

The United States Mexican Immigration Policy: A Predictive Study on the Consequences of an Aggressive Immigration Policy

Dwayne Lockett

INTL504A0001 Spring 2010

"A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy, which is always followed by a dictatorship."

-Alexander Tyler

Introduction

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, ushered in a new era of reform. Reform took place in an effort to protect the United States against further attack and to protect the values that the United States holds in the highest esteem. Many times it takes catastrophic events to foster enlighten a country in areas in which can improve life for citizens that reside within the borders of the country involved. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 fostered sweeping changes in the way American citizens live their daily lives.

Major cities sought to protect infrastructure with the help of the federal government; the federal government underwent the largest restructure in nearly fifty years and created the Department of Homeland Security.

Literature Review

Literature that exists on illegal immigration has been far reaching and has varied depending on the point of view of the authors that are presenting the information. The study of illegal immigration is becoming an increasingly popular topic in the United States. The best method and policy needed to handle the influx of illegal immigrants living within the confines of

the United States has far reaching impacts on major issues that threaten the existence of the United States; policy considerations should be considered carefully and deliberately to achieve the desired outcomes. The impact of illegal immigration effects national security, the economy, and the political direction of the United States.

The literature that exists on the effects of illegal immigration on the economy of the United States varies from supportive to detrimental. The literature that exists on the topic of illegal immigration is far ranging and makes arguments that illegal immigration can have a positive effect on the economy; the other end of the economic value of illegal immigrations' effect on the economy argues that illegal immigration has a detrimental effect on the overall economic health of the United States. CNNMoney.com senior writer Chris Isidore, wrote an article that outlines the state of the American economy would suffer without illegal immigrants Isidore states, "Without the immigrants, we would have a decline in labor force of 3 to 4 percent," he said. "We couldn't have grown nearly as much as we did in the '90s if we didn't have immigrants (Isadore).¹ The next stage of this predictive study is to determine the actors most likely to have an influence on what route the United States should take to curb the influx of illegal immigration.

Actors and Perceptions

The hotly debated topic on illegal immigration in the United States and how the United States should deal with the problem has captured the attention of the global community. The United States is venturing into division over which immigration policy is the most effective. The problem of illegal immigration has become a major point of contention for states such as Texas, California, and Arizona that share the border with Mexico. Mexican-American Border States

¹ Isidore, Chris. 2006. "Illegal Workers: Good for U.S. Economy"
http://money.cnn.com/2006/05/01/news/economy/immigration_economy/index.htm

have been forced to devise their own laws and polices that help eradicate the increase of illegal immigration population.

The policies that individual states have enacted to control the population of illegal immigrants has been met with sharp criticism from members of the population and the administration of President Barrack Obama. In order to effectively predict the best course of action for the United States immigration policy, it is essential to analyze the most influential actors involved in the potential scenario and the individual actors' perspective on the US immigration policy.

United States

The decisions that the United States makes regarding illegal immigration will have far reaching effects on the actors involved. There is no current indication or reason that the flow of illegal immigrants is on the wane in the next several months or years to come. It is imperative to explore the factors that the United States should evaluate when deciding an effective immigration policy.

Economics

The United States is recovering from a recession and illegal immigration plays a large role in the status of the United States' economy. The debate on illegal immigration's effect on the economy varies. Recent studies in the United States indicate that American's paychecks will have a minute positive impact if an aggressive immigration policy was enacted because² many illegal immigrants currently working in the United States hold jobs that are not in direct competition by most American citizens.

² Davidson, Adam. 2006. "Illegal Immigrants and the U.S. Economy"
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5312900>

The high-school drop out population of the United States will benefit from the reduction in illegal immigration due to the elevated degree of high school dropout qualifications and experience paralleling illegal immigrants competition for jobs. The estimated twelve million immigrants residing in the United States hold jobs mainly in low-skill, and low wage jobs that make up the construction, manufacturing leisure and hospitality sectors of the American work force. Economist predominately agree that a mass exodus of illegal immigrants will increase the high-school drop out job segment from three to eight percent or a twenty-five dollar a week increase in wages.³

Many individuals argue correctly that illegal immigrants utilize services provided by the United States government such as schools, hospitals, and other government services, but do not pay taxes that support programs that are being utilized resulting in a overall loss in respects to the American economy. The argument that government services are utilized and not paid for is overshadowed by the fact that illegal immigrants spend money on cars, food, and other services that contribute to the American economy.

