

## ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION: CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES, AND NATIONAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS?

BY

LIEUTENANT COLONEL SALAHEDDINE REZOUNI  
Royal Armed Forces, Morocco

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USAWC CLASS OF 2010

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U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013-5050

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# REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

*Form Approved*  
*OMB No. 0704-0188*

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing this collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports (0704-0188), 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. **PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.**

|   |                                    |  |                                   |   |  |
|---|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY)</b><br>18-03-2010  |                                    | <b>2. REPORT TYPE</b><br>Strategy Research Project |                                   | <b>3. DATES COVERED (From - To)</b>             |  |
| <b>4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE</b><br><br>Illegal Immigration: Causes, Consequences, and National Security Implications?  |                                    |  |                                   | <b>5a. CONTRACT NUMBER</b>                      |  |
|   |                                    |  |                                   | <b>5b. GRANT NUMBER</b>                         |  |
|   |                                    |  |                                   | <b>5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER</b>               |  |
| <b>6. AUTHOR(S)</b><br><br>Lieutenant Colonel Salaheddine Rezouni   |                                    |  |                                   | <b>5d. PROJECT NUMBER</b>                       |  |
|   |                                    |  |                                   | <b>5e. TASK NUMBER</b>                          |  |
|   |                                    |  |                                   | <b>5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER</b>                     |  |
| <b>7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)</b><br><br>Professor James Kievit<br>Center for Strategic Leadership  |                                    |  |                                   | <b>8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER</b> |  |
| <b>9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)</b><br>U.S. Army War College<br>122 Forbes Avenue<br>Carlisle, PA 17013  |                                    |  |                                   | <b>10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)</b>         |  |
|   |                                    |  |                                   | <b>11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)</b>   |  |
| <b>12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT</b><br>Distribution A: Unlimited   |                                    |  |                                   |   |  |
| <b>13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES</b><br>Only a work of the United States Government is not subject to copyright. Based upon the nature of a particular student-author's employment, a paper may not be a work of the United States Government and may, in fact, be protected by copyright.  |                                    |  |                                   |   |  |
| <b>14. ABSTRACT</b><br>Illegal immigration, in the last ten years, has known an incredible expansion, particularly with the emergence of globalization which emphasized the regional disparities. Consequences of illegal immigration fluctuate from beneficial to disadvantageous. Considering the security aspect, for example, three of the four terrorists' pilots in the 9/11 attacks were in the US illegally. Economically speaking, illegal immigration may have a positive impact in the reception countries via low salaries.<br><br>Illegal immigration can be a factor of destabilization in the next decades in the reception and transit countries as well. |                                    |  |                                   |   |  |
| <b>15. SUBJECT TERMS</b> Destination, Transit, Source Countries, Globalization, Economy, Climate Change, Xenophobia, Unemployment, Welfare, Poverty, Stability, Exclusion, Enforcement, Wages, Visa, Disparities, Demography, Ageing, Security, Clandestine, Terrorism, Crime   |                                    |  |                                   |   |  |
| <b>16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:</b>  |                                    |  | <b>17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT</b> | <b>18. NUMBER OF PAGES</b>                      | <b>19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON</b>           |
| <b>a. REPORT</b><br>UNCLASSIFIED  | <b>b. ABSTRACT</b><br>UNCLASSIFIED | <b>c. THIS PAGE</b><br>UNCLASSIFIED                |                                   |   | <b>19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (include area code)</b> |
|   |                                    |  | UNLIMITED                         | 34  |  |



USAWC STRATEGY RESEARCH PROJECT

**ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION: CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES, AND NATIONAL SECURITY  
IMPLICATIONS?**

by

Lieutenant Colonel Salaheddine Rezouni  
Royal Armed Forces, Morocco

Professor James Kievit  
Project Adviser

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U.S. Army War College  
CARLISLE BARRACKS, PENNSYLVANIA 17013



## **ABSTRACT**

**AUTHOR:** Lieutenant Colonel Salaheddine Rezouni

**TITLE:** Illegal Immigration: Causes, Consequences, and National Security Implications?

**FORMAT:** Strategy Research Project

**DATE:** 18 March 2010      **WORD COUNT:** 6,730      **PAGES:** 34

**KEY TERMS:** Destination, Transit, Source Countries, Globalization, Economy, Climate Change, Xenophobia, Unemployment, Welfare, Poverty, Stability, Exclusion, Enforcement, Wages, Visa, Disparities, Demography, Ageing, Security, Clandestine, Terrorism, Crime

**CLASSIFICATION:** Unclassified

Illegal immigration, in the last ten years, has known an incredible expansion, particularly with the emergence of globalization which emphasized the regional disparities. Consequences of illegal immigration fluctuate from beneficial to disadvantageous. Considering the security aspect, for example, three of the four terrorists' pilots in the 9/11 attacks were in the US illegally. Economically speaking, illegal immigration may have a positive impact in the reception countries via low salaries.

Illegal immigration can be a factor of destabilization in the next decades in the reception and transit countries as well.





## ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION: CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES, AND NATIONAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS?

