

Welcoming the Stranger: The Racial Impact of US Immigration Policy and the Call of the Church

January 17, 24 and 31, 2021

RESOURCES FOR FUTHER STUDY

- I. Main Text:
Elizabeth Cohen. *Illegal: How America's Illegal Immigrant Policy Threatens Us All*

- II. Other recommended books
 - A. Nonfiction
 - i. David Carroll (2020 version): *Christians at the Border: Immigration, the Church and the Bible.*
 - ii. Edwidge Danticat (2007). *Brother, I'm Dying*
 - iii. Greg Grandin.(2020).*The End of the Myth: From the Frontier to the Border Wall in the Mind of America* (2020 Pulitzer Prize for Nonfiction)
 - iv. Robert Heimbarger,(2017). *God and the Illegal Alien: United States Immigration Law and A Theology of Politics* (Cambridge Studies in Law and Christianity
 - v. Walter Johnson (2020):*The Broken Heart of America; St. Louis and the Violent History of the United States*
 - vi. Alia Malek: *The Home That Was Our Country; A Memoir of Syria*
 - vii. Nikesh Shukia& Chimene Suleyman.(2020): *The Good Immigrants: 25 Writers Reflect on America.*
 - viii. Matthew Soerens, Jenny Yang & Leith Anderson. (2009, 2018). *Welcome the Stranger: Justice, Compassion and Truth in the Immigration Debate.*
 - ix. Luis Alberto Urrea (2007): *The Devil's Highway*
 - x. Karla Cornejo Villavicencio (2020). *The Undocumented Americans*
 - xi. Jane Guskin and David L. Wilson (2017) ***The Politics of Immigration (2nd Edition)*** (a slim paperback in Q&A format that is easy to follow.)
 - B. Fiction and other(tiny sample)
 - i. Hananda Ngozi Adiche: *Americanah*
 - ii. Teju Cole: *Open City*
 - iii. Zeyn Joukhadar. *The Map of Salt and Stone*
 - iv. Valerie Luiselli: *Lost Children Archive*

- v. Imbolo Mbue: *Behold the Dreamers*
- vi. Ocean Vuong: *On Earth We're Briefly Beautiful*
- vii. Luis Alberto Urrea: *The House of Broken Angels*

III. Films and documentaries

1. *Immigration Nation* (on Netflix) documentary (6 hours) Shocking real footage of how ICE and CBP work, who makes decisions, who is affected and what is the resulting suffering
2. “How the United States Built the World’s Largest Detention System,” *The Guardian* 9/24/2019 and *The Marshall Project* <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/sep/24/detained-us-largest-immigrant-detention-trump>

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2019/09/24/detained>

3. “Immigration 101” A simple overview of the whole complicated issue <https://www.kcet.org/shows/social-connected/immigration-101-racism-in-the-history-of-immigration-policy>
4. “The Out Crowd” -- This American Life,(NPR) The one you really must listen to won a Pulitzer: <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/704/our-pulitzer-winning-episode> Others under “archive” > “border asylum Immigrant”.
5. . Immigrant Prisons Series by Brave New Films—Total: 59 mins.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0g2lz7QJvfQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gF12SgkQKKk>

Brave New Films: Immigrants for Sale

<https://www.facebook.com/bravenewfilms/videos/10154745434537016/>

These include:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. <i>Immigrant Prisons</i> | 14:26 |
| b. <i>Immigrants for Sale</i> | 33:10 |
| c. <i>No More Detention: Free Pastor Noe</i> | 4:20 |
| d. <i>Trauma at the Border</i> | 4:36 |
| e. <i>Families Torn Apart: America's Deadly Immigration Policy</i> | 2:32 |

6. . Other videos: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/lost-in-detention/>

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance : “Locked in a Box”

<https://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resource/video-immigration-detention/>

IV. Articles and Websites: (by topics)

Immigrant Detention

**Detention Watch Network size of system*

US maintains the largest immigration detention system in the world

<https://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/issues/detention-101>

**A Better Way-National Immigration Justice Center*

ICE has failed to invest in far more humane, effective, and cost-efficient community-based alternatives to detention that [could reduce the government's immigration detention spending by 80 percent](#).

