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Currently both Spain and the United States are experiencing immigration from the South of their country due to different economic opportunities for immigrants.

Throughout the 1970's, Europe reindustrialize and Spain was among one of the nations experiencing high flows of immigration for the reason that they accepted unskilled workers for industrialization. However, Spain did not create any anti-immigration policies like many European countries. Instead it allowed immigrants to stay in Spain due to political reasons such as an authoritarian government or larger supplies of labor.

Therefore, Spain is a country of recent immigrants in comparison to the United States, which has been experiencing immigration since the Mexican American War. George Friedman states that Mexicans maintain their cultural ties to certain territories because even after they became an American state when they lost the Mexican American War, Mexican immigrants in those areas today maintain physical ties to their native country. He further explains this claim by referring to the Mexican population that was not displaced from property titles they held in the newly conquered territories. At the moment, the United States was not worried about pursuing this ethnic group; instead it was interested in settling the newly conquered territories and creating new economic markets. Given the different histories both of these countries have undergone, I would like to compare the different problems and approaches they have taken in regards to immigration policy.

Since the 1980's Spain has attempted to implement policies to deter the influx of immigration in their territory. Yet, Spain has been very accepting of immigrants from its

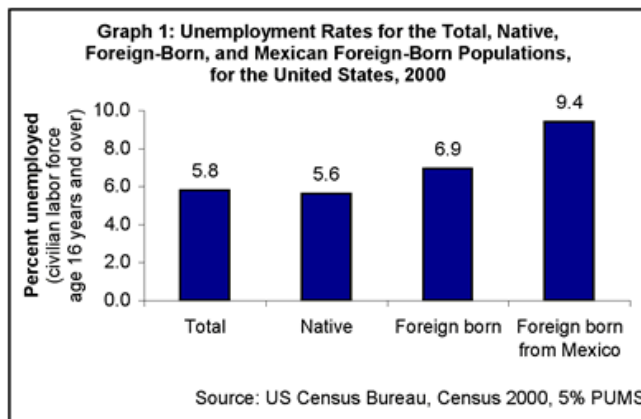
former colonies and has provided different pathways to legalize them through incentive base systems. For example, since 1985, Spain has carried out six regularization programs to legalize the illegal immigrants in the country, giving preference for former Spanish colonial countries. The problem of higher numbers of immigrants not only affects Spain's economy but also the members of the European Union. In the past 25 years, Europe has given residency to about 4 million immigrants to which Spain and Italy account for two thirds of the total number. On the other hand, Spain has taken stronger punitive approaches to prevent other legal and illegal immigrants from staying in the country. One method was by reducing the number of guest worker programs while another limited the number of visas for asylums or refugees. Worker visas were available, but required annual renewal in order to control the number of legal immigrants. A third method they implemented to deter immigration was to increase their border control, with a principle focus on the border near the coast of Spain which is only nine miles from Africa.

Spain experiences a large influx of immigrants from Morocco due to better opportunities of employment, free health services and lack of border enforcement in Morocco. Despite Morocco's previous attempts to control the out migration of its citizens, immigrants cross the dangerous sea to get to Spain. In the past, the Moroccan government tried to limit the number of passports issued in order to prevent its citizens from exiting the country. In contrast this led immigrants to pay higher prices to cross the sea. Despite this control, by 2006, there were 31, 200 illegal immigrants in the Canary Islands. Gil Arias, the Deputy Director of Frontex, which is an organization responsible for patrolling the area off the Canary Islands, states that due to reductions in their budget they could not continue paying the 3,200 Euros per hours used to patrol the island using

air and sea equipment. Therefore this has led to a decrease in Spain's border control of the Canary Islands.

Spain decided to deal with the problem of immigrants coming from Latin America by legalizing them so they can contribute to the country's tax revenue and decrease the incentives of employers lowering the cost of labor. The other punitive approach was to enforce the European Union's Return Directive policy that allowed members of the Union to hold undocumented immigrants including minors up to 18 months in deportation centers if they refuse to voluntarily exit the country. If the person is deported then he or she will be unable to return to Spain for more than 5 years after their voluntary departure.

