

A People's History of US Immigration Policy



Immigrant children in cages at US border 2018.

LAURA BRIGGS

TAKING CHILDREN



A HISTORY OF
AMERICAN TERROR

Family Separation

- Black children during slavery
- Indigenous Children Boarding Schools
- Criminalizing BIPOC Families with CPS
- Children of refugees/immigrants

"All Americans, not only in the states most heavily affected but in every place in this country, are rightly disturbed by the large numbers of illegal aliens entering our country. The jobs they hold might otherwise be held by citizens or legal immigrants. The public service they use impose burdens on our taxpayers. That's why our administration has moved aggressively to secure borders more by hiring a record number of new border guards, by deporting twice as many criminal aliens as ever before, by cracking down on illegal hiring, by barring welfare benefits to illegal aliens. In the budget I will present to you, we will try to do more to speed the deportation of illegal aliens who are arrested for crimes, to better identify illegal aliens in the workplace.

We are a nation of immigrants. But we are also a nation of laws. It is wrong and ultimately self-defeating for a nation of immigrants to permit the kind of abuse of our immigration laws we have seen in recent years, and we must do more to stop it."

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1996 President Clinton's State of the Union speech

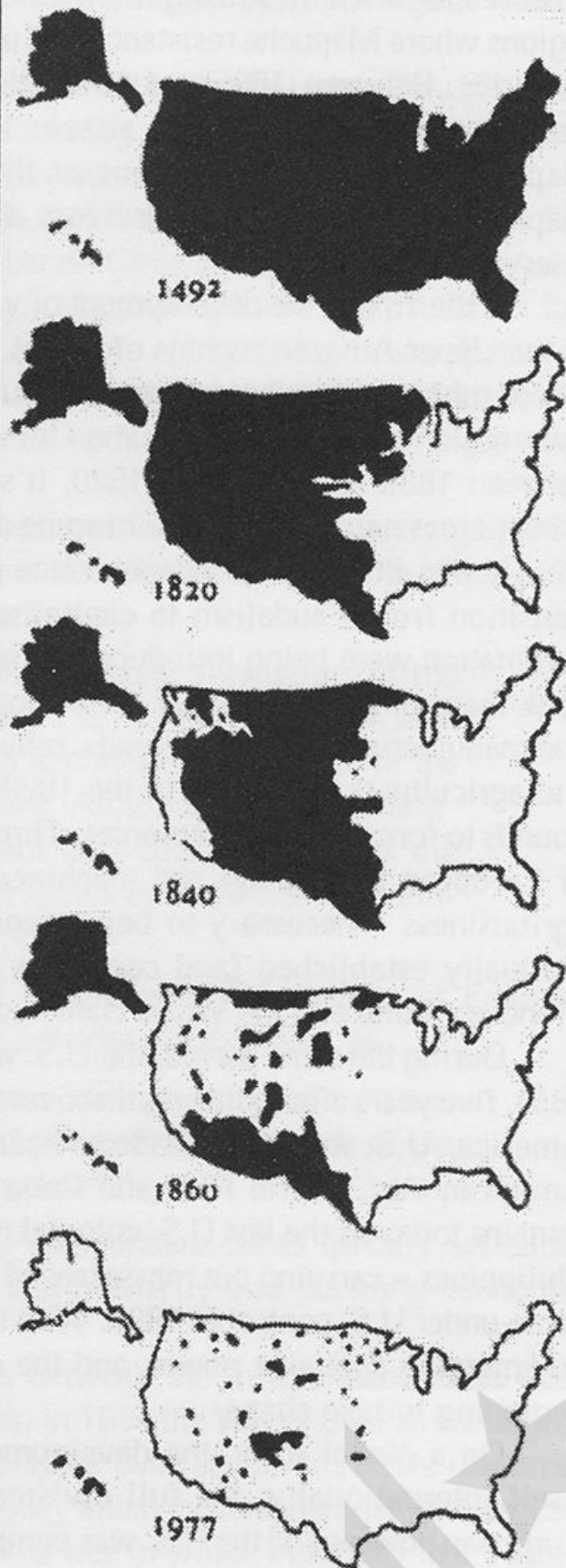
Investigation #1

Are we a nation of immigrants?

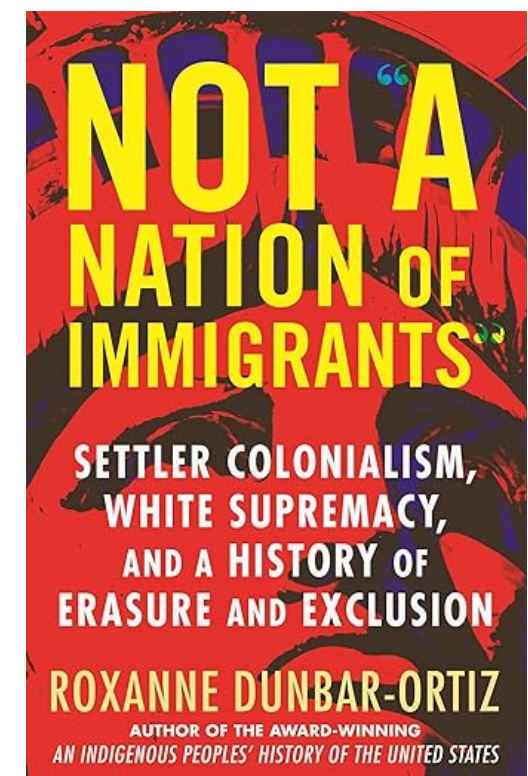
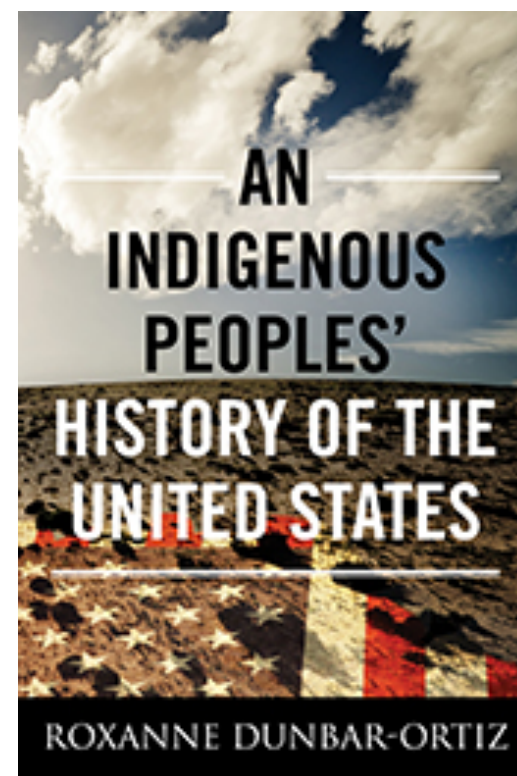
WHY AMERICA IS NOT A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

- 1. SETTLER COLONIALISM IS NOT IMMIGRATION, IT IS A VIOLENT INVASION THAT FUNCTIONS ON INDIGENOUS ELIMINATION.**
AMERICA WAS FOUNDED BY SETTLER COLONIALISM, WHICH IS A TYPE OF COLONIALISM THAT FUNCTIONS AS AN INVASIVE STRUCTURE DEPENDENT ON THE ONGOING ELIMINATION OF INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS IN ORDER TO ASSERT SETTLER SOVEREIGNTY. THIS ELIMINATION IS SEEN THROUGH THE GENOCIDE OF 80+ MILLION INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, FORCED ASSIMILATION (THROUGH NATIVE BOARDING SCHOOLS), CONTINUED DISAPPEARANCES OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND TWO SPIRIT PEOPLES, RESOURCE EXTRACTION / VIOLATIONS OF TREATIES, AND MUCH MORE.
- 2. KIDNAPPED AFRICANS WHO WERE FORCIBLY BROUGHT TO TURTLE ISLAND AS SLAVES, WERE NOT IMMIGRANTS.**
AFRICAN SLAVES WERE CONSIDERED "PROPERTY" BY COLONIZING FORCES AND WERE VIOLENTLY TRANSPORTED BY SLAVE SHIPS TO BUILD THE SETTLER COLONIES ON STOLEN INDIGENOUS LANDS.
- 3. RACIST LAWS OPPOSING IMMIGRATION HAVE BEEN THE NORM.**
AMERICAN STATE PROPAGANDA SAYS "GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR..." BUT IN REALITY THEY MEANT "GIVE ME YOUR WHITE PEOPLE." IN 1882 THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT WAS PASSED, PROHIBITING ALL IMMIGRATION OF CHINESE LABORERS AND THE U.S. BORDER PATROL ORIGINATED AS THE "MOUNTED GUARDS" IN EL PASO, TEXAS, WHOSE PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS TO RESTRICT THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OF CHINESE PEOPLE.
- 4. SAYING "AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS" IS A VIOLENT FORM OF ERASURE, WHITE-WASHING, AND STATE PROPAGANDA.**

**Indigenous Land
Within United States,
1492-1977**



imposed structure than an historical event. This structure is characterized by relationships of domination and subjugation that become woven throughout the fabric of society, and even becomes disguised as paternalistic benevolence. The objective of settler colonialism is always the acquisition of indigenous territories and resources, which means the native must be eliminated. This can be accomplished in overt ways including biological warfare and military domination but also in more subtle ways; for example, through national policies of assimilation.”



We didn't cross the border, the border crossed us.



Discuss - Are we a nation of immigrants?