<https://immigrantjustice.org/research-items/report-better-way-community-based-programming-alternative-immigrant-incarceration>

**Detention Statistics from Freedom For Immigrants*

<https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/detention-statistics>

**Conditions inside Detention Centers Time Magazine 7/10/19*

<https://time.com/5623148/migrant-detention-centers-conditions/>

US deports migrants who accuse detention center gynecologist of abuse

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/nov/11/us-deportations-women-allege-detention-center-gynecologist-abuse>

Living Conditions in U.S. Immigration Detention Centers

<https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/living-conditions-immigration-detention-centers.html>

**Deaths at Adult Detention Centers*

[AILA - Deaths at Adult Detention Centers](#)

**Medical Abuse at detention Centers Washington Post*

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/09/18/migrant-detention-centers-have-long-history-medical-neglect-abuse/>

Marsha Gessen: "Trump's Immigration Rule Is Cruel and Racist—But It's Nothing New." The New Yorker, January 29, 2020

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/our-columnists/trumps-immigration-rule-is-cruel-and-racist-but-its-nothing-new>

Refugees and Borders: Remapping the World We Think We Know hosted 2-4 pm (PST) Saturday 05 December 2020.. Follow-up resources:

- [Now What? Actions to continue remapping...](#) gives you actions, ideas, links and more to help you continue remapping the way we act and think.
- The Refugees and Borders recorded webinar is available [here](#).

HIAS Update

Overall Immigration Policy-Trump and Before and Immigration Law

(Note with *: These sources and comments come from materials collected by [Prof, Vanessa Merton](#) at the [Elisabeth Haub School of Law, Pace School](#) for her classes on [Immigration Law](#). She is a colleague of [Linda Fentiman](#). Most are very technical, but **COPIES OF THESE ARTICLES ARE APPENDED TO THE END OF THIS Resources List.**)

1. **American Immigration Council – Immigration 101:** <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/topics/immigration-101> .
2. **Blogs of Jeffrey Chase:** <https://www.jeffreyschase.com/> A really brilliant commentator with great perspective as a long-time Immigration Court Judge and leading advisor to the Board of Immigration Appeals. He is now in private practice. and his pithy, accessible pieces explaining the law on specific issues are among the best in the toolkit.
3. **Richard Abel’s Practicing Law in Filene’s Basement** at <https://scholarship.law.unc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4219&context=nclr> This provides a somewhat whimsical accounting of the rampant fraud on and abuse of immigrants seeking legal help, which is such a barrier to their obtaining lawful status that is available to them under our law, which they uniformly desperately try to obtain, despite all the obstruction put in their way.
4. The [Immigration Policy Tracking Project \(IPTP\) website](#) is available [here](#). We invite you to use it by [registering here](#) with your email and a personal password. The tracking project is designed to support reform and advocacy by cataloguing every known Trump policy, including the many lesser-known but significant changes not generally reported. The redesigned website includes rules, directives, form changes, memos, AG certifications, executive orders, presidential proclamations, pending rule changes, and other actions. IPTP contains more than 1000 entries and is regularly updated to reflect new policies. Each IPTP entry includes the underlying policy documents and any relevant predecessor policies or documents. The entries are searchable and can be sorted chronologically, by subject matter, or by agency, type of action, status of policy change, etc.
5. **Wiebe’s *The Immigration Hotel***. Under “X. Immigrant Law Cass Resources” Outline at <https://prezi.com/c70ct8vpngbp/immigration-hotel-spring-2015/>

:

V. Chronological Overview of US Immigration policies (1719-2005)

A. “History of Immigration and Racism Timeline”

<https://www.racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/racismimmigration-timeline.pdf>

B. Some recent highlights of toxic policy- Clinton to Trump Pre 9-11:

Clinton’s (1) Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, the welfare-reform law –saved money by denying assistance to immigrants, and most went into the shadow, even if were allowed.

(2) Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (I.I.R.I.R.A.), which created the framework for the mass deportations of immigrants who broke the law in the United States and set up two legal standards—for citizens vs noncitizens.

(3) Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, which created expedited procedures for deporting “alien terrorists.

9/11: American Patriot Act—never vetted, largest agencies ever existed in DHS, USCIS,CBP,ICE—all convoluted, reshuffled.