Massive efforts to implement documentation to cross the border from Mexico into the United States will have a negative impact on the import export aspect of the economy. The required manpower that would be needed to review extensive documentation would equate to larger backups at the Mexican-American border⁴ slowing the importation of goods that are needed in the United States.

The deportation and securing of the United States border will stop the influx of illegal immigrants in the United States that many argue will stifle the United States economy by failing

³ *ibid*

⁴ Pillar, Paul. *Terrorism and U.S. Foreign Policy*. The Brookings Institution (Washington DC. 2001). p.114

to fill much needed job positions in industry and other low wage sectors. While many argue that low wage jobs are jobs, that American's do not want to fill; American prisons are filled with 2.3 to 2.4 million individuals many who are not violent offenders.⁵ Many individuals who are incarcerated are capable of filling the void that illegal immigrants leave behind. The American taxpayer pays 50,000 dollars per inmate per year⁶; the return to the taxpayer is hope that the incarcerated individual becomes a productive member of society. Incarcerated individuals can contribute by filling in the void those illegal immigrants leave behind. The taxpayer and the American economy would benefit tremendously by using inmates more effectively to contribute to society since the price is already being paid to house, clothe, feed, and pay health care cost of inmates.

Politics

The politics of illegal immigration has spilt the United States about the legality and the status of illegal immigrants living in the United States. Border States such as Arizona have attempted at deriving state policy that will help eliminate the flow of illegal immigration living within the confines of the state.

The Obama administration has openly expressed concerned on the legality of states enacting their own laws in an attempt seek relief in the amount of illegal immigrants living inside the states borders. The Obama administration has filed a lawsuit to block Arizona's efforts to revise immigration law within the state. The argument that is made in Washington is that only the Federal Government can set the nation's rules for arresting illegal immigrants.⁷

⁵ <http://www.economist.com/node/16636027>

⁶ *ibid*

⁷ <http://articles.latimes.com/2010/jul/06/nation/la-na-arizona-lawsuit-20100707>

Illegal immigration has become such a large debate, the votes needed for a candidate running for president of the United States can often hinge on the views of the immigrant population.

National Security Concerns

National Security became a larger concern in the United States aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The border separating the United States and Mexico is nearly 2,000 miles long, requiring a vast amount of resources to maintain adequate integrity of the border.

Border security is at the forefront of US security concerns due to the porous nature of the US-Mexican border. U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency have “stopped 132 nationals from countries considered a national security threat, including Syria, North Korea, and Iran.”⁸ If the United States fails to secure the border terrorist will have an opportunity to use terrorist drug routes and human trafficking routes to smuggle weapons of mass destruction into the United States. The United States is the largest consumer of illegal drugs that are smuggled into the country through the Mexican-American border.

The ability for terrorist to cross into the United States via the Mexican-American border allows a potential terrorist to enter the United States without undergoing the proper checks for contraband or without any record of their presence in the country. Orson Swindle, a presidential campaign advisor to Senator John McCain stated, “We have to secure our borders. It’s a matter of national security,” “Terrorist will always look for avenues of least resistance.”⁹ The increase in airport security and other avenues for terrorist to access the United States makes the border between the US and Mexico the path of least resistance.

⁸ <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,150520,00.html>

⁹ <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=36851>

The lack of beds needed to detain illegal immigrants leads authorities to release detainees that have been captured illegally crossing the border. Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau has 20,000 beds to help house the nearly one million immigrants captured on an annual basis.¹⁰ If terrorist can move into the confines of Mexico their chances of crossing into the United States increases tremendously placing the United States in grave danger of a terrorist cell entering into the United States via Mexico. Terrorist, gangs, human trafficking, and drug cartels are slowly entering into the United States and efforts have to be made in an effort to curtail the influx of rouge behavior within the US border by illegal immigrants.

States of the United States

States that share a border with Mexico are becoming increasingly overwhelmed with the rise in the illegal immigration population. The increase in the immigrant population has forced Border States to enact policies that would alleviate the burden that the illegal immigrant population is placing on the Border States such as Arizona.