THE END OF THE MYTH



From the Frontier to the Border Wall
in the Mind of America

GREG GRANDIN

Bestselling Author of *Fordlandia*

Border & Rule

*Global Migration, Capitalism,
and the Rise of Racist Nationalism*



HARSHA WALIA

Foreword by Robin D. G. Kelley, Afterword by Nick Estes

EMPIRE

OF

THE EXPANSION
OF THE U.S. BORDER
AROUND THE WORLD

BORDERS

TODD

MILLER

Investigation #2 - Formal US Immigration Policies

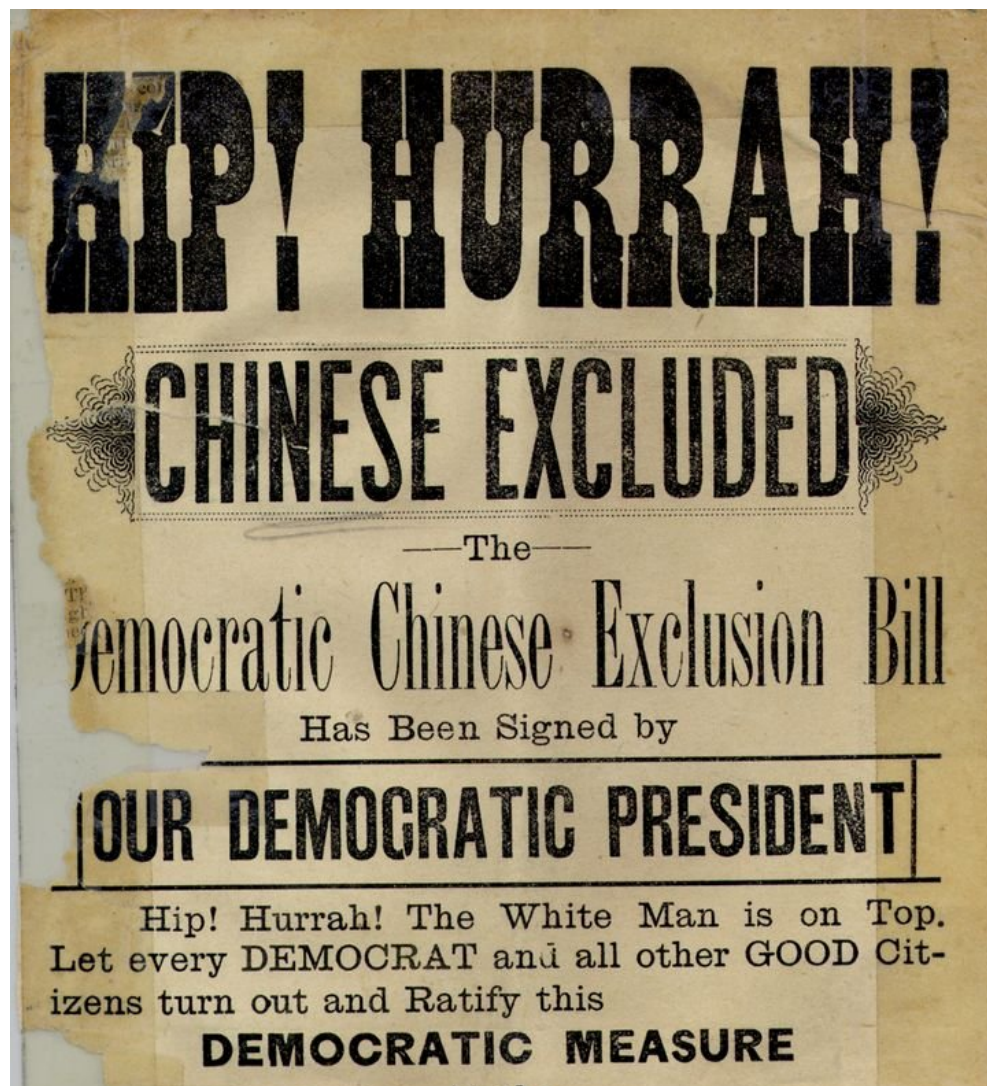
[Naturalization Act of 1790](#) - People had to resided in the country for two years and had kept their current state of residence for a year to apply for citizenship.

[Naturalization Act of 1795](#) increased the residency requirement to five years residence and added a requirement to give a three years notice of intention to apply for citizenship and the [Naturalization Act of 1798](#) further increased the residency requirement to 14 years and required five years notice of intent to apply for citizenship.

[Naturalization Law of 1802](#) repealed and replaced the Naturalization Act of 1798. The "free white person" requirement remained in place. The alien had to declare, at least three years in advance, his intent to become a U.S. citizen.

The first federal statute restricting immigration was the [Page Act](#), passed in 1875. Federal Government argument is that they didn't want Chinese women to become prostitutes. Real reason is that they barred Chinese women so that male Chinese workers who came to work on the railroad, didn't start families in the US.

Congress passed the [Chinese Exclusion Act](#) in 1882, barring Chinese laborers for 10 years and establishing grounds for deportation of any Chinese person found unlawfully in the US.



During 1885 and 1886, at least 168 communities carried out Chinese expulsion and self-deportation campaigns. These campaigns resulted in the destruction of Chinese businesses, homes and several massacres.

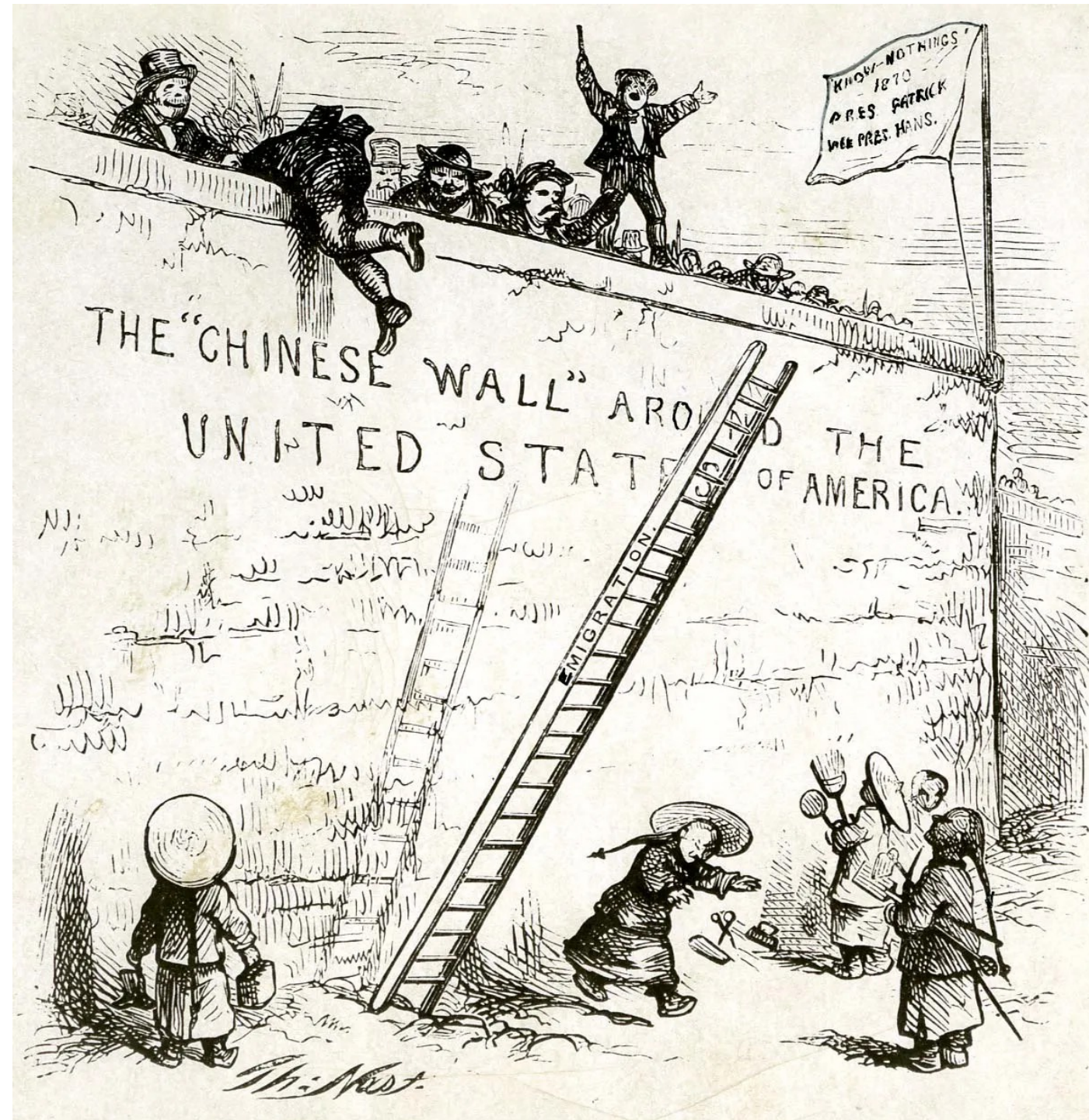
This article is from the Grand Rapids Evening Leader, dated December 24, 1885, which encouraged people to go to California to help round up Chinese people.



The Chinese Must Go.

Nine members of the Cigarmakers' Union of this city will leave Saturday to join the army that is going to California to help drive out the Chinese. They will meet a train load of tobacco rollers at Chicago going in the same direction. E. B. Griffith, formerly of Michigan, now located in San Francisco, writes that there are situations for about 2,000 white cigarmakers in that city, the war on the Chinese having been a success.