International immigration can be defined according to one political dictionary as: “The permanent movement of individuals or groups from one place to another. It’s a basic fact of human history.”<sup>1</sup> Immigration, both legal and illegal, is becoming an ever more important element in international relations. Furthermore, it is a phenomenon that is closely controlled by national migration policies which establish ad hoc rules and frameworks applicable for foreigners moving into destination countries. According to International Organization for Migration statistics the world migrant population can be estimated at more than 200 million, of whom 90% are legal migrants and 10% are clandestine.<sup>2</sup>

Illegal immigration is defined according to the United States Immigration Services as: “Immigration across national borders in a way that violates the immigration law of the destination country. An illegal immigrant is a foreigner who either has illegally crossed an international political border, or a foreigner who has entered a country legally but then overstays his/her visa.”<sup>3</sup> Illegal immigration is not a new phenomenon. Soon after World War II, and continuing through the ‘50s and ‘60s, clandestine immigration to France from Spain and Italy took place alongside with legal migration. Attempts to migrate illegally have always been dangerous, e.g., in similar scenario to what is occurring now in the Mediterranean Sea area, some post-WWII migrants in the Pyrenees perished in the snow trying to cross the mountains.<sup>4</sup>

Nevertheless it is also true that illegal immigration in the last decade has known an incredible expansion, particularly with the emergence of globalization as well as

bilateral free trade agreements which emphasize regional disparities. For example, the large gap in economic welfare between North and South Mediterranean countries or between the United States and South American countries generates growth in illegal immigration at a worrying rate. In addition to economic reasons, persecution and ethnic cleansing and other causes like weather-related disasters also result in increased immigration.

Meanwhile the consequences of the illegal immigration fluctuate from beneficial to disadvantageous aspects depending upon the situation in both source and destination countries.

Consider the following security aspect, for example: three of the four terrorists' pilots in the September 11 attacks were in the United States illegally.<sup>5</sup> So terrorist networks and organized crime, including violent gangs, pose a potentially great threat to security in destination countries.

Economically speaking, illegal immigration may have both negative and positive impacts in both destination and sources countries. On the one hand, some specialists argue that illegal immigrants reduce the number of unemployed in the departure countries while increasing that rate in the host countries. A specific study of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development mentions that: "Despite no obvious relationship between immigration and unemployment, concerns are often expressed that immigration will lead to higher unemployment... These concerns are especially evident in many European countries, where unemployment rates are higher."<sup>6</sup>

On the other hand, some researchers assert that illegal immigrants take the jobs that legal residents refuse. A survey elaborated by the PEW research center at five

metropolitan areas in the United States on this issue mentioned that:“Nearly two-third of respondents (65%) say that immigrants mostly take jobs that Americans don’t want, while a much smaller number, just 24%, say the newcomers mostly take jobs away from Americans citizens.”<sup>7</sup>

But most statesmen, especially in the destination countries, think that uncontrolled illegal immigration can be a factor of destabilization in the next decades.

This remainder of this study focuses on the causes of illegal immigration, its consequences including significant National Security implications, and the potential for developed nations to help reduce the impetus for illegal immigration from source countries.

### Causes of Illegal Immigration

It’s not easy to determine and fix illegal immigration’s causes in simply one or two aspects; rather a combination of factors in many domains which influences and gives rise to this phenomenon. The first causes, called “push factors”, are pressures encouraging emigration in countries of origin: professional, political, security, and economic factors. The second causes, called “pull factors”, include the need for immigrants in destination countries in order to address a fertility smallness replacement level and the ageing population, and/or to ensure a sufficient number of skill workers.<sup>8</sup> Regarding the current global environment much characterized by the emergence of globalization, new threats which ignore artificial borders, and shifting international or national policies, illegal immigration at present shows a significant rise. This environment both emphasizes the traditional causes and also creates or rather resuscitates other factors effecting illegal immigration.

Looking first to the “push causes,” consider the political aspect. Authoritarian regimes in the source countries are considered as the primary reason for illegal immigration. In this context, the policies implemented by those countries against opponents and sometimes against a large part of their domestic population, perhaps resulting in ethnic cleansing and genocide, contribute significantly in the expansion of immigration. For example, more than 30,000 Cubans seeking political freedom and a democratic form of government tried in the summer of 1994 to enter the United States illegally.<sup>9</sup> Another example which demonstrates the link between political dictatorship and illegal immigration is the movement of about two to three million Iraqi Kurds who escaped tyranny and persecution in the neighboring countries.<sup>10</sup>

Regime instability -- whether as a result of the military coup d'état, political struggles within ethnic movements, or other violent removals from power -- combined with interstate conflict in many large parts of the world gives a significant impetus to illegal immigration. The deterioration of stability and security generates a massive displacement of population of which a large proportion try somewhat to get in the neighboring countries illegally, despite reform and enforcement of the immigration policies in most destination countries which have developed selective immigration and set new rules for any kind of stay. According to the United Nations Refugees Agency, more than 42 million people are outside the country of their nationality escaping persecution on account of race, religion, political opinion, and civil war.<sup>11</sup>



Figure 1. Refugees making their return journey to Rwanda in 1994 line the streets in Goma, Zaire. (DOD Public Affairs Image Library. Photographed by a DOD cameraperson on 8/9/1994. )