Economics

The overall state of the American economy has had effects on individual states; Border States have had a difficult time footing the bill for public services that are utilized unlawfully by illegal immigrants. Skeptics argue that a deportation or mass exodus of illegal immigrants from Mexico would result in an economic freeze due to the lack of workers that are illegal that contribute to the economy.

The surge of illegal immigrants in states that border Mexico such as Arizona has faced an increased strain on the economic status of the state. The state of Arizona saw a population increase of more than twelve percent since 2000; the increase in population is increasingly

¹⁰ Ervin, Clark, *Open Target* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan), 74

placing a strain on prisons, schools, hospitals, and law enforcement.¹¹ The increase in illegal immigration has forced Arizona to take action to preserve the economic status of the state.

Politics

Politicians of the state of Arizona are responsible for the fiscal and overall well being of the state in which they were elected. The governor of Arizona Jan Brewer stated, “The bottom line is that when I go about meeting with businesses that come into Arizona...they want to know that we have a safe and secure environment into which to move their businesses here.”¹² If the elected officials of the state such as Governor Brewer are a representation of the people of the state illegal immigration must be seen to have a negative impact on the residents and business owners of Arizona.

Governor Brewer contends the reason the laws are being revised in Arizona is because the federal government failed to enforce its own immigration laws¹³, Governor Brewer repeated efforts to contact the federal government regarding the illegal immigration issue only to have her request fall on mute grounds.

National Security Concerns

Arizona’s national security concerns regarding illegal immigration parallel the United States concerns for national security. A terrorist attack will initiate a federal government response in an effort to curtail future terrorist attacks.

Arizona faces overall security issues concerning illegal immigration. Illegal immigration has spurred the spread of drug cartels operating on the fringe of state borders. Deadly shootouts

¹¹<http://www.stateline.org/live/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=136&languageId=1&contentId=51473>

¹² http://articles.cnn.com/2010-04-26/politics/arizona.governor.immigration_1_new-immigration-law-brewer-arizona-governor?_s=PM:POLITICS

¹³ http://articles.cnn.com/2010-04-26/politics/arizona.governor.immigration_1_new-immigration-law-brewer-arizona-governor?_s=PM:POLITICS

and kidnappings by drug kingpins have spilled over the border into United States territory causing panic and increased vigilance along the border of the United States and Mexico.

Arizona's new laws proposes to make police conducting routine traffic stops or other checks to ask about a immigration status, thus making it a state crime to be illegal and reside in the state of Arizona.¹⁴ The proposed law that Arizona has brought forth also makes solicitation for jobs a criminal act if conducted by an illegal alien.

Mexico

Mexico is not actively suffering from the flow of illegal immigrants into the United States. Mexico receives short term goals from illegal immigrants who migrate to the United States for work and send wages back home to Mexico that contributes to the Mexican economy.

Economy

Mexico's economy receives gains from illegal immigrants however the gains are temporary and do not allow the Mexican economy to grow. Mexico receives money from immigrants who have left Mexico in favor of work in the United States, this reduction in population and increase in money allows Mexico to reap the financial gain and reduces Mexico's need to constantly build roads, schools, and other critical infrastructure.

Mexico's problem extends to a major issue in the long term. Mexican citizens have no incentive to stay in Mexico due to low wages and a minimal job market. Businesses do not see Mexico as a place for future investment and prevents Mexico from prospering.

Politics

¹⁴ <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Society/2010/0610/Hispanics-abandon-Arizona-fleeing-economy-immigration-law>

Mexico's government is corrupt in nature; corruption prevents Mexico from experiencing the economic gains that would uplift the Mexican economy.¹⁵ If Mexico could eliminate corruption, among government officials confidence in conducting business with Mexico would increase and Mexico would see gains in the economy. Due to the economic recession currently in progress in the United States Mexico may have to make advancements in the economy due to illegal immigrants returning to Mexico.

National Security

Mexico's national security issues stem from internal drug cartels and Mexican corruption that may foster kidnapping and other forms of criminal activity. Mexico should make every attempt to assist the United States secure the border in an affective fashion. A terrorist that strikes in the United States and later found to have entered the United States illegally through Mexico would increase tension between Mexico and the United States.

