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Latino Immigrants Affected by U.S. Immigration Policy: U.S. Presidents Obama and Trump's Immigration Measures

تأثير سياسة الهجرة الأمريكية على المهاجرين اللاتينيين إجراءات الهجرة للرئيسين الأمريكيين أوباما وترامب

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Abstract

The United States was founded and has remained for more than 200 years, a land of immigration. Its immigration policy has passed through various stages, with miscellaneous events and enduring issues influencing immigration and immigrants in the United States. The immigration measures taken by President Barack Obama and his Republican successor Donald Trump sparked contentious debates. Initially, the two administrations were accused of targeting and causing enormous harm to Latino immigrants. The purpose of this article is to analyze the immigration measures issued during Obama and Trump presidencies and their impacts on Latino immigrants. We intend to draw a comparative analysis between Obama and Trump's immigration measures targeting Latino immigrants. The crux of this survey is to explore the basic immigration measures adopted by Presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump. Besides, it shows how did those measures manipulate U.S. immigration policies. The findings reveal the way those measures of both administrations affected Latino immigrants.

ملخص

تعتبر الهجرة من دعائم الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية والتي يعود تاريخها لأكثر من مئتي سنة ومرت سياسة الهجرة للولايات المتحدة الأمريكية بعدة مراحل وقد تأثرت هذه الأخيرة بالعديد من الأحداث المختلفة التي أثرت بشكل كبير على كل من سياسة الهجرة والمهاجرين بالولايات المتحدة الأمريكية. قام كل من الرئيسين باراك أوباما ودونالد ترامب باتخاذ إجراءات متعلقة بالهجرة وقد تعرضت هذه الإجراءات إلى العديد من الانتقادات حيث تم توجيه العديد من الاتهامات لكلا الرئيسين لاستهدافهما المهاجرين اللاتينيين مسببين لهم أضرارا جمة. يهدف المقال إلى تحليل كل من الإجراءات الصادرة عن الرئيس أوباما وخليفته الرئيس دونالد ترامب، ومدى تأثيرها على المهاجرين اللاتينيين. نقوم من خلال هذا المقال بالمقارنة بين إجراءات الهجرة الخاصة بأوباما وترامب التي تستهدف المهاجرين اللاتينيين. يتمثل جوهر هذا الاستطلاع في استكشاف تدابير الهجرة الأساسية التي اعتمدها الرئيسان باراك أوباما ودونالد ترامب. إلى جانب ذلك، يُظهر كيف غيرت هذه الإجراءات سياسة الهجرة الأمريكية. تكشف النتائج كيف أثرت تلك التدابير من الإدارتين على المهاجرين اللاتينيين.

الكلمات المفتاحية:

سياسة الهجرة

باراك أوباما

دونالد ترامب

المهاجرين اللاتينيين

1. introduction

Best known as a nation of immigrants, the United States has a longstanding history of immigration. Immigrant groups from different parts of the world headed to the U.S. for a variety of reasons. Some groups immigrated by choice, looking for better living and economic conditions. In contrast, others moved to the U.S. necessarily, escaping persecution and civil wars in their home countries. Above all, immigration has played a crucial role in providing the U.S. with productive individuals who have contributed to technological advancement and economic prosperity. The steady influx of immigrants combined with miscellaneous events led to widespread claims that immigrants were responsible for the economic downturn and security threats in the U.S. Those claims placed U.S. immigration policy as a top priority for regulations. It became one of the most sensitive subjects, with diverging opinions ranging between proponents and opponents. Advocates of immigration supported the idea of allowing immigrants to be part of American society. Opponents questioned the advantage of immigrants staying or even crossing American borders. Given their massive numbers, Latino immigrant groups sparked concern among the U.S. public opinion. This study sheds light on the Obama and Trump administrations, focusing on the different immigration measures they introduced. During his electoral campaign, Democrat Barack Obama expressed his strong support for the immigrant community, stressing their positive contribution to U.S. development. Meanwhile, he repeatedly insisted on his commitment to enforcing the rule of law, arguing that every foreigner should obey U.S. law. Republican candidate Donald Trump placed immigration as a top priority for his campaign, claiming its urgent need for deep and strict regulations. He accused the previous administration of allowing underserved immigrants to hold the jobs that Americans deserved the most. He even went so far as to accuse the Obama administration of releasing criminal aliens putting U.S. national safety at risk. This article will explore the immigration measures of Presidents Obama and Trump towards Latino immigrant groups. Therefore, the paper tries to answer the following questions: First, why did Latino immigrants spark considerable debate in U.S. political

landscape? What are the different immigration measures introduced by Obama and Trump administrations? And how did these measures affect Latino immigrants?

