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The Impact of American Immigration Policy On Muslim Community in the USA.

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Degree in English Literature and Civilization

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To my teachers.

Abstract

The United States of America is the country that has been discovered, built, and developed into one of the powerful countries in the earth due to immigration; those immigrants came from almost every corner of the world; that's why the United States is known as a "nation of immigrants". Immigrants have been well integrated and formed a successful economic, social, cultural, and political mosaic, however this work depicts the historical events, and by analyzing the evolution of the American immigration policy we can find that this ideal image of the American melting pot is not the whole truth, the American immigration policy has been changed through history till current days; and the 9/11 attacks has shaped this policy profoundly by affecting the American-Muslim community in a bad way so that Muslim immigrants become a threat to the American national security. The major policy debated in the United States is focusing on immigration control; by stopping the undocumented immigration and adjusting the legal one, and also legislating new restriction laws on immigration mainly Muslims.

Key words: Immigration, American Immigration Policy, 9/11 attacks, American-Muslim community.

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The United States' immigration began with the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the Treaty of Paris in 1783; it has been a perfect destination for immigrants around the world. The waves of immigration were mainly from Europe in nineteenth century.

Many people came to the new world seeking a new life, escaping from famine and oppressions. The United States of America is the country that has been discovered, built, and developed into one of the powerful countries in the earth due to immigration; those immigrants came from almost every corner of the world; that's why the United States is known as a "nation of immigrants". The United States needed those new citizens to the national economic and political development of the country, and also this new destination represented a refuge for the oppressed new comers.

Immigrants have been well integrated and formed a successful economic, social, cultural, and political mosaic. The continued rising number of immigrants to the United States becomes an issue to both the American government and the public mainly the undocumented aliens. This dilemma pushed to restrict or reform the immigration laws. The American immigration policy has several goals; it aims to reunite families, it seeks to admit workers with skills, it also provides a refuge to persecuted people.

The late of nineteenth century witnessed a big number of Muslims especially from the Middle East such as Syria and Lebanon; they settled in the big cities. Islam in America is considered as one of the major religions, great number of both Native Americans and new immigrants are Muslims. However, the image of Islam has changed in the world, especially in America after the events of 9/11. Muslim community in the United States becomes a target of discrimination by many ways socially, politically, and mainly by the American Media. After the September 11th attacks, immigration legislation developed the notion of terrorism and it restricted the entry for aliens mainly from countries that sponsor terrorism.

This topic was chosen because it is interested, and because of the mass changing on the American attitudes towards American-Muslim community and Muslims in the world. The research aims to answer the following answers:

What has changed the American immigration policy throughout history?

How comes that immigration has shifted from reason of American progress to a major problem?

How the 9/11 attacks contributed to the mass changing on American immigration policy? And how did this change affects the American-Muslim community? The following hypotheses are to answer the previous questions:

The huge number of immigrants especially the undocumented aliens pushed the American government to adjust its immigration policy.

After the 9/11attacks, the United States aimed to protect its national security, that's why American-Muslim immigration has been targeted.

During this research I have noticed that American policy is a pragmatic one, at the beginning when the country needed immigrants the United States opened widely its doors to them, but the policy has changed and the immigrants become problem to be solved especially after the 9/11 Attacks when Muslims become the enemy number one to the American national security.

I used the Historical approach in my study by which I detect the evolution of the American immigration policy since the beginning and throughout social, economic, historical, and political factors. Besides this study deals with American-Muslim immigrants this community face the American policy change especially after 9/11attacks.

This research paper is divided into three chapters. The first chapter deals with immigration in the American society; it includes some important terms' definitions, this chapter also focuses on Muslim immigrants as an ethnic group. The second chapter follows the immigration process in the United States starting with history of American immigration before Columbus till 20th century; this chapter explains the change of American immigration history, through the different immigration waves, and also gives an overview of immigration policy in the United States. Thus, the third chapter tackles the Muslim immigration, it reveals the existence of Islam in early America, analyses the Muslim community in the United States and its several waves, and also examines the impact of the new American immigration policy on this Muslim community in post 9/11events, demonstrating the mass changing of American policy towards Muslims inside and outside the country.

CHAPTER ONE

IMMIGRATION AND THE AMERICAN SOCIETY:

AN OVERVIEW

Chapter One: Immigration and The American Society: An Overview.

I-1-Introduction:

Millions of immigrants crossed the Atlantic Ocean to start new life in America, where there was new chance to succeed, and live the American Dream. The United States becomes a nation with its own identity, and culture, but that culture was only the culture of the old founders White Anglo Saxon Protestants, and the new waves of immigrants mostly from Southern and Eastern Europe struggled not only to feel like outsiders, but also to be accepted in the United States.

Chapter one attempts to give definitions of certain terms that have relationship to the immigration within the American society.

I-2- Definitions of concepts:

Immigration is a global phenomenon in which persons leave their homelands to another country.

I-2-1- Immigration:

Immigration is an old phenomenon; people have always moved from one place to another in order to find new resources or to escape natural disasters. Due to the advanced transportation and the industrial revolution the immigration movement becomes easy and fast.

According to Oxford Dictionary the term immigration is: “The action to live permanently in a foreign country. It is a procedure of entering one country from another to take permanent or semi-permanent residence.”([Oxford Dictionary](#). 2018). Web Site.

Human migration at the beginning was only because of famine, or escaping danger. However, human migration in modern times becomes for the collecting of families, escaping persecution, or finding better life conditions. Migration has influenced many countries throughout the world in both positive and negative ways.

I-2-2- Immigrant:

An immigrant is someone who moves from his country of origin to another country and lives permanently there to become a citizen of that country, but visiting a country or work for a period of time does not make the person an immigrant.

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The Glossary of Immigration Terms defines immigrant as: “permanent resident aliens and those who have been naturalized as U.S citizens are referred to as immigrants.” (Glossary of Immigration Terms. 2018). Web Site

However, the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) defines an immigrant as any alien in the United States, except those legally admitted specifically as non immigrants (such as foreign students). An illegal alien is not a permanent resident alien, but would be an immigrant under the INA’s definition”. In the United States any person who is not a native citizen is called an alien.

An immigrant is divided into two types: legal and illegal immigrant. Those who are authorized to enter the United States are called Legal Immigrants, they are admitted into the United States, they have the right to become citizens that allows them to have the same rights as natural-born citizens such as the right to vote, and have the benefits of social security. The immigrants become resident aliens or legal permanent residents obtain their green cards, and most of them become citizens of the United States. However, not everyone who moves to the United States has the permission to stay as a legal immigrant. Stranger who has either entered a country illegally without examination or documents, or who has disobeyed the rules of legal admission to the country for example when the tourist exceeds the duration of a tourist visa. The Immigration and Nationality act of 1952 defines an alien as a person who is not a citizen or national of the United States it means an alien is any one born in a country other than the United States to parents who are not citizens of the United States. Non-authorized visas are issued to people who return to their homeland when their trip or schooling is over such as tourists or students. Illegal aliens have no legal status in the United States, they cannot vote, they cannot receive social services, or social security benefits, they also can not have the United States passports.

I-2-3- Ethnicity:

The ethnic heritage that defines the person as an American is to be white. The different ethnic groups were regarded as aliens and strangers. In the 19th century, the Irish immigrants were stereotyped because of their low level of education and values. Now, the perception of belonging depends on how cultural traditions are blended together, and how the immigrant functions better in the American society.

An ethnic group is class of people differentiated from others because of particular customs and origins, and this ethnic group will lose its identity if it is dominated by

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another group. Abner Cohen gives this definition: “On the other hand there are the cultural, historical, and geographical groupings of people who have come to regard themselves or to be regarded by others as being of the same kind, irrespective of the roles they play in the urban social system”(Cohen: 2010).

People are different from each other because of their physical appearance, culture, religion, color... due to their ethnical origins.

The word race has the same meaning as ethnicity; race is the fixed biological category that has been inherited by generations. “The term is used to sort varieties of humankind.” (Dalal: 2002, p9). Every culture places different physical characteristic, for example in the United States race is identified by the skin color; “Race is primary concept in American culture. Once a person is racially designated black or white, the designation does not normally require further qualification” (Zack: 1993, p9).

Ethnicity is also socially defined but instead of using physical characteristics these groups is defined by language, religion, national history or some other cultural factors;

“ In the United States, ethnicity can work within groups to pattern peaceful social relations, while race often works across groups to disrupt or destroy the ethnic patterns of others” (Garcia: 2007, p101).

By time, ethnic minorities can be absorbed by the majority and treated differently. In the 1900s, native-born Americans did not consider Irish, Italian, and Jewish immigrants to be white;“ Meanwhile, to the North, the descendants of earlier British settlers regarded the continuing arrival of European immigrants as an obstacle to the kind of national unity they prized” (Deconde: 1992. P28).

In history, dominant groups have divided minority groups at the level of race, “Many important opportunities and boundaries in ordinary life depend on racial designations.” (Zack: 1993, P9). For example, in the United States we find different races are stereotyped for certain jobs; minorities have the lower paying jobs while majorities have higher paying jobs.

Discrimination is present in criminal justice system and the percentage of people in jail, where we find that minorities are much higher than majorities.

There are many different ethnic groups in the United States, most of them have ancestors came from somewhere else; the most common one in the United States is the White ethnic those who are from Germany, England, Italy, France, Holland, Spain, Ireland, Scandinavia... or the Middle East for example Arabs. Black or African Americans who came from Africa as indentured servants and slaves. Another ethnic group is Asians such as China, Japan, and Philippines. Native Americans who settled in the United States before Columbus. Another ethnic group from Central America, Caribbean, Cuba, and mainly from Mexico are known by Hispanics.

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Those People from many countries bring their families, their cultures, their languages and their religions to form a national identity and each immigrant is an ingredient added to what is known as a Melting Pot.

I-2-4- Multiculturalism:

In multiculturalism the diversity becomes an evident, it means that the immigrants live with their differences together. Multiculturalism as an ideology and political process to balance the different races and religions in one society to create a social justice;

Multiculturalism is the term that refers to the amalgamation of different cultures like a salad bowl... Multiculturalism is an ideal system which different societies to merge in another to yield a useful and unique culture” (Raza: p9).