Illegal Immigrants

Illegal immigrants will make a large impact on what direction the United States will take in deciding new policies that will effect illegal immigration. Illegal immigrants will stage protest and place direct pressure on the United States to support illegal immigration.

Economics

Illegal immigrants place great value in the amount of money they earn in the United States. Immigrants migrate to the United States for the increased wages and abundance of jobs in the United States. The fiscal prosperity is the deciding factor when illegal immigrants decide to cross the border illegal into the United States.

Politics

¹⁵ http://www.wiredprnews.com/2008/08/22/illegal-immigration_20080822622.html

Illegal immigrants will continue to place pressure on the United States political leaders with increasing efforts to allow illegal immigrants to work and operate freely in the United States.

National Security

Illegal immigrants have not posed a direct threat to the United States, as we know. Individuals residing in Mexico can collaborate with terrorist organizations that can eventually lead to terrorist attacks carried out against the United States. If United States policy towards illegal immigration is viewed as hostile illegal immigrants may decide to carry out attacks against the United States effectively making them terrorist.

Research Design

Numerous analytical methods exist that support predictive study analysis. This study uses the LAMP (Lockwood Analytical Method for Prediction) method. The LAMP method provides a sufficient foundation in which to analyze international political predictions such as the consequences of harsh immigration policy. The LAMP method includes the actors' ability to use free will and make open decisions on possible courses of action. A major focal point of the LAMP method is the analysts' understanding of the actors' perceptions of the issue trying to be predicted. LAMP allows the analysts to compile all possible actions by all actors involved and compare the actions to all the other actions available to the actors involved and deciding the most likely course of action by the actors involved.

LAMP is a twelve-step process that requires the analysts to:

1. Determine the issue for which you are trying to predict the most likely future.
2. Specify the national "actors" involved.
3. Perform an in-depth study of how each national actor perceives the issue in question.

4. Specify all *possible* courses of action for each actor.
5. Determine the major scenarios within which you will compare the alternate futures.
6. Calculate the total number of permutations of possible “alternate futures” for each scenario.
7. Perform a “pairwise comparison” of all alternate futures to determine their relative probability.
8. Rank the alternate futures for each scenario from highest relative probability to the lowest based on the number of “votes” received.
9. If each future occurs, analyze each alternate future in terms of its consequences for the issue in question.
10. State the potential of a given alternate future to “transpose” into another alternate future.
11. Determine the “focal events” that must occur in our present in order to bring about a given alternate future.
12. Develop indicators for the focal events.¹⁶

Potential Courses of Action for Interested Actors

Courses of actions for the United States

1. Status Quo- the United States can continue to elect to ignore Mexican immigrants illegally crossing the border into the United States. Tougher enforcement of the Mexican-American border is within the realm of possibility for the United States, however the task of aggressive enforcement of the border has not been formally implemented.

¹⁶ For a more complete description of the LAMP method and the requisite steps please see: The Lockwood Analytical Method for Prediction, Jonathan Lockwood and Kathleen O’Brien Lockwood, JMIC and MBS Publishing, 1993 or <http://www.lamp-method.com>.

2. The United States can elect to utilize vast resources and aggressively deny illegal entry into the United States via the Mexican-American border. This physically aggressive immigration policy can deny a vast majority of illegal immigrants from entering the United States.

5. The United States can simplify and streamline the dual citizenship paperwork, and work visas allowing Mexican residents to cross the border legally. The actions of the US to make the flow of illegal immigrants into the US will allow the US to pressure Mexico into shouldering some of the burden for border protection.

Courses of actions for Mexico

1. Status Quo- Mexico can allow the current situation of illegal immigrants infiltration into the United States to remain unchallenged by the Mexican authority.

2. Mexico can yield to whatever policy the United States decides to enact and help enforce and support the policy that the US implements.

3. Mexico can enforce border security on the Mexican side of the border requiring documentation to depart and return to Mexico. Mexico can further enhance border security by punishing individuals caught crossing illegally into the United States and returning to Mexico.

Courses of actions for individuals who cross into the US illegally

1. Status Quo- Illegal immigrants can continue using covert routes and illegal methods to enter into and out of the United States illegally despite efforts to hinder illegal border crossing.