Focal Points of the Paper

- Understanding the events shaping U.S. immigration policy towards Latino immigrants

- Distinguishing between President Obama and President Trump's immigration measures regarding Latino immigrants.

- Revealing the effects of President Obama and President Trump's immigration measures on Latino immigrants.

Research Methodology

Regarding research in comparative /historical mode, the study sometimes draws on the methodological work of Charles Pagin-in particular, his consideration (1987) of John Stewart Mill's distinction between the 'method of agreement' and 'the indirect method of difference' which is adopted in this study to highlight the contrast in cases.

Besides, a comparative method is employed to highlight common aspects and draw clear distinctions between the immigration policies of President Obama and President Trump.

To answer the questions raised in the present research paper, an analysis of the collected data worked towards providing the reader with basic knowledge related to the U.S. immigration policy.

2.The Experience of Latino Immigrants in the U.S.

Shortly after its independence, the U.S. started receiving thousands of immigrants escaping economic disruption and political and religious persecution. Immigrants were encouraged by the Open-Door immigration policy the U.S. adopted to inhabit its territories. The massive agricultural and industrial transformation occurring in the United States played a crucial role in attracting other immigrant groups. Latino immigrants occupied a significant share of the immigration process to the U.S.

Despite its early existence, it was not until the 1960s that Latino immigration to the U.S. sparked high importance as their numbers increased steadily.

Before the 1960s, less than one million Mexican and Central American immigrants lived in the U.S., about 25 percent of all U.S. immigrants (**Brick, Challinor, & Rosenblum, 2011, p. 3**). However, the beginning of the 1960s marked an important transition in Latino immigration to the U.S. The number of Latino immigrants, namely Mexican and Central American immigrants, increased heavily. Their share jumped from 25% after World War II to 40% in the early 1960s (Ibid, p. 2).

Concerning Mexico, the beginning of the 20th century marked the influx of large numbers of Mexican immigrants. Among the most motivating factors was the issuance of the Bracero program. Signed on August 4, 1942, the program was a bilateral temporary guest-worker agreement between the U.S. and Mexico (**Mandeel, 2001, p. 172**). It aimed at importing unemployed Mexican workers to fill labor shortages in the U.S. agricultural sector. About 2 million Mexican workers moved to the U.S. under the Bracero program (Ibid).

Alongside those legal immigrants, massive numbers of illegal immigrants headed to the U.S. (Ibid, p. 174). While thousands of Mexican workers were eligible to sign up for the Bracero program, thousands of others were unauthorized to apply for it. Ineligible Mexican workers sought another way to benefit from agribusiness expansion in the U.S., breaking the U.S. immigration law and entering the U.S. illegally (**Hernández, 2006, pp. 424-425**).

The surge in Latino immigration to the U.S. led to several changes to U.S. immigration policy. The U.S. Border Patrol was concerned mostly with the increasing number of undocumented Mexican immigrants. Although there was no clear evidence, nor accurate deportation records, some scholars agreed that the U.S. conducted several deportations against illegal immigrants and Mexicans in particular. Despite those early deportations, it was not until 1954 that the U.S. government announced its official immigration law enforcement. In response to the growing number of illegal aliens, in May 1954, Attorney General Herbert Brownell issued the Operation Wetback campaign. The campaign ordered the deployment of about 800

Border Patrol officers along the southwestern U.S. border, leading to the deportation of one million individuals (**Hernández, 2006, p. 421**).

