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Question: What are the Social, Financial, and Cultural impacts of immigrants coming into the United States?

Introduction

The immigration of South American immigrants into the United States has had profound financial and social impacts on the nation, marking a significant chapter in its history. Over the decades, people from countries such as Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and Argentina have sought new opportunities, safety, and a better life in the United States, creating a dynamic fusion of cultures and experiences. From a financial perspective, South American immigration has been a driving force behind the U.S. economy. These immigrants contribute significantly to the labor force, working in a wide range of industries such as agriculture, construction, healthcare, and technology. Their participation bolsters the workforce, filling gaps in sectors with labor shortages, and playing a crucial role in economic growth. Additionally, many South American immigrants start businesses, boosting entrepreneurship and job creation, which is vital for the nation's prosperity. The social impact of South American immigration is equally noteworthy. Their presence has led to the proliferation of vibrant neighborhoods and

communities where Latin American influences are palpable, from cuisine and music to festivals and celebrations. This multicultural enrichment has enhanced the overall quality of life for many Americans. However, the journey of South American immigrants into the United States is not without challenges. Immigration policies, social integration, and economic disparities are among the obstacles they encounter. Navigating the complex immigration system often involves legal and bureaucratic challenges, and some may face discrimination and social tensions. These struggles highlight the need for comprehensive immigration reform and inclusive policies that respect the dignity and rights of all immigrants.

In conclusion, the immigration of South American immigrants into the United States has brought about significant financial and social impacts. They play an essential role in the nation's economy, while their cultural contributions create a diverse and enriching society. Nevertheless, addressing the challenges they face in their pursuit of the American dream is a testament to the importance of humane and comprehensive immigration policies. Understanding the complexities and appreciating the contributions of South American immigrants is pivotal to shaping a more inclusive and prosperous future for the United States. Being the son of immigrants I wanted to know the feelings and thoughts of the residents that were in my neighborhood, not just the voices of the people coming in. In my research, I hope to find more than just statistical differences but also the actual thoughts and feelings of communities and the immigrants who are moving into their neighborhoods.

Citation #1

Sweileh, Waleed M., et al. "Bibliometric Analysis of Global Migration Health Research in Peer-Reviewed Literature (2000–2016) - BMC Public Health." SpringerLink, BioMed Central, 20 June 2018, link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s12889-018-5689-x.

Summary: This article focused on the needs of migrants and immigrants alike who may enter a new country and not have any access to medical insurance or care because of their legal status which leaves them very vulnerable and with few options for medical services. The article itself is peer-reviewed and depicts how little immigrants were acknowledged back then to how now they are being given a voice no matter their status or where they are, but the article also talks about how papers depict the struggles of immigrants and the negative outcomes of their immigration to another country.

Analysis: Many migrants do not have any access to health care and much less have any acknowledgment or a voice to talk about their needs. In the past 5-10 years countries have begun to acknowledge the immigration populations in their borders and some have also begun to give them access to legalization and nationality to open doors to more things like health care and job opportunities.

Quotation: "The strategy developed was based on constructing a separate search strategy for each component in the spectrum of the definition of international migrants. Therefore, a search query was developed for the following components: (1) migrant workers, (2) refugees/asylum seekers/displaced people (not internally displaced), (3) international students, (4) trafficked victims/victims of human smuggling, (5) patients' mobility across borders, and (6) international

migrants/immigration.” This is key in order to understand the social and financial situation in which immigrants begin their life within a new country.

Citation #2

Massey, Douglas S. “Dimensions of the New Immigration to the United States and the Prospects for Assimilation- JSTOR.” *Annual Review of Sociology*, 1981, Vol. 7 (1981), pp. 57-85, www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/2946022.pdf.

Summary: In recent years, the United States has experienced a significant surge in immigration, reaching a historic peak of 8.8 million immigrants between 1909 and 1990. These newcomers have swiftly integrated into American communities, enriching the country's cultural tapestry. The resulting diversity, particularly prominent in major cities since the 1980s, has captivated people's interest. However, there is a growing awareness of challenges faced by immigrants, including issues related to work ethic and persistent obstacles hindering their attempts to establish a new life in the U.S.

Analysis: In his work, "Dimensions of the New Immigration to the United States and the Prospects for Assimilation," Douglas S. Massey delves into essential themes surrounding immigration, assimilation, and integration. He explores the evolving landscape of immigration, examining how factors such as socioeconomic status and legal standing shape immigrants' experiences. Massey meticulously dissects the process of assimilation, studying how immigrants adapt to the cultural norms and values of their host society. Emphasizing the significance of successful integration, he sheds light on the challenges and policy implications faced by

policymakers and social scientists. Massey's research underscores the intricate nature of immigration, acknowledging the diverse backgrounds and circumstances of newcomers. Through his comprehensive study, he offers valuable insights into the multifaceted aspects of assimilation and integration. His work deepens our understanding of how immigrants navigate challenges and contribute meaningfully to the diverse fabric of American society. Massey's exploration provides a holistic perspective on the dynamics shaping the lives of new immigrants in the United States, enhancing our awareness of their experiences and enriching the dialogue on immigration.