Trump era— 400 actions, including: children separated; stay in Mexico, no asylum, ICE raids, deportations, Moslem ban, refusal to accept Supreme Court on DACA, end of Special Status for Haiti, Stuffing Immigration courts with pro-Trump judges, Raised price for applications for citizenship, green card, appeals,;

VI. Organizations Working for Immigrants

A. Focus on Detention and Abolition:

Detention Watch <https://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/>

Freedom for Immigrants <https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/>

First Friends NJ/NY <https://firstfriendsnjny.org/>

Queer Detention Empowerment Project <https://www.qdep.org>

Riverside Sojourners Detention Visitation
<https://www.trcnyc.org/ministries/sojourners/>

B. Focus on all immigrant and refugee issue:

American Friends Service Committee Immigrant Rights Program
<https://www.afsc.org/program/immigrNT-RIGHTS-PRIGRAM-NEWaark-nj>

Amnesty International <https://amnestyusa.org/campaigns/refugee-and-migrant-rights/>

ACLU <https://www.aclu.org/issues/immigration-right?redirect=immigrants-rights>

Catholic Charities Immigration Program
<https://catholiccharitiesus.org/efforts/immigration-refugees-services>

Friends Committee on National Legislation <https://www.fcnl.org/>

Human Rights First <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org>

Ignatian Solidarity Network <https://ignatiansolidarity.net/>

Legal Aid of NJ-Immigrant Representation Project
https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/organization.393113-Legal_Services_of_New_Jersey_Immigration_Representation_Project

Migrant Center at St. Francis of Assisi (NYC)
<https://www.stfrancisnyc.org/migrntcenter>

National Immigration Project <https://www.nationalimmigrationprojext.org/>

National Immigrant Justice Center/ Heartland Alliance
<https://immigrantjustice.org/>

New Sanctuary Coalition <https://www.newsanctuarynyc.org/programs>

HIAS <https://www.hias.org/>

TRAC <https://trac.syr.edu/immigration/> This resource out of Syracuse University provides “comprehensive, independent and nonpartisan information about U.S. federal immigration enforcement”

United Church of Christ
https://www.ucc.org/justice_immigration_worship_faith-and-immigration

- VII. Scripture and Devotionals on immigrants
 - A. M.Daniel Carroll R (Author), *Sojourners Magazine* (Editor) (2013, October) *Strangers in the Land; A Six Week Devotional Guide on Immigration, the Church and the Bible*
 - B. Prayers for Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers
https://ignatiansolidarity.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Unaccompanied_Toolkit_Prayers.pdf

VIII. National and State Legislation to Push/Watch (specifics to follow- most of the above will be reintroduced in the next Congress)

Recommendations from the ACLU for the Biden Team:

Complete list at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ny-AZLFihvI6RTbUXTPotV5X_Y_MJFH9/view?usp=sharing

Online at:

<https://www.aclu.org/aclu-immigration-policy-recommendations-biden-harris-administration>

Congress

- A. S.2221 DONE Act (Detention Organization, Not Extension Act (Kamala Harris
- B. S.4741 End Transfer of Immigrant Detainees
- C. HR2415 Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act of 2019 (to be reintroduced) (Jayapal Pramila)
- D. HR5383: A New Way Forward Act (criminal justice and immigration protection initiatives)

NY/NJ

- a. Universal Representation Program (NJ--\$ for legal reps for detainees)
<https://www.afsc.org/sites/default/files/documents/ACCESS%20TO%20JUSTICE%20FOR%20DETAINED%20IMMIGRANTS%20IN%20NJ.pdf>
- b. Immigrant Trust Directive (NJ.NY—make state law so law enforcement officers can not cooperate with ICE)

IX. Some Other Immediate and Long-term Actions

Stop Overspending on Immigrant Detention and Border Militarization

<https://fcn.quorum.us/campaign/25526/>

Learn about and work with Defund Hate—AFSC webair (2019) (Facts on ICE funding)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIG0jS2lYIg&feature=emb_logo

Study How to talk about defunding ICE and CBP (handout)
<https://www.afsc.org/sites/default/files/documents/2020%20Defund%20Hate%20messaging%20research%20.pdf>

Join the Campaign to “Shut Down Berk.”

Berk’s County Family Detention Center is located in Leesport, Pennsylvania and is one of three detention centers for women and children (men are always separated). The other two are in Texas— South Texas **Family Residential Center** in Dilley, Texas and Karnes County Residential **Center** (KCRC) in Karnes City, Texas and are run by CoreCivic and Geo respectively, for-profit prison corporation. Berk is publicly owned and takes babies as young as 2 weeks.