To illustrate the intensification of immigrants entering Spain between 1998 and 2008 data from the Migration Policy Institute demonstrates that in 2008, there were 692,228 legal and illegal immigrants in Spain compared to 57,195 in 1998 legal and illegal immigrants. From the 2008 figures, Latin America and Europe were two major areas where immigrants originated. Spain has also experienced a large influx of Latin



American immigrants because after they joined the European Union they needed a larger labor supply of foreign investment and to compete with other industrial markets. On the other hand, they became the second largest investor in Latin

America, after the United States, which is the first largest investor, as a way to participate

in the global industrial markets. Consequently this has led many Latin American immigrants to move to Spain or the United States to seek employment opportunities since that's where the foreign companies originated. Overall, Latin Americans started immigrating to Spain due to strong language and cultural ties as well as Spain's weak immigration laws to control their borders. In summary, Spain has not had extreme levels of immigration in comparison to the United States until recently, which is why they are trying to implement policies to deter future projections of immigration.

On the other hand, the long history of immigration to the United States started with the end of Mexican American War and with the Louisiana Purchase where the country acquired more land and set clear boundaries claiming its territory. Immigration was not addressed until 1919 when President Theodore Roosevelt used the term Americanization, to support the creation of a single American culture with a single flag and language. He was quoted from a letter he wrote to the American Defense Society in 1919:

“In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant, who comes here in good faith, becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American... There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language... and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people...”

Therefore, by 1924 the United States Border Patrol was created to prevent immigrants from entering between the Mexican-American border and the Canadian-

American border. The border patrol officers initially had two main offices, one in Texas to control the Mexican border, and another in Detroit to control the Canadian border.

When World War II began, the need for labor in the United States led to the creation of the Bracero Program of 1942, the first guest worker program for agricultural workers.

Throughout World War II more than 1 million illegal Mexican immigrants in addition to the 4.5 million legal workers under the Bracero Program were in the United States. By 1964, the Bracero Program was terminated due to horrible working conditions and increasing flows of immigration.

However the large inflow of illegal immigrants led to the first punitive system to control immigration called Operation Wetback in 1954. Illegal immigrants became known as 'wetbacks' for crossing the Rio Grande and taking lower salaries jobs from those legally in the country. The operation was created by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) with the aim to remove illegal Mexican immigrants from the Southwestern states. According to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Operation Wetback was a successful reporting a total of 1,300,000 illegal immigrants' departures. Even though the number of apprehension does not reflect this figure, the INS included the illegal immigrants who voluntarily left the country before the operation started and those who took voluntary departure if apprehended. In order to apprehend more illegal immigrants they established Identification checkpoints in areas highly populated by Hispanics and by raiding agricultural fields. Those who were apprehended would be shipped or bused to the farthest parts of Mexico to deter re-entry into the country. Families with illegal parents and American born children would all be deported to Mexico.

Another way to control the flow of immigration and to sanction employers for hiring unskilled immigrants was the passage of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA). IRCA aimed to legalize illegal immigrants that entered the country before January 1, 1982 and to penalize employers with sanctions if they hired or recruited illegal workers knowing their status. Employers were supposed to be sanctioned if they knew the unauthorized status of an illegal worker and still hired him or her. IRCA legalized nearly 2.7 million of the estimated 3 to 5 million illegal immigrants at the time. However, the penalizing employers for hiring illegal workers was not strongly carried out under this act and consequently this led to more waves of unskilled illegal immigrants in the future decades.