Regardless of the U.S. immigration restrictions, large-scale immigration continued. Mexico and Central America experienced several economic and social hardships, pushing thousands of their population to immigrate to the U.S. As of the 1960s, Mexico witnessed remarkable population growth, which led to the rapid growth of its working-age population. However, the growing share of the labor force was combined with a severe economic downturn in Mexico, increasing the number of unemployed Mexicans (**Brick, Challinor, & Rosenblum, 2011, p. 4**). In a similar vein, economic challenges combined with civil wars in Guatemala (1960-96) and El Salvador (1980-92) drove a substantial share of their population to immigrate to the U.S. (Ibid).

During the next decades, the number of Mexican and Central American immigrants to the U.S. increased steadily. Mexican population doubled from more than 2 million in the 1980s to more than 4 million in the 1990s. Besides, Central Americans increased from less than 500,000 to more than one million in the 1990s (Ibid, p. 3). To curb the number of immigrants, especially the undocumented ones, U.S. Congress passed the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986. The act combined with a restrictive policy and an amnesty program. First, it imposed civil and criminal sanctions on U.S. employers who knowingly hired unauthorized aliens. Besides, it introduced an amnesty program, legalizing about 3 million undocumented immigrants (**Baker, 1997, p. 5**).

Undocumented immigration persisted, leading to a steady increase in the number of illegal entries. Rather than reducing the undocumented population, IRCA led to new immigrant flows based on family ties to IRCA-legalized aliens (Ibid). In precise, aliens from Mexico and Central American countries marked the highest entries. During the 2000s, the number of Mexican immigrants in the U.S. jumped from 4 million in the 1990s to more than 9 million. Also, immigration from Central America increased from one million immigrants in the 1990s to 2 million

in the 2000s. Illegal entries occupied a remarkable share of Mexican and Central American immigration to the U.S. Of the overall number of the immigrant population in the 2000s, less than 2 million were legal permanent residents from Mexico and less than one million from Central America (**Brick, Challinor, & Rosenblum, 2011, p. 3**).

Given the growing pace of undocumented immigration, the U.S. government passed the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), targeting undocumented aliens. IIRIRA included provisions related to border patrol, interior enforcement, and worksite enforcement. Title I ordered the employment of no less than 1,000 new border patrol agents, construction of 14-mile fencing, and the improvement of border equipment and technology. Besides, it imposed new civil penalties for illegal entry. The act introduced provisions related to apprehending, detaining, and removing deportable aliens. In this regard, it presented Section 287 (g), which allowed state and local law enforcement agencies to enforce federal immigration law. It permitted state and local law enforcement officers to engage in federal immigration enforcement activities, including investigation, apprehension, detention, and deportation. Key provisions regarding worksite enforcement included pilot programs to verify individuals' eligibility for employment and employer sanctions for intentionally hiring unauthorized foreigners (Smith, 1996).

Among all immigrant groups, the share of Latino aliens subject to immigration enforcement measures was the highest. In 2006, of the 1,206,000 apprehended aliens, about 88% were Mexicans. Besides, Mexicans, Hondurans, and Guatemalans made up 67%, 10%, and 7% of the 272,389 deported aliens, respectively (**DHS, 2008**).

3. Latino Immigrants Under the Obama Administration

During the 2008 presidential election, the largest proportion of the Latino population voted for Barack Obama (Skrentny & López, 2013, p. 63). Among the central issues that Obama promised to solve during his presidential campaign was to pass a comprehensive

immigration reform that had previously failed. Many assumed that Obama's promise to pass a comprehensive immigration reform helped him win the Latin support (Ibid, p. 64).

President Obama pursued two contradictory strategies based on enforcement and nonenforcement decisions. Apart from his immigration enforcement measures, Obama issued a temporary relief program providing a vital share of undocumented aliens with the opportunity to adjust their legal status. Either way, President Obama received increased disagreements from both immigrants' advocates and anti-immigrant groups.