Countries which used to be a source or transit country for illegal immigration may well become unintended destination countries as a result of the governments' current enforcement of immigration policies and surveillance of the borders at an originally-intended destination country. In the last decade, for example, Morocco -- which is a transit country to the European Union through the strait of Gibraltar, the Canary Islands and the two occupied cities Ceuta and Melilla -- has known an incredible rise in illegal immigrant residents, mostly natives of the West and East African countries. According to the Moroccan "Gendarmerie Nationale", a large percentage of those undocumented immigrants are from countries of the Niger Delta enduring instability, civil war, and interstate conflicts.<sup>12</sup> In a parallel way in Europe, by the end of 1998 the ex-Yugoslavian conflict had generated a significant displacement of population; estimated according to the United States Committee for Refugees at 992,200 refugees and 1,203,000 internally displaced people.<sup>13</sup> Many of them, fleeing ethnic cleansing perpetrated by the Serbo-Bosnian forces, had tried to cross European Union boundaries illegally.

In pursuit of their perceived national interest, many countries have developed specific immigration laws which actually have resulted in an increase in illegal immigration. On one hand, some governments encourage immigration in their foreign policy guidance to support political and/or humanitarian goals with respect to the domestic situation in specific other countries. On the other hand, in contrast, many countries establish rules to select only workers from specific regions with appropriate skill, age, and education level, and imposed diverse restrictions on admission for new migrants or their families.

In this context for example, the United States policy during the Cold War encouraged illegal immigration from Cuba by giving illegal immigrants the benefits of “refugees” and also a work permit.<sup>14</sup> Those measures, taken in parallel with other political and economic approaches against the dictatorial regime of Fidel Castro, explain the significant rise of illegal immigrants from Cuba to the United States. In December 1960, the Eisenhower administration set up the Emergency Center for Cuban Refugees in Miami. President Kennedy signed Public Act 87-510, known as the "Migration and Western Hemisphere Refugees Assistant Act of 1962" – a part of whose purpose was to provide funds for Cubans trying to migrate because of persecution based on their political opinions contrary to the Castro regime. And in 1966 President Johnson signed the "Cuban Adjustment Act", which states that:

any alien who is a native or citizen of Cuba and who has been inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States subsequent to 1 January 1959 and has been physically present in the United States for at least one year, may be adjusted by the Attorney General at his/her discretion and under such regulations as s/he may prescribe for an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residency.<sup>15</sup>

In other words, the Cuban Adjustment Act establishes that any Cuban immigrant arriving in United States territory, even illegally, and residing there at least for one year can receive from the Attorney General the status of permanent resident in the United States.

On the other hand, many destination countries have enacted selective immigration laws which allow just qualified and certified immigrants to enter their boundaries. From the destination countries' perspectives those comprehensive measures will reduce the rate of legal immigrants, since many will not have the skills the laws' require. Paradoxically, since many occupations (agricultural business and building activities for example) do not necessitate high skilled workers, such laws likely will increase the number of illegal immigrants as involved employers in host countries continue to hire them at wages highly superior to wages in the source countries. This educational or skill discrimination in legal immigration also is criticized by source countries and by some local Non Governmental Organizations because it encourages people who have a high level of education, who are highly solicited in their own countries, to emigrate while it does not solve the problem of illegal immigration. In the European Union, the adoption of a new strict immigration law increased on the contrary the number of the illegal immigrants. Krystina Romaniszyn argues: "Immigration policies are the primary cause of illegal immigration, since illegal immigrants are those who do not possess the necessary permits or no longer meet the conditions imposed upon them by national legislation."<sup>16</sup>

Despite this, French President Nicholas Sarkozy recently called for a selective immigration policy preferring to draw only skilled workers who have appropriate

requirements. He said: “The law would give the government tools to promote immigration of choice and would mean immigrants would be better accepted by the rest of the society... Selective immigration is the expression of France’s sovereignty; it’s the right of our country, like all the great democracies of the world, to choose which foreigners it allows to reside on our territory.”<sup>17</sup> As he mentioned, other countries like Canada, Australia and Ireland have already adopted a selective immigration’s policy.

Regarding such measures, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has warned the many countries trying to combat the economic impacts of the current financial crisis by simply cutting immigration or imposing new restrictions, that such action could make the situation worst. In this context the IOM Director General addressed to the 17th Meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Economic and Environmental Forum: “The global economic and financial crisis is already leading some Governments to think about migration in counter-cyclical terms. Yet legal migrants are part of the solution, not the problem, in overcoming the current global recession.”<sup>18</sup>

Furthermore, “selective immigration” measures, which reflect a local preoccupation regarding the growing rate of documented and undocumented immigrants, intended to regulate and to reduce the rate of migration, compromise source countries’ domestic development efforts by encouraging high skilled workers to migrate, and paradoxically thereby actually increase the number of low skilled illegal immigrants.

Another “push cause” is that illegal immigration is significantly driven by economic roots found in regional disparities, which are further emphasized by the



process of globalization. Indeed globalization and rapidly-evolving technology are widening the gap between poor and rich countries.