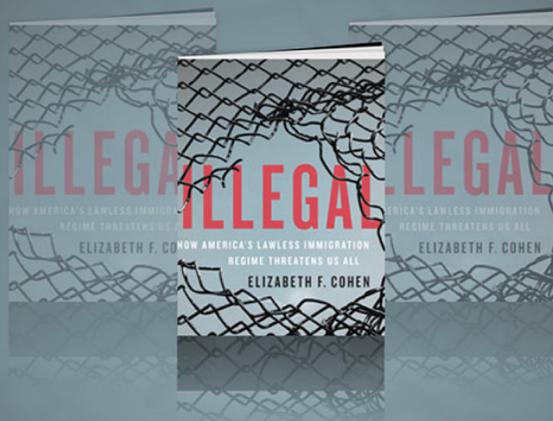
<https://paimmigrant.org/campaign-to-shut-down-berks/>

- X. Thirty Articles and Outlines from Immigration Law (from Pace Law School Class of Vanessa Merton)
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DaDDfnru9fLpr1jTFCfUH1bCGVK2awtl?usp=sharing>

Riverside's Sojourners Ministry & Anti-Racism Task Force Present:

WELCOMING THE STRANGER

THE IMPACT OF RACE ON U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY AND THE CALL OF
THE CHURCH



JANUARY 17, 24, 31 | SUNDAYS 1:30PM | ZOOM

Welcoming the Stranger: The Racial Impact of US Immigration Policy and the Call of the Church

*Presented by Sojourners,
Commission on Mission and Social
Justice, and Taskforce on Anti-
Racism*

The Riverside Church

January 17, 24 and 31, 2021





LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

For most of us meeting in the area local to New York City, we are living on Lenapehoking, to this day unceded traditional territory of the Lenape, and we are bound with them in a complex history, a shared geography, and in appreciation of this land.

Each week during this course, we will give acknowledgement to the “original people” who occupied this land for many centuries. The Lenape were sustainable farmers. Their way of life revolved around farming and relocating their villages within the range every year or so, returning to previous sites when the land rejuvenated itself. They had no concept of private land ownership.

The LENAPE PEOPLE live among us. There are major communities in Oklahoma; Ontario, CANADA; Wisconsin and members still live with us in the NYC area.

We acknowledge the LENAPE PEOPLE with gratitude.



We are admonished by our Judeo-Christian faith to welcome the stranger as a brother, as a family, as a child of God



35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, **I was a stranger and you invited me in,** 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, **I was in prison and you came to visit me.'**

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?' 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25:35-40(New International Version)

Class Covenant

Because we value our time together and because we value and affirm the positive values and contributions of a diversity of people, including people of different ethnicities, cultures, genders, sexual orientations, ages and abilities represented among us, we the members this group agree:

To enter this space with curiosity and humility

To leave behind cellphones and other distractions and to mute and turn off video if an outside matter absolutely must be felt with during class

To value and respect privacy and therefore keep personal information confidential, sharing ideas outside the group only without attribution

To encourage all questions, comments and responses and to allow all to contribute.

To recognize that we are here to work on ourselves, not on others.

To expect moments of discomfort, even high emotion, including racial stress. We will breathe into these moments, make a note of them for discussion at a designated debriefing time, and not use them (wittingly or unwittingly) to change the subject, call attention to ourselves or limit the discussion.

To be as brief as possible in our comments to allow for sharing time equitably. “WAIT = Why Am I Talking?”

To be intentional in listening actively, not interrupting others or engaging in cross-talk, and making space for each other.

To honor the opinions of others we disagree with, as valid and sincere, allowing for honesty and safety

To speak personally and use “I” statements

To treat others with respect, caring and kindness as we seek to find truth and common ground.

To avoid repeating ourselves as a way of monopolizing and controlling the conversation.

To keep discussion on topic and seek to develop a sense of community with the group.

Focus for Class One

- The myth of an “open” America vs xenophobia, white supremacy, rejection.
- Rogue agencies of Immigration and Citizen Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) threaten “rule of law,” liberty and security of both citizens and noncitizens
- Immigration court judges--political appointees under the thumb of the Attorney General--rule outside due process
- US response to the crises at the southern border and the debacle of building a border endanger lives, break international laws, and waste our tax money
- Undocumented immigrants are trapped without a way to regularize or acquire legal status.