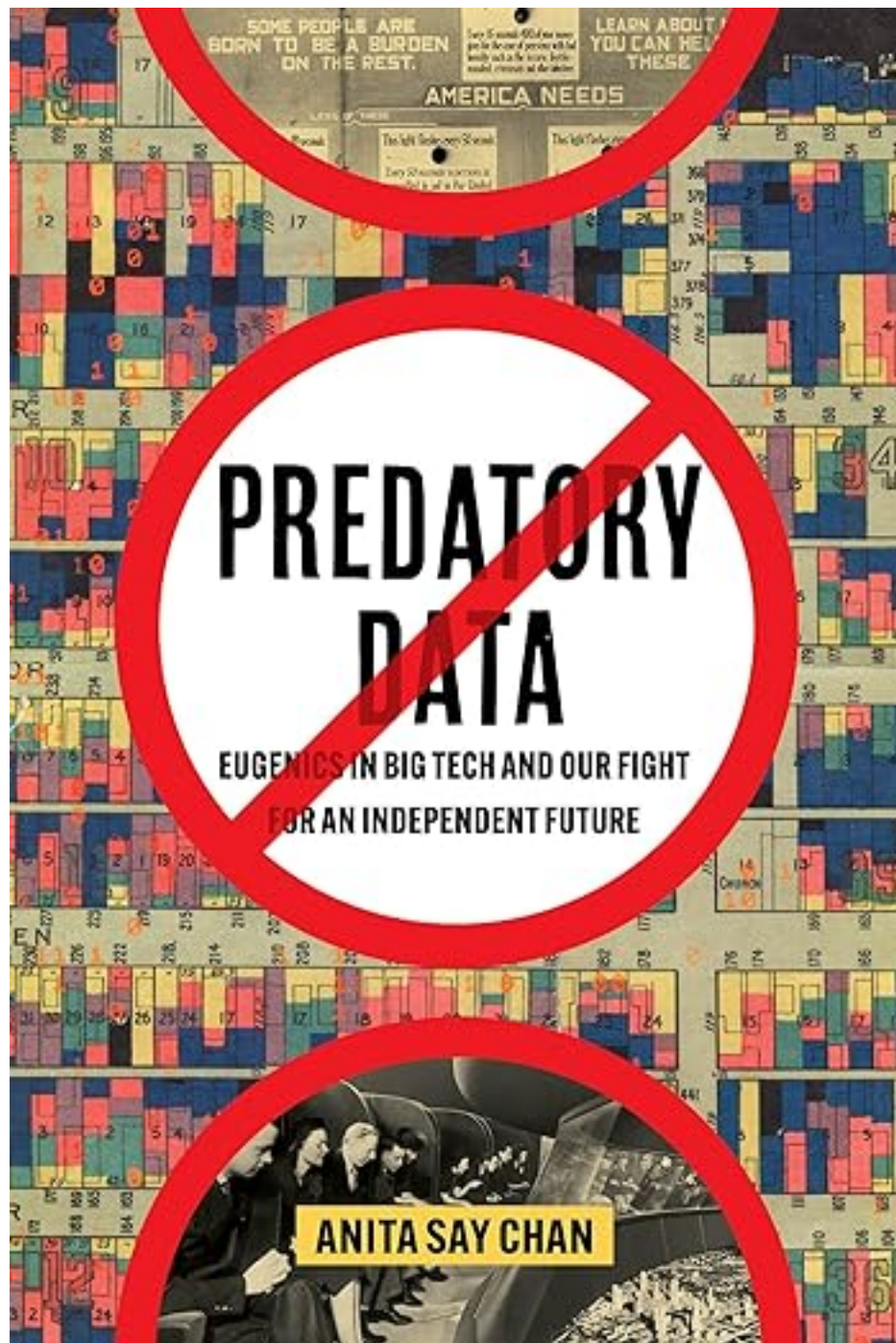
The Chinese Exclusion Act was renewed in 1892 by the [Geary Act](#), named after Democrat Thomas Geary, for another ten years, and in 1902 with no terminal date. It was repealed in 1943, although large scale Chinese immigration did not occur until 1965.



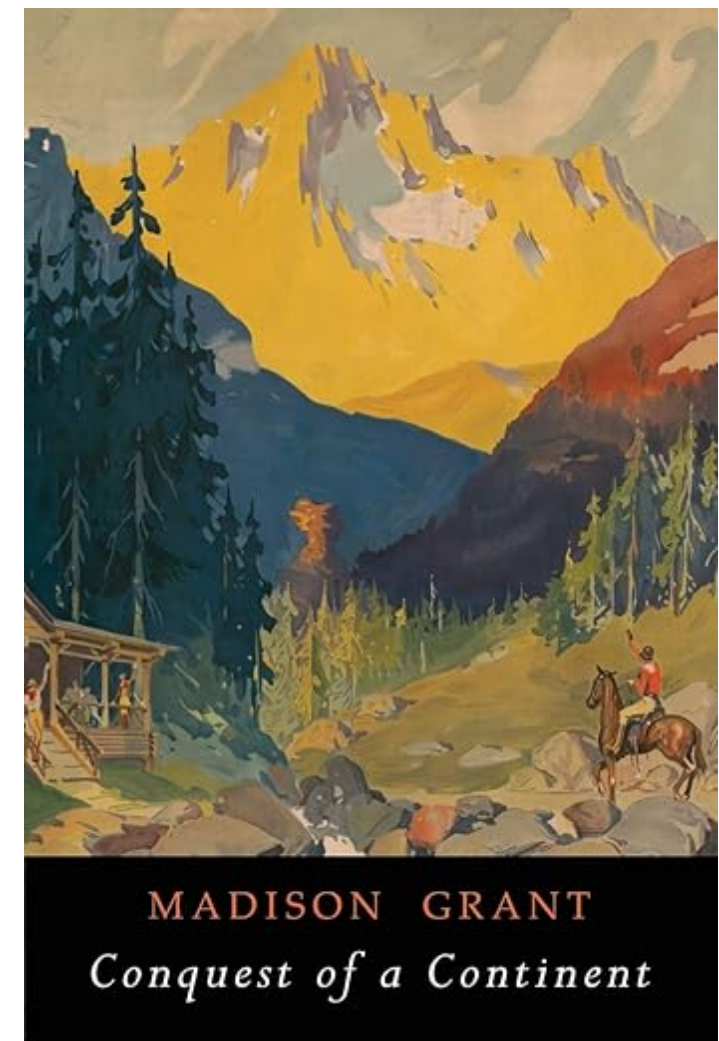
The first detention centers were created right after the Chinese Exclusion Act.

The Chinese protested and turned themselves in as an act of mass civil disobedience. They legally challenge the Geary Act and in the 1893 Supreme Court ruling, the first deportation ruling, they ruled that deportation was not a crime, thus defining forced removal as an administrative process.

In another Supreme Court ruling in 1896 it was determined that being in the US without documentation was not a crime. A ruling that still stands today.



Eugenics Movement becomes more mainstream during this time.





Ellis Island 1892

In 1907 Ellis Island had over one million immigrants pass through, except for the fact that over 100,000 were held in detention. By 1917, Ellis Island would accommodate up to 200,000 at any given time.



Angel Island Immigration Station

If denied entry many were detained for months while waiting for a hearing. They could appeal before being deported, but that meaning another two years in detention before being deported.

Between 1910 and 1940, the US government held around 300,000 migrants on the island.

There was another detention center on McNeill Island in Washington State.

After President [William McKinley](#) was [assassinated](#) by an anarchist of immigrant parentage, Congress enacted the **Anarchist Exclusion Act in 1903** to exclude known anarchist agitators.

The [Naturalization Act of 1906](#) created the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (INS) to maintain centralized records of naturalization and to impose uniform nationwide procedures, forms, and certificates.

A [literacy requirement](#) was added in the [Immigration Act of 1917](#).

Sedition Act of 1918, to cover a broader range of offenses, notably speech and the [expression of opinion](#) that cast the government or the war effort in a negative light.

Committee on Public Information

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Committee on Public Information** (1917-1919), also known as the **CPI** or the **Creel Committee**, was an independent agency of the government of the United States created to influence public opinion to support US participation in World War I.

In just over 26 months, from April 14, 1917, to June 30, 1919, it used every medium available to create enthusiasm for the war effort and to enlist public support against the foreign and perceived domestic attempts to stop America's participation in the war. It used mainly propaganda to accomplish its goals.

Anti-German attitudes were cultivated during WWI, such as this cartoon here on the right.

The Committee on Public Information also played a significant role in shifting public opinion to support going to war, because Germans were being demonized.





FROM THE PALMER RAIDS TO THE PATRIOT ACT

A HISTORY OF THE FIGHT
FOR FREE SPEECH IN AMERICA

Christopher M. Finan



"Finan's book is a powerful reminder of why we must carry on the fight to preserve
... the right to free and uncensored discourse." —SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS

The **Palmer Raids** were a series of raids conducted in November 1919 and January 1920 by the [United States Department of Justice](#) under the administration of President [Woodrow Wilson](#) to capture and arrest suspected [socialists](#), especially [anarchists](#) and [communists](#), and [deport](#) them from the United States.

The raids and arrests occurred under the leadership of Attorney General [A. Mitchell Palmer](#), with 6,000 people arrested across 36 cities. 556 foreign citizens were deported, including a number of prominent leftist leaders.

In 1921, the United States Congress passed the [Emergency Quota Act](#), which established national immigration quotas limiting immigration from the [Eastern Hemisphere](#).

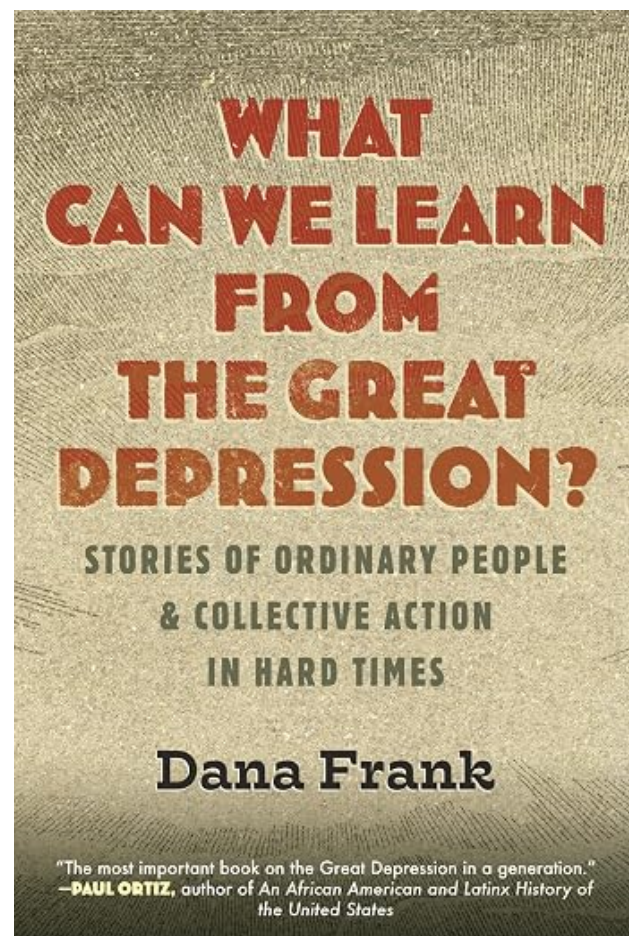
The [Immigration Act of 1924](#) (Johnson-Reed Act), set national quotas as a fraction of 150,000 in proportion to the national origins of the entire [White American](#) population. Under the 1924 Immigration Act is when the US Border Patrol was created.



