

# FRAMING THE IMMIGRATION DEBATE

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**Would you happily or  
willingly leave your  
country without  
knowing if you would  
ever see your family  
and friends again?**

# That's what immigrants do!

Just like our ancestors,  
people migrate here out of  
desperation. Most of the  
time, they have no other  
choice...

# Causes of Migration

# Migration as the Result of Wars

Major migration flows have followed after all our military interventions of the last century and a half

- World Wars
- Korea
- Vietnam
- Cold War
- Central America
- Middle East
- Whose next?

# Migration as a Result of Economic Interventions

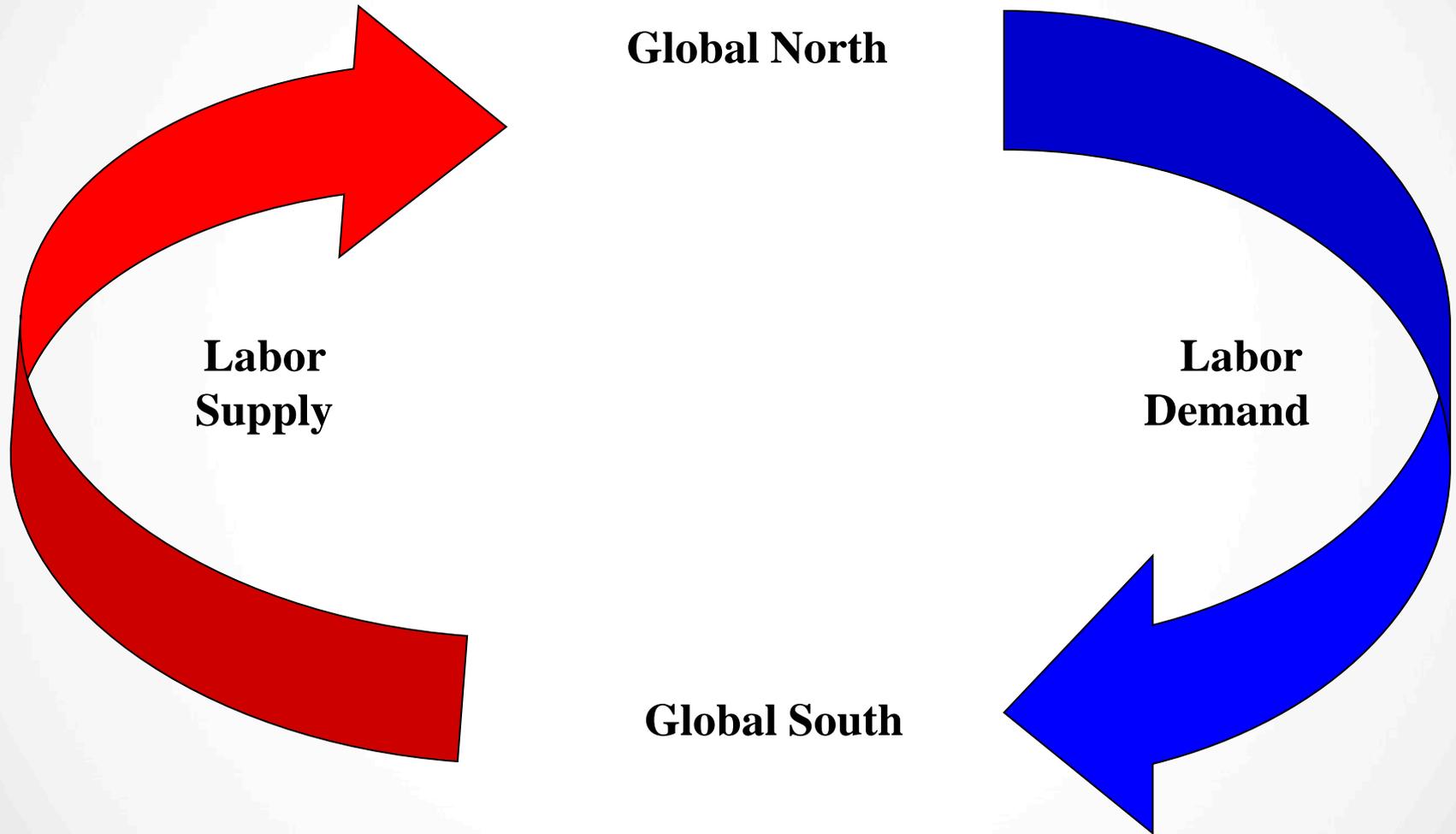
Positive correlation between U.S.  
investment patterns and migration flows