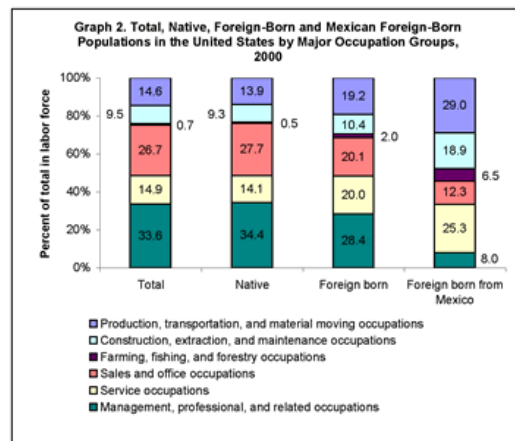
More punitive anti- immigration legislation continued in the preceding decades with operation Gatekeeper in 1994 similar to Operation Wetback but with a focus on the California border and the Illegal Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRAIRA). The IIRAIRA focused on the quick removal of illegal immigrants. This act allowed for increased criminal penalties for immigration-related offenses or felonies like selling or reproducing citizenship documents, using a fake social security or identification card. Additionally this act increased border enforcement by adding more border patrol officers, helicopters, night vision goggles and a new entry- exit system that will store the finger prints and information of illegal immigrants. The main objectives of the act were to expedite the removal process of illegal immigrants, to expand the definition of a felony and to enforce the border.

Despite efforts to keep immigrants out, the Migration Policy Institute has published data stating that in 2005 there were approximately 12 million illegal

immigrants in the United States. The problem of immigration is the result of continuous employers hiring illegal immigrants to take lower salaries without being penalized, for using American taxes to pay for public services immigrants use like public education, and for taking away low-wage jobs of many lower class Americans among many other issues.

However, many immigrants including Mexicans enter the United States illegally because despite the militarization and border enforcement laws, they have better chances of finding employment in a service or production occupation in the United States versus Mexico. The extreme levels of poverty in their country encourages them to look for better opportunities elsewhere just like the Latin Americans that go to Spain. The United States therefore has classified the wave of illegal immigrants as unskilled workers who are interested in taking mechanical, service or industry jobs. On the other hand the high skilled labor immigrants are those who possess some level of education equivalent to the American school system with a professional degree. Consequently American companies have a stronger preference for high skilled immigrants versus the unskilled immigrants.

According to the Labor Force Participation of the Census in 2000, of “all the of the 137.7 million people in the labor force, including both employed and unemployed workers, Mexican immigrants accounted for 4.9 million or 3.5 percent of the total.” Furthermore, from the 4.9 million Mexican immigrants in the labor force about 9.4 percent were unemployed in contrast to the 6.9 percent of the total foreign born population. We can assume the foreign born



populations are the high skilled immigrants entering the country to work in the professional fields by American companies.

Moreover, the various occupations of unskilled Mexican immigrants in the United States differ largely from the occupations of Americans. For example, of the 4.4 million employed Mexican unskilled immigrants about 29 percent of them worked in production, transportation, and moving occupations, while another 25 percent worked in service occupations like hotels, cleaning services, babysitting, or fast food restaurants, and only 8 percent worked in management or other professional occupations. The Americans on the other hand take about 28 percent of all the sales and office occupations and 34 percent of the management and professional occupations.

Overall the long history of punitive immigration systems in the United States has not deterred immigration. Even with the removal of immigrants through harsh operations to deter immigration, they continue to cross the border in search of better employment opportunities. Spain on the other hand, has used both incentive based approaches by legalizing many immigrants from previous colonial regions and punitive approaches to deter immigration by enforcing the European Union's Return Directive policy. It has been pressured by its European members to enforce this policy since many disagree with Spain's feasibility to grant illegals a pathway to legal residency in Spain. Furthermore, the Union fears immigration will breach from Spain to other countries of the European Union. Both Spain and the United States have applied punitive measures to deter immigration yet no figures illustrate a decrease in illegal immigration. Spain offers immigrants free health care and other opportunities of improving their life rather than their home country. The United States on the other hand experiences higher number of

illegal immigrants when the economy is flourishing regardless of lack of incentives. Therefore, despite the punitive immigration systems in the United States, illegal immigrants will continue to come to the United States because as one of the most powerful nations in the world, the demand of labor to industrialize and continue producing technological advancements in the global world will continue to produce employment opportunities for thousands of immigrants looking for a better life.