Klan parade walking east on Bridge Street in Grand Rapids 1925



In 1932, [President Hoover](#) and the State Department essentially shut down immigration during the [Great Depression](#) as immigration went from 236,000 in 1929 to 23,000 in 1933.



“Coerced repatriation”
500,000 and
2 million [Mexican Americans](#)



It was perfectly ok for white people to demonize the Japanese Americans for decades prior to WWII.

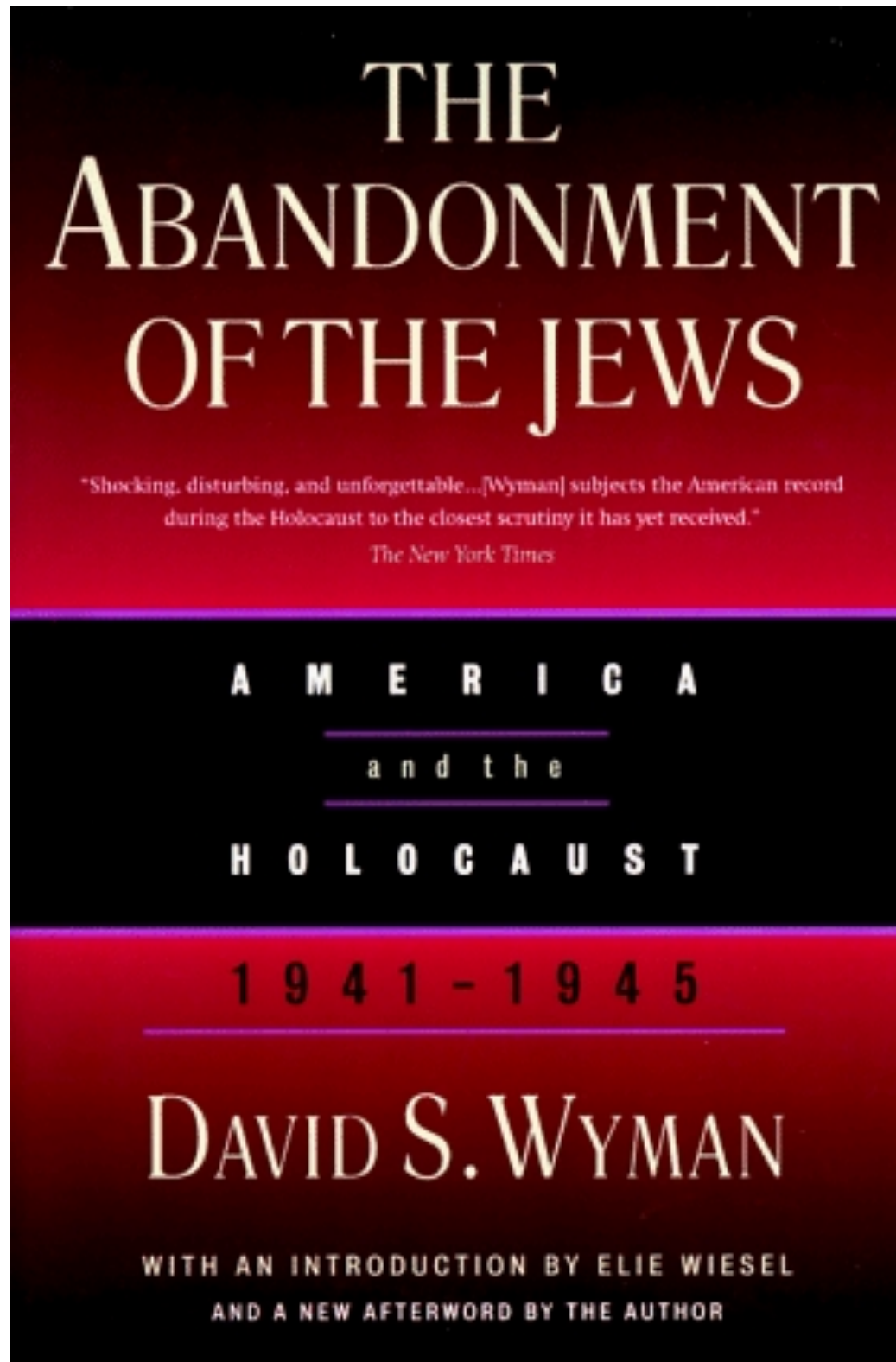
The public then supported the rounding up of thousands of Japanese Americans, which were put into internment camps by the FDR Administration with Executive Order 9066, signed in February of 1942. 120,000 Japanese descendants were forcibly removed and detained





By the mid-1940s the
INS was operating
65 different
Internment Camps -
Often using fair grounds,
horse tracks and
stockyards.

In 1936, President Roosevelt
asked of his staff, “What
arrangements and plans have
been made relative to concentration
camps in the Hawaiian Islands for
dangerous or undesirable aliens or
citizens in the event of a
national emergency?”



Anti-Semitism is widely accepted and practiced in US culture.

During WWII, the US refused to allow thousands of Jewish people who were fleeing Nazi Germany to come to the US.

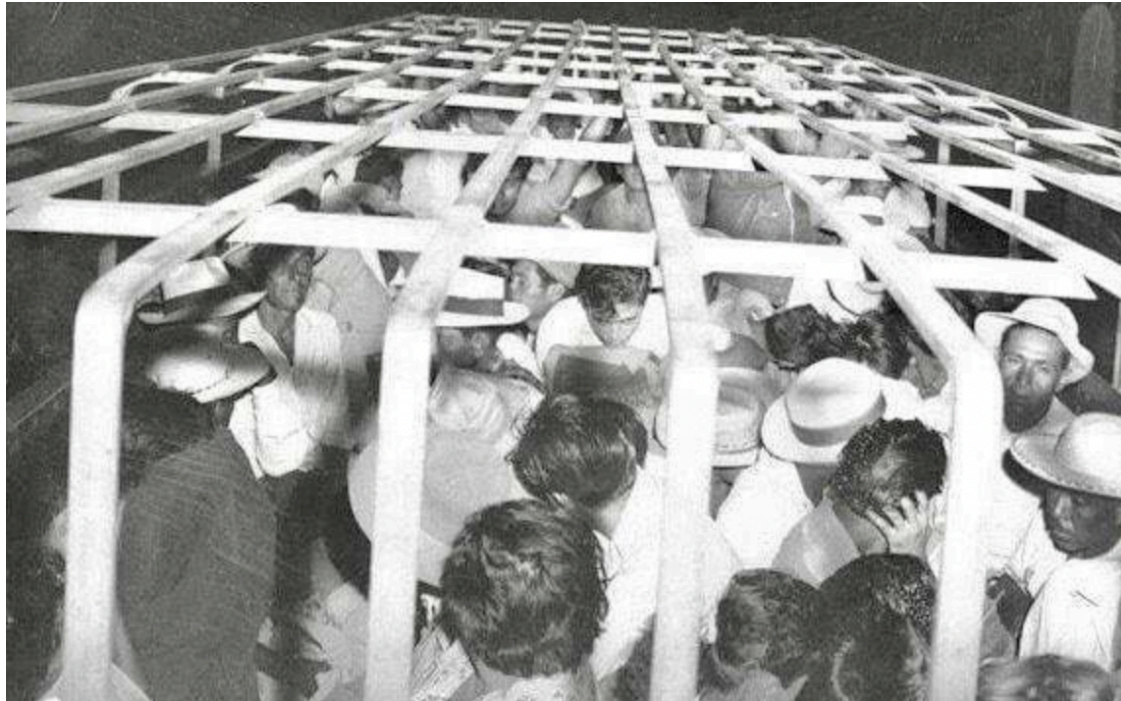
The [Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952](#) (the McCarran–Walter Act) revised the National Origins Formula, again allotting quotas in proportion to the national origins of the population as of the 1920 census, but by a simplified calculation taking a flat one-sixth of 1 percent of the number of inhabitants of each nationality then residing in the U.S.

Cold War

**Fear of
Communism**

McCarthyism

Bracero Program,
which began in 1942,
ended in 1964.



“Operation Wetback”
Eisenhower Administration
Deported 1,074,277 in 1954,
deportation sweeps
continued until 1962, with smaller
numbers every year.

At the beginning of “Operation Wetback” there were
roughly 700 US Border Agents. By 1962,
the number increased to 1,692.



**From the War on Poverty to the
War on Crime** The Making of
Mass Incarceration in America

E L I Z A B E T H H I N T O N

Safe Streets Act of 1968

Mass Incarceration as a response to Black and Brown resistance. It also opened the door for increased arrests and detention in local jails for immigrants.

Contemporary ICE Detention Centers are a result of mass incarceration, which is a result of the criminalization of Black and Brown communities.

The [Refugee Act](#) of 1980 established policies for [refugees](#), redefining "refugee" according to [United Nations](#) norms. A target for refugees was set at 50,000 and the worldwide ceiling for immigrants was reduced to 270,000 annually.

In 1986, the [Immigration Reform and Control Act](#) resulted in:

- First time penalties for employers who hired undocumented immigrants
- An increase in the budget and activities of the US Border Patrol
- Amnesty for 3 million undocumented people who were already in the United States.