**INVESTMENT = IMMIGRATION**

Positive correlation between  
Free Trade Agreements and migration flows

**FREE TRADE = IMMIGRATION**

# Migration as a Global Labor Supply System



# **POLICIES THAT CRIMINALIZED IMMIGRANTS**

- Being Undocumented:
- Not a criminal OR civil violation
- It is an ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLATION

**Let's see how each  
branch of government  
has molded our  
immigration policies**

# Executive Branch

**Let's look at where the  
Immigration Office was  
located within the  
Executive Branch  
Bureaucracy over time**

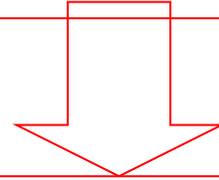
1924

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graph TD; A[1924] --> B[ ];
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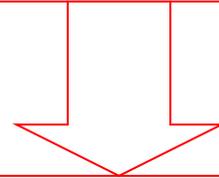
1924

Department of Labor

1924



Department of Labor



**WORKERS**

**In 1924**

the U.S. Government  
understood and  
labeled immigrants as  
**workers**

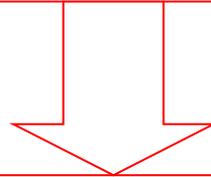
1940

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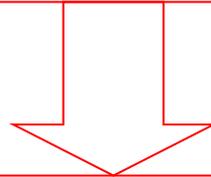
1940

Department of Justice

1940



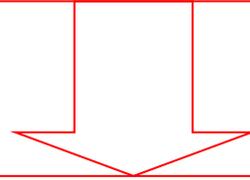
Department of Justice



**CRIMINALS**

**In 1940**  
the U.S. Government  
understood and  
labeled immigrants as  
**criminals**

2003

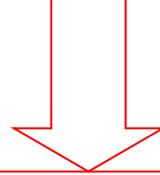


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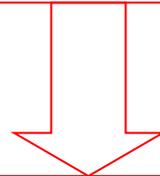
2003