Illegal immigration has known an incredible growth in some areas in which the disparities are flagrant. Workers in South Mediterranean countries try at all costs to emigrate to the other side of the Sea because employers hire them at wages significantly higher than they could earn in their native countries. In this context: “The disparities that exist between rich and poor countries in both wages and employment opportunities have caused a mass influx of the poorer country’s residents into the wealthier countries, which have recently tended to restrict this inflow of foreign migrants.”<sup>19</sup> In a parallel way, the ineffectiveness of employer sanctions for illegal immigrants hiring, as a result of the absence of political will due to labor needs in destination countries, is another important point which give a rise to this process.

The economic collapses of some countries under the pressure of globalization and the lack of competitiveness, especially for the source countries’ agribusiness industry which employs the large percentage of lower-skill workers, causes an inflow of illegal immigrants to the developed countries. Furthermore, most source countries’ economies are highly dependant to fluctuations in international prices and weather conditions. As just one example, because of the lack of competitiveness with the other North American countries many Mexican workers in the agricultural sector have been ruined: “The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) by permitting heavily-subsidized US corn and other agribusiness products to compete with small Mexican farmers, has driven the Mexican farmers off the land due low-priced imports of US corn and other agriculture products. Some 2 million Mexicans have been forced out of

agriculture, and many of those are living in desperate poverty. Those people are among those that cross the border to feed their families.”<sup>20</sup> In contrast, countries which are well prepared for globalization have more opportunities to create investment, develop and strengthen their economies. For example, between 1996 and 2000, the United States economy created over 14 million new jobs, while during the same period, total population growth, including immigration, was just over 12 million people.<sup>21</sup>

As another example, the growth of illegal Zimbabwean immigration toward South Africa demonstrates as well that disparate economic welfare is among the main causes of illegal immigration. In 2005, South Africa deported a total of 97,433 illegal Zimbabwean immigrants who fled economic collapse in their country.<sup>22</sup>

Thus, in the next decades the number of illegal immigrants could reach an incredible level as a result of the rise of additional failed states or the economic collapse of some governments which no fences or immigration policies could contain or control.

Environmental causes combine with the above aspects as “push” causes to generate a recrudescence of illegal immigration. Particularly those which affect the poorer countries more than the developed ones. Increases in the rate of desertification in many regions, rises in sea level, and other environmental disturbances may cause an inevitable pressure for massive displacement of population to neighboring countries, and this pressure will increase within this context illegal immigration. One need only look to Africa today to find proof of this: “The erosion of clay and graded soils and depletion of productive lands in the greater region of Darfur as a result of a relentless desertification process, compelled a forced ecological migration and mass population movement southward in search of better conditions for pasture and farming.”<sup>23</sup>

Recently more warm weather and increased winter rainfalls are happening all over the world, and these affect in a negative manner agricultural yields, and accelerate the desertification process, increasing the risk of major droughts. Sea-level rise will menace low-lying coastal areas subject to flooding. As these areas often have dense populations and important infrastructure, significant impacts in terms of water availability, agricultural productivity and the risk of fire are expected, especially in the less developed countries. At the Copenhagen's climate change summit, Bangladesh's Environment Minister Hasan Mahmud estimated 20 million people in Bangladesh will have to immigrate to safe areas if increased monsoon activity continues or sea-levels grow.<sup>24</sup> Meanwhile, the Kingdom of Morocco has already arrested some illegal immigrants in the vicinity of the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, trying to overtop the fence; among them were many immigrants from the Indian Peninsula.

In a parallel way, other natural disasters are causes which could give a rise to illegal immigration, notably in failing and weak states which do not have enough resources to face the huge damages and to provide services to victims in a manner that meets their essential needs. Earthquake, tsunami, volcanic eruption, and other natural catastrophes have often shattered the efficacy of state institutions and collapsed the main government buildings. The response to the poverty, despair, and chaos generated by those disasters frequently seems to be a large scale migration to the developed world. And when such disasters happen near border lines, they could increase significantly the rate of illegal immigration, especially when international community support is not sufficient enough.

In this context, the devastation produced by the January 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti -- total collapse of the infrastructure in the capital city of Port au Prince, an estimated hundreds of thousands of dead, and more hundreds of thousands of people homeless in the streets -- has emphasized the feeling of migration towards United States.<sup>25</sup> In response, U.S. officials have drawn up emergency plans for providing emergency supplies, medical aid, and other humanitarian assistance directly in Haiti, but also are sending U.S. Navy and Coast Guard vessels in Haiti waters to interdict any eventual mass migration attempt. Likewise US soldiers in Guantanamo bay have already set up tents and beds as a prudent measure to prepare for possible refugees. U.S. Coast Guard Commander Christopher O'Neal said that: "The goal is to interdict them (Haitians illegal immigrants) at sea and repatriate them."<sup>26</sup>

Thus the ecological problems that have arisen in the last decades gave a significant rise to the rate of employment as the agricultural sector in the source countries, which is the main domain affected by climate's change, employs a large percentage of workers.