History of demonizing immigrants vs the myth of an “open” America

- The US has a long history of separating families and rejecting immigrants.
- Historically and in the present, immigrants (and “others”) were treated with “violence, cruelty and exploitation” and a closed door. (Elizabeth Cohen (2020): *Illegal* ; Laura Briggs (2020): *Taking Children: A History of American Terror*; Dina Fanceca Hayes, “Sacrificing Women and Immigrants on the Altar of Regressive Politics.”)

The Dynamic:



These people were excluded as part of the foundation of the US society

1619-1865: Trafficked in **chattel slaves** from Africa



1620-on: Took **Native American** land and culture, forced tribes onto reservations and put Native American children into reservation schools



1980-90's and on: Removed **disproportionate numbers of African American** children into foster care and incarcerated their family members

These groups of people were targeted for exclusion

- i. 1882: **Chinese** Exclusion Act Excluded
- ii. 20-21st c. Massacred/deported/ imported as workers only those from **Mexico and Caribbean**
- iii. 1924: Nationalities Origin Law, quotas restricted and and quantitatively discriminated **against all but N. Europeans**
- iv. 1940's: Disenfranchised/detained **Japanese-Americans** and closed door to **Jews fleeing Nazi Germany**
- v. 2017: **Muslim** Travel Ban
- vi. 2018: Zero Tolerance --**immigrant children** in cages and separated from their parents
- vii. 2019-20: Southern border closed to **all asylum seekers**. Stay in Mexico mandate implemented



*Immigrants: The Myth and **the Reality***

“Take” jobs from Americans vs **fill and enhance American jobs**

Overuse “safety net” benefits vs. **contribute and get limited benefits**

Are criminals or terrorists vs **have marked lower rates of crime than native born**

“Hordes” over-running the country vs **actual decrease in numbers since 2007**

Government needs to beef up and spend more on immigration laws and enforcement vs. **a failed, unnecessary and dangerous system**

“Immigrant” or “foreign born” refer to persons with no U.S. citizenship at birth. This population includes naturalized citizens, lawful permanent residents, refugees and asylees, persons on certain temporary visas, and the unauthorized/undocumented.

As of 2018:

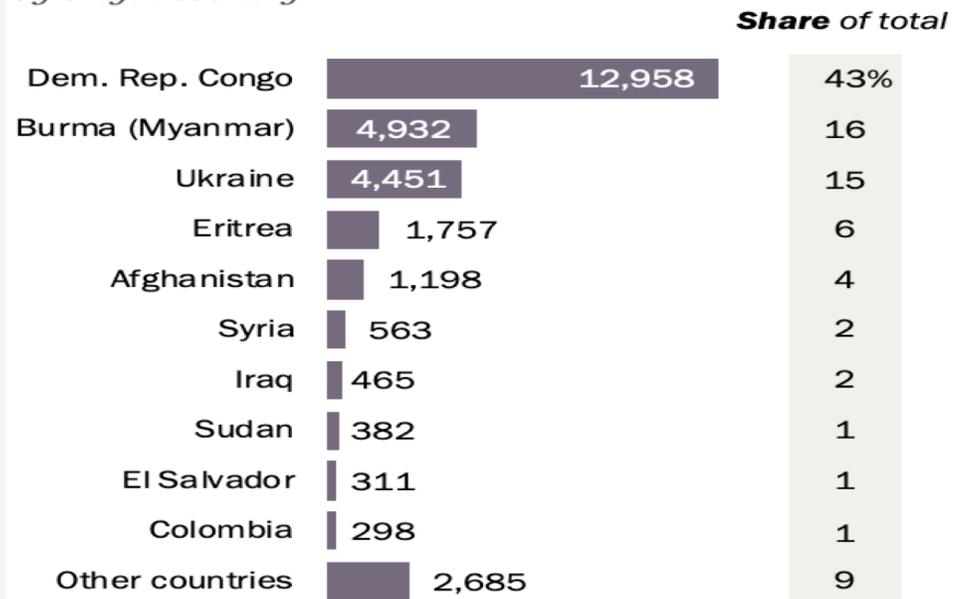
- The foreign-born population stood at 44.7 million
- Mexican-born represent 25% (down from 30% in 2010)
- After Mexicans, the top ten of the overall immigrant population, representing 57% of all immigrants
 - Indians: about 6 percent
 - Chinese (including those born in Hong Kong and Macao but not Taiwan): about 5%
 - Filipinos: about 5 percent of the overall immigrant population.
 - People from El Salvador, Vietnam, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic (each accounting for 3 percent each)
 - People from Korea and Guatemala: each 2 percent).
 - **The top five countries of birth for unauthorized immigrants: Mexico (53 percent), El Salvador (6 percent), Guatemala (5 percent), and China and Honduras (3 percent each).**

