

A RATIONAL IMMIGRATION POLICY ISN'T RACISM

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Body

Immigration is joining a long list of subjects on which a **rational** discussion is becoming impossible.

We now have about 20 million foreign-born people living in the United States, and we can't even talk about them, except in psycho-babble and multicultural pieties.

When California Gov. Pete Wilson raised the issue of illegal immigrants' being supported by taxpayers at a time of financial stringency, he was set upon by liberals. Columnist Albert Hunt accused Wilson of sponsoring "draconian" legislation that would "strip illegal aliens of health and welfare benefits and deny schooling to their children."

Does someone acquire a right to the taxpayers' money by illegally crossing a border?

Illegal aliens are seldom punished, which is why there are so many of them.

The issue is whether this country has a moral right to control its borders, to punish those who violate them - and whether or how these rights should be exercised.

Some federal judges seem to act as if there is an inherent right for foreigners to come to the United States, whether they are wanted or not. Moreover, this newly created right must be available to all peoples around the world equally. It has long since been dogma that any attempt to sort out those countries whose migrants fit well into American society from those countries whose immigrants create more problems is nothing but **racism**.

If people from Atlantis are twice as likely to go on welfare or 10 times as likely to have AIDS as people from Shangrila, that doesn't matter to the intelligentsia.

The magic phrase of judging each person as an individual may be invoked in debates about **immigration policy**, but of course nobody does that in real life.

Using a bureaucracy to judge millions of people as individuals is nonsense carried to its most absurd extreme. People are going to have to be sorted by some standards. And if people from different countries work out better or worse in the United States, there is not the slightest reason in logic or morality why that should not be taken into account.

Once it is clear that the people of this country have every legal and moral right to decide who joins them, the question then becomes one of figuring out what is in the best interest of Americans.

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Many of the arguments against immigration are false. For example, it is not simply a question of immigrants taking jobs away from native-born Americans. There is no fixed number of jobs. When more people join the work force, that increases both production and consumption, which can mean more jobs.

Some studies indicate that immigrants in general pay more in taxes than they receive in government services. Whether this is true of all immigrants from all countries is another question of facts.

Many of those who champion the cause of unlimited immigration not only want to impose taboos on what can be talked about, but also want to keep the foreigners foreign after they enter American society. Many times, the immigrants themselves want to become part of American society, while their spokesmen and cheerleaders want them to keep on speaking a foreign language and cling to a foreign culture.

Statistics show that immigrants who speak English earn more money than their fellow-countrymen who speak a foreign language. Many live up to traditional American values better than native-born Americans.

These and other issues need to be discussed openly, without smear words like draconian and xenophobia. The immigrants themselves may even discover that they have more to fear from their supposed friends than from their supposed enemies.

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