

## Globalization Memorandum

**Team:** Student Group #4

**Topic:** Does immigration and its subsequent effects on globalization lead our society toward a more common, global culture?

**Thesis Statement:** Immigration has changed many aspects of American society and has been influenced in return. People migrate around the world due to a multitude of reasons. Some adjust while others are lost in cultural shock and discrimination; many others form and join ethnic groups in an attempt to assimilate, while others resort to crime. These rapid changes direct American society in a new cultural direction.

Each group member will talk about the different aspects of immigration while assimilating their own personal experiences as members of immigrant families with more general examples; we will also talk about how each aspect of immigration contributes toward the greater global culture.

### **Resources:**

- Presentation Tools: Microsoft PowerPoint
- Sources: MIT Libraries Globalization Research Guide, personal experiences of presenters, 21F.076 Reading
- Websites: [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com), [www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com), [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

### **History and Reasons for Immigration**

Even though many immigrants had to leave and may never accept their new homeland, they bring with them many tidbits of culture that are incorporated into American society today.

- Slavery (culture: songs, dances, incorporate various instruments into American music (Rihanna, MJ, drums)).
- Immigrants kicked out of their home country (*Mississippi Masala*; Uganda: how many Indian immigrants played a role in race relations in the U.S. (hierarchy of races)).
- European immigration due to famines (Irish influence in Boston).
- Ellis Island (treatment, legislation, number of immigrants).

### **Cultural Challenges and Cultural Dislocation**

Immigration implies serious change; the dynamics of the Asian Indian community, contrasted with the broader American society, reveal the reasons behind the huge challenge immigration poses to Indians and immigrants of all ethnicities:

- Conservative society (views on dating, marriages).
- Language and food barriers (depending on native language and food preferences and staple diet).
- Familial ties (behavior and responsibilities towards elder members of the extended families at home).
- Raising children in an American society (preserving their cultural knowledge and heritage, religion, and values).
- Age at which an Indian migrates and his socio-economic conditions in homeland influence assimilation.

### **Ethnic Communities and their Effects on American Society**

When immigrants come to the United States they can choose to assimilate into American society or retreat to ethnic communities, which in turn add to America's "global" culture.

- Ethnic communities (little Havana, Chinatown) showcase different cultures and spread the culture to American society.
- Different cultures contribute to American culture through the assimilation of individuals.
- Assimilation brings in new songs, music, words, dances etc (polka, spanglish, foreign words that are Americanized).
- Ethnic communities such as Chinatown and little Havana serve to incorporate new bits of foreign culture into American culture that influences America global culture (the metaphorical melting pot of cultures) through human interaction (food, business, trade, etc).

### **Immigration Today**

Globalization and immigration have gone hand-in-hand: each has greatly benefited from the other. Laborers still move around to look for a better life, and sex trafficking still exists; globalization has just made it easier and faster for these migrant workers to move around.

- Global Immigration Reform (nationalism and its affect on American immigrant policies).
- World Culture (a blend of many cultures or one "Western" culture that everyone tries to mesh into).
- How long will it last? (How do crises like the current economic recession affect immigration and its toll on globalization?)

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