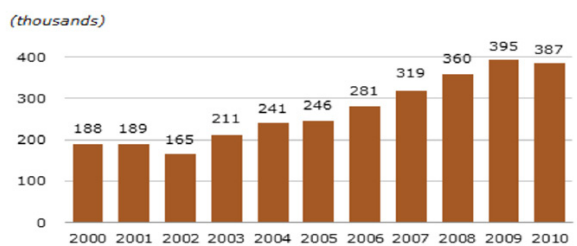
a. Obama's Immigration Enforcement Measures

Obama took several law enforcement measures related to different immigration sectors, including border patrol and interior and worksite enforcement. During his two tenures, President Obama enacted several legislations regarding border security. To mention, on February 17, 2009, he signed the first law related to border patrol, the American Recovery, and Reinvestment Act. Title VI of the act provided for additional appropriations for FY 2009 to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The legislation appropriated funding for more fencing, infrastructure, and developing and deploying border security technology on the U.S. southwest border (Obey, 2009).

Accordingly, the number of border patrol agents doubled from 10,000 in 2004 to 20,700 in 2010 (**Building a 21st Century Immigration System, 2011, p. 5**). Concerned more with the south border, ICE placed nearly a quarter of its federal agents on the southwest border to ensure effective investigation. Furthermore, DHS covered the southwest border with new technology devices, such as thermal camera systems, mobile surveillance systems, and remote video surveillance systems to provide aerial surveillance assistance to personnel on the ground. Moreover, DHS almost completed the planned 652 miles by constructing 649 miles of fencing, with additional plans to accomplish the remaining 3 miles (Ibid, p. 6).

Moreover, President Obama recorded the highest deportations. The Democratic President became known as the “Deporter in Chief” among immigrant advocates. His administration deported large numbers of illegal aliens, exceeding the previous rates. In 2000 and 2007, the number of immigrant removals ranged between 188,000 and 319,000, respectively. During his first year in office, Obama deported nearly 400,000, the highest number in more than ten years (Fig. N° 1).

Fig. 1 Removals, Fiscal Years 2000-2010



Notes: Removals are the compulsory and confirmed movement of an inadmissible or deportable alien out of the United States based on an order of removal. An alien who is removed has administrative or criminal consequences placed on subsequent reentry.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2010 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics.

ICE set three priority enforcement categories, including immigrants with serious criminal records, recent illegal entrants, and those who ignored their removal orders. Given the scarce enforcement resources, Obama distinguished between the undeserving undocumented aliens and those deserving of legalization by targeting previously convicted aliens. As of August 2010, ICE developed a guide containing civil enforcement priorities based on removing individuals who posed a threat to national security or public safety. Deportation witnessed an increase of 70 percent of aliens with criminal records in 2010 compared to 2008 (Ibid, p. 7).

Given the massive number of illegal immigrants, ICE cooperated with state and local law enforcement agencies to identify and apprehend aliens subject to removal. The Obama administration sought assistance from local agencies to ensure full implementation of its new immigration reforms. To achieve that, Obama adopted provision 287 (g), the Criminal Alien Program (CAP), and Secure Communities (SCOMM). The programs aimed at placing ICE officials in local

jails to ensure the deportation of undocumented immigrants with dangerous criminal records first (FitzGerald, López, & McClean, 2019, pp. 38-39).

Furthermore, Obama initiated new detention facilities, programs, and standards to ensure more effective protection. The first step involved reviewing the federal government’s contracts with local jails and private prisons. Besides, ICE Director John T. Morton created a new Office of Detention Policy and Planning headed by Dora Schriro. The agency was responsible for reviewing detention policies and practices and overseeing health care for detainees (Building a 21st Century Immigration System, 2011, p. 8).

In terms of worksite enforcement, the Obama administration sought a more systematic approach. Obama focused on employers of immigrants rather than immigrant employees, explained Janet Napolitano (Bacon and Hing, p. 80). He relied on employer sanctions passed by IRCA as a deterrent (Ibid, p. 84). The number of undocumented aliens deported under Obama’s approach of employer sanctions, known as silent raids, was considerably lower than that of the Bush’s ICE raid, with only 765 undocumented workers deported in 2010 compared to 5,100 in 2008 (Ibid, p. 80).