Department of Homeland  
Security

2003



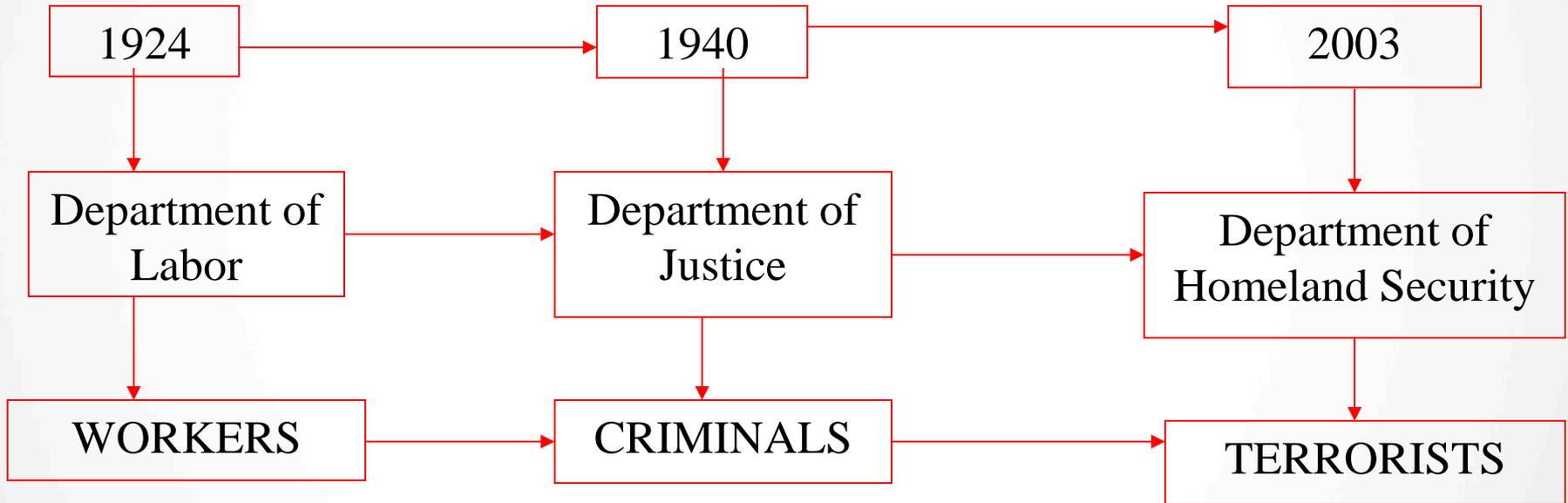
Department of Homeland  
Security



**TERRORISTS**

**In 2003**  
the U.S. Government  
understood and  
labeled immigrants as  
**terrorists**

# Bureaucratic Position of the Immigration Office



# 2003

## ICE - Immigration & Customs Enforcement

Dept. of Homeland Security  
(Bush)

- Separated services (CIS – formally INS) from enforcement (ICE)
- Increased the detention system
- **Created a larger enforcement system than all other law enforcement put together**

# Legislative Branch

# 1986

## Immigration Reform & Control Act (Reagan)

- Employer Sanctions
- **Amnesty - Legalization for Undocumented Immigrants**

# 1996

## Illegal Immigration & Immigrant Responsibility Act (Clinton)

- Created a retro-active double standard in the criminal code for immigrants
- **Allowed for the imprisonment of undocumented immigrants**
- Criminalized being an immigrant

- Being Undocumented:
- Not a criminal OR civil violation
- It is an ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLATION

# Judicial Branch

# Plenary Power Doctrine

- 1889 - U.S. Supreme Court **UPHELD** the Chinese Exclusion Act even though it discriminated on the bases of national origin
- Supreme Court applied the Plenary Power Doctrine to justify the discrimination which is unconstitutional
- Gives the legislative and executive branches sole power over who is admitted and who is excluded from entering the U.S.
- **Exempts the laws that regulate immigration from judicial review. In other words, laws that regulate immigration can violate constitutional rights. They can discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, or gender and courts can refuse to provide judicial scrutiny.**
- A legal doctrine that is being slowly applied to immigrants legally admitted into the U.S.

# The Business of Detention

**32,800** immigrant  
detainees

Source - National Immigration Forum - August 2012

x \$164 per  
night  
per immigrant  
detainee

Source - National Immigration Forum – August 2012

= \$5.4 Million  
per night

or \$1.9 Billion  
per year

Source - National Immigration Forum – August 2012

# Deaths at the Border



# Since the NAFTA - 1994

- 7,000 people have died crossing the border
- Approximately 500,000 people have entered the U.S. illegally per year
- However, between 1990–1994, a total of a half a million entered illegally

Contrary to popular opinion,

- Over 80% of families have mixed status, one person may be a green card holder or U.S. citizen and another may be undocumented
- Undocumented people pay taxes. The 1912 Revenue Act states that every person living in the U.S., whether they are documented or not, are required to pay income tax

# TAXING THE UNDOCUMENTED

One example

Social Security Taxes Collected

- **\$13 Billion** collected every year from undocumented immigrants
- **\$100 Billion paid** to the SSA by undocumented immigrants over the past decade

Stephen Goss, the chief actuary of the Social Security Administration. 2014

# Impact of Criminalizing Policies

## TEAR FAMILIES APART & DISREGARD HUMAN LIFE

- **3,162,844** deportation (under Obama)
- **5.3 million** children live in the U.S. with one or more undocumented parents
- **From 2014-16, % of all deportations:**
  - 19.8% violent or potentially violent criminal conviction
  - 21.2% nonviolent criminal conviction
  - 18.7% immigration administrative violation
  - 10.4% no violation (DHS data – 2017)

**“NO HUMAN BEING IS  
ILLEGAL”**

ELIE WIESEL

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE