


Module 12: The Changing Times – The 2000s to the Present

Topic 3 Content: Immigration Controversy

Introduction

Immigration Controversy

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Immigration has been controversial throughout American history and continues to divide Americans today. Some Americans argue that immigrants benefit the United States, while others feel that immigration is costly and takes away jobs from native-born Americans. In this interactivity, click each media panel to learn about the contributions of immigrants, the controversy over immigrants and American jobs, and the issue of illegal immigration.

- Contributions of Immigrants
- Immigration and Jobs
- Illegal Immigration

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Contributions of Immigrants

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Immigrants increase the cultural diversity of the United States in the areas of music, visual arts, and literature. Immigrants also make achievements in science, engineering, and other fields. For example, famous actor and thirty-eighth governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, is an immigrant from Austria. Americans in favor of immigration argue that the diversity helps the United States thrive. They also argue that immigrants work in low-paying jobs that do not appeal to native-born Americans because of the low pay. Thus, proponents believe immigrants help the United States' economy.



Immigration and Jobs

Illegal Immigration

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Immigration and Jobs

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Contributions of Immigrants

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Conversely, opponents of immigration believe immigration hurts the United States. They argue that immigrants take away jobs from native-born citizens. They also argue that the government has to spend more money on services because immigrants increase the population. The increased spending by the government leads to higher taxes on citizens. For example, in areas with larger populations of immigrants, the government may have to provide bilingual education opportunities which costs more government money. There are also concerns that lower immigration standards could increase the risk of a terrorist attack.

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Illegal Immigration

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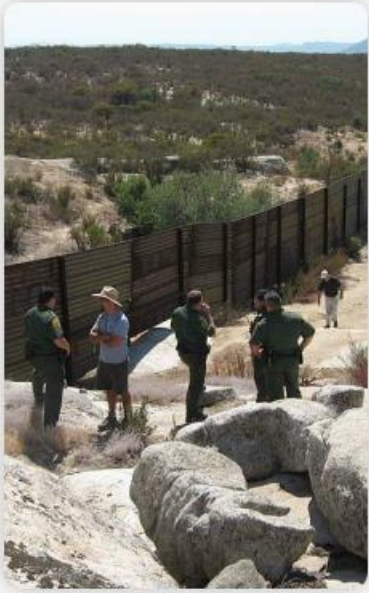
Contributions of Immigrants

Immigration and Jobs

Illegal Immigration

Illegal Immigration

The debate over the value of immigration is complicated by the issue of illegal immigration. Illegal immigration occurs when people come to the United States illegally. Illegal immigration raises issues about border security and protection of the United States. The United States government has to spend a lot of money to protect our borders and try to prevent people from illegally entering the United States. It also creates controversy around the issue of citizenship. Should people who come to the United States illegally be given a pathway to earn citizenship, or should they be prevented from earning citizenship because they broke the rules?



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