Barack Obama’s presidency coincided with an ongoing debate about reducing immigrant flows and halting illegal entry. Obama issued immigration enforcement measures to curb the national political backlash against immigration and illegal immigration in particular. Starting in December 2007, the Great Recession resulted in an economic downturn in the U.S., particularly in the labour market (Kochhar, 2011). Though the Great Recession lasted from 2007 to 2009, it had long-term effects on the U.S. labour market. Recovery in the labour market was relatively stagnant. Despite the steady decline in the unemployment rate, it took several years to reach its pre-recession levels. The immigrant working category recovered quicker than the native-born. In June 2009, foreign-born workers gained 656,000 jobs. Besides, their unemployment rate fell by 0.6%, from 9.3% to 8.7%. In turn, native-born workers lost 1.2 million jobs and their unemployment rate

increased by 0.5%, from 9.2% to 9.7% (Ibid). That led ultimately to increased hostility among native-born workers against the immigrant working category. Given their significant share, Latino immigrants were more subject to hostility and harsh immigration enforcement measures.

b. The Effects of Obama's Immigration Enforcement Policy on Latino Immigrants

The immigration enforcement strategies followed by the Obama administration resulted in undue harm to different immigrant groups. Given their increased share, Latino immigrants tended to be the most affected group. Among the most contentious subjects about the immigration enforcement measures was the death risk that thousands of illegal crossers faced due to U.S. border enforcement strategy. The 700-mile-long fence pushed Mexicans to the rugged terrain of the southwest border, leading to hundreds of deaths annually. In 2009, the administration recorded the highest number, with an estimated 369 deaths (FitzGerald, López, & McClean, 2019, p. 22).

Concerning detention, with proposed plans to expand immigration detention infrastructure, the number of detainees was likely to increase. The ongoing arrests were holding hundreds of immigrants. Undoubtedly, the increasing number of detainees exacerbated incarceration conditions, resulting in inadequate detention standards and poor sanitary conditions.

Moreover, deportations led by the Obama administration threatened the family unity of thousands of U.S. citizen children. The process engendered negative consequences for those children. In a 2010 study, parents reported that their children exhibited several behavior changes due to their parents' deportation. The most frequently observed behavioral changes were eating, sleeping, crying, fear, anxiety, withdrawal, clinging, and anger. For instance, regardless of their age group, most children revealed a considerable share of eating behavior change; 62% for children of 0 to 5 years and 81% for children from 6 to 11 years. Besides, 55% of children of 0 to 5 years and 69% of those of 6 to 11 years suffered from sleeping disorders (Chaudry, et al., 2010, p. 42).

Another controversial measure included Obama's local enforcement regularities, including Section 287 (g). While Obama intended to reduce racial profiling, the new procedure proved ineffective, as the racial profiling rate did not decrease. For example, in Irving, Texas, although the rate of Latino crimes did not increase, the share of Hispanic detentions raised to 150 percent (Bacon and Hing, p. 79). Similarly, both CAP and SCOMM failed to meet their goal based on deporting the most dangerous criminal aliens. Rather than targeting immigrants with serious criminal records, those local enforcement programs resulted in massive deportations of thousands of immigrants, notably Latinos. In 2015, Mexicans made up 70% of ICE overall removals (FitzGerald, López, & McClean, 2019, p. 57). Given its racial profiling misconduct, Obama ended the Secure Communities program in 2014 (Ibid, p. 40).

Regarding employer sanctions, although the plan targeted employers who hired undocumented workers, foreigners were the most affected by this measure. The notion behind Obama's strategy was to push those aliens into self-deportation with strict opportunities to find a job. Given their extreme need for employment, most illegal aliens refused to leave the U.S. and became more desperate to find a job regardless of the working conditions (Bacon and Hing 81).

Employers benefitted the most from the Obama audits strategy, with an overall reduction in the average wage (Ibid). According to undocumented workers, the audits were harsher than the previous measures of the Bush administration. Obama's silent raids led to the firing of thousands of immigrant workers. Ana Contreras, an undocumented immigrant from Mexico who used to work at American Apparel, one of the largest clothing makers, expressed her anger towards Obama, accusing him of the devastating situation that most undocumented workers faced. "This is worse than an immigration raid. They want to keep us from working at all," she argued (Ibid, p. 79). While previous strategies led to the deportation of thousands of undocumented workers, the silent raid strategy of Obama expelled thousands of Mexican immigrant workers.

c. Obama's Temporary Relief Program

The prioritization of immigration enforcement resulted in growing concerns among immigrant advocates. Despite growing skepticism on Obama's pro-immigrant position, his administration conducted considerable efforts to pass legislation in favor of immigrants, especially Latinos, as they played a significant role in the election of Obama. Apart from his enforcement measures, Obama stressed his commitment to passing comprehensive immigration reform. He sought an effective way to legalize undocumented immigrants, particularly the working and young categories.