**1980s Reagan Administration obsession
with Central America.**

US Central American Solidarity Movement

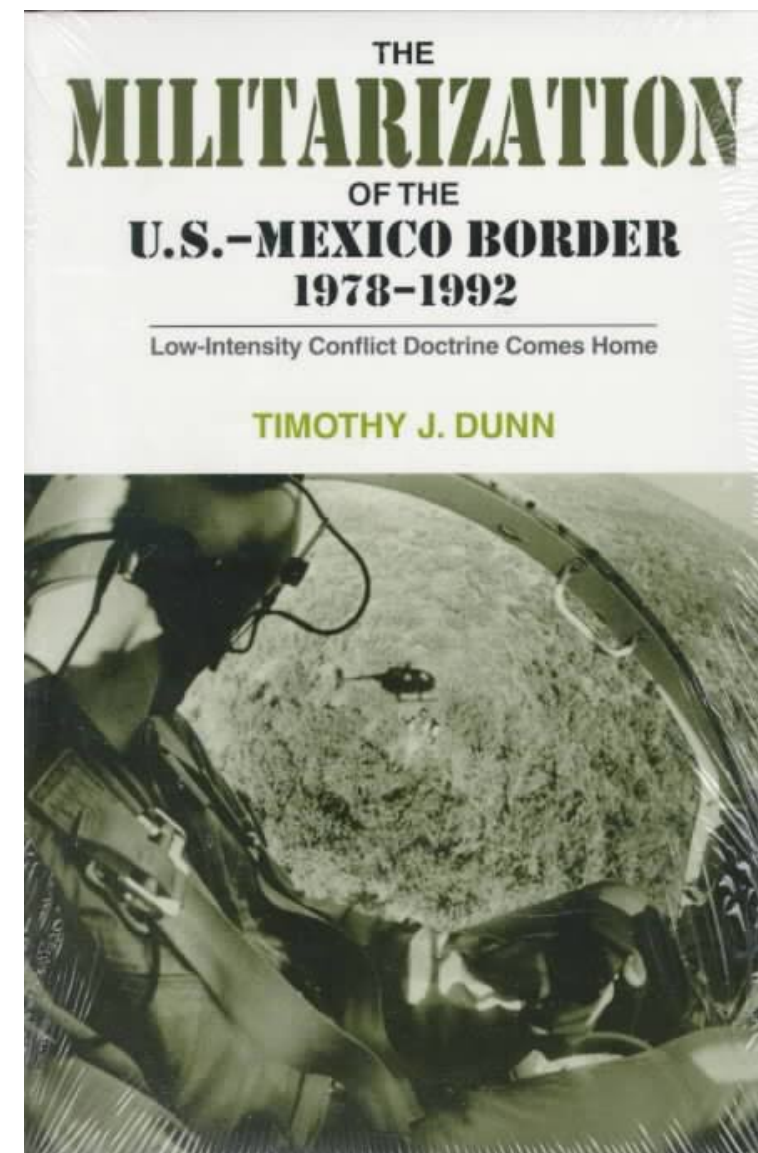
US Central American Sanctuary

Sister Cities Movement

Thousands of US residents on fact finding missions.



The US/Mexican border was more open and fluid for a long time. The militarization on the US side really began in the 1980s, then escalated in the 1990s after NAFTA was passed and again became even more militarized after Sept. 11, 2001, when the Department of Homeland Security was created.



THE JOHN TANTON NETWORK

U.S., Inc.
Founded by John Tanton in 1982. Tanton currently serves as the organization's chairman.

Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR)
Founded by John Tanton in 1979. Tanton served on FAIR's board of directors until 2011. He is currently on FAIR's board of advisors.

NumbersUSA
Research and Education/Americans for Better Immigration – Founded as a project of U.S., Inc. in 1996 and became an independent organization in 2002. Founder Roy Beck is the former Washington Editor of Tanton's Journal The Social Contract.

Center for Immigration Studies
Founded by John Tanton in 1985 to serve as an independent research organization for the Network.

Social Contract Press
Founded by John Tanton in 1990. Tanton is publisher of the Press's quarterly journal, The Social Contract.

Immigration Reform Law Institute (IRLI)
Founded by John Tanton and FAIR leadership in 1999. IRLI, operating under the control of FAIR, works closely with lawmakers to draft anti-immigrant legislation.

House Immigration Reform Caucus (HIRC)
Founded in 1999 by former Colorado Congressman Tom Tancredo. Current chairman Brian Bilbray is a former FAIR lobbyist and current co-chair of FAIR's board of advisors.

Progressives for Immigration Reform
Founded in 2009, Progressives for Immigration Reform shares leadership with FAIR, including Frank Morris, a FAIR board member, and Richard Lamm, a FAIR advisor. Current executive director Leah Durant was an attorney with FAIR's legal arm, Immigration Reform Law Institute.

State Legislators for Legal Immigration
Founded in 2007 by Pennsylvania State Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, State Legislators for Legal Immigration works closely with Immigration Reform Law Institute to draft state-level, anti-immigrant legislation.

Negative Population Growth
Founded in 1972. Current NPG president Donald Mann serves on FAIR's national board of advisors. NPG also received funding from FAIR in 2000.

VDARE Foundation
Anti-immigrant blog founded in 1999 by white-nationalist Peter Brimelow, a former editor for Forbes and National Review. VDARE publishes articles from FAIR advisory board members Donald A. Collins and Joe Guzzardi, and has received funds from U.S., Inc.

ProEnglish
John Tanton is the founding chairman of ProEnglish, established in 1994. He currently serves on its board of directors.

9/11 Families for a Secure America
Founded by Peter Gadriel after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Gadriel served on FAIR's board from 2003 to 2005 and 9/11 Families for a Secure America has received funds from U.S., Inc.

U.S. English
Co-founded by John Tanton in 1982/83. He left the organization in 1988 after a racially charged memo he wrote was made public.

US Immigration Reform PAC
Co-founded in 1996 by Mary-Lou Tanton, John Tanton's wife. She remains president of the organization, which endorses political campaigns for House Immigration Reform Caucus members.

LEGEND

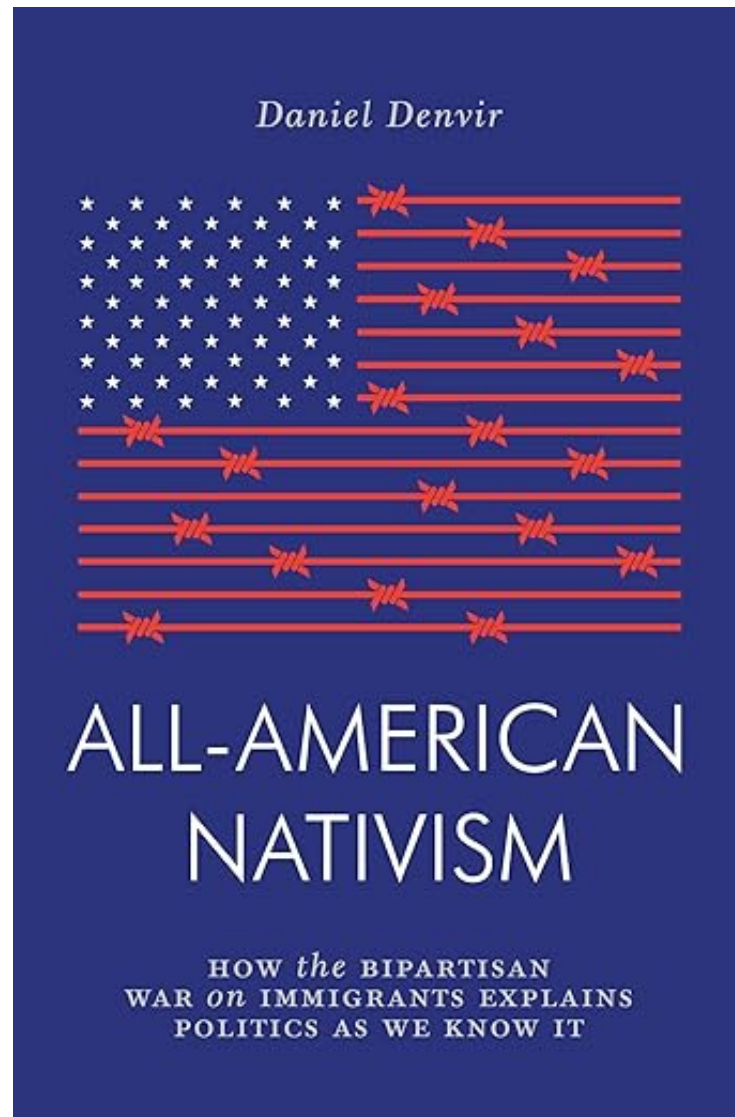
- Founded by John Tanton
- Has financial or leadership ties to FAIR or U.S., Inc.
- Founded as a project of FAIR or U.S., Inc.