Demographic factors are other important cause which affect the rate of illegal immigration notably when they are combined with other parameters like the rate of unemployment, poverty, and instability in source countries ("push"), and prosperity, stability and population decline in the destination countries ("pull").

Thus, on one hand the fertility smallness replacement level which approaches 2.1 children per woman associated with the population's ageing in the most developed countries can create a significant lack of workers.<sup>27</sup> Nevertheless, as mentioned above, these countries have developed specific immigration policies looking only for skill and

educated workers. On the other hand, populations in source countries, where fertility remains high, are growing rapidly especially with the improvement achieved in the sanitary and health sectors. Paradoxically, the main vital economic sectors in many of those countries are not growing at the same rate and in many less developed countries are decreasing in a dramatic way. Together, these factors generate a significant number of additional work-seekers that the local labor market is not able to satisfy.

The result is a large part of the population, especially the youthful population in the 15 – 25 age brackets, tries somehow to immigrate to the more developed countries, following the perceived ostentatious success of their predecessors. When immigrants come back to visit their families they reflect the socio-economic success, the welfare, and the integration which they achieved in the destination countries. This positive image is reinforced by some source countries' media through programs, such as Moroccan television's "Channel of the Atlas" or "Moroccan without borders," which highlight selected immigrants who have succeeded. This further encourages illegal immigration among the increasing local youthful population.

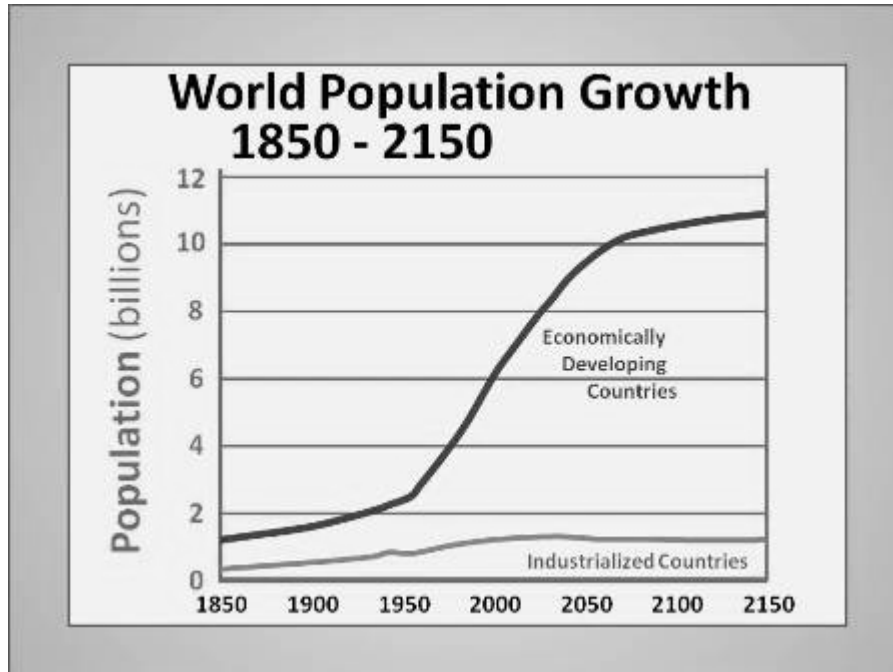


Figure 2.

According to the United Nations Population Fund, the world population more than doubled in the last fifty years to reach more than 6 billion in 2000 of which more than 75 per cent are in the less developed regions. The world population is expected to surpass approximately 10 billion by 2050. Most of the additional population will be from the less developed countries which are estimated to rise from 5.6 billion in 2009 to 7.9 billion in 2050. The population of the more developed regions, which coincide mostly with destination countries, is expected to grow insignificantly. As a result, the population aged over than 60 in those countries is expected to increase by more than 50 per cent by 2050.<sup>28</sup>

A specific study conducted with Bitterlemons International confirms this trend and concludes:

If we compare the age structures of both shores of the Mediterranean basin, a complementary demographic relationship can be identified. In

southern Mediterranean countries the societies are characterized by a very young age structure (about a third of the total population is younger than 15 years) while in the northern part we find an increasingly “aging” population (about 18 percent of the total population is older than 65 years). Population growth rates affirm the continuation of this trend. Demographic growth in Europe is nearly at a standstill, while the growth rates in North Africa range between 1.09 and 2.39 per annum in Tunisia and Libya, respectively.<sup>29</sup>

.Additional important parameters which increase significantly the rate of migration include geographic proximity, cultural factors, and colonization’s heritage. For instance, the majority of immigrants in United States are originally from Mexico and other South American countries. The same can be noticed in the European Union in which most the illegal immigrants are originally from the North African and East European countries.

Clearly, illegal immigration varies from country to country depending on a broad combination of factors from the political, economic, social, environmental, and demographic domains.

### Consequences of Illegal Immigration

Illegal immigration has different impacts on both destination and source countries, particularly regarding the emergence of new threats and challenges. The most important consequences of illegal immigration in the current environment are undoubtedly the security and the economic aspects. Indeed implication of some illegal immigrants in terrorist attacks and organized crimes in many destination countries seem to confirm this trend. Likewise, despite its contribution in supporting implicitly both the source and host countries’ economies, illegal immigration may be involved in an increase rate of unemployment, especially in economic stagnation period. Other impacts have known currently a growing rate like for example the anti-immigrants feelings which menace the stability, the solidarity, and the integration in the host

regions. In a parallel way, the health concern which has known a growing debate in destination countries as a result of the contagion of H1N1 flu.

