Outline

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Four divisions of immigration politics in the US

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The Syrian refugee crisis

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Review questions:

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What are the political conflicts in the United States activated by immigration?

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What are the political challenges and humanitarian costs created by Syrian civil war and the accompanying refugee problem? What policy options might the United States pursue to offset these risks?

Broad Overview of Immigration Politics

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In US, can think of as occurring along at least four dimensions

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Economic

–

Race

–

Politics—shifting bases of power

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National Security

•

Interactions among four generate conflicting and sometimes odd political cleavages

Immigration as Economic Flows of Labor and Financial Transfers

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Can think like international trade, consequently creates income distributional effects

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Hi tech wants to employ high skill to keep costs down

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Agriculture, construction, service wants to employ low skill foreigners to keep labor costs down

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Immigration backlash from both right and left partly motivated by income distribution concerns

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By pushing labor supply up in certain sectors, push real wages down

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Hire American workers...

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Immigrants important source of foreign aid to developing countries, send back remittances to family in home country

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During campaign, Trump threatens to halt remittances to Mexico unless pay for border wall

Immigration and Race

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Immigration as part of a broader demographic change in the United States

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Accentuating racial lines of conflict

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Manifest in debates over English as primary language and national identity rooted in Anglo-Protestant culture

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From first lecture: how define collective identity of the United States? And how being shaped by globalization?

Immigration Politics and Shifting Distribution of Political Power in US

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How will immigrants vote?

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Republicans worry that majority will vote for Democrats

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Permanent political status as minority party in key electoral states like Texas and Florida

Immigration and Activation of National Security Concerns in an Age of Terrorism

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Strict control/regulation of access through borders to prevent infiltration by terrorists

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More pronounced in Europe

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Hoffman’s boomerang effect

Syrian Refugee Crisis: Discussion of Byman and Speakman

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The numbers: 6 million refugees from Syria (of 15 million globally), 7 million displaced within Syria

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Pressures public services in surrounding states and Europe

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Alters domestic politics in receiving states (US)

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Destabilizes neighboring states, potentially brings new attacks

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Europe’s unique challenge: common borders

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Brexit

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Article focuses on five potential policy responses

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Open Arms

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Help from afar

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Safe zones

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End the conflict

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Shut the gates

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Need to do more than nothing; aid hosts and integrate refugees