

Point

We Shouldn't Have An Open Border – Bala Prasad

Proposal of open boarder is an idea of day dreamers. When the civilization started and when those boarders came into being, it was solely for the purpose of controlling our own future and our environment. Different groups of people with different cultures and under different boundaries grew in different ways. Now it will be highly counterproductive to open the boarder for everybody who wants to walk in. Entry to another country still depends on what the host country wants. It cannot be for the benefit of one at the cost of others. Open boarder policy will bring most of the people from Africa, central and South America giving them undue advantage over others.

Research has shown that immigrants who have benefited this country most came from Asia and Western Europe. Open boarder will bring poor, uneducated and untalented people to this country. This, in turn, will burden our society with increased birthrate, overload on social services and will result in demographic and political changes.

This is not anything against poor people. When natural disaster struck El Salvador and Haiti, special visas were granted to the suffering members of those countries on a short-term basis. We, the privileged must give a helping hand to less fortunate. However it should not be at the cost of our own citizens. With open boarder, Minneapolis may turn into Somalia and not the other way around.

Counterpoint

Let's Have An Open Border - Musafir

The USA is a land of immigrants. We and our ancestors all came here from foreign lands. The following words are inscribed on the Statue of Liberty on Ellis Island in New York: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" For centuries, we have been sheltering people to save them from torture and oppressions from their own people and governments. That's why most of our ancestors decided to come to America, a land of opportunity and freedom.

Folks opposed to open immigration think that the immigrant will take their jobs because they work for less, but they don't realize that their lower wages will drive the cost of products and services lower too benefiting all of us. This is good for both consumers and the economy at large. As immigration makes the American labor market more competitive, costs of production are reduced and prices decline. In the long run, even the domestic laborer who is forced to lower his wage demands is not any worse off, since what he loses in terms of lower nominal wages he may well regain in terms of lower prices on the goods and services he purchases as a consumer.

Another myth is that the immigrants are draining our welfare system. The fact is that the immigrants don't come here to take advantage of the welfare system. On the contrary, the immigrants contribute to the welfare system through payroll taxes and create jobs through their entrepreneurial skills. Study after study shows that small proportions of illegals use government services: free medical, 5 percent; unemployment insurance 4; food

stamps, 1; welfare payments, 1; child schooling, 4. Illegals are afraid of being caught if they apply for welfare. Practically none receive social security, the costliest service of all, but 77 percent pay social security taxes, and 73 percent have federal taxes withheld.

The final argument is that the immigrants are diluting the old American culture. We forget that the American culture is unique. It is not like any other culture in the world as the immigrants bring new flavors and color to our lives. Allowing these immigrants of vastly different culture and ethnic heritage into the United States will result in a nice mosaic of different cultures like nowhere else in the world. So, let's keep our fears aside and have an open border.