Examining security first, illegal immigration is broadly considered as a main threat due to its connection with terrorist networks, organized crime, drug smuggling and human trafficking. Certainly not all illegal immigrants are connected with any of those activities, but the increased threat to security, especially after the terrorist attacks in the United States, European Union, and even in some source countries, has drawn particular attention to this potential risk. The terrorist attacks committed in the United States on September 11, 2001 changed the way the Americans look at illegal immigration.<sup>30</sup> In this context, the independent 9/11 commission's report warns that: "The challenge for national security in an age of terrorism is to prevent the very few people who may pose overwhelming risks from entering or remaining in the US undetected... and that are a daunting task along these stretches of border in the southwest."<sup>31</sup>

The validity of this warning is seen by the fact that since the September 11, 2001, terror attacks, agents from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency have stopped 132 nationals from countries considered to be potential sources of a national security threat.<sup>32</sup> In October 2005, the same agency with the collaboration of the Department of Defense arrested dozens of illegal immigrants at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico and Navy and Army bases in California and Louisiana<sup>33</sup>. Also, three of the six conspirators in the 2007 military base in New Jersey Fort Dix attack plot entered the United States illegally through Mexico. This terrorist group has been charged to attack Fort Dix and kill soldiers with assault rifles and grenades.<sup>34</sup>



Another security aspect relating to illegal immigration is the potential connection with organized crime. The clandestine character of this kind of immigration makes reliable statistics regarding this link extremely difficult. But examples given in immigration services' and homeland security publications show a relation between illegal immigration and a number of organized crimes like drug smuggling, trafficking women for forced prostitution, gang violence, trafficking in firearms<sup>35</sup> or destructive devices. For example, the California Department of Justice reported in 1995 that 60% of the bloody 18th Street Gang, with an estimated membership at 20,000 in California, are illegal aliens.<sup>36</sup>

Perhaps the greatest security threat could be a potent mix of terrorists, organized criminals, and illegal immigration. At least one such example is asserted to have already occurred: "In the wake of 9/11, Mara Salvatrucha [a criminal gang that originated in Los Angeles and has spread to Central America] attracted the attention of top al Qaeda officials, who realized that the gang could be used to smuggle operatives and weapons into the United States. An agreement was forged between the terrorists and the gang-bangers. In exchange for safe passage across the borders, al Qaeda agreed to pay the Maras from \$30,000 to \$50,000 for each agent."<sup>37</sup>

If the potential security consequences are almost universally negative, the economic consequences of illegal immigration vary from country to another. In the source regions, illegal immigrants contribute significantly and indirectly in supporting their native countries' economies through the transfer of currencies and by reducing the rate of unemployment – a positive impact. While for the destination countries the impact may be either or both positive and negative, although according to some – especially

partisans of strict immigration enforcement policies – the impacts generally negatively affect the new hosts' economies.

According to the European Union sources around half a million illegal immigrants enter the Union every year.<sup>38</sup> In the Canary Islands alone, the average of illegal immigrants is about 14,000 with a peak of nearly 32,000 in 2006.<sup>39</sup> Certainly, this huge number of migrants reduces in various ways the pressures of employment in their source countries.

For source countries, another positive aspect of economic consequences of illegal immigration is the transfer by those emigrants of currencies from the destination countries back to their original countries. It's difficult to evaluate the size of this transfer because of the illegal character of this immigration, but taking in account the transfer of funds of legal migrants shows the likely importance of this funds transfer. As one Belgian study mentions: "Monetary remittances and migrant investments not only play an important role in generating welfare for the families left behind, but they also support the financial stability and economic development of the sending countries."<sup>40</sup> Another Sorbone University study mentions that Morocco is the fourth largest developing country receiving remittances, totaling MAD 37 billion (US \$3.3 billion) as a result of the strong increase in the number of Moroccan immigrants to Italy and Spain.<sup>41</sup> In a parallel way, Mexicans living in United States send between \$6 and \$8 billion back to their families every year, which is the third biggest source of currencies in the Mexican economy after oil and tourism.<sup>42</sup>

On the other hand, due to a regular increase in high school graduates among the residents in destination countries, workers with limited schooling are hard to find. Such

workers, however, are an important part of the host countries economy as they are responsible for filling specific occupations like building homes, cleaning offices, farm works, and generally taking other low-paying or so-called “dirty” jobs that legal residents refuse. So local employers hire undocumented immigrants at a very low wage, perhaps taking in account their illegal status. “The Pew Research Center estimates that in 2005 80 to 85% of Mexican immigrants who had been in the United States less than ten years were unauthorized. Illegal immigration thus accomplishes what legal immigration does not. It moves large numbers of low-skilled workers from a low-productivity to a high-productivity environment.”<sup>43</sup> According to this Center, about 24 percent of farm workers, 17 percent of cleaning workers, 14 percent of construction workers, and 12 percent of food preparation workers are undocumented, and represent nearly 5 percent of the United States workforce.<sup>44</sup>

