22:07

that Americans who believe in God have

22:09

to keep fighting to quote return our

22:12

country to a place of

22:14

godliness the filmmaker was posing as a

22:16

conservative Catholic and spoke to the

22:18

Justice at a charity event the

22:21

recordings were posted on social media

22:23

on Monday Alo declined to comment

22:30

[Music]

22:34

today's episode was produced by Carlos

22:36

PR Eric krupy and mo zadii it was edited

22:41

by MJ Davis Lynn contains original music

22:44

by Dan Powell and was engineered by

22:47

Alyssa Moxley our theme music is by Jim

22:50

brunberg and Ben Lanser of wonderly

22:54

[Music]

23:01

[Music]

23:03

that's it for the daily I'm Sabrina

23:05

Tavern see you tomorrow

23:11

[Music]

English (auto-generated)