2. Illegal immigrants whom desire access to the US can protest and place pressure on the US to not enforce tougher border policies. Illegal immigrants may protest while remaining fearful of crossing illegally into the US. Protest may be a form of violence and attacks or demonstrations in view of the local government.

3. Mexican residents can fill out the necessary forms that allow crossing of the Mexican-American border legal.

Major Scenarios

For this analysis, the possible courses of action available to the United States are different and hold various options that can determine the possible outcome of the situation. The United States is the major player in determining the outcome in the reduction, elimination, or the maintenance of the flow of illegal immigrants into the United States.

The United States has the ability to dictate the behavior of the other actors involved which include: US states acting individually (i.e. Arizona, New Mexico, Texas), Mexico, and the residents of Mexico who decide to become illegal immigrants upon taking up residence in the United States for a unspecified period of time without proper documentation.

Within the methodology of LAMP analysis, the possible courses of action for the United States are considered “scenarios” or the different situations from which the analyst is attempting to determine the most likely future.

The United States has three major scenarios that can shape the future decisions of Mexico, individual states of the United States, and illegal immigrants. The United States can choose to maintain status quo by allowing the flow of illegal Mexican immigrants to remain at the current levels and not enforce policies designed to curtail illegal immigration.

The United States can elect to send vast resources to physically ensure border security along the US-Mexico border. The efforts of physical security along the border will allow for the capture of majority of Mexican residents who attempt to leave the country illegally via the Mexican-American border if done properly.

The final major option that the United States can elect to enforce is the decision to streamline the process of dual citizenship and paperwork required to cross the Mexican-American border legally and allow the Mexican citizens the rights and freedoms that all US citizens have.

Each scenario posed by the United States would produce a different future and will have implications on the decisions that other actors involve would eventually choose. Efforts to predict the most likely future there has to be an analysis of all possible variations of actions by the interested actors related to the three possible scenarios posed by decisions of the United States.

Permutations of Behavior

The LAMP analysis provides a basic equation for determining the various “alternative futures” that are possible for the interested state actors in this study (United States, individual states of the United States, and Mexican illegal immigrants). The formula for calculating the total number of possible alternative futures is X^y with an exponent of y . This mathematical equation will produce the total number of possible alternatives for each actor involved in the issue of illegal immigration.

In this study, there are three possible course of action for Mexico, and Mexican residents who decide to become illegal immigrants; two courses of action exist for US states acting individually. The preceding courses of actions do not include the United States whose actions are covered by the three major scenarios.

The equation for this analysis is $3^2 \times 2^1 = 18$, this equation is derived from Mexico’s and Mexican illegal immigrants’ three courses of action available; individual US states have two

courses of action available to choose from. The United States courses of action are covered in the major scenarios.

The following tables are a “pairwise comparison” of the alternative futures comparing all actions available to all actors involved.

Table 1 Alternative Futures

Scenarios	US States	Mexico	Illegal Immigrants
1	ISP	SQ	SQ
2	ISP	SQ	SP
3	ISP	SQ	BC
4	ISP	YP	SQ
5	ISP	YP	SP
6	ISP	YP	BC
7	ISP	EB	SQ
8	ISP	EB	SP
9	ISP	EB	BC
10	SQ	SQ	SQ
11	SQ	SQ	SP
12	SQ	SQ	BC
13	SQ	YP	SQ
14	SQ	YP	SP
15	SQ	YP	BC
16	SQ	EB	SQ
17	SQ	EB	SP
18	SQ	EB	BC

SQ= Status Quo

ISP=Individual US State policy

YP= Yield to US Policy

EB= Enforce Border

SP= Stage Protest

BC= Become Citizens

Table 2 SQ= Status Quo, ISP=Individual US State policy, YP= Yield to US Policy, EB= Enforce Border, SP= Stage Protest, BC= Become Citizens

Alternative Futures Table Scenario 1- US maintains Status Quo

Scenarios	US States	Mexico	Illegal Immigrants	Total votes
1	ISP	SQ	SQ	15
2	ISP	SQ	SP	15
3	ISP	SQ	BC	9
4	ISP	YP	SQ	14
5	ISP	YP	SP	14
6	ISP	YP	BC	9
7	ISP	EB	SQ	7
8	ISP	EB	SP	9
9	ISP	EB	BC	10
10	SQ	SQ	SQ	17
11	SQ	SQ	SP	6
12	SQ	SQ	BC	0
13	SQ	YP	SQ	13
14	SQ	YP	SP	3
15	SQ	YP	BC	1
16	SQ	EB	SQ	4
17	SQ	EB	SP	5
18	SQ	EB	BC	3

