

Effects, history, and reason of immigration from Central America to large US cities

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I have adhered to University policy regarding academic honesty in completing this assignment.

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Abstract

As it is known by everyone, US is one of the main immigration centers, and historically it has been the center for immigration as well. After WWII, most immigrants which are immigrating to the US are from Central America. This review displays the history, reasons, and effects of immigration processes from Central America to large US cities. According to pieces of literature which are reviewed, people of continents which immigrated to the US changed historically, and system which regulates immigration processes changed and improved a lot, but still, there are some problems waiting for a solution. Security and political

situation are the main reasons why people from Central America are immigrating, not because of the economic situation. Even though, hundreds of thousands of people migrating every year to the US, they have been only minor effects on city culture because of a power of Americanization. However, their economic effects are huge, and it could be more positive if there is responsive and attentive city administration.

Keywords: Americanization

How immigration from Central America affects city life of big cities in the US?

Immigration is one of the most important issues in the 21st century. I chose the US because it was historically made with migrants. It could be seen the future of some countries by just observing the immigration process in the US. Future of most cities in the world depends on how to control immigration issue wisely. This literature review considers the word “Americanization” as US culture which started to widely spread after WWII and has become not only effective in the US but also worldwide. Americanization has become so powerful that cultures started to shrink and some of them disappeared worldwide. This literature review includes history, few reasons for immigration from Central America, the effects of immigration in US cities. However, I did not touch deeply the reasons for the immigration process, and I focused on positive sides more. Although it has been believed that immigration processes put the US in a hard situation and they are affecting the economy in a negative way, this review shows that how immigration processes have played a huge role in a positive way for US economy and lifestyle under the

effective administration. Moreover, one of the main reasons for the increasing number of immigrants is US politics, and it displayed in the review.

Keywords: Americanization

Immigration is a long-term process has been happening in the US from the Industrial Revolution of 1850s. In former times, most of the immigrants were from Europe, then Africa, and after WWII Latin American people have been majority among migrants (Brown, 2016). Managing immigration process, especially in US cities, is a long-term process, so it reflected its inside policy and changed time by time. There were times when immigration was strictly prohibited, and there was a time when immigration was not controlled. Hence the US has long-term experience about the immigration process and in many ways, it did successful achievements for regulating this process, there are still many problems which are waiting for solutions such as illegal migrants, cultural effects of migrants on city lifestyle and criteria for accepting immigrants (Wasem, 2018). Immigrants from Latin American countries, especially from Central America are getting much more every year, not only because of economic reasons, but also political and security reasons.

Unlike what is known, economic instability is not only important reason for immigration from Central American, but most important reasons are political situation and insecurity in those countries. The US government is investing in Central America for decreasing immigration, but actually, it affects in a negative way. The investment areas which the US does are forcing local people to move to other places and opening only low wage jobs which are hard to live with it. Furthermore, election process in these countries (especially in Honduras) is not democratic and people who are trying to claim their rights are either put to jail or killed, so security issues emerged in these countries. The reason why the US government does not intervene this unfair

process is most of the Central American governments help the US government to limit immigration processes. (Abbott, 2018) It is probably the main reason why a number of immigrants, especially illegal ones, from Central America are moving US cities more and more year by year. Trump administration tries to solve these processes by banning immigrants from some countries and restricting immigration law, but by doing this US also loses educated and experienced immigrants and creating unfairness between migrants. It also makes illegal immigration process difficult to control (Fisher, 2017). These reasons led to increase immigration to US cities, so it also affects their economic and cultural lifestyle.

The US is a country which is founded by immigrants, and historically is one of the main countries for immigrating. Every flow affected the culture of US in its history, however, after WWII this effect decreased because American culture settled down. Americanization has become so effective that most of US immigrant families started to assimilate and became part of this culture. They surely had some effects to city culture such as restaurants which serves foods from immigrants' origin country, or some clubs where they play the music of their own, but these are just minor effects. (Brown, 2014). According to Card's study (2013), immigration has decreased racial discrimination last 40 years in urban areas, but it did not change inequality between races much. Unlike what is known, Card (2013) and Chalfin (2015) claim immigration process decreases the crime rate in cities and prove their claim by data. If this process is administrated effectively, it could revitalize cities, improve the economy and improve civil life. (Katz and Ginzburg, 2015; Card, 2013)

As claims above displays how effective immigration processes have affected the economic and cultural situation of US cities, and these effects could be positive under effective and responsive administration. This literature review focused on positive sides, so even though I

did not mention, there may be a negative impact of immigration on US cities as well. This literature review could be useful for studies about history, effects, and reasons for immigration in the US. As US is the country which is historically founded by immigrants, and it is one of the main countries which has become immigrating targets after the industrial revolution of 1850s. Immigration from Central America has usually positively effects on the economic situation of US cities, but it did not change the cultural situation much in big cities especially after WWII.

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