--Migration Policy Institute: “Frequently Requested Statistics on Immigrants and Immigration in the United States.” Feb. 20, 2020

Who Are These Immigrants: The Refugees

More than half of U.S. refugees in 2019 were from D.R. Congo and Burma

Number of refugees entering the U.S. in fiscal 2019, by origin country



Note: Data do not include special immigrant visas and certain humanitarian parole entrants.

Source: U.S. State Department's Refugee Processing Center accessed October 2019.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

- Refugees admitted to the US wait years, are vetted by 11 international and national organizations first.
- Millions have come seeking safety and asylum from Central African Republic, Cameroon, Congo, Chad, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Venezuela, Syria, Iraq, Sudan
- **Obama's pledge: resettle 110,000 refugees for 2017. Trump's action: reduce the numbers; cap for 2019 was 30,000. In FY 2020 it will be only 15,000.**
- Main settlement states: Texas, Washington, New York and California accounting for about 25% of those settled.
- Trump administration polices **have slowed and stopped** these processes, leaving many in isolation for years.
- Canada now leads the world in refugee resettlement, surpassing the U.S

The Real “Enemy”

- ***Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) of Homeland Security***

Video excerpt: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0g2lz7QJvfQ> (Immigrant Prisons series)

**Rogue agencies, with immunity from laws and court rulings that regulate governmental and police activities in every other sphere*

**Armed police presence and military-style fortifications pose a threat to the “rule of law,” liberty and the security of both citizens and noncitizens.*

**Justify their every move out of a declared status of “exceptionalism”*

**Expanding and unrestrained powers and jurisdiction—can patrol and take action anywhere within 100 miles into the interior of the US, where 2/3s of US population live.*

** Ballooning budgets (\$20 B Fiscal 2020) and staff (20,000 for ICE and 60,000 total for CBP); spend \$6.5M/day on detention, while detaining children is a \$18B industry.*

The Stats: Detention and Deportations by ICE

How many immigrant detention centers are there?

- Over 200, plus ICE uses over 1200 other facilities as “temporary holding” facilities

Which states detain the most immigrants?

- As of April 2019: Texas (14,481), Louisiana (4,415), Arizona (4,405), California (4,353), and Georgia (3,719), are the top five states with the largest number of people in U.S. immigration detention per day.

How many people are detained in private for-profit detention prisons?

- Seventy-seventy-three percent (70-73%)

Who profits?

For profit prisons are a \$4B /a year US industry

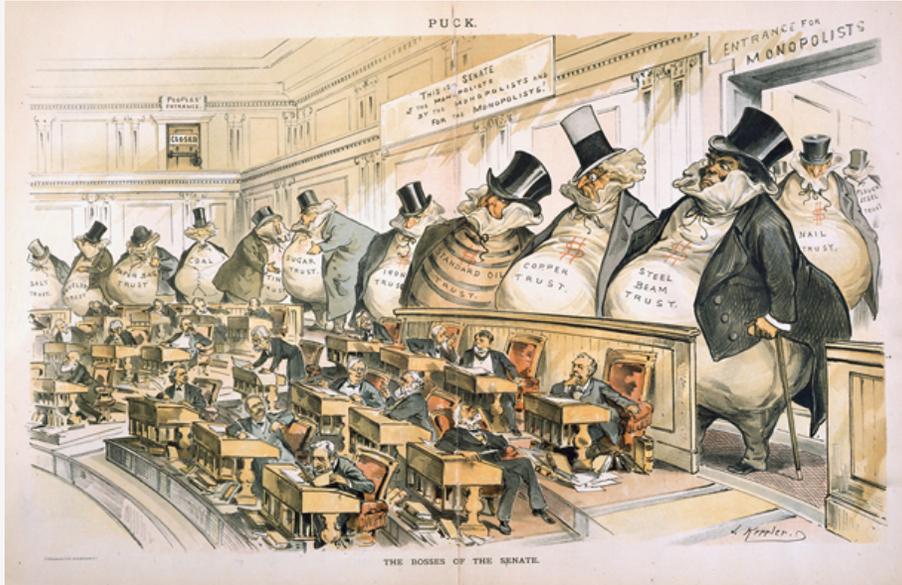
- GEO Group: the largest ICE contractor for immigration detention FY 2017, received \$184 million, and has donated about \$4.4 million to federal candidates and PACs since 2004
 - Corrections Corporation of America/CoreCivic received \$135 million for immigration detention “services” and has spent \$26.1 million on lobbying since 1998.
-