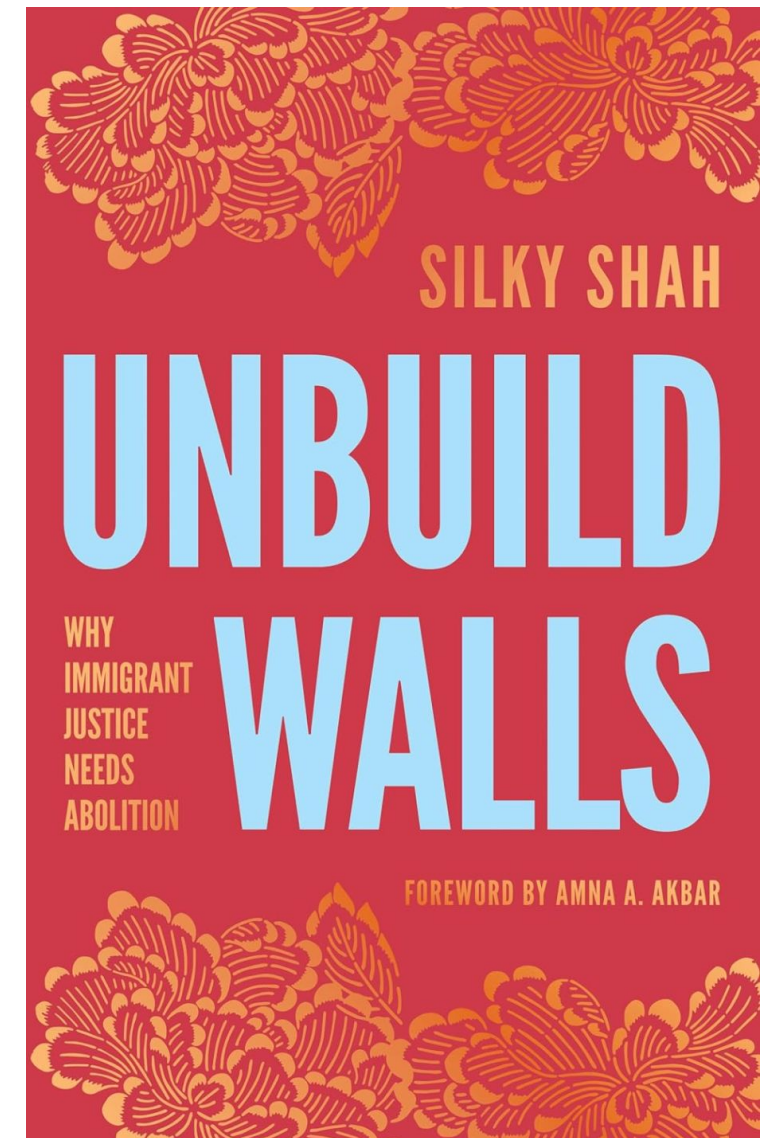
47 West Division #514, Chicago, IL 60610
© Copyright 2011, Center for New Community



“Since the 1980s, a combination of economic restructuring and increasing tough-on-crime policies have produced devastating results: the highest rates of incarceration in the world and the greatest number of deportations in US history.”



“Both the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRAIRA) were passed in 1996. Together they changed the paradigm on immigration to one that emphasized citizenship rather than residency and laid the legal foundation for the expansion of the deportation machine that emerged following 9/11.”



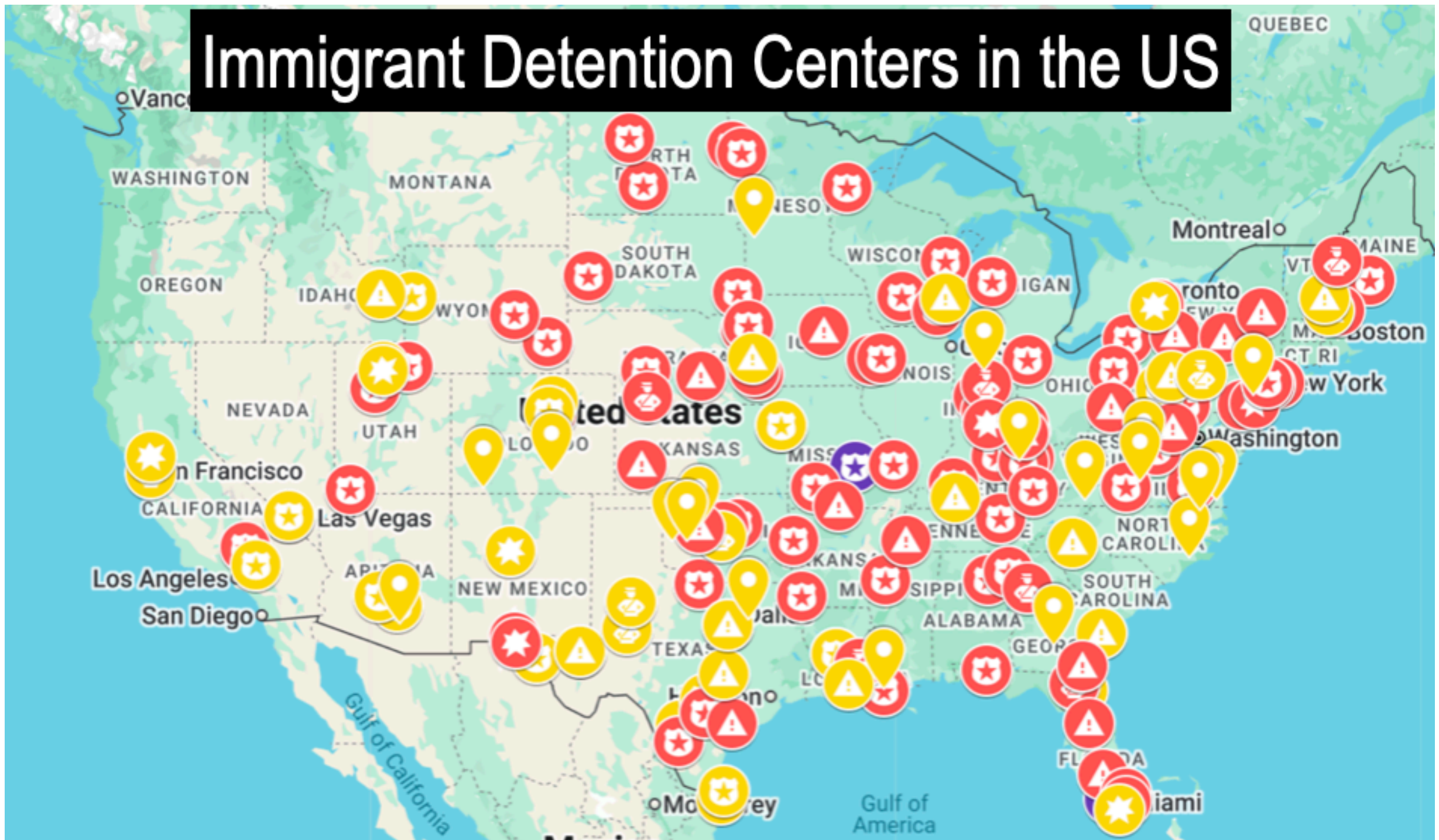
The Obama administration expanded and set up a powerful machinery for Trump to exploit by plugging in the detention and deportation system much more closely to criminal law enforcement across the country.



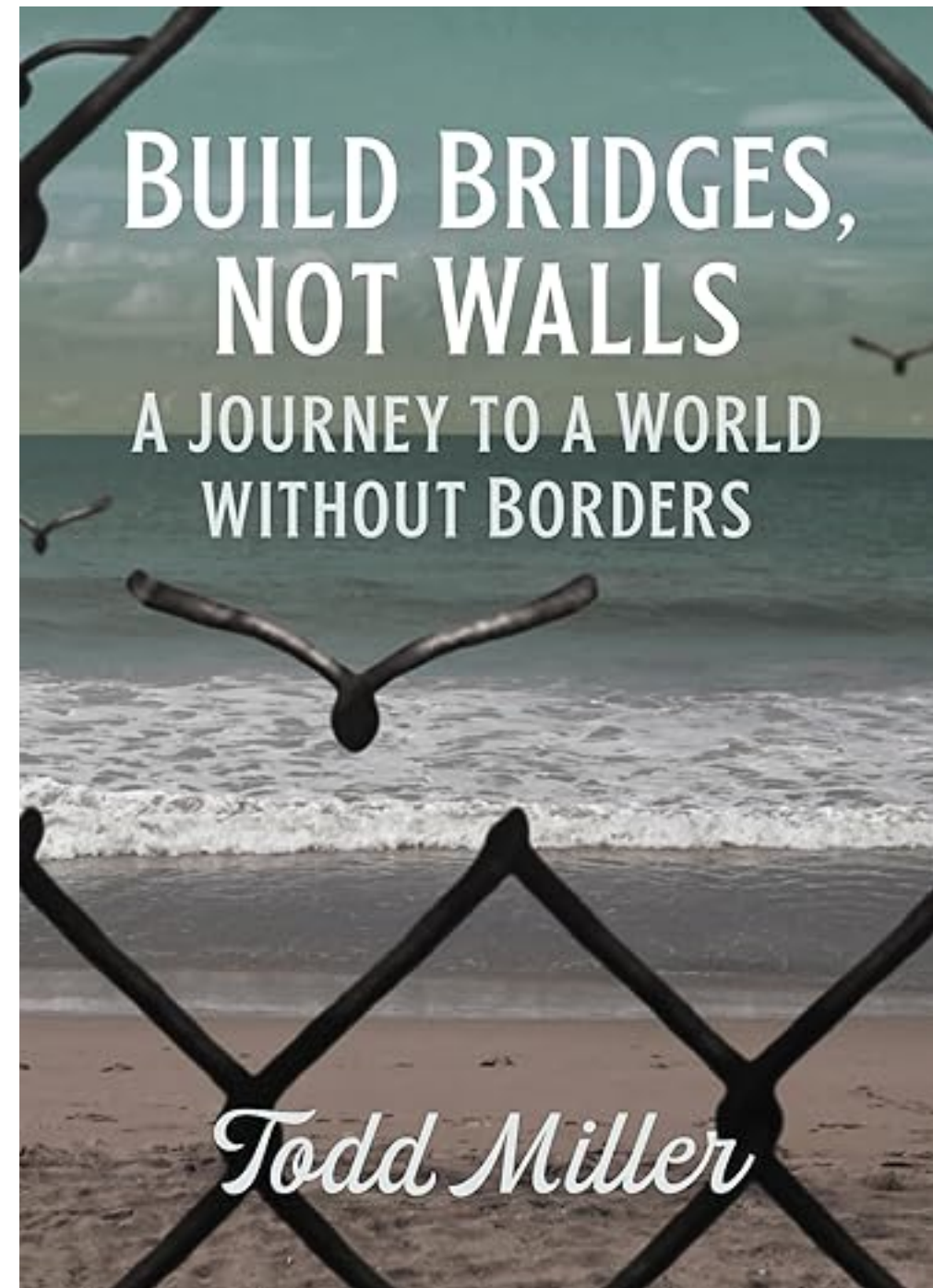
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) was disbanded and gave rise to ICE in 2003.