Table 3

Alternative Futures Table Scenario 2- Enhance Border Resources

Scenarios	US States	Mexico	Illegal Immigrants	Total votes
1	ISP	SQ	SQ	9
2	ISP	SQ	SP	10
3	ISP	SQ	BC	11
4	ISP	YP	SQ	6
5	ISP	YP	SP	13
6	ISP	YP	BC	8
7	ISP	EB	SQ	7
8	ISP	EB	SP	11
9	ISP	EB	BC	5
10	SQ	SQ	SQ	17
11	SQ	SQ	SP	5
12	SQ	SQ	BC	0
13	SQ	YP	SQ	14
14	SQ	YP	SP	13
15	SQ	YP	BC	3
16	SQ	EB	SQ	6
17	SQ	EB	SP	9
18	SQ	EB	BC	6

Table 4 SQ= Status Quo, ISP=Individual US State policy, YP= Yield to US Policy, EB= Enforce Border, SP= Stage Protest, BC= Become Citizens

Scenario 3- Streamline US residency requirements

Scenarios	US States	Mexico	Illegal Immigrants	Total votes
1	ISP	SQ	SQ	5
2	ISP	SQ	SP	4
3	ISP	SQ	BC	15
4	ISP	YP	SQ	11
5	ISP	YP	SP	1
6	ISP	YP	BC	13
7	ISP	EB	SQ	5
8	ISP	EB	SP	11
9	ISP	EB	BC	14
10	SQ	SQ	SQ	13
11	SQ	SQ	SP	0
12	SQ	SQ	BC	6
13	SQ	YP	SQ	6
14	SQ	YP	SP	1
15	SQ	YP	BC	9
16	SQ	EB	SQ	5
17	SQ	EB	SP	11
18	SQ	EB	BC	8

Ranking Alternative Futures

Table 5 SQ= Status Quo, ISP=Individual US State policy, YP= Yield to US Policy, EB= Enforce Border, SP= Stage Protest, BC= Become Citizens

Alternative Futures Table Scenario 1- US maintains Status Quo

Scenarios	US States	Mexico	Illegal Immigrants	Total votes
10	SQ	SQ	SQ	17
1	ISP	SQ	SQ	15
2	ISP	SQ	SP	15
4	ISP	YP	SQ	14
5	ISP	YP	SP	14
13	SQ	YP	SQ	13
9	ISP	EB	BC	10
3	ISP	SQ	BC	9
6	ISP	YP	BC	9
8	ISP	EB	SP	9
7	ISP	EB	SQ	7
11	SQ	SQ	SP	6
17	SQ	EB	SP	5
16	SQ	EB	SQ	4
14	SQ	YP	SP	3
18	SQ	EB	BC	3
15	SQ	YP	BC	1
12	SQ	SQ	BC	0

Table 6

Alternative Futures Table Scenario 2- Enhance Border Resources

Scenarios	US States	Mexico	Illegal Immigrants	Total votes
10	SQ	SQ	SQ	17
13	SQ	YP	SQ	14
5	ISP	YP	SP	13
14	SQ	YP	SP	13
3	ISP	SQ	BC	11
8	ISP	EB	SP	11
2	ISP	SQ	SP	10
1	ISP	SQ	SQ	9
17	SQ	EB	SP	9
6	ISP	YP	BC	8
7	ISP	EB	SQ	7
4	ISP	YP	SQ	6
16	SQ	EB	SQ	6
18	SQ	EB	BC	6
9	ISP	EB	BC	5
11	SQ	SQ	SP	5
15	SQ	YP	BC	3
12	SQ	SQ	BC	0

Table 7 SQ= Status Quo, ISP=Individual US State policy, YP= Yield to US Policy, EB= Enforce Border, SP= Stage Protest, BC= Become Citizens