I-2-5- The United States as a Melting Pot country:

The United States is often referred to be as the great Melting Pot. In 1916, the playwright Israel Zangwill said the metaphor melting pot; which means that the immigrants should forget their culture and habits and adopt the new American culture. This metaphor was used to describe the process by which the newcomers to the United States were obliged to be absorbed into the new American society by adapting the new culture and they are expected to become members of the American society. At the beginning it was only one cultural thought to the American identity which was the Anglo-Saxon identity and immigrants who wanted to live in America must adopt the new values and traditions. Some views see that the large influx of immigrants from different cultures, societies, and religions can be dangerous for the American society; those newcomers and strangers enhance social and political instability for example the 9/11 attacks by the Qaida affected all the American-Muslim community.

In “Who Are We” Huntington rejects the melting pot metaphor, he denies the existence of other identities in the American nationality which is based in his thinking on the Anglo-Protestant values and traditions; he says:

“For almost four centuries this culture of the founding settlers has been the central and the lasting component of American identity. One has only to ask: Would America be the America it is today if in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries it had been settled not by British Protestants but by French, Spanish, or Portuguese Catholics? The answer is no.

It would not be America; it would be Quebec, Mexico, or Brazil”.
(Huntington : 2004, p59).

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Like many immigrants in America the American-Muslims mainly Arabs experienced difficulties of adjustment to the new country because of language and racial discrimination.

The U.S. immigration legislation and the Immigration and Nationality Act stated that the person may obtain permanent residency through the following steps: immigration through family member, immigration through employment, immigration through refugee or asylum status, immigration through diversity lottery (Carrion: 2004, p 25-26).

I-3- Identity Formation:

Identity is the special characteristics of any individual or shared by all member of social group. Identity Formation is the individuation and the development of the special personality of an individual. Erikson sees that throughout each person's lifetime they experience different conflicts. The national identity where all members of certain group are called nation, these members share the same identity, and the same origins. Identity formation is the development of person's from his birth to adulthood; this formation is important to human development (Subrahmanyam, K., Greenfield, P., & Smahel, D. 2006). Web Site.

Immigration influences deeply in identity development; the immigrants are obliged to choose between saving their culture of origin or to assimilate into the new culture. Some scholars such as Huntington see the American identity as a heritage of only Europeans (mainly British), and immigrants from outside Europe represent a threat to the American identity. The group of those immigrants is not equal in the American society because they do not have the same European culture that the Americans have. The cultural similarity is very important to the immigrant in order to be accepted in the American identity for example in the United States and Europe Muslim immigrants mainly Arabs represent threat to the Western culture this rejection leads to the alienation of those immigrants (Loue: 2012. P646). When there is a large of immigrants who share the same language, religion, or racial origins also represent a threat to the American identity this encourage the restrictions on immigration for example the president Donald Trump signed the Muslim travel ban.

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I-4- Immigrants Identity in the host country (assimilated or acculturated):

Immigrants of the United States come from different countries, cultures, environments, and religions blended together into one culture and nationality. Many immigrants tried to preserve their own cultures at the same time they tried to become part of the American culture, for example the immigrants parents spoke their native language at home, while their children spoke English at school and their native language at home. Furthermore, in the United States women had more rights; as a result, a large number of women came to the country.

Most of the new immigrants were from rural areas, and because they wanted to earn money they settled in the industrial cities with little or no education, they usually worked in unskilled occupations such as factories. People of the same ethnic group formed their own communities in the cities. As a result, neighborhoods of Jewish, Islamic, Polish and Chinese immigrants developed in large cities like: Chicago, San Francisco and other cities.

Immigrants started to recreate their life, communities developed around places of worship, immigrants also published their own newspapers in their native languages, and they opened stores, theaters, and social clubs. The immigrants had revived those cities. For those who came after they have to adjust themselves physical, social, and cultural conditions.

The major problem that immigrants of recent years face is how well are they integrating. There are many factors and obstacles, some immigrants are not white, have a low level of education as others do, or they are not rapidly integrating as the old immigrants did.

Integration is to preserve the immigrant's culture, language, food...and still remains one of the American Society, however, the word assimilation describes the process that the immigrant comes to the new society and loses his cultural habits, family's structure, and all the things that make him different from others.

Each new generation will become more integrated into the American society, and shows less ethnic differences by: using English language, intermarriage, daily life manners, for example, children of immigrants learn and adopt American ways faster than parents.

Language is one of the most important aspects of integration. The English language is part of the American national identity; it increases job opportunities and makes it easy to participate in social and political life. However, many immigrants do not speak English

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and this was known in the first generation. Socioeconomic Integration is very important, immigrants have to adjust their life with the new country by hard working and the opportunities they find they will reach socioeconomic development in their lives comparing to the natives. In usually immigrants live in neighborhood or rural areas, where there is mixture of different ethnic groups, they assimilate into schools, labor, and markets, by time, becomes less discriminated from native whites this is Residential Integration. The political institutions; laws, regulation, and executive organization help immigrants to integrate into the American society and political life through voting, and engaging into the political activities. In Social Integration there are two elements to the process of social integration: immigrants with their characteristics, adaptation, and the receiving society with its institutions such as education system, labor market. The social integration can work if the immigrants with their differences become an accepted part of the American Society, or become isolated in that society if the integration process failed.

The Social Integration includes: Intermarriage when individuals starting marrying each others from different ethnic groups, religions... It means that social and economic barriers are broken. Education is the engine of the immigrant integration into the society it prepares the future work force which means the future of the country. Immigrants in the United States are now more educated, most of them are obtaining high school and college degrees than in the past years (Jimenez: p 4-9).

I-5- Basics to Immigrate to the United States:

According to the American Immigration Council the immigration system is based upon these basics: the reunification of families, admitting immigrants with skills, protecting refugees, and promoting diversity.

I-5-1- Family Based Immigration:

If the person has a relative either a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident could bring his relative to the United States. Family based petitions is the most common basis for immigrating; the U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents (LPR's) can request for certain family members, but citizens have more rights in family petition than lawful permanent resident. The U.S. citizens' petition is for: spouse, parents, unmarried children under 21, unmarried sons and daughters over 21.

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I-5-2- Employment Based Immigration:

Applying for lawful permanent residence through employment can be difficult, the U.S. employers must have extraordinary abilities, have master degree, have ability in arts, science, and business, and also have significant investment in the United States business that creates jobs for U.S. workers. In order to hire an immigrant the U.S. employers must first prove that there is no available U.S. worker for the position the immigrant wants to work; this called the Permanent Labor Certification. Professionals without extraordinary abilities have lower priority (O’Leary: 2014, p 218-223).

The employment based immigration is divided into two kinds: Temporary visa classification that allows the employers to be hired for short or limited period of time, and the second kind is permanent immigration.

I-5-3- Refuges Protection:

Refugees and Asylums were first allowed to enter into the United States during WWII. The U.S. president and Congress annually decide the refugee quota depending on the need of the home country of refugees. “The Refugee Act of 1980 resettled about 3 million refugees in the U.S. But after the terrorist attacks in 2001the U.S. stopped the admission of refugees” (Radford, Jens Manual Krogstad and Jynnah. 2017). Web Site.

There is a difference between refugees and asylums; Refugees are persons outside the United States, asylums live outside their homeland, and they are unable to return there because of fear of persecution. The asylum seeker is living in the United States asking for asylum status and he must apply for citizenship after 1 year of his admission in the United States. Both of refugees and asylums are not considered immigrants but they have the right to become LPR and stay in the United States. This non-citizen group receives financial support from the government which is a social right (Cafferty, Chiswick et al: 1984. p117-118).

I-5-4- The Diversity Visa Program:

There are many individuals who have no access to the traditional basics to immigrate to the United States, they have no family, or they are not employers, so for them the diversity visa is an option. The diversity visa is available to the countries that do not send many immigrants to the United States.

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I-5-5- Humanitarian Assistance:

The Temporary Protected Status (TPS) protects certain immigrants from deportation to their home countries because of natural disaster, civil wars, or other events.

The United States has always been the land to escape hardship and persecution or to achieve success; this country symbolized the American Dream.

Since 1800s, great waves of immigrants came to the United States because of many reasons which is pull and push factors:

I-6-Push and Pull factors of Immigration:

People escaped their homelands because of different factors, the immigrants' home lands became over populated because people moved from rural to urban areas, seeking job opportunities in factories, and many other new constructions. This conducted to crowded cities, and lack of food. Another factor was Life style conditions in Europe were uncomfortable, the spread of epidemic killed huge number of them, and the environment turned dirty. There were not enough farming lands because the industrialization absorbed it, new factories were built, and the remaining farm lands became polluted as a result, many farmers became poor. Lack of crops led to starvation and poverty. Many immigrants escaped their dictatorship countries, or the religious persecution. Instability countries, wars, and conflicts push people to leave. Natural disasters such as earthquake, floods, or nuclear radiation are another push factors.

The United States became as a refugee to many people from all over the world, it represented the idea of democratic and free society. Work labor provided high wages, and there were many available jobs even for women and children. Freedom of religion: people could practice any religion they want in America. Social equality: the United States is a peaceful place; there is justice, freedom of speech, freedom of press, and individual rights. The immigrants in the United States have a big influence in the new country

I-7-The Impact of Immigration into the American society:

Immigrants have contributed to the United States in many ways, in economy, knowledge, agriculture sector, social life, cultural heritage, world of sport, and cinema industry. The immigrants come to the United States to work and grow the American economy, start business, and create jobs more than the native born American. The non-citizen immigrants occupy employments that usually natives do not accept it such as

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buildings, cleaning; food preparations, serving and farming .Immigrants keep the American economy flexible by boosting the trade markets. The American economy benefits from the new energy of youth immigrants. Immigrants pay taxes, increase consuming demands, and also build cities. The prize winners, the best scientists, the brilliant artists are immigrants or children of immigrants.

Immigrants have also a negative impact on the American society. Illegal immigrants limit job opportunities, affect the income, and they often pay less than citizens do. Therefore, they do not pay taxes as much as the American citizens do or they do not pay it at all. Illegal immigration limits the American job opportunities, and affects the income also the illegal immigrants are often payed less than legal one. Even the illegal aliens benefit from the government services, the public expenditures such as educating children, medical care, administrations, children care benefitting the illegal immigrant for free which is financial burden to the American economy. Diversity has negative consequences on the American community, the mixed community increases low trust between the immigrants.