The Obama administration sought reconciliation with immigrant groups and advocates, who blamed the White House for not spending enough effort to adjust the unauthorized population. Along this line, Obama relied on his executive authority to derogate from some enforcement measures, granting temporary relief to particular immigrant categories. The Obama administration issued one of the most critical executive actions, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Passed on June 15, 2012, the new policy targeted a specific category of illegal aliens, including those aged 31 years old or less and who had not left the U.S. during the last five years. Also, they had to be at most 16 years old the first time they entered the U.S. More importantly, to benefit from the provision, illegal aliens had to obtain a high school diploma or attain a military institution and were not convicted of a crime. DACA-eligible aliens would benefit from a two-year reprieve from removal and authorization to study and work in the U.S. legally (*Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals* 2012).

Of the 11 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S., 1.1 million were eligible for DACA. Almost 790,000 applied for the provision and received work permits and protection from removal (Krogstad, 2017). Despite the limited number of beneficiaries, DACA caused much criticism, mainly from right-wing groups and the Republican Party. Republican opponents accused the Obama administration of using DACA as an amnesty program to win Latino support (Dade, 2012). DACA was subject to several attempts aimed

at dismantling the provision. Hostility toward DACA escalated in several states. For instance, following the DACA issuance, a lawsuit brought forward in Texas accused the Obama administration of violating the law (Ibid). Other states, including Michigan, Nebraska, Arizona, and Iowa, denied driver's licenses to DACA beneficiaries (Dade, 2012).

Despite those contradictory opinions, the DACA program contributed to providing the U.S. with productive individuals who would benefit the country in several fields, notably economy and education. The vast majority of the approximately 800,000 DACA recipients were either enrolled in school or held important positions. According to a study conducted by Tom K. Wong, United We Dream (UWD), the National Immigration Law Center (NILC), and the Center for American Progress, 97 percent of recipients were either enrolled in school or held important positions. Overall, the study revealed that DACA had positive impacts on the U.S., whether in education, employment, earnings, or the economy (2017).

A positive attitude toward DACA existed from the first year of its issuance, with approximately 274,015 submitted and 30,000 approved applications. Latinos, including Mexicans who accounted for 59 percent of the 1.09 million eligible youth (Batalova & McHugh, 2010, p. 5), considered the DACA initiative as strong evidence of President Obama's willingness to implement immigration reform (Skrentny & López, 2013, p. 76).

DACA helped the Obama administration calm down immigrant activists (Skrentny & López, p. 75). It afforded thousands of undocumented young immigrants the possibility to adjust their status, allowing them to pursue their education and legally earn their living. USCIS reported that from August 2012 to June 30, 2013, 537,662 aliens applied for DACA. Of these, about 75 percent (400,562) were approved (USCIS, 2013). Another 21 percent (423,000) were more likely to become eligible for DACA once they attended an educational institution, a training, or a career program (Batalova et al., p. 3). In contrast, only 1% of the applications were rejected (USCIS, 2013). Obama's temporary relief program

helped him win back Latino support that played a significant role in his re-election.

4. Latino Immigrants During the Presidency of Donald Trump

Known mostly for his TV show program *The Apprentice*, Republican Donald J. Trump raised much controversy following his nomination, notably because of his harsh rhetoric and policy. Trump placed immigration as a central core of his campaign, arguing that it needed urgent and radical changes. The Republican president portrayed immigrants, particularly Latinos, as intruders causing remarkable damage to the U.S. on several levels, namely employment, economy, and security.

a. Trump's Immigration Enforcement Measures Targeting Latino Immigrants

Perceiving them as rapists, drug dealers, unassimilable, and a national security threat, Republican President Donald Trump presented several immigration measures targeting various immigrant groups, namely undocumented immigrants. Trump's immigration plan aimed primarily at protecting the U.S. borders from any foreign entry and removing aliens deemed a real threat to U.S. economic, social, and security patterns.