Scenario 3- Streamline US residency requirements

Scenarios	US States	Mexico	Illegal Immigrants	Total votes
3	ISP	SQ	BC	15
9	ISP	EB	BC	14
6	ISP	YP	BC	13
10	SQ	SQ	SQ	13
4	ISP	YP	SQ	11
8	ISP	EB	SP	11
17	SQ	EB	SP	11
15	SQ	YP	BC	9
18	SQ	EB	BC	8
12	SQ	SQ	BC	6
13	SQ	YP	SQ	6
1	ISP	SQ	SQ	5
7	ISP	EB	SQ	5
16	SQ	EB	SQ	5
2	ISP	SQ	SP	4
5	ISP	YP	SP	1
14	SQ	YP	SP	1
11	SQ	SQ	SP	0

Analysis of Alternate Futures

Utilization of the LAMP method as a tool to predict a possible outcome instructs the analyst to analyze the alternative futures in which provide empirical solutions to consumers. Many consumers will only be amenable to succinct information on the topic in which information is desired.

Scenario 1- US Maintains Status Quo/ Alternative Future #10

Scenario 1 posed by the United States would be that United States decides not to take any action towards the flow of illegal immigration into the United States. The United States may decide to remain in a state of status quo for a variety of reasons. Political and a sheer failure to understand the serious impact that individual US states are facing.

The United States remaining in a space of status quo and allowing Mexico to remain in a status quo condition along with illegal immigrants remaining in status quo will continue to increase the numbers of illegal immigrants entering into the United States. The US position of status quo sends a message to Mexico and illegal immigrants that crossing the US border illegally is acceptable.

Alternative Future #1

Individual states will continue to develop and implement policies that will help eliminate and eradicate illegal aliens living within the confines of the border. The perceived neglect of the federal government to initiate policy to help alleviate the cost burden imposed on states due to the influx of illegal immigrants will force states to enact individual state policy in a effort to achieve an acceptable balance of economic harmony.

The only effort to prevent individual states from enacting individual state policy is the federal governments' ruling that such laws are not within the states' authority to implement such policies.

Alternative Future #2

The US failure to implement policy will lull illegal immigrants into a sense of security that the US is amenable to the policy that is in place rendering illegal immigration acceptable behavior. Individual states ability to implement policy that denies illegal immigrants safe haven and increases the number of deportations of illegal immigrants will change the dynamic of what illegal immigrants are used to. Illegal immigrants will stage protest in a effort to rally support for their cause.

Illegal immigrants will adopt a "show our value" attitude towards the United States. Protest staged by illegal immigrants may or may not consist of violence. Illegal immigrants may

stage boycotts of states or places of employment to undermine the US economy and show employers that the illegal immigrant population is an asset to the United States.

Scenario 2 Enhance Border Resources

The United States may decide that states are suffering and the overall economy of the federal system is in jeopardy. Pressure by states or other political elements may force the United States to send resources to the border to curb the flow of illegal immigration. The additions of extra resources will stop the flow of illegal immigration if enough resources are added to the 2,000 mile border between the United States and Mexico.

Alternative Future #10

Alternative future 10 received the most votes for scenario number two which dictates that the United States added extra resources to the border. The added resources will deny illegal immigrants access to the US. The federal government adding increased resources to the border will allow individual states to maintain status quo. Individual states will not need to make decisions or enact policies that curbs the flow of illegal immigration; the federal government will have already enacted policy to further close the border.

Alternative Future # 13

If the US sends extra resources to secure the border, the US states would not have to enact policy to reduce the effects of illegal immigration. Mexico would not have any say in the matter if the US sent extra resources to help secure the border between the US and Mexico. Mexico would have to yield to US policy in regards to the border of the US. The Mexican government may voice their opinion of discontent on enhanced border security however; Mexico has no say in what policy is enacted on the US side of the border.

Illegal immigrants will remain status quo and make attempts at crossing the border despite the enhanced resources in place to protect the border.

Alternative Future # 5

Individual states may enact state policy to support the enhanced resources located on the border between the US and Mexico. The individual states that enact immigrant related policy will force Mexico to accept the policy. Mexico cannot dictate what policies are enforced and enacted on the US side of the border. Policy limiting illegal immigrants will force immigrants to stage protest out of anger and lack of options available to provide adequate income to their families. The ability for illegal immigrants to gain illegal access to the US with relative ease will be eliminated with the extra security and policy directed towards illegal immigrants.