The Stats: Detention and Deportations by ICE (cont.)

Who is detained and how long?

- Asylum-seekers, undocumented workers who have been in the States for years
 - Largest group are 26 to 35 years old
 - They can be kept an average of 2 years or more, OR detained and released the same day or week, without due process or a hearing
 - Average daily population of **detained immigrants**: 7,000 (1994), 19,000 (2001), over 50,000 (2019).
 - The US **detention** system now captures and holds as **many** as 500,000 **immigrants** each year.
—*Detention 101: Detention Watch Network and*
<https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/detention-statistics>
-

Immigration court judges--political appointees--rule outside due process



“There’s nowhere else in our system where the same branch of government can arrest, detain, charge, prosecute, review the case, or review the appeal of, have complete control of the custody of, and execute the sentence of the same person.”

--Elizabeth Cohen: *Illegal* (p.63)

As detailed by the Innovation Law Lab and the Southern Poverty Law Center 2020 report:

- Immigrant Court Judges, appointed by the Executive Office for Immigration Review, are bureaucrats, not vetted judges.
- They are pressured to deport people, to rule quickly (under Trump they had quotas that had to be filled), they do not have the final word on a case, and they can be fired or punished if they do not meet enforcement-driven case quotas.

US response to the crises at the southern border and the debacle of building a border wall--waste lives, break international laws, and waste our tax money

- Encourages criminal cartels, smugglers, and sends immigrants to their death as they seek other, indirect ways to cross into the US, routes which expose them to unsurvivable threats
- Offers no evidence of “terrorists” entering via Mexico: Most terrorists active in the US are homegrown (Think 1.7.21)
- Ignores fact that more Mexicans are leaving the US than entering it, and many thousands of immigrants come from Asia (Central and South), Central America and Sub-Saharan Africa.by air or sea.
- DHS projected the cost at \$21 B in 2017
- Walls do not keep people out.....



- *The Trap: There is currently NO path to legal citizenship status for the “Undocumented.”*
- (How we got to this point will be discussed in detail in Class 2 and 3, but here are some general points)
- The current Registry Act has not been updated to allow for anyone who entered AFTER January 1, 1972 to regularize/legalize their status
- There are no “anchor babies:” Although the 14th Amendment makes a child born on US soil automatically a US citizen, their parents – some 6 M without documentation, **most of whom had lived and worked for 15 plus years in the US** -- are not protected from deportation.
- DACA (2014), since challenged and held up in implementation despite court rulings validating it, was set up to allow individuals brought here as children and adhering to certain civic and educational standards, to begin a path to legal status



Two Breakout Questions to Consider

- Why does the US consistently claim "this is not what America is," when in fact the history of how we have dealt with non-northern Europeans shows otherwise?
- From the Old Testament on, we are told how to treat others. Read this passage: *Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.* (**Hebrews 13:1-3**)

Hints: What is being asked of us in specific contemporary actions? What does "hospitality consist of? How would we "show hospitality to strangers?" How do we cultivate the kind of empathy that makes us feel the horrific experience of an immigrant in detention, someone in the stages of deportation and separation from his family, an individual returning to a country where he/she has been tortured or faces death; a refugee or asylee faced with starting over from scratch in this country ?

How have you experienced "angels?"



What Can We Do as Stewards of Our Faith? ACTIONS

CONNECT with RAICES (The Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services)

Their mission is "to defend the rights of immigrants and refugees, empower individuals, families and communities and advocate for liberty and justice" and they have been especially active at the Southern border.

Follow this link to Take Action now, to send off a letter in a minute or to become involved more long-term.

<https://www.raicetexas.org/take-action/>



Q & A

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you.