Although filling necessary but less-desirable jobs is a positive consequence, some specialists on immigration economic impact assert that illegal immigration has a negative impact for the local workers as it affects the states’ median wage for all less educated workers. Between 1980 and 2000, wages of native workers without a high school degree in the United States fell by 9 percent.<sup>45</sup> Cities with larger inflows of low skilled immigrants, including undocumented ones, experienced larger reductions in prices in many locally traded services.<sup>46</sup> Meanwhile, the illegal immigration causes additional costs for the destination countries’ economies. Destination countries invest important additional spending to stop the inflow of illegal immigrants and to control the borders. For example, President George W. Bush proposed in 2008 spending \$13 billion to strengthen border security and immigration enforcement, including \$1 billion to

construct fences and undertake other measures on the border with Mexico.<sup>47</sup> The Bush Administration also increased the border patrol from approximately 9,000 agents in 2001 to 15,000 agents in 2008 and increased detention beds by 50 percent for a total of more than 27,000 beds.<sup>48</sup> The European Union, which is facing similar challenges, has established a “solidarity mechanism”<sup>49</sup> to help improve the measures against illegal immigration especially in the south European countries: Spain, Italy, Greece, Malta and Cyprus. Parallel efforts to establish coordination and cooperation with the source countries in order to strengthen their coast guards also require funding.

To reduce the intensity of migration due to environmental factors, the European Union agreed to offer 7 billion euro at Copenhagen talks for the years 2010 – 2012. Similarly, in order to help the less developed countries reduce environmental change’s impacts, United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced at the same summit on December 17, 2009:

That’s why we joined an effort to mobilize fast-start funding that will ramp up to \$10 billion in 2012 to support the adaptation and mitigation efforts of countries in need....I am deeply concerned about the consequences for developing countries, from Bangladesh to the Maldives, from the Caribbean to west Africa and the Pacific Islands, if we cannot secure the kind of strong operational accord I’ve described. We know what the consequences will be for the farmer in Bangladesh or the herder in Africa or the family being battered by hurricanes in Central America. Without that accord, there won’t be the kind of joint global action from all of the major economies we all want to see, and the effects in the developing world could be catastrophic. We know what will happen. Rising seas, lost farmland, drought and so much else. Without the accord, the opportunity to mobilize significant resources to assist developing countries with mitigation and adaptation will be lost.<sup>50</sup>

In addition to direct security and economic consequences, illegal immigration contributes to psychological and social consequences. In the last decade, characterized by global economic crisis and global terrorism, xenophobia has known a

significant rise in many parts of the world, particularly in the developed countries which face an increasing immigration inflow. Even if this discrimination is well known by the local authorities, there are no accurate statistics. Because of the illegal character of their immigration, many undocumented migrants do not report incidents due to fear of deportation.

The global financial crisis contributes to a negative perception of migrants generally and illegal immigrants especially. When the economy is in decline and the job queues are longer than usual, the local population tends to not tolerate or accept the presence of illegal immigrants. Also, as already noted, employers prefer to hire illegal immigrants at very low wages in order to be more competitive and face the economic crisis. Likewise the terrorist attacks perpetrated in the last decade by extremist organizations through their rare agents or cells in destination countries, many of whom were discovered to not have a legal permit to stay or work, have increased the hostile feeling against illegal immigrants, and give rise to incidents of intolerance occurring more frequently:

According to a study among 45,000 ninth-graders in Germany entitled "Young People in Germany as Victims and Perpetrators of Violence" 14 percent of young Germans could be considered very hostile to foreigners. This study asserts that approximately 5 percent of males interviewed were affiliated with extremist groups, and more than 6 percent held racist views, which perhaps explains the rise of violence among young people against the foreigners.<sup>51</sup> South Africa has failed to protect its foreign residents since the increase rate of illegal immigration from the neighboring countries, especially from Zimbabwe suffering from an endemic political and economic

crisis. The United Nations News Center reported that xenophobic attacks in 2008 caused the death of nearly 70 people and also resulted in the displacement of over 45,000 people.<sup>52</sup> Politically, Far-Right parties have been gaining ground in several European countries due to growing concern over immigration. In France, the National Front, led by its leader Jean Marie Le Pen, claims clearly anti-immigration views, while the ultra right Danish People's Party, the country's third largest party following the 2007 elections, advocates a legislative effort for a strict policy restricting immigrants and potential refugees.<sup>53</sup>

Finally, perceived potential health consequences are another important issue which could affect destination countries' security and stability. Many domestic policies, especially in the more developed countries, require medical screening for travelers to prevent spreading any kind of contagious diseases. In the United States, for example, under section 212 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Attorney General is not to admit aliens if they are afflicted with certain mental or physical conditions, any dangerous contagious diseases, or any defect, disease or disability that may affect their ability to earn a living.<sup>54</sup> Undocumented immigrants, who cross borders clandestinely, may carry some dangerous diseases which were eradicated in the destination countries, and could then infect locals that come in contact with them.