Scenario 3 Streamline US residency requirements

The US should take the security of its borders with utmost security. The flow of illegal immigration is becoming increasingly difficult to contain in the US. The US could make a effort to streamline the process in which non-citizens of the US can apply to be citizens of the US. The process is long an arduous causing many immigrants to shy away form obtaining the necessary paperwork required to reside in the US.

Alternative Future # 3

A US decision to streamline the process in which immigrants file to become citizens of the US can be simplified giving more illegal immigrants incentives for becoming US citizens. The Mexican government will maintain status quo. Mexico is benefiting from the flow of illegal immigration and will greatly delight in the US efforts to make citizens of Mexico legal residents. Incentives for Mexican residents to seek residency in the US will be aided by the local states of

the United States restricting illegal immigrants access to any public or private venues that are essential to them.

Potential of an alternative future to transpose into another

The Status Quo alternative in which all involved actors can transpose into any scenario. The US giving ability and authority to the state to enforce and adopt laws that can cause protest. A major terrorist attack carried out on US soil will become a major focal event if it is discovered that the plot had connections to Mexico. The US will place more emphasis on border security in an effort to keep terrorist out of the US.

Alternative Future #1

Individual states will continue to develop and implement policies that will help eliminate and eradicate illegal aliens living within the confines of the border.

Focal Events

- Illegal immigration is kept in a healthy balance.

Indicators

- A healthy balance between the economy and illegal immigration is achieved.

Alternative Future #2

The US failure to implement policy will lull illegal immigrants into a sense of security that the US is amenable to the policy that is in place rendering illegal immigration acceptable behavior.

Focal Events

- Mexican residents become enraged at the US policy.
- US States have a unbalanced budget
- The cost of illegal immigration outweighs the benefits.

Indicators

- Large rallies against US policy
- Verbal rhetoric against US policy

Alternative Future # 3

A US decision to streamline the process in which immigrants file to become citizens of the US can be simplified giving more illegal immigrants incentives for becoming US citizens.

Focal Events

- States enact individual state policy
- US streamlines citizenship process

Indicators

- Increase in illegal immigration policy
- Not enough immigrants being US citizens

The indicators of the study indicate that the US and Mexico would be best served if all involved actors remained status quo. Individual states have the most difficult time in trying to determine how much of the population that is not paying into a system but using system benefits the problem eventually drains the availability of resources.

The most pressing issue is reducing the possibility of a terrorist attack on the United States. Terrorist may seek entrance into the US through Mexico, which provides terrorist with the path of least resistance. Entering the US through Mexico gives the terrorist the greatest chance of success. The United States should adopt a policy to slow the curb of immigration flowing into the United States.

Once the US secures the US-Mexico border focus can be placed on receiving the proper documentation that will allow the Mexican population who wish to seek prosperity and freedom in the country we call the United States can become a legal reality of life.

Reference:

Davidson, Adam. 2006. "Illegal Immigrants and the U.S. Economy"
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5312900> (Accessed September 3, 2010)

Ervin, Clark, *Open Target* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan), 74

Foxnews. 2005. Illegal Alien Influx May Compromise Security.
<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,150520,00.html> (accessed September 5, 2010)

Haq, Husna. 2010. Hispanics Abandon Arizona, Fleeing Economy Immigration Law.
<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Society/2010/0610/Hispanics-abandon-Arizona-fleeing-economy-immigration-law> (accessed September 5, 2010)

Isidore, Chris. 2006. "Illegal Workers: Good for U.S. Economy"
http://money.cnn.com/2006/05/01/news/economy/immigration_economy/index.htm (Date accessed September 3, 2010).

Matthews, Mark. 2005. Arizona Lashes Out At Illegal Immigration. (accessed September 4, 2010)

Pillar, Paul. *Terrorism and U.S. Foreign Policy*. The Brookings Institution (Washington DC. 2001). p.114

Savage, David. Obama administration sues to block Arizona Law. 2010 (Accessed September 4, 2010)

Scarborough, Rowan. 2010. Illegal Immigration is National Security Issue. (Accessed September 4, 2010)

Too Many Laws, Too Many Prisoners. *The Economist*. 2010 (Accessed September 4, 2010)