In his first electoral announcement, Trump accused Mexico of sending its worst people to the U.S., assuming that a weak border patrol was the main reason behind the issue. Of the 1,954 miles along the US-Mexico border, about 700 miles contained fencing constructed during the Obama era. Trump introduced a plan to build the remaining 1,200 miles to ensure full surveillance and protection (**Ramos, 2018, p. 58**). More importantly, Trump sought to end the "catch and release" program and hire more border agents (**Hudak, Kamarck, & Stenglein, 2017, p. 1**). Another controversial measure was the institution of zero tolerance for criminal aliens. Announced on April 6, 2018, the zero-tolerance policy separated immigrant children from their detained parents. It served as a deterrent measure to prevent illegal entry (**FitzGerald, López, & McClean, 2019, p. 26**).

In line with his border wall plan, Trump promised to deport the entire undocumented population by

imposing a massive deportation force. In his interview with NBC journalist Chuck Todd, Trump stated that the 11 million undocumented immigrants would leave the U.S. voluntarily. Otherwise, he would forcibly expel them, emphasizing that: "they have to go" (**Ramos, p. 98**). Trump set 18 months to two years as a timeline of his massive deportation plan (**CBS News, 2015**). Similar to his previous Democrat rival, Trump relied on Section 287 (g) as a primary move for his deportation plan (**FitzGerald, López, & McClean, 2019, p. 38**).

Moreover, known for his harsh stance on immigration, particularly the illegal one, Republican Donald J. Trump was among the most contentious opponents to DACA. Trump accused Obama of allowing millions of criminals to remain in the United States (**Hudak, Kamarck, & Stenglein, 2017, p. 15**). During the 2016 election campaign, he promised to end DACA (**Davis & Shear, 2019, p. 41**). Once in office, President Trump fought to rescind DACA. On September 5, 2017, the Trump administration officially announced that it would terminate the program. Calling it an "unfair system," President Trump provided Congress with six months to pass an alternative measure before he began to suspend the DACA protections (**Davis & Shear, 2019, p. 156**), putting a large number of Dreamers under the risk of being deported.

b. The Impact of The Trump Immigration Policy on Latino Immigrants

Trump's immigration enforcement measures cause massive harm to Latino immigrants. Continuous hiring of border patrol agents led to increased deaths of immigrants along the U.S.-Mexico border, reaching 81 deaths in 2018. Moreover, captured families suffered from family separation. In 2018, about 2,342 children were separated from their parents due to Trump's zero-tolerance policy (**Lind, 2018**). The Center for Human Rights & Constitutional Law reported several civil rights violations across different facilities and shelters, including forcibly giving immigrant children a range of psychotropic drugs (**FitzGerald, López, & McClean, 2019, p. 29**). Other than that, minors in detention experienced several cases of abuse, including molestation, sexual abuse,

and physical and verbal abuse (Ibid, p. 31).

During the presidency of Trump, the number of Latinos subject to discriminatory acts expanded heavily. With 78 active partnerships across 20 states, the discriminatory implementation of the 287 (g) programs became more prevalent. One-third of the partnership was in Texas, the second-largest home to Mexican immigrants (Ibid, p.38). Besides, as of January 2017, President Trump reinstated the Secure Communities program (*Executive Order: Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States*), leading to further deportations.

Trump's deportation measure was considered brutal and inhuman. As Mexican journalist and author Jorge Ramos put it, Trump's deportation plan was unprecedented, and one of the most aggressive measures the U.S. had ever taken against the immigrant population (p. 98). Ramos expressed deep concerns about the 4.5 million American children who had at least one unauthorized parent. He questioned the fate of those children and whether they would be deported with their undocumented parents or remain under U.S. custody (Ibid, p. 99). Not to mention the widespread arrests based on racial profiling caused by the expansion of Section 287 (g) (FitzGerald, López, & McClean, 2019, p. 38).

Trump's deportation plan was against American traditions of ethnic diversity, multiculturalism, and acceptance of immigration. In the words of Jorge Ramos: "There is nothing more American than incorporating and integrating those who come from outside the nation's borders, regardless of their accents or origins" (p. 99). Ramos argued that deporting aliens based on their race, religion, or nationality opposed the common perception of the U.S. as a melting pot nation.