“However, among both Cubans and South and Central Americans, even standardizing for social and economic differences, fertility remains below that of native whites, suggesting an independent effect due to ethnicity or minority status (Jaffe et al 1976; Gurak 1978)”

Citation #3

Deerfield, TEDx, director. What Being Hispanic and Latinx Means in the United States |

Fernanda Ponce | TEDxDeerfield. YouTube, TEDx Talks, 10 Apr. 2017,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1A4Vsh5Qas>. Accessed 6 Nov. 2023.

Summary: Latino immigrants in the United States often face harmful stereotypes portraying them as uneducated, primitive-minded, and poor. These misconceptions stem from deep-seated biases and ignorance, perpetuated by media portrayals and political rhetoric. In reality, Latino immigrants contribute significantly to American society, bringing diverse skills, talents, and cultural richness. Many possess high levels of education and professional expertise, but their achievements are often overshadowed by stereotypes. Economic hardships faced by some

individuals do not define the entire community, as Latinos, like any other group, encompass a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds. Challenging these stereotypes is crucial to fostering inclusivity and understanding. Emphasizing the diverse accomplishments and contributions of Latino immigrants can dispel these harmful perceptions and promote a more accurate and respectful representation of this vibrant community in the United States. Latino immigrants have significantly bolstered the U.S. economy and enriched communities in diverse ways.

Economically, they contribute through labor, entrepreneurship, and consumer spending, invigorating various sectors. Their hard work often fills crucial roles, supporting industries and fostering growth. Moreover, Latino-owned businesses create jobs, enhancing local economies. Socially, they contribute to the nation's cultural diversity, enriching communities with vibrant traditions, music, art, and cuisine. Latinos actively engage in civic life, promoting social integration and understanding. Their positive impact is evident in the social fabric, promoting diversity and multiculturalism, and making the United States a more dynamic and inclusive society.

Reflection: Reflecting on the video, it becomes evident that the stereotypes surrounding Latino immigrants in the United States are deeply rooted in biases and misinformation. These misconceptions not only undermine the individuals within this community but also hinder society's overall progress. The video highlights the vital contributions made by Latino immigrants, showcasing their diverse skills, talents, and cultural heritage. By dispelling these harmful stereotypes, society can appreciate the immense economic, social, and cultural benefits brought by Latino immigrants. Their resilience, entrepreneurship, and cultural richness enrich American communities, fostering inclusivity and understanding. It is crucial to recognize that

challenging these stereotypes is not just about the Latino community but also a collective endeavor to promote a more accurate, respectful, and inclusive representation of all diverse groups. Embracing the contributions of Latino immigrants and acknowledging their positive impact paves the way for a more vibrant, dynamic, and harmonious society in the United States.

Quotation: “Not all Hispanics and Latinos are immigrants, not all Hispanics and Latinos are on welfare, and not all Hispanics and Latinos speak Spanish. Let's take a second to define Hispanics and Latinos. Hispanic is a term that refers to people who come from Spanish-speaking countries such as Mexico parts of central and South America like Guatemala and Colombia and it even includes people in the Caribbean” (2:04-2:36)

Conclusion

Drawing conclusions about the work ethic and temperament of different waves of migrants is a complex matter, influenced by various factors such as individual circumstances, economic opportunities, and social integration experiences. While it might be tempting to generalize, it is essential to recognize the diversity within any immigrant community. That said, analyzing trends can provide valuable insights into the changing dynamics of migration over time. The migrants who arrived in the early 2000s and 1990s often faced different challenges than those arriving in the past 2-3 years. Economic conditions, immigration policies, and social environments have evolved significantly, affecting the experiences of migrants in various ways. Migrants who arrived in the early 2000s and 1990s often exhibited a remarkable work ethic born out of necessity. Many of them came to the United States seeking better economic opportunities, often taking on jobs that were physically demanding and required long hours. Their dedication

and hard work were driven by the desire to provide a better life for their families and secure their place in the society they had chosen to call home. This determination, coupled with the challenges they faced, fostered a strong sense of resilience and tenacity.

On the other hand, the new wave of migrants arriving in the past 2-3 years might face different circumstances. Changes in immigration policies, economic fluctuations, and global events can impact the nature of migration. Some recent migrants might be fleeing immediate threats, seeking asylum, or escaping dire situations in their home countries. The urgency and desperation associated with these circumstances can understandably create a sense of anxiety and restlessness among some individuals. It is crucial to approach these differences with empathy and understanding. The recent migrants, like their predecessors, bring with them diverse skills, talents, and aspirations. They, too, contribute to the fabric of American society, often overcoming significant challenges to do so. Instead of focusing on perceived differences, fostering integration, providing support systems, and addressing the root causes of migration can create an environment where all migrants can thrive and contribute positively to their communities.

In conclusion, acknowledging the resilience and hard work of migrants from the early 2000s and 1990s is essential, but it is equally important to recognize the potential and determination of recent migrants. Embracing a compassionate and inclusive approach to immigration policies and social integration can pave the way for a harmonious coexistence, where the contributions of all migrants, regardless of their arrival time, are valued and celebrated.