I-8- Muslims as an ethnic group in the USA:

Muslim immigrants from different national, ethnic, religious, and geographical backgrounds have been living in the United States since the 1820 s, and are still integrating today. Muslim- American unlike the earlier wave of immigrant s who identified themselves as “Ottomans”, the recent immigrants identified them as Muslims adopt their Muslim culture and interests in the United States, they organized meetings and participated in communities of cultural and social activities. In the big waves of immigration in 1960’s when immigration laws opened the gates to non European immigrants, there was huge number of well Muslims educated immigrated to the United States, they were ambitious to work, educate, invest their money, and to get high level of education to their children.

The second Muslim generation is very integrated into the American society. Muslim Americans are Americans; they are in the army, in the FBI, in the CIA. However, Muslims immigrants as other ethnic immigrants faced and still facing discrimination and stereotyping (Khan: 2003).

By the end of the 1970’s Muslim- American Immigrants in the United States of America could successfully integrate themselves in the American society through the

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establishment of a strong Muslim community. Indeed, second generation Muslim immigrants in the United States wished to maintain ties with their countries of origin to allow themselves and more particularly their children born in America to keep in touch with their heritage and culture (Kambiz: 2010, p 4).

I-9-Conclusion:

Most Americans in the past and today considered immigrants as aliens, and source of problems. Immigrants are all those who entered the United States after its independence from Great Britain in the 18th century. Actually, all Americans are immigrants or descendants of immigrants except the Native Americans or Indians, even those had migrated to the New World from Siberia during pre-historic times.

The United States offered opportunities to immigrants and their children to progress and to be joined into the American society; the immigrants became Americans, embraced the American identity, and became citizens, protecting the United States, and enhancing the American economy and technology.

CHAPTER TWO

IMMIGRATION POLICY IN THE UNITED STATES:

AN OVERVIEW

Chapter two: Immigration Policy in the USA: An Overview

II-1-Introduction:

The United States is an immigration country that attracted many people from the entire world for centuries. According to the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the total numbers of immigrants are about 74,225,000 people between the years 1820 to 2008. Throughout the American history there were 4 main waves of immigrants entered the United States pushed by hardship and economic and political instability. Each wave of those experienced hard condition in order to be accepted in the new environment or to be rejected. The immigrants had a big role in shaping the American history and economy, although they faced discrimination on both public and government attitude they contributed in constructing America and the great success of the immigrant impact was the 2008 election of Barack Obama the son of Kenyan father as first African American president.

II-2- Immigration Process in the USA: a Historical Background:

The United States experienced major waves of immigration. All Americans are immigrants starting with the first hunters who crossed the Ice Bridge from Asia thousands years ago who became to be known as Indians. After the Europeans discovering of the New World in 1492, several explorations of Spanish, French, and English led to the first settling in 1607, then in the mid 19th century, began the increasing influx of other immigrants from other European, Asian, and American countries. Those immigrants shared the same goal which was fleeing hardship to seek better and safer life in the United States. Throughout the history of America, the United States government legislated a list of immigration laws responding the public demands to restrict and control the huge flow of immigrants either for nativism reasons or economic competition of immigrants.

II-2-1-The United States before Columbus:

Columbus said that when he reached Haiti, the Native-Americans told him that black-skinned people came from the South and Southeast in boats, trading in gold medals. “Christopher Columbus was impressed everywhere by their skill. He noted, for example, that their boats... were excellently made from single tree.” (Forbes: 1993. p9).

Other scholars believe that Africans brought their rituals and customs such as calendar, pyramid, tomb construction, some political system, and religion traditions to the Native Americans. Ivan Van Sertima believed that the Egyptians were explorers to the Americas; the Olmec civilization, which has African origins, was the source culture of

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Mexico; “Ivan Van Sertima (1976) They Came before Columbus, argued that Africans were here before Columbus... According to Sertima Nubians from the 25th Dynasty of Egypt (751-656 B.C.E) came to the Olmec heartland between 800-700 B.C.E.” (Hodges: p9).

The presence of the early Africans in the Americas was totally different of their next presence. The Indian scholar R.A. Jairazbhoy says that: “The Black began his career in America not as slave but as master.” (Borders: 2010. p73).

There were other nations that discovered America before Columbus; Phoenicians were known by their strong economy and sailing which helped them to reach lands far from their country; “Phoenicians had become the most powerful merchants and colonizers in the Mediterranean world, and archeological evidence indicates that some of those colonies may have been in North and South America” (Wulffson: p7).

II-2-3-Christopher Columbus Explorations and the New World:

During the 14th and the 15th centuries, Europeans sent expeditions to Asia to search for gold, silk, and spices. They used to trade with the Orient by land. The Italian mariner Christopher Columbus wanted to discover new and short sea path to the Orient where there were tea and silk. Columbus convinced the Spanish king Ferdinand and queen Ezabella to permit him traveling. In August 3rd 1492, Columbus and his crew left Spain and sailed west in three ships: The Nina, The Pinta, and The Santa Maria. (Winsor: 1943, p8). Firstly, they anchored in San Salvador Island, and then he returned to Spain with kidnapped natives, special plants, and some gold. In September 25th 1493, Columbus sailed for the second time, landed in what is now Puerto Rico, Hispaniola, and Cuba. After these two journeys, Columbus sailed again searching gold and spices, he landed in Trinidad and the coast of Venezuela. In 1502, Columbus sailed for his final journey, he reached Jamaica.

After Columbus discovering of the New World in 1492, other Europeans explorers came to search of land and wealth for their countries. The race to the New World began between Spain, France, and England. These three countries almost shared the same reasons to colonize the New World. The Spanish explored the North American continent to spread Christianity, expand the Spanish empire, and also for richness. France searched for faster sea road to trade with Asia. England searched for gold and natural resources.

There were three major immigration waves: The Colonial Era, the late 19th century, and the late 20th century.

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II-2-4-The Main U.S.A's Immigration Waves:

During the period between 1700's to the 1800's many of the immigrants moved from Northern and Western Europe. They were educated and they easily adapted to the American society.

II-2-4-1-The First Wave: The Colonial Era:

Known also by the Old immigration, those immigrants arrived before 1880's. The first successful colony in America was established in 1607 in James Town-Virginia by English settlers (Shea: 2006, p 6), but these first Europeans settlers discovered other settled people, they were indigenous. Native Americans who crossed the Ice Bridge from Siberia, Some scholars said that there were nearly 20 million Native-Americans, 95% of them were killed by dangerous epidemics; "As more people moved in, Indians were pushed off their lands" (Kravitz :2016, p 7). After the discovery of the New World, the kingdoms and the empires of Europe, and many people began the journey across the Ocean. In 1620, tens of thousands of British and Dutch most of them were British Puritans came to America to escape religious persecution, or search for better opportunity, or just for adventure.

The first major wave of immigrations started in 1815, millions of people from Germany, Great Britain, Scandinavia, and Ireland came to the United States escaping their unstable homelands and famine. Most of them were Protestants; and some Roman Catholics, many were skilled workers. Some of those immigrants settled in rural areas and became farmers

The Puritans spread throughout New England in the North East; "The little band of religious Separatists who came to New England in 1620 on the Mayflower were simply fugitives from apprehended danger."(Maldwyn:1992, p12). The English established the Pennsylvanian Colony and its commercial centre Philadelphia. More than 90% of those colonists became farmers who needed large families to help them in farms caused increased population in New England colonies.

The Dutch settled along the river in New York and established rich, and successful trading ports in cities like New Amsterdam. Comparing with the English settlers, the Dutch immigrants had not spread so much, a large number of them died in East Indies, and they have no remarecable control on the country (Cohen: p 11).

The Scottish arrived in 1700's and settled in Western Pennsylvania, while the French established along Mississippi River and along the Gulf Coast;"small groups

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continued to come until the end of the Colonial Period. As late as 1764 several hundred sailed from France to South Carolina to found town of New Bordeaux” (Maldwyn: p 26).

After more than 4 decades, in the 1830’s tens of thousands of immigrants began arriving to Eastern shores from Britain, Ireland, and Germany attracted by the cheap farming, and manufacturing growth in cities.

The history of indentured servants goes back to 1607 during the settlement of James Town which was the first successful British Colony. During that time, there was lot of work , many laborers were needed to build homes and farm lands, therefore the English colonists used the indentured servants whom were unemployed, poor, and young, but it was expensive to travel to America, many people could not afford to leave Europe so some of them came to America as indentured servants, wealthy persons were able to provide the money to indentured servants to travel to America and also provide them food, place to live for a period of time of working. This servitude was written in contract which was enforced by the American Court. The servants should work from 3 to 7 years and at the end of their servitude they usually owned lands to settle, some of them learned agriculture during their servitude and they became skilled (Smith: 2010, p 24). Those indentured servants were not enough to provide the need for laborers in colonies that led to slavery. The British colonists enslaved Native Americans who had been captured by settlers from their tribes; also the British government sent thousands of prisoners to Georgia in order to work there. The Tobacco farming was the famous crop in the Southern colonies. Many British settled there and began the slave trade. Hundreds of thousands of Africans were captured, taken as prisoners then they were sold to America for labor without paying or any chance to regain their freedom; “Slave Traders captured men and women in Africa. Then they shipped them to the colonies and forced them into slavery. By 1760 almost 300.000 slaves lived in America.” (Kravitz: p 9). The Slave Trade of Africans was also a wave of immigrants to the United States; the Africans had major contribution to the structure of the colonies.

In the mid of 19th century. The United States witnessed a great wave of immigrants began in last 1830’s to 1860’s, mostly from Ireland, Scandinavia, and Germany. The majority of them were Roman Catholics. This wave was the Second Wave.

II-2-4-2- The Second Wave:

The Irish was one of the main groups that moved to America were the Irish because of the corruption, unemployment, and the major factor was the Potato Famine in 1845

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which pushed 1.8 million people to leave to North America. (Bergquist : 2008. p6). The Irish also fled the religious persecution; millions of them came to the United States between 1820 and 1880, they were forced to stay in the cities and live in miserable conditions. They were unskilled labors, worked in factories, ports, they built railroads and canals.

The Germans also moved to the United States for more opportunities and to escape bad life; "...they came to America not primarily for religious reasons but because of economic pressure." (Maldwyn: p24). Half of Germans became farmers mainly in the Middle West and the other half became craftsmen. Many of German immigrants were highly educated.

After the Civil War, immigration began to increase, after 1880, people emigrated from Southern and Eastern Europe such as: Italians, Polish, Russians, and Jewish. They were mostly poor and tried to support their families. Those immigrants faced difficulties in their traveling to America. They usually travelled in overcrowded ships using the steerage.

The new arrivals had to pass through processing centers controlled by the State and local government. They were questioned, and physically examined. The famous processing center was The Ellis Island which was a Federal Immigration Station in New York Harbor, opened its doors in 1892, and it was the busiest East Coast Center; inspectors from the Island checked the passengers since the ship had anchored; the wealthy ones were usually allowed to leave the ship. The inspectors looked for signs of contagious disease, and those who were ill were sent to other island to recover, those who seemed healthy were taken to Ellis Island, the immigrants also were asked many questions, and they had to show that they would work hard (Housel: 2008, p 8).

In the mid and the late of 1800's, a number of Italian immigrants moved to the United States among many other European immigrants. They escaped poverty, over population, and natural disasters. In fact between 1880 and 1920 over 4 million Italians were entered into the United States (Todd: 2002, p 6). According to the United States Census of 2000, about 16 million Italian lived in the United Sates. Most Italians were less educated and unskilled, accepted hard, dirty, and dangerous jobs, because they were seen as degrading laborers, and they were treated so badly. The majority of Italian immigrants lived in the big cities in North West of the United States, they stayed in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, those who went to California planted grapes to produce wine (Todd: p 6).

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The first Russian settlement in the United States was in Alaska (Frost: p 4), many of these settlers returned to Russia when the United States purchased Alaska in 1867. In the late 19th century, nearly 3 million Russians fled to the United States to escape religious persecution. Those who came between 1880 and 1917 worked in factories and mines, they were unskilled. Russian women worked as dressmakers in small factories and shops. Most Russians who came after the WWI were much educated comparing to the earlier immigrants. After the Russian Revolution in 1917, many of Russian aristocrats and intellectuals came to America to escape from communistic regime in Russia (Frost).

The Jewish immigrants to the United States came mostly from Eastern Europe countries, those people were mainly from Poland and Russian Empire they wanted to escape poverty and persecution, they came to America for religious freedom, economic opportunity, and better life;“The government punished people who did not follow the practices and beliefs of the Russian Orthodox Church. Russian Jews suffered greatly during the late 1800’s and early 1900’s... several groups of Russian including Russian Jews, came to America to seek religious freedom” (Frost: p10).

In the mid 1880, a large number of Jewish immigrants arrived from Europe settled in the North East and Mid West, they also settled in California for the Gold Rush. During the WWII, millions of Jews became refugees fleeing to the United States, the president Franklin Delano Roosevelt claimed that Nazis could be hiding among Jewish refugees, so he limited the accepted amount of them.

The Chinese were the first Asian immigrants to the United States, between 1850 and 1882 about 300.000 entered the country (Maldwyn: p 175). As the European immigrants the Chinese also left their homeland hoping for economic prosperity. Half of them started working in the Gold Rush in California in 1848, they also worked in factories and agriculture, they were known by hard working. In the 1800’s poor unskilled workers came to work in railroads, mines, and other jobs with low paying, they were treated badly. There were pull factors to the Chinese immigrants: The Gold Rush in California in 1848, in 1852 Chinese laborers were contracted to work in Hawaii plantation. In 1865 Chinese were contracted to help build the Transcontinental Railroad. In 1868 the Burlingame Treaty opened the doors to more Chinese family to enter the United States, it led to massive flow of Chinese immigrants (Chinn: p 72).

Angel Island Was an immigration station near to San Francisco. It opened in 1910, and received the immigrants who came from the West Coast mainly Chinese and Japanese immigrants (Flanagan 2006. p 10). Chinese could not assimilate to the American society,

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they did not speak English, and their customs were totally different, therefore, they created a small community called “China Town”.

The Japanese escaped the economic hardship in their homeland. Between 1885 and 1924, thousands of Japanese immigrated to the United States, mainly to Hawaii which at that time was an independent region where they worked in agriculture, fishing, and railroads; “Between 1885 and 1898, about 45.000 Japanese sailed to Hawaii. By the end of the century, Japanese immigrants made up 80 percent of Hawaii labor force.”(Wallner: 2002.p 4). In 1900, Hawaii became officially an American territory; many Japanese decided to move from Hawaii to the West Coast of America. The Japanese benefited from the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882; because it brought to them more jobs, they replaced the excluded Chinese laborers, and also they took the jobs that whites did not want.

After the tragic events of Pearl Harbor in 1941, the American opinion towards the Japanese Americans turned against them; they were mistreated, abused, and stereotyped. The United States government had a full control over Japanese; they had been arrested, relocated, captured, and moved to Relocation Centers.

After the Mexican War in 1849, the United States annexed California, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and other territories, the Mexicans in those regions had to choose either to stay or to leave to Mexico (Parker: 2003. p5). Between 1850 and 1880 thousands of Mexican workers immigrated to the United States, they started constructing the railroad between Mexico and the United States. Mexicans escaped the political and economic instability in Mexico, most of them were illiterate and poor, and they worked in farms, mines, and railroads, and lived in South West part of the United States. Due to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, many Mexicans replaced Chinese laborers mainly in railroad industry and mines in California, Colorado, and Arizona.

The Mexican Revolution in 1910 changed the social and economic structure of the country. This raised the influx of Mexican immigrants to the United States.

In the 1920's, the United States Border Patrol was created. No worker was allowed to enter the United States without contract. This became the first Bracero Program between the two countries; “In response to rising numbers of illegal entries and alien smuggling, especially along land borders, in 1924 Congress created the U.S. Border Patrol within the Immigration Service” (USCIS. Gov).

Another factor that contributed to the Mexican immigrants workers was WWI. Many Mexican workers replaced the American men who fought in Europe. They were needed in agriculture, some of them worked in steel industry as machinists, mechanics, and

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plumbers. Between 1944 and 1954, the number of Mexican immigrants increased, they worked in agriculture sector under the Bracero Program; “ The Mexican Bracero Program lasted from 1942 until 1964, and authorized the entry of between 4 and 5 million temporary agricultural workers” (Violet: 1980, p 19).

The next major wave of Mexican immigration began in early 1970’s and early 1980’s. This wave included illegal immigration. The Economic Crisis in Mexico in 1994 increased immigration to the United States, the Mexicans became the largest Hispanic group in the country, and also the fastest growing one.

II-2-4-3- The Third Wave: Immigration after the Year 1965:

The Third Wave of American immigration began from 1965 until today, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 changed the structure of immigration; it allowed immigrants to enter the United States from all over the world. Millions of people fled poverty, wars, or communist regimes in Cuba, Eastern Europe between 1960’s and 1970’s. In 1975, hundreds of thousands of refugees entered the United States from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos after the end of the Vietnam War. In 1988, the Amerasian Homecoming Act was created; the Amerasian were children of American servicemen and Vietnamese women during the Vietnam War, the AHA allowed those children to immigrate to America. ([David Lamb, 2009](#)). Web site.

In 2010, Asian immigrants reached 40% of the total number of immigrants to the United States, according to the United States Census Bureau there were 17,320,856 Asian Americans in the country in 2010.

Between the 1980’s and 1990’s, illegal immigration to the United States increased mostly from Mexico. In 1986, the Congress passed another immigration law “the Immigration Reform Act” to legalize the illegal status. In 1996, the Congress passed the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act that increased border enforcement (Koven and Gotzke: 2010. p 12).

II-2-5-The Anti-Immigrants Sentiment:

When the colonies officially declared their independence in 1776, the United States Constitution was approved in 1788. The colonial legislators and governors encouraged immigration and they naturalized the settlers since the 17th century, they allowed aliens to be naturalized based on time of residence, and when they naturalized they had rights of citizens including: rights to own lands and properties, right to vote, and right to hold high

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office. After the American Revolution, the European settlers began to consider themselves different from Africans and Native Americans, only white Europeans hold citizenship while Blacks and Indians were excluded from becoming citizens. The first act passed by the United States legislators was the Naturalization Act of 1790, this Bill limited the naturalization only for free white persons who lived in the United States during 2 years, and had a good moral character. This Act established the United States as white ethnicity and prohibited Indians, African slaves, and Indentured Servants from becoming citizens while white women were citizens but with limited rights. Another Naturalization Act of 1795 extended the residency requirement from 2 years to 5 years. (The Immigration History, 2015). Web site.

In 1802 Naturalization Law was passed and it kept the “Free White” requirement. After the Civil War, the Naturalization Act in 1870 expanded the citizenship to the alien Africans and African origins; this Law allowed free slaves and African migrates to be citizens.

Nativism is much related to the American immigration history, many Americans started using the term Nativists to describe those who opposed Irish Catholic immigrants.

The early American nativism was based on hostility against immigrants, because they looked different, they act different, and they were stealing Americans’ jobs that are why many Americans feared Irish and German immigrants. Nativism was not only hatred of the new comers, or fear of foreigners but it was also feared of jobs competitions; “Anti-immigration or nativist feeling was also strong during the mid 19th century. The nativist movement of this period was inspired by a combination of anti-Catholicism, fear for American labor, the linking of immigration with crime and poverty” (Violet: p11). Nativists also feared the growing of political powers of immigrants as Irish and German immigrants who were numerous in the big cities such as New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Pennsylvania; in 1753, the president Benjamin Franklin showed his fear of Germans’ threat on American society, he said:

...Those who came hither are generally the most stupid of their own nation, and as ignorance is often attended with great credulity, when knavery would mislead it, and with suspicion when honesty would set it right; and, few of English understand the German language, and so cannot address them either from the press or pulpit it is almost impossible to remove any prejudices they may

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entertain...Not being used to liberty, they know not how to make modest use of it.

(Violet: p6).

More than that, nativists rejected the religious beliefs that new immigrants brought with them from Europe; because the majority of them were Catholics (all the Irish who came in 1830's and half of Germans were Catholics). America had the heritage of anti-Catholic tradition since the Colonial period because the first settlers were Protestants. Nativists saw those Catholic immigrants as threat to their existence in America. In Americas' big cities groups of anti-immigrants attacked and burnt Catholic Churches and schools.

The Asian immigrants were another target to the nativists, in 1860 and by the appearance of political parties that called for protecting the American jobs; there were massacre events against Chinese workers. The Japanese immigrants did not assimilate to the American community which led to social discrimination against them. During the WWI, there was a strong sentiment against German Americans, many of those Germans lived in isolated communities, they also preserved their own schools using German language. Following WWI, nativists targeted this time the Southern and Eastern Europe immigrants mostly those who came from Poland and regions near the Mediterranean Sea, many of them were Catholics or Jewish, therefore nativists believed that racial purity would be damaged by inferior races of those new comers, in addition of that nativists feared that the influx of unskilled laborers would take jobs from Americans.

In the 1920's, a new wave of nativism swept the United States which has a long history of doubting immigrants from the earliest days, there were laws that limited the rights of immigrants.

The Know Nothing Party was small Anti-Immigrants groups grew they formed a new political party called the Know Nothing Party in 1855. This party developed restrictive immigration laws such as the law that prevent anyone who was not a native-born American from holding any political office.

The Ku Klux Klan was an American hate group encouraged the superiority of the Christian Caucasian ethnicity. It emerged in the Southern regions and used extreme torture and violence to oppress other races especially African Americans (Akbar: p 82). The group was founded in 1866 after the American Civil War, during this time African Americans became legally free but white masters ignored their freedom. From this time until the Civil Right Era in the 1950's, racist Jim Crow Laws were enforced by Ku Klux Klan and any

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person who tried to change this situation could be tortured or even killed. The Ku Klux Klan members were distinguished by cross like a signal and masks to hide their faces. In early 20th century, the Ku Klux Klan uniforms developed into white costume with a hat. During the 1920's, the group experienced a big popularity, its numbers reached more than 4 million, however the Great Depression in 1930 minimized its popularity. The Ku Klux Klan has recently declined, and it became no more a hatred group.

The United States is one of the highest immigrant populations and is one of the most visited countries in the world. This great level of demands to enter the country means that the United States immigration policy is very complicated, and for many it is almost impossible to enter the country. The United States and since its independence controlled the flow of persons who were arriving. The American immigration policy was shifting by the time from opening the doors for immigrants to restricting the laws; this unstable policy depends on political, social, economic, and security of the United States.

II-3- Immigration Policy in the USA:

Immigration policy in the United States targets many goals, it serves to reunify families by admitting immigrants who have already family members living in the United States, it admits skilled workers according to the labor demand, and provides a shelter for refugees and asylums who face political, racial, or religious persecution in their country of origin, and it also admits people from diverse countries.

II-3-1-The Evolution of the United States' Immigration Policy:

The immigration policy gives two ways for noncitizens to enter the United States lawfully: Permanent admission and Temporary admission.

Aliens may be granted as Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR), receive the green card, and become eligible to leave and reenter the United States, work and apply for the United States citizenship. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) estimated about 584.000 of lawful permanent residents status were granted, and about 362.000 new immigrants entered the United States in 2004 (USCIS.gov).

A U.S. permanent residence card is an identification card to the permanent residence status of an alien in the United States, it is known as the Green Card, and this card proves that its holder is lawful permanent resident. The green card is issued by the Immigration and Nationality Service. The lawful permanent resident does not have the

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right to vote or the right to be elected in elections. The permanent resident must pay taxes like the U.S. citizens.

There is a difference between Permanent Resident and Citizen; person is called a permanent resident when he is allowed to reside or live in the country. The permanent resident Permanent resident cannot vote, cannot hold government jobs, he can be deported, his status of permanent residency can be repealed, and also the Permanent residency needs to be renewed. On the other hand, a person is called citizen when he has specific duties, privileges, rights, and benefits, for instance he can vote and hold government jobs, he cannot be deported, and his Citizenship is valid.

Temporary admission Non-immigrants gain lawful admission temporarily to enter the United States for limited period of time and for specific purpose such as tourism, diplomatic missions, study, temporary work, and professional or cultural exchange. Temporary aliens are not eligible for citizenship; they have first to apply for permanent admission. In 2004, the State Department issued about 5 million visas to admit temporary aliens. In order to obtain a temporary visa the person must have a valid passport, and he is required to prove a financial support. H-VISA is the largest category of non-immigrant visas issued for employment. Aliens who violate the United States immigration laws may be removed from the country (The Congress of the United States, 2010). Web site.

The American immigration laws were very restrictive starting with the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 which was racist, other laws prohibited the mentally ill, the illiterates... From 1912 specific ethnic limits were enacted. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 eliminated those Quotas Acts and allowed skilled immigrants and family relations to enter the United States. The immigration legislation may change laws, add new laws, or reframe old ones depending on political support or opposition to the issues.

II-3-2-The American Immigration Laws:

The Federal Law divides all individuals who live in the United States into two groups: citizens and noncitizens, Citizens by birth, or their parents who are U.S. citizens, or naturalized; which means that a lawful permanent resident can be naturalized after 5 years of residency. The other groups are Noncitizens including undocumented “Illegal Immigrants” or Aliens, non-immigrants who enter the United States on temporary visas for

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business or pleasure, those who have temporary status for example students, tourists... (Bray.J.D:2017.p 11). It is possible for non-immigrants to apply for LPR through a family, employer, or spouse but if the non-immigrant overstays his visa he becomes an undocumented immigrant. The U.S. Office of Citizenship encourages “The civic integration of immigrants and their eventual naturalization” (U.S.Department of Homeland Security, 2004). Web site.

Immigrants are another non-citizens with lawful permanent resident in the United States (the green card holders), and visas holders. There is also Temporary Protected Status (TPS) who is the person who leave his homeland because of natural disaster and he could not return there (American Immigration Council, 2016). Web site.

The United States immigration law is not easy to be understood. There are many steps in immigration process.

II-3-3- The Process of Immigration to the United States:

First, the person should get his visa, then a green card, finally he gets his citizenship. It seems easy but it is not. Every year, lots of people want to immigrate to America and to regulate this, the government establishes the immigration process.

The visa is a travel document released in home country to allow the person enters a foreign country. Merriam Webster defines visa as: “An endorsement made on a passport by the proper authorities denoting that it has been examined and that the bearer may proceed.”

Visa is the permission to enter any foreign country .Persons who wants to go to the United States need visas and they should apply to visas (Bray.J.D: 2017.p 11). The process to immigrate to the United States is very complicated, for non-immigrants there are more than 30 different visas applications: A-Visas for diplomats, B-Visas for tourists, E-Visas for investors, F-Visas for students.... Some kinds of visas are designed to allow victims of human trafficking and other crimes to stay in the United States for example U-Visas designed for victims of violent crimes. These visas strengthen the ability of law enforcement to detect, investigate, and prosecute certain violent crimes. U-Visas facilitate the reporting of crimes by victims who are not in lawful immigration status, and provide humanitarian relief to crime victims and their family members (Hing, Johnson et al: 2018. p 381-382). Another kinds are T-Visas in which the Congress passed the Victims of

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Trafficking and Violence Act in 2000, the T-Visa provides secure to victims of severe human trafficking (Hing, Johnson et al: p 381-382).

In order to travel to the United States, the person needs to apply and pay for a visa in the United States embassy before he travels. He must fill out a paper work, pay and show his own documentation, then, be approved for a visa. After getting the visa, the immigrant will have his Green Card which means the permanent residency. The Green Card expires after 10years.

Visa process is organized by the United States Citizenship and Immigration, and the Immigration Services, “Regardless of how foreign persons may have entered the United States, after their entry they are under the jurisdiction of the USCIS.” (Carrion: 2004, p6). To treat applications, documents and distributes those documents. USCIS’s mission is to provide correct and useful information, improves the citizenship benefits, and insures the perfection of the immigration system.

There is also a Visa Waiver Program allows a number of 38 mostly European countries to enter the United States without visa and for 90 days. Visitors are required to get electronic authorization before arriving, they also must show that their visits are for specific purpose or they would stay for short time.

There are two types of visas; immigrant and non-immigrant visas that the person can apply for, and it is the nature of his purpose of the visit that determines what visa category he will chose, if the person stay will be temporary he will make an application for a non-immigrant visa which is temporary (Hing, Johnson et al. p 342-343).

The process of becoming a United States citizen with full citizenship rights is called Naturalization which is the process of giving citizenship to the alien person.

There are several ways for aliens to become naturalized , the most common way is to obtain legal permanent resident status by residing in the country for a period of five-5-years. It is possible to become a permanent legal resident and then a naturalized citizen through marriage to a United States citizen. Naturalization has advantages it eliminates risk of deportation, provides faster and more petition for family members, minor LPR children can obtain citizenship, and also the naturalized person has the right to vote (Bruno,J.D: p 18-23). However there are some disadvantages of naturalization for example the person

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could lose his rights in country of origin including right to vote, property, employment... The person could be deported if the naturalization is removal (Bruno, J.D: p 6-18).

Naturalization is the process by which an immigrant can obtain U.S. citizenship. Any lawful permanent resident who is present in the United States can apply for citizenship. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) focus on “ Secure America’s promise as a nation of immigrants by providing accurate and useful information to our customers, granting immigration and citizenship benefits, promoting an awareness and understanding of citizenship and ensuring the integrity of our immigration system”(USCIC.gov).

II-3-4-Enforcement of Immigration Laws:

“Immigration enforcement is the regulation of those who violate provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)” (Bruno, Neto et al: P 3). Every year nearly a million people immigrate to the United States, and over 41 million legal and undocumented immigrants live in the country. The United States makes some immigration reforms to control the immigration flow.

Undocumented Aliens are those who enter the United States illegally without documentation, faked documentation, or lawfully admitted immigrants who stay in the United States after violating immigration laws, and aliens who overstayed their expired visas, those aliens usually brought their children and spouses with them, many of those undocumented aliens have U.S. born children, and nearly 12 million people have no legal status which creates social and economic complication such as gap in taxes. Mexico is the greatest source of undocumented immigration to the United States (Carrion: p 15).

Illegal immigration become an important issue in the United States policy, some see illegal immigrants as a necessity for economy because they accept the jobs that Americans do not accept to take. However, the majority of U.S. citizens think that most immigrants in the country are illegal and they should be punished and removed. Many policy-makers believe that border control is the best way to restrict illegal immigration (Bruno, Neto et al: p 3-4-5).

Deportation or removal is the process of removing someone from the United States and sending him back to the country of origin. Any undocumented person, at any age, living or working in the United States can be deported. A person who entered the United

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States legally but he overstayed or violated the terms of visa can be deported. Any legal, non citizen can also be deported if he violated the law regardless how long this person has been in the United States, or even there is war in his home country (Bruno: p 7-8).

Undocumented individuals who were arrested and detained mainly in the Southwest border between U.S. and Mexico would be usually interviewed by Immigration Customs and Enforcement officer (ICE). Those undocumented would be deported because they either entered the United States without visas, they overstayed the visas, or they committed some crimes. When the ICE officer determines that the person should be placed in removal proceedings, in which this person will pass in front of immigration judge who decides if this person would be deported or adjusting his immigration status, or pay penalties, put him in prison, or prohibition of future legal entry. The Removal Proceedings could take a long time (Bruno, Neto et al: P9).

Non-criminal unauthorized aliens may have the voluntary departure; they must confess that they were in the country illegally and agree to return to their home country (Carrion: p 6-7).

The United States' government enacted series of enforcement laws: The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA) enhanced enforcement and created new legal immigration reform, it also imposed sanctions on employers who hired unauthorized aliens. The Act created the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Amnesty Program that allowed people who worked at least for 90 days in agriculture to apply for permanent resident status, and the Legally Authorized Workers Amnesty Program that allowed unauthorized aliens who had lived in the United States since 1982 to legalize their status (Koven and Gotzke:2010. P 12). Violence against Women Act (VAWA) was created in 1994, citizens who brought their spouses to the United States but they did not petition for citizenship for them, keeping them undocumented this Act allows the abused spouse, parent, or child to file an immigrant petition on their own (Bolduan, Kate, 2012). Web Site.

The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act 1996 (IIRIRA) was signed by President Clinton, this Act is for border enforcement, and it increased the number of border patrol agents using new border control measures (Koven and Gotzke: 2010. p 37-38). The Homeland Security Act of 2002 created the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and reformed the Immigration and Naturalization Service

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(INS) which is responsible of immigration services, border enforcement, and border inspections. Immigration and Naturalization are under the control of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services. The border enforcement functions of the INS are divided between two bureaus: The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) (Bruno, Neto et al: P6).

Border Enforcement was the priority of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) before the terrorist attacks of 9/11, but since 2003 immigration and enforcement were transferred to the new Department and Homeland Security the border security became combined with National Security (Bruno, Neto et al: p7-8).

II-3-5-Government Agencies Concerned in Immigration:

There are many agencies and departments to control immigration system, Department of Homeland Security was created after 9/11, this department is the main one that deals with immigration, and it is responsible for enforcing the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) (Bruno 2010. P1). It includes U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) where immigrants submit their citizenship applications, obtaining green cards, visas petition, and DACA status... (Carrion: p5-6). U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) or the Border Patrol it controls the border entry in lands and airports (Bruno: p 1). Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the enforcement side of immigration, this agency is looking for who violate the immigration laws and executes the removal proceedings including arresting and removing the undocumented aliens (Bruno:p1). The Department of Justice is involved with Immigration Court System; anyone who is in removal proceedings he passes through Immigration Court. The national visa center for processing visas and refugees from abroad is under the Department of State control (Bray J.D: p16). The Department of Health and Human Services is the office of refugees resettlement, unlike other immigrants refugees have been protected in welfare reform, since 2011 they are eligible for federally funded that provides to them funds and other benefits and services such as medical assistance, employment, English language training since they arrive to the country.

There is big difference between the Republicans and Democrats' immigration policy.

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II-3-6-Republicans vs. Democrats Immigration Policy:

Republicans immigration policies are more restrictive than the policies of Democrats; this can be founded through the current Administration policies that banned immigration, promises to build a wall, more restrictive enforcement law programs... The democrats do not promote strict immigration policies; the Obama Administration policy was more opened, demonstrated in DACA program, and other granted decision to immigrants.

II-3-7- The Obama Immigration Policy:

President Obama focused on families of undocumented immigrants; many of those aliens have children who are U.S. citizens. The president new policy aimed to protect their parents too from deportation, this policy gives the work permits to them, the social security, and international travel without obtaining neither citizenship nor permanent residency.

The Obama policy plan also allows immigrants who arrive to the United States and work in high-tech works to be able to change their jobs, also immigrants who come to the country to start business as entrepreneurs could invest in the United States. The plan adds more border security agents as well as the immigration judges and attorneys of deportation, it also focuses on immigration enforcement to deport criminals (MPI Migration Policy Institute, 2012). Web site.

The Obama Administration announced executive action to protect millions of unauthorized immigrants from deportation and allowed them to live legally in the United States (MPI Migration Policy Institute, 2012). Web site.

Since 9/11 the number of deportation has increased, the Administration decided that is impossible to deport people who have lived in the United States for many years, who have not committed crimes, and who have families, this protection had already aplayed to a group of young unauthorized immigrants called DREAMers who benefited from DACA.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was signed by President Barack Obama on June, 15, 2012, it allows young immigrants who came to the United States illegally to apply for visas, allows them to work legally in the country, and protect them from deportation. For 5 years nearly 800.000 undocumented young people have been

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able to live in the United States without fear of removal. Persons who benefit from DACA are those who have been in the United States since 2007 and came before June, 15, 2012 when DACA was in effect. Applicants must be in school, have high school diploma, and they must have a clean criminal record. The DACA status does not mean that the person holds a permanent residency or citizenship, but the immigrant could obtain driving license, credit cards... Some critics say that DACA is unconstitutional because president Obama introduced it by executive action and without congressional approval; they also say that DACA raises future illegal immigration (American Immigrtaion Council, 2012). Web site.

The Obama's immigration policy also encourages foreign students who were studied and graduated in science, mathematics, and technology in the United States to stay in the country and obtain the green card.

The Obama Administration focused on enforcement policies and it deported the illegal immigrants in huge numbers than any previous president, it issued a policy order to immigration agents not to arrest and not to deport illegal immigrant parents of minor children.

In Thursday , 12th , 2017, President Obama announced the immediate end of the policy“ Wet Foot, Dry Foot” the policy that allowed the Cubans refugees to obtain U.S. residency if they could reach the United States shores. Wet Foot, Dry Foot means if Cubans who were fleeing their country in water and they were captured with wet feet they would be sent back to Cuba, but if their feet were dry they could stay in the United States, this policy existed since 1995 which was a unique policy to Cubans; Wet Foot, Dry Foot for decades allowed tens of thousands Cubans that reached the United States to stay, the Cuban government said that this policy encouraged people to leave Cuba. By the end of the policy, Cuba agreed that repealed and allowed Cubans to return home country (Meissner, Doris, 2017). Web site.

II-4- American policy regarding Immigration Process after 9/11 Events:

President Bush declared that “...A country awakened to danger and called to defend freedom...” He said: “... Terrorist attacks can shake the foundation of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve...” (Brainy Quote, 2018).

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The main goals of immigration antiterrorism policies since 9/11 attacks focused on preventing terrorists, criminals, and illegal immigrants from entering the United States and deport them, and deport all foreigners who represent a threat to American national security;“ ... September 11,2001, changed America. The terrorist attack on the World Trade Center brought home to Americans something they had heard about but never really experienced...” (Khan: p1).

Increase immigration enforcement by allowing state and local law enforcement to question and arrest immigrants. These enforcement agencies across the country Violated the immigrants’ civil rights and damaged the relations of immigrants and their communities, which viewed them as suspected criminals and terrorists (Bakalian and Bozorgmehr : p248).

II-4-Conclusion:

Immigration has become a political issue in the most developed countries. In the United States the new era of immigration started from the year of 1965 when the Immigration and Nationality Act was signed, the Act that reshaped the American immigration structure. Recently, immigration becomes one of the strongest topics in the American election campaign, and the politics of immigration have largely focused on national and border security.

CHAPTER THREE

MUSLIMS IN THE USA CITIZENS OR TERRORISTS

Chapter Three: Muslims in the USA Citizens or Terrorists.

III-1-Introduction:

Islam in America is one of the major religions, the American Muslim community is the most diverse one in the United States; it includes immigrants nearly from all over the world without forgetting the African Americans as the Native American born Muslims. American Muslim immigrants are participating in social, economic, and political activities in the country.

The Terrorist Attacks of September 9th, 2001 shaped the status of American Muslim community greatly; it transformed the American immigration policy and changed the perceptions of Islam, Arabs, and Muslims in general in the view of many Americans.

Historical facts and archeological evidence have proved that Islamic religion is so old and has existed for a long time in the Americas.

III-2- History of Islam in America:

Before the discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus; Islam spread in Spain. Like Judaism and Christianity Islam is a religion born in the Arab lands of the Middle East. In the year 711, Seven thousands Muslims from North Africa landed on the South of the Iberian peninsula, it was in Spain that Islam established an amazing civilization; this region was named “ Andalusia” and the West called Muslims “Moors”;“...Muslims begun arriving in the new world long before the rise of the Atlantic slave trade, the first recorded arrival was in the late fifteenth century when Christopher Columbus crossed the Atlantic in search of new horizons and trading routes...” (Kambiz: p4).

Ancient Arabic sources indicated that there were at least three Muslim voyages from Muslim Andalusia to the New World. The voyage of Ibn Saeed Ibn Aswad Khashkhash in 6 centuries before Columbus; according to the book of Ali Al Masudi “Golden Meadows”：“Ibn Aswad sailed West with Muslim crew from Delba, he fined a New World, and returned with wealth” (Dame: 2013, p 59-60). Approximately one century later, Ibn Farruk in the year 999 sailed West across the Atlantic and he landed in the Canarias Island, and then continued to the West until he discovered two Islands in the Caribbean which were Caprania and Pluitara, he returned to Spain in 999 (Dame: p 61). Al Idrissi the famous Muslim geographer and the advisor of the king of Sicily wrote about a group of eight Muslim sailors who sailed West across the Atlantic for 31 days before they landed on unknown Island and were captured as prisoners by the Indians for three

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days, and on the fourth day a translator who spoke Arabic arrived and tried to release them and then they returned safely to Andalusia.