The developed nations have accomplished great progress in the area of public health, and by the 1970s most common diseases were vanquished. Nevertheless, many of those diseases still exist in many source countries and have the potential to affect the destination regions, notably through illegal immigrants. For example, Malaria, Dengue, Tuberculosis, and other dangerous infections which were eradicated by the 1950s in

western societies, are breaking out again. Furthermore, destination country physicians may have difficulty recognizing those diseases in new patients as they are not prevalent in their countries.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a component of the U.S. Department Health and Human Services, has determined that re-emerging Tuberculosis is tied to immigration, since 53 percent of the new cases in the United States centered in the four States that are magnets for immigrants, California, New York, Texas, and Florida.<sup>55</sup>

During the public health debate set off by the question whether illegal immigrants should be eligible to receive H1N1 vaccines, Congressman Frank Pallone said: "We should do the vaccination strictly based on whether it's a high risk group (illegal immigrants) because, you know, disease has no barrier based on whether you are documented or not. If you end up not inoculating people who are undocumented and they start spreading the disease then that hurts everyone."<sup>56</sup> Of course, public expenditures to avoid this adverse consequence in the public health arena potentially might result in adverse consequences with respect to economic growth, as noted earlier.

### Conclusions and Recommendations

Illegal immigration is a growing phenomenon which could adversely affect the stability and security of both destination and transit countries if not controlled. Regarding global current threats, this phenomenon exhibits an increasing rate all over the world and especially in areas where disparities between neighboring nations are high. The economic collapse of some source countries generated by the process of globalization combined with the existence of authoritarian regimes are main causes for instability and

the rise of illegal immigration. Furthermore, the emergence or/and the reemergence of other factors emphasize this rate despite sophisticated control border technologies and strict immigration policies. Environmental impacts are another factor extremely important since they can cause a massive displacement of population and give a rise to regional conflicts to secure and seek resources.

The consequences of illegal immigration are innumerable and affect the destination, transit, and source countries in a different manner. In destination countries, illegal immigrants take jobs that the residents refuse, and contribute in supporting the local economies, but criminal organizations and terrorist networks also may use them to reach their goals. On the other hand, illegal immigrants contribute to strengthening their original countries' economies, especially by transferring currencies and by investing back in many vital sectors.

Taking in account the causes and consequences of illegal immigration, the international community should act to improve worldwide stability. This requires cooperative action in two main domains: promoting democracy and stability, and reducing poverty and exclusion.

With respect to the first domain, destination countries need to recognize that the majority of conflicts which cause a massive movement of population -- in Africa, for example, -- are internal. In order to reverse the situation in those countries, the international community should focus in adopting durable measures which could foster democracy, emphasize human rights, and support economic integration and growth. A lack of democracy in African countries encourages coup d'état which menace stability, peace, and prosperity. Unless this changes, the number of illegal immigrants who desire



to cross the Mediterranean Sea or to reach the Canary Islands is unlikely to be contained or reduced.

With respect to the second domain, clearly the collapse of a source country's economy is another major cause of instability. Globalization has contributed to this phenomenon as many countries are not well prepared for competition. For example the decreasing price of cacao product has caused the economic collapse of Cote d'Ivoire and later the failure of the state and the beginning of its civil war.

Illegal immigration is a dynamic process which measures the welfare gap, stability, and prosperity between developed and less developed states. Immigration is a logic process of human nature looking for stability and welfare. Therefore, solutions should integrate all tools which could help source countries to improve their economy and competitiveness, as well as emphasizing democracy and human rights.

Failure to materialize those objectives will compromise destination nations' national security as failed states and ungoverned regions which constitute a haven for terrorist networks and Mafiosi organizations will increase significantly. Consequently the number of illegal immigrants trying to cross the U.S. borders will also grow considerably, and some of those who mask their true identity by using false documents to gain employment could be open to exploitation by terrorists or other organizations.

The alternative to a US-led cooperative international effort to foster democracy, emphasize human rights, and support economic integration and growth is an ever greater focus by destination countries on investing in strengthening fences and border control technologies, and more rigorously enforcing immigration policies. But while this could perhaps reduce the number of illegal immigrants in today's environment it will not

stop the inflow, and as the situation in source countries worsens eventually even the increased measures likely will be overwhelmed.

In this context, the US Homeland Defense doctrine asserts that:

There is a persistent threat to our homeland posed by the influx of illegal immigrants, special interest aliens, drugs, and contraband. Criminal organizations have established networks to move people, drugs, or other contraband; although these networks have been used for illegal immigrants seeking work, they can also be used for terrorists who want to conduct violent acts. While only in unique and/or extraordinary circumstances would Department of Defense (DOD) take the lead to secure borders, transnational threats pose a serious danger to the Nation and require the combined efforts of law enforcement agencies (LEAs), intelligence agencies, and support from DOD assets to enhance LEA efforts to secure our borders and conduct counter illicit trafficking operations.<sup>57</sup>

Unless the destination countries, including Morocco and United States, want their armed forces focused to an ever-increasing extent on enhancing law enforcement agencies' activities against illegal immigration, their governments need to support an enhanced cooperative effort to improve world wide stability now.

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