Moreover, conflicting views emerged following the Trump announcement to end the Obama-era DACA permits. Protests escalated among DACA advocates, complaining that it was unfair to punish young immigrants for an act they were not aware of or for which they were not responsible. Besides, they argued that ending DACA would hurt the U.S. economy. Apart from Dreamers, Sen. Martin Heinrich

argued that rescinding DACA would harm American employers and local communities (Committee, 2017).

c. The Impact of Trump's Negative Rhetoric on the Social Status of Latinos

Besides his presidential nomination, Trump's hostile rhetoric towards illegal immigrants, and Mexican aliens in particular, sparked major controversy. Trump used speech acts that portrayed immigrants as intruders causing remarkable damage to the U.S. on several levels, namely employment, economy, and security (Lamont, Park, & Ayala-Hurtado, 2017, p. 20).

Donald Trump repeatedly referred to Latino immigrants, both legal and undocumented ones, using negative terms. Starting from his candidacy announcement to his presidency, Donald Trump used a harsh tone to attack Mexican immigrants, accusing them of being drug dealers, criminals, and rapists coming illegally over the U.S.-Mexico border (C-SPAN). Predominantly, Trump regarded Latino immigrants, notably Mexicans, as dangerous aliens who stole jobs that American citizens deserved the most. To mention, in a speech delivered in West Bend, Wisconsin, on August 16, 2016, Trump criticized his Democratic competitor Hillary Clinton, as she called for instant work permits for illegal immigrants instead of assisting low-income Americans (Ibid, p. 25).

Within ten days of the Trump victory, harassment incidents reached 900 cases. The incidents occurred in different places, including workplaces, universities, and schools. As reported by a teacher in a Washington school, students chanted the statement of "Build a wall." And one of her students shouted: "If you aren't born here, pack your bags" during the class. Cassie Miller and Alexander Werner Winslow argued that the incidents were a predictable result of Trump's use of racial statements that opened "wounds of division" in the U.S. (2016).

Apart from his immigration enforcement measures, Trump's hostile rhetoric increased the share and degree of hostility towards Latinos. Regardless of their immigrant status, Latinos were subject to several hate crime incidents. During his first year in office, the rate of hate crimes against Latinos increased by 24 % (FitzGerald, López, & McClean, 2019, p. 65). Despite

the growing share of incidents, Latinos were less likely to report. In a 2018 survey, about 60 % of Latinos said they did not report to police because they worried about being detained and deported (Ibid, p. 37).

5. Conclusion

By analogy with previous administrations, Obama and Trump relied on immigration enforcement measures to stop illegal transit and reduce undocumented aliens. Despite the optimistic view, Obama frustrated the immigrant community following the passage of several immigration enforcement measures. During the presidency of Barack Obama, the U.S. recorded the highest number of deportations. Besides, his silent raids led to the firing of thousands of immigrant workers, not to mention the number of deaths caused by border patrol. However, the Democratic president combined his immigration enforcement measures with temporary amnesty programs. DACA helped a considerable share of illegal aliens, notably Latinos, to adjust their legal status. The program served as a reconciliation between President Obama and his most significant electorate category, Latino voters. Conversely, Republican President Donald J. Trump followed a 100 percent immigration enforcement strategy, seeking mass deportation and a full fence along the U.S.-Mexico border. Other than that, the Trump administration conducted thousands of detention and deportation operations, causing immense harm to immigrant families. Based on its harsh and cruel strategy, the administration received several reports on racial profiling, child abuse, and deaths among the immigrant community, particularly Latinos. Besides, Trump promised to rescind DACA, a program he considered unfair to the American working class. Even more contentious was the use of hate speech that led to an increase in hate crime incidents, even among children. Overall, immigration enforcement measures are essential to protect and ensure the full respect of U.S. immigration law. However, while implementing those measures, U.S. administrations should pay quite an attention to the country's longstanding notion as a nation of immigrants. More importantly, they have to consider the full respect of fundamental human and civil rights that the U.S. has long praised.

Conflict of Interest

I declare that I have no conflict of interest.

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