It was not only for Andalusia Muslims; Zayn Eddine Ali Ben Fadhel Al-Mazandarani sailed from Morocco in the year of 1291 and landed in the Caribbean, then returned home (Dame: p 64).

Mali became rich and powerful in Africa. Mali's territories expanded throughout the North and the West of the Atlantic Ocean. The people of Mali accepted Islam which related them to Muslims of North Africa. Mansa Musa's older brother Abu Baker II sent two expeditions across the Atlantic around the year 1310. According to Salih Yucel the language and names in the region, coins, houses, and other objects belonged to the 8th and 9th centuries of the Abbasids period show that Muslims began to immigrate to the American continent around the mid 7th century (Dame: p 65-66).

Those people established settlements, mosques, and schools, and they influenced the Native Americans; Salih Yucel says: "From the researches of professor Fell one can conceptualize that some of the companions of Muhammad and some people from the generation after them came to the continent. Columbus saw the existence of Islam and Muslims in America when he reached the continent" (The Fountain, 2007). Web site.

Leo Weiner the famous Harvard historian stated in his book *The Discovery of Africa and America* in 1920 that Columbus knew of the existence of Mandinka which was an ethnic group of West Africa in the New World. The same book also confirms that Columbus realized that West African Muslims were living across North America including the South, Middle regions, Canada, and the Caribbean and those they had commercial relationship with Native tribes.

Salih Yucel says: "Many Doctorate theses may be prepared about this issue. These studies will shed lights on the many documents which remain secret both to Muslims and Americans. They will perhaps prepare the groundwork for new writing history of the American continent in the future."

Muslims existed in the New World many years before Columbus but they also existed with him, when he sailed to the New World by his three ships, he had with him at

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least one Muslim and three Moriscos (Moriscos were Muslims who were forced to convert to Christianity after the falling of Andalusia but they kept their Muslim religion secretly).

Columbus needed Muslim navigators for their experience and their knowledge of instruments and astrolabes that helped them to know stars positions. The Spanish Empire sought to eliminate Islam in Spain by deportation and enforcing Muslims to convert to Christianity, the Spanish forces began to capture Muslims then sold them to Europe and enslave them to colonize the New World. Approximately 20 million enslaved Africans were brought to America, and from 20 to 30% were Muslims, highly educated many of them were scholars and Imams. In his book *Muslims in American History* Jerald Dirks stated some highly educated African Muslim slaves in America, one of them was Yaru Mahmud who was enslaved and brought to Maryland in 1731, he was a slave in George Town then he became free because he worked hard, Yaru Mahmud preserved his Islamic religion, he was educated of Quran and Arabic, he was a member of Mandinka tribe (Kambiz: p 17).

Muslims also fought to the independence of America in the Revolutionary War. Yusuf Ben Ali known as Joseph Benenhaly who was a Muslim and when the Revolutionary War began Yusuf was one of the first to volunteer. The first mosque built in America by Bilali Muhammad between 1812 and 1824 in Georgia, this mosque was used by Christians to pray on Sundays. Bilali was from West Africa, he was an Imam before enslaving him to America. Bilai was asked by his master to organize to organize the slaves in order to defend Georgia from British army, Bilali gathered his followers Muslim slaves and they fought British forces (Kambiz: p 23-24).

Muslims fought in the American Civil War to preserve the union, however Blacks were mistreated in the American army, their courage in the battle fight changed many European opinions; the American President Lincoln said that the war against the South could not have been won without the help of Blacks. One of the famous Muslim American at that period was Haiji Ali known as Hi Jolly who was a Greek Syrian immigrant, he came to America in 1856, and he worked for the army to take care of Camels that had been used in the Civil War, his monument of his grave is in Arizona ([The First American Muslims](#), 2018). Web site.

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Christianity is not the official religion in the United States which makes it the most diverse countries in religions. The United States' Constitution did not prohibit the free religion beliefs or the freedom of speech; George Washington wrote: "The bosom of America [was to be] open to receive... The oppressed and persecuted of all nations and religions; whom we shall welcome to a participation of all our rights and privileges... They may be Mohometans, Jews or Christians of any sect, or they may be atheists" (Akbar: 2010).

The founding fathers recognized the Islam religion and we can find that one of the greatest founding fathers Thomas Jefferson had his own Quran; "Thomas Jefferson owned a copy of Quran, with which he taught himself Arabic, and hosted the first presidential iftar. The Founding Fathers acknowledged Islam with cordiability" (Akbar: 2010).

The American president John Adams called the Prophet Muhammad as one of the greatest truth seekers in history, and Benjamin Franklin called him a model of compassion (Hammer and Safi: 2013, p 4-5).

The relationship between the United States and the Islamic world was remarkable, for example Morocco was the first Muslim nation that recognized the New American Republic, and the Moroccan-American Treaty of Friendship was signed in 1786. The first Muslim Ambassador in the United States from Tunisia was hosted by president Jefferson in a sun set dinner "Iftar" because it was Ramadan (Hammer and Safi: p 3-4).

Muslims have a huge heritage in the American history, the majority of slaves who came into the New World were from Muslim countries and millions of them had their identity and language. More than 400 names of territories, cities, towns, and rivers in America have Arabic origins.

Muslims were part of the United States since before this country became a nation. According to the United States government over 8 million Muslims are living in the country.

III-3-Muslims' Community in the United States:

Professor Yvonne Haddad treats the main causes in Islam's growth in the US, in his book; "The Muslim community in the United States is a recent phenomenon, taking place primarily over the last three decades in response to changes in American immigration laws and the demands of the labor market" (Haddad: p4).

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The Muslim community in the United States is the most diverse one in the country; ethnically there are Arabs, Africans, South Asians, Turks, Central Asians... Islam is the fastest growing religion in the United States. American Muslims contributed in the American society through their doctors, teachers, architects, lawyers, and soldiers. Muslims are the model American community which has the lowest crime records and the highest level of education. The class of Muslim is very special in the United States because it is on religion, not on linguistic, ethnic, nationality, or geographical belonging.

Scholars distinguished between two periods of Middle Eastern immigration: pre and post World War II:

Indeed, the process of integration was difficult as these “guest workers” as they were referred to in history, did not intend to remain in America. Their primary goal behind their immigration was rather to collect money that would enable them to invest in their homelands.

Unlike the earlier wave of Turkish immigrants, the post World War II Turkish immigrants were highly educated and included men, women, and families. They were professionals and college graduates who came to the US for professional, educational and training considerations. Among the immigrants there were also skilled and semi skilled workers. They could easily assimilate to the American cultural context. They were active participants in the society of the host country while maintaining close ties with their native countries. In order to ensure active participation in the American society they established Turkish- American associations and networks which sought to bring Turkish- American communities together for the promotion of the Turkish identity and culture in the US. Finally, the last wave of Turkish immigration to the United States goes back to the 1970's and speeded up in the 1990's. Compared to the preceding immigration waves, this group was characterized by a great professional diversity. They were professionals, businessmen, unskilled and semi skilled workers and students. They played

As the early wave began in the late 1800's, most Middle Eastern immigrants to America were from Syria and Lebanon (Curtis: 2008, p 4). Many were fleeing the Ottoman Empire seeking religion freedom and economic opportunities, and most of them were poor and uneducated, those immigrants built mosques, established associations, and communities in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Middle Eastern immigrants as the other immigrants were affected by the restrictive laws on immigration (Mindy Weisberger, 2014). Web site.

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The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 opened the gates for new wave of Middle Eastern immigration, this new wave came from at least 20 countries in South West Asia and North Africa; they were almost Muslims. This wave looked for the economic opportunities and it was attracted by the industrial development in the United States. The immigrants fled also the political instability and civil wars such as the Lebanese Civil War in the 1970's, and the Israeli Invasion after that, and also the Iraq and Iran war, all these made it difficult to survive in their homelands. Thos immigrants were highly educated comparing to the first wave; they were engineers, doctors, lawyers, and professors ([The Pluralism Project](#), 2018). Web site.

During and after the 1967 Arab-Israeli War and the defeat of Arabs, the Arab immigrants in the United States were dehumanized by the American government, press, and citizens who supported Israel. The First Gulf War in 1991 increased the negative images and stereotypes towards Arab immigrants.

Muslim community is the youngest one among Christian and Jewish communities, and it is also diverse it includes Blacks, Whites, Hispanics, Asians, Arabs and other groups. Many Muslim Americans live in the big cities like Los Angeles and Chicago, and most of them belong to the middle class; according to Gallup Report of 2009, 70% of American Muslims have a job comparing with others. American Muslims have the second average of education after Jews in the United States, and Muslim women are highly educated too, and the majority of them are immigrants or children of immigrants ([Pipes, Khalid Durán and Daniel](#), 2002). Web site.

Even if Islam is considered as one of the most important religions in America and known as a religion of tolerance, September 11 events bring a negative image to the other Americans. Muslims found many difficulties to explain that terrorism is not Islam. Therefore, the aim of the researchers in the second chapter is to highlight the new American social and official vision towards Islam and Muslims.

III-4- The 9/11 Attacks and the War on Terror:

Usually American Muslims are stereotyped, they are considered as foreigners, Muslim women are oppressed, all Muslims are terrorists, and Islam teaches them hate. Muslims faced many challenges after 9/11, they became marginalized and discriminated in

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the American society, however American Muslims are in every sector in America, they also engaged strongly with non-Muslim groups in the United States in order to remove misconceptions. A recent report by Abu Dhabi Gallup Research Center on the political, social, and spiritual engagement of American Muslims showed that they are more optimistic about the future than other groups.

Muslims and particularly Arabs suffered from discrimination from the early wave of immigration. During years, anti-Muslim sentiment grew and after the 9/11 attack surfaced in the political, legal, and everyday life experiences of Muslims in the United States.

After 9/11 Attacks Islam and Muslims became target; the Americans started protesting against Muslims, mosques in the United States experienced racist and violent events; they have been broken and damaged by Americans.

The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of the World was written by the political scientist and the advisor of state of department Samuel P. Huntington; he said that in the post of Cold War it would be an absence of ideological struggles but the division in world's cultures will cause a conflict of civilizations between East and West; those different civilizations do not understand each other, and states will clash because of cultural misunderstandings. The Clash of Civilizations theory predicted the political relationship between the West and Islam, and influenced many of the American policy makers.