Immigrant Detention Centers in the US



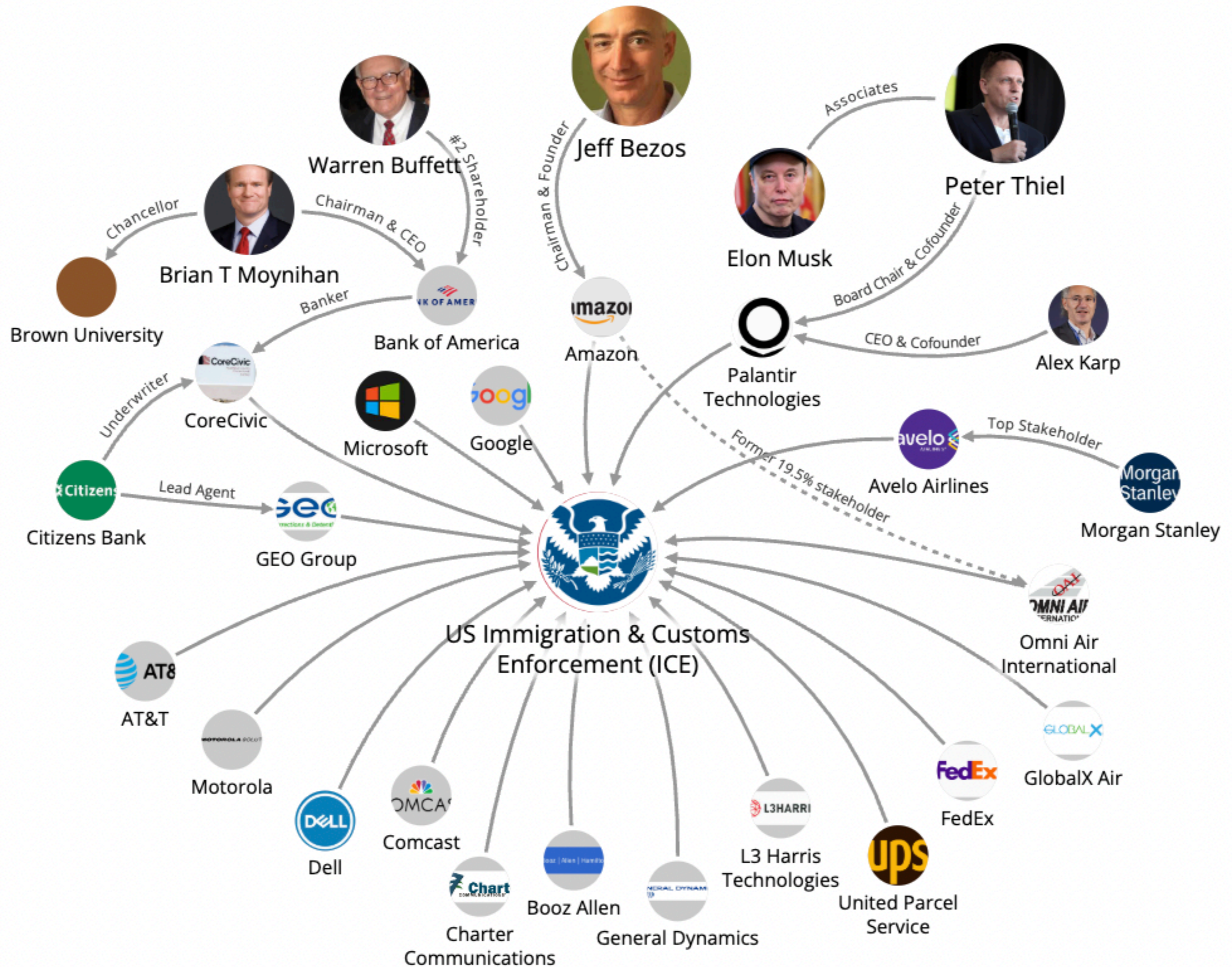
During his four years in office, Biden's administration issued and administered [21,713 border enforcement contracts](#), worth \$32.3 billion, far more than any previous president, including his predecessor Donald Trump, who had spent a mere — and that, of course, is a joke — [\\$20.9 billion](#) from 2017 to 2020 on the same issue.



<https://www.theborderchronicle.com/>

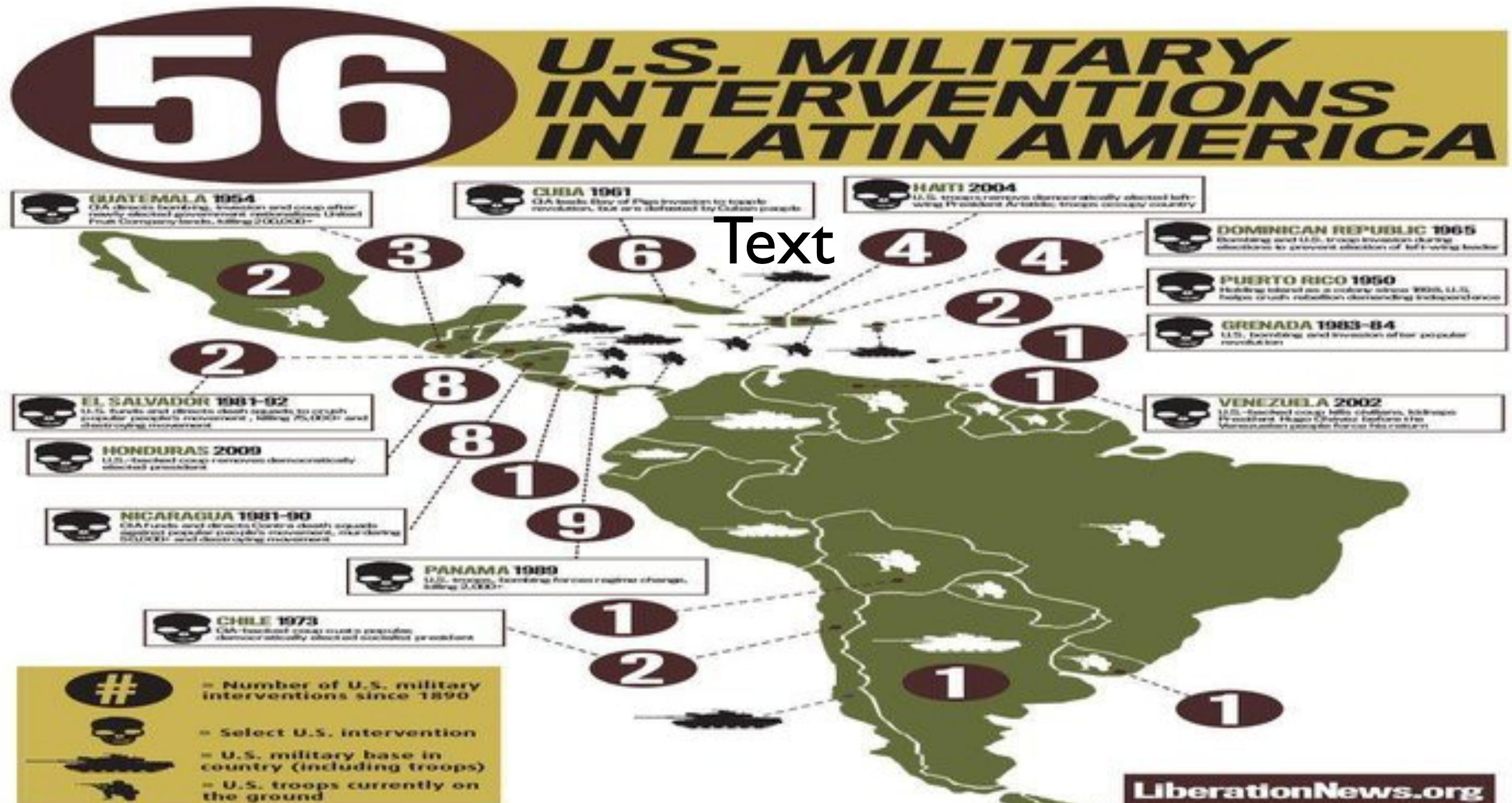
Trump Administration Mass Deportation Order

1. An increase in ICE Agents
2. Threats Against Sanctuary Cities
3. Sending detainees to other countries
4. \$175 billion in new spending on detention and deportations over the next four years.



Investigation #3

How has US Foreign Policy created an immigration/refugee crisis?



Example of Mexico

Read parts of the book, *No One is Illegal: Fighting Racism and State Violence on the US-Mexican Border*, by Justin Akers Chacon & Mike Davis.

Question:

How has the US continued to try to influence Mexico's politics and Mexico's economy?