The cultural and religious differences mainly between Islam and the West will led to conflict. After the 9/11 attacks this theory spread and became as justification to the Western war against terror, as a result the American-Muslim community represented the different Islamic minority in the American majority which led to the clash of the two cultures (Ye'or: p 336).

The Attacks of 9/11 contributed to increase the fear of Arabs and Islam, some politicians exploited this to eliminate Muslims. The 11th September Attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon was a turning point moment in America's relationship with the Islamic World. George W. Bush called for "Crusade" against the terrorist Islamic World especially the Middle East this led to the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Fear of Islam

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increased, the American politicians and Media portrayed Muslims and their faith as dangerous, devil, and violent (Khan: p 57).

Since the 9/11 Attacks anti-Muslims sentiments increased every year, in big cities hate crimes against Muslims community increased, The American Muslims were discriminated in public places, work places, and in schools.

Muslims in America became victims of several deadly attacks. Anti-Muslims behavior elevated since the attacks; hate speech and violence, attacks on mosques and even Sikhs, Media, activists, organizations, and Internet contributed immensely in developing the anti-Muslims and xenophobia. Islam was seen as an opposition to Christianity in the West World (Bakalian and Bozorgmehr: p 1).

Following the 9/11 Attacks, the link between immigration and national security increased, the American immigration policy emerged the notion of terrorism and restricted the entry for non-immigrants from States that sponsor terrorism mainly “Muslim and Arab countries” such as Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Sudan, and Cuba.

The United States government has been transformed after 9/11 events, nearly 600 billion\$ has been spent in the last ten years on security and creating new agencies. The Bush administration announced war against terrorism; the American local policy established new measures of security that affected the American Muslim community.

The United States government increased efforts to control the inflow of illegal aliens and terrorists; this new immigration policy aimed to attack Arab and Muslim immigrants in the country; Guantanamo and the Registry Program were examples of these new anti-terrorist tools. Many immigrants working legally in the United States but they did not register they were accused by violating the law and they had been treated as criminals, and those who overstayed their visas they considered as terrorists.

Since 9/11 the number of deportation has increased, the Administration decided that is impossible to deport people who have lived in the United States for many years, who have not committed crimes, and who have families, this protection had already applied to a group of young unauthorized immigrants called Dreamers who benefited from DACA.

The Patriot Act of 2001 expanded the definition of terrorism, it was passed after the 9/11 Attacks, it called for new and vast powers for the United States’ Intelligence

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Agencies. The reforms known as the Patriot Act according to President Bush were designed to prevent another terrorist attack as the 9/11. The Act gave organization like NSA more access to Internet record, and made it easy to share intelligent information. The Act also gave Law Enforcement and Intelligent officials the authority to oppose terrorism attacks against the United States (Ciment and Radzilouski: 2015, p289).

The Patriot Act was a subject of huge debate, it was used to prevent terrorist attacks but it was accused by violating the American civil liberties; this Act granted agencies like the FBI to put limitless surveillance powers on cell phones, internet, library records... The Patriot Act also allowed to the arresting of any one even a non-U.S. citizen without cause; “The US. Patriot Act also expanded the grounds for detaining aliens who were barred from entering or could be removed because of suspected terrorist activities or membership” (Martin: 2011, p 276).

The United States created some policies to preserve the National Security after 9/11 attacks; the government used the immigration policy as a way to identify people of Arabs and Muslim origins living in the country. The National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS) was one of that policies; “NSEERS was composed of a registration program conducted at various parts of entry and a special registration program of certain foreign nationals already in the country.” (Martin: p274).

This program started on 2002 under president George W. Bush it required immigrants from certain countries to register with the government; the process included finger printing, photos, and interview; it required males of 16 years old who are non-immigrants living in the United States and have a nationality of one of 25 South Asian or Arab countries (these 25 countries are mostly Muslim countries) to register with their local immigration office. The process of register asks if the person pray or if he knows some people who pray. The Department of Homeland Security stopped using this program in 2011, but it was said that it would started again mainly by Trump administration and his plans to create a Muslim Registry and to establish an extreme vetting of every one coming to the United States. The System was criticized by Civil Rights group for targeting immigrants from Muslim countries; it created a big racial discrimination and it marginalized Arab Muslim community in the United States, and also deported a lot of Muslim immigrants which led to a changing in family stricture (Arab American Institute,

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2015). Web site. The president Obama officially ended this program on November 22nd, 2016.

The United States Visit and immigrant status indicator Technology was created in 2002; it is a biometric-based system designed to collect, maintain, and share information including biometric information to determine whether the individual should be permitted to enter the United States (Homeland Security). Web site.

III-5- The American Security Agencies in Post 9/11:

On November 25th, 2002 under George W. Bush the Department of Homeland Security was established, DHS was to organize the various government institutions that detect terrorism including National Security Agency (NSA), Pentagon, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) (Security Degree Hub, 2018). Web site.

III-5-1- National Security Agency (NSA):

This Agency was founded in 1952, but the 9/11 attacks created a new system of this Agency. The NSA was targeting phone calls and E-mails mainly of American-Muslims who were suspected that's why it has been criticized of spying the American allies (Price, Brian K, 2016). Web site.

III-5-2- The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI):

After 9/11 the FBI's priorities were completely changed; the agency used to investigate after crimes were happened but its role changed to prevent the crimes before happening. The top priority of FBI is detecting terrorism; it doubled the agents of intelligence, analysts, and linguists and created several branches. American-Muslims were questioned by the FBI in many states after it received warnings of terrorist attacks. Moreover, the FBI interviewed thousands of immigrants who were suspected to have relation with Al-Qaeda the majority of them were Iraqi Americans. (Price Brian K, 2016). Web site.

III-5-3- The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA):

This Agency used brutal techniques including secret detentions and torture against what they called Muslim extremists such as Taliban and Al- Qaeda prisoners to interrogate

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them or even suspected American-Muslim citizens after 9/11 attacks; the President Obama said: “We tortured some folks”. The government arrested hundreds of people without announcing their names or the places of arresting. ([Rampton, Holland, 2014](#)). Web site.

Democrats and Republicans have different views on Muslim Americans.

III-6-Democrats vs. Republicans’ Attitude towards Muslim Americans:

Donald Trump and his Republican Party showed hostility towards Arabs and Muslims. According to the recent Poll of Arab American Institute Republicans have negative attitude towards Arabs and Muslims, however Democrats have positive attitude, this difference between the two parties is obvious also in the attitudes towards Arab Americans and American Muslims; according to the Poll over 60% of Democrats have an acceptable view of Arab Americans and American Muslims, while Republicans have only 30% favorable attitude towards them ([Arab American Institute, 2015](#)). Web site.

Hate crimes against American Muslims increased after the 9/11, and since the Paris attack on November 13th, 2015 the anti-Muslims sentiments in America escalated.

The President Trump supported policies that target Muslims, he is planning to put surveillance on mosques, deport the Syrian refugees, ban all Muslims to travel to the United States, and cut the aid on social services and civil rights institutions ([Withnall Adam, 2017](#)). Web site.

On January, 27th, 2017, Trump signed an executive order that reshaped the U.S. immigration laws. Muslim Immigration Ban is an executive order that banned immigration from 7 Muslim countries for 90 days as he promised in his campaign, those countries were: Iraq, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan, Libya, Iran, and Syria, he also imposed a temporary ban on refugees in order to determine who is safe to be allowed to enter the United States ([Lind Dara, 2017](#)). Web site. Trump also imposed visa restrictions on immigrants from the Middle East.

On March, 6th, 2017, president Trump signed an executive order that canceled the executive order of January, 27th, 2017, this new executive order repealed the ban of six Muslim countries excluding Iraq, and the order also admitted refugees and non-immigrants without visas from those six Muslim countries ([Withnall Adam 2017](#)). Web site.

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III-7-Conclusion:

The changing of American immigration policy towards American Muslim immigrants is not for the first time; the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 is the best example of an unstable racist policy that is based on pragmatic necessities and ideological changes of policy makers.

The American Muslim immigrants are an important part of the American social fabric and Islam is the fastest growing religion in the United States, and even the 9/11 attacks brought a negative image to Americans about Muslims the American Muslim community should face challenges.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

The objective of this work is to follow the development of immigration policy in the United States since the founding of this country to the recent years, and how this policy influences on Muslim community in The United States. This country has welcomed millions of immigrants throughout history; they looked for better life and refugee land which they have found; in exchange they have contributed to build one of the greatest countries in the world. Immigration is vital to the American economy; this country has been a good target to attract skilled and ambitious people, this helped to found innovative and successful companies in every field. However the huge influx of immigration precisely the undocumented immigrant created problems in economy, society, and mainly demography to the United States and also causes security risks.

The Americans are divided about whether immigration helps or damages the country; immigration offers the United States big benefits in all sectors; the high-skilled workers, and the high-educational students are immigrants not native-born Americans, however the illegal immigrants create a crisis in the country; approximately 11 million immigrants in the United States are unauthorized, in spite it is not a new phenomenon; the present level of unauthorized immigrants is very dangerous. Many scholars suggest that the United States needs an immigration reforms, because the number of immigrants either legal or illegal increases. Strengthen the border, and controlling immigration is a necessity, but not to shut completely the doors.

Muslim community in the United States has always been stereotyped by American native-born, after the 9/11 attacks and under the name of protecting the American national security Muslims mainly Arabs become the enemy of the state which led the American policy-makers to reexamine the immigration policy as an important tool to stop or prevent the terrorists and criminals. Since 9/11, American Muslims involved in the political mainstream, and social activities, through the establishment of new associations, organizations, and groups which seek to clean the image of Islam. American Muslims become more opened to the others and they engaged widely in the American life.

The American national security becomes the top priority in the political discourse; the American candidates use the issue of immigration to attract the American public. “America First” was the slogan of the current American president Donald Trump who promised to enforce the immigration laws to protect America.

American national security has brutally violated liberties from American citizens especially Muslims who did no harm to the American security. Unfortunately the Western attitudes towards Islam and Muslim immigrants are still negative; this calls for more writings and researches to show that Muslims are not terrorists but they are the first victims of terrorism.

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