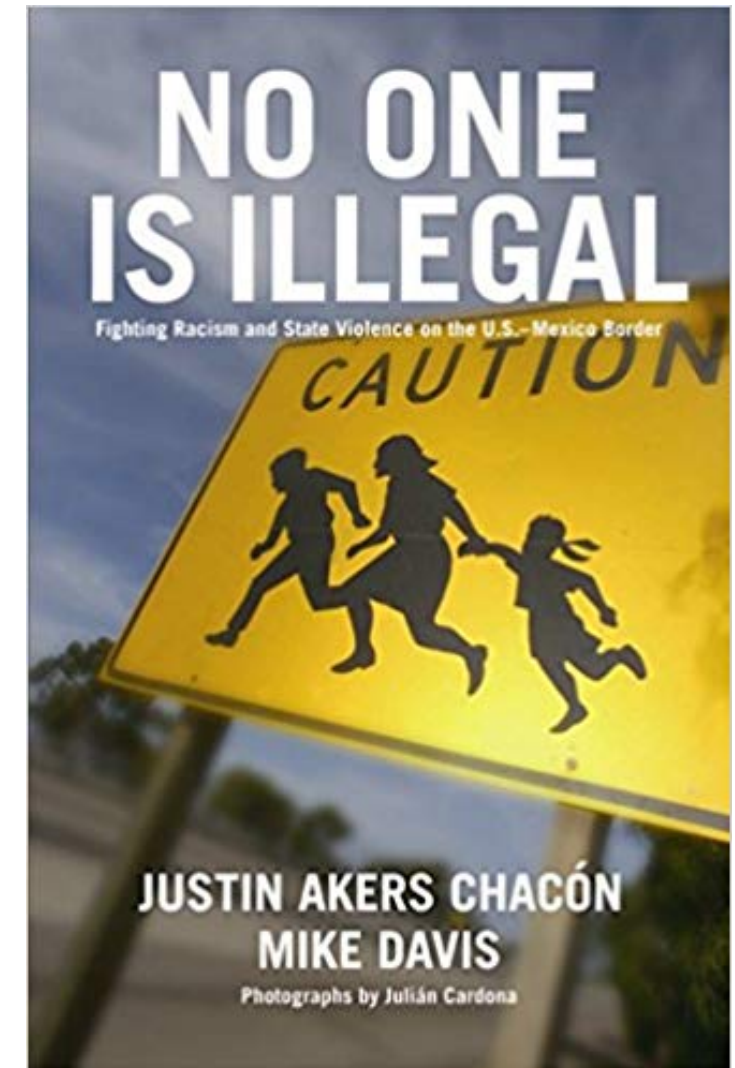
Part II: Mexico: Caught in the Web of U.S. Empire Justin Akers Chacón

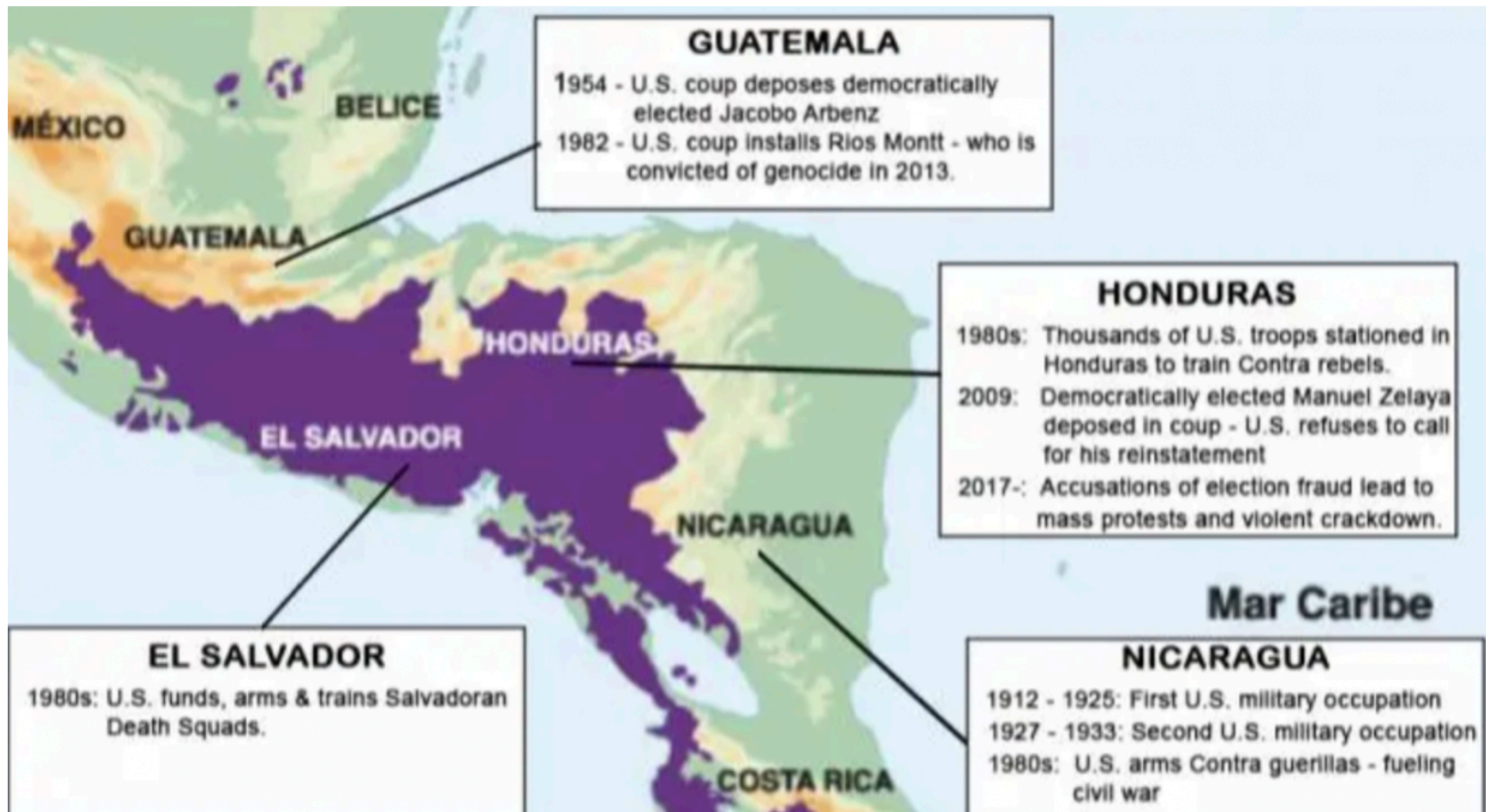
Introduction

12. Conquest Sets the Stage

13. Neoliberalism Consumes the “Mexican Miracle”

14. From the Maquiladoras to NAFTA: Profiting from Borders





Decades-long US Counter-Insurgency wars are a major contributing factor for immigration to the US.

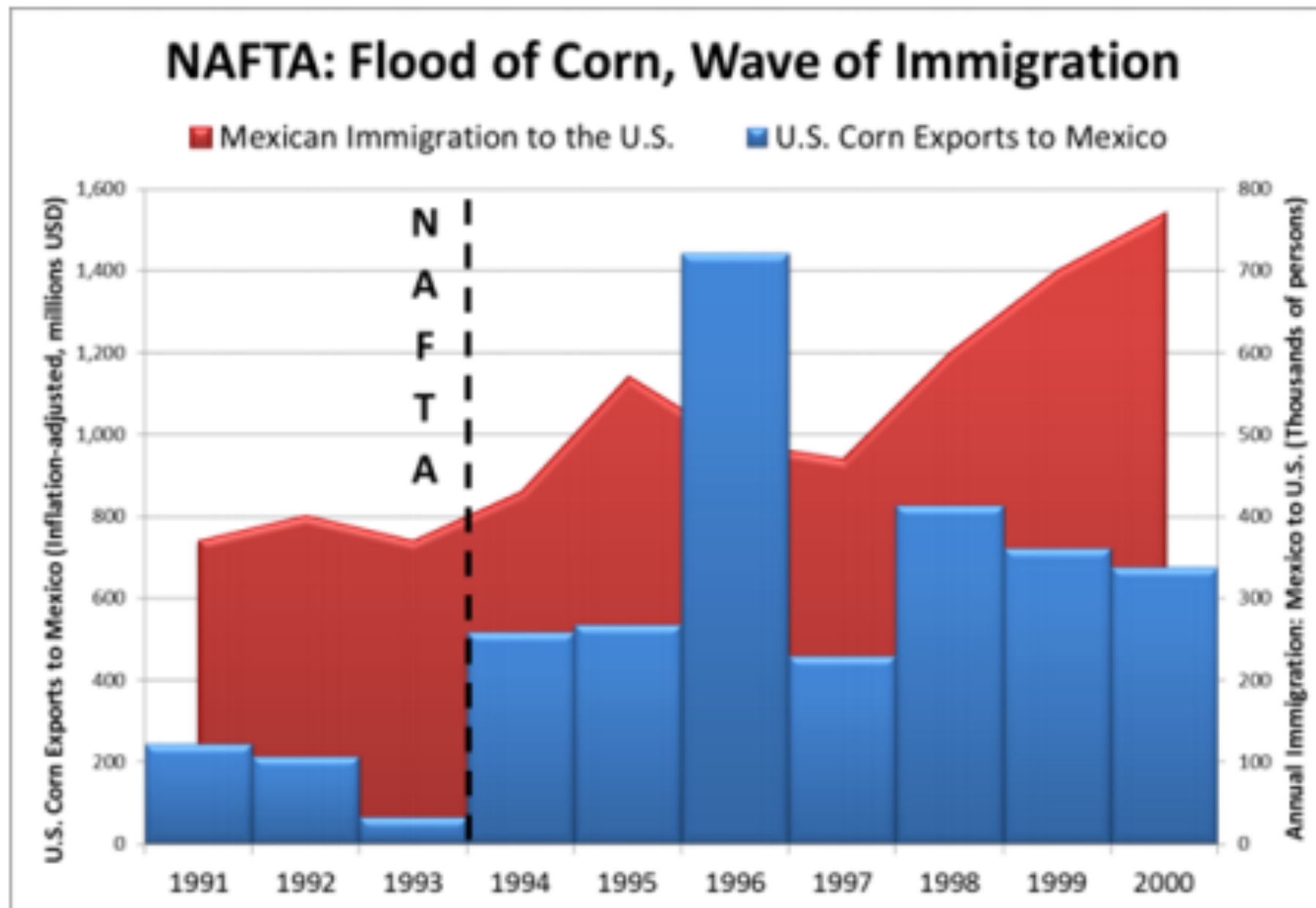
<https://sites.evergreen.edu/zoltan/interventions/>

NAFTA

<http://infographic.replacenafta.org/nafta-at-25-promises-vs-reality/>

NAFTA & Mexican immigration

https://www.citizen.org/wp-content/uploads/nafta_factsheet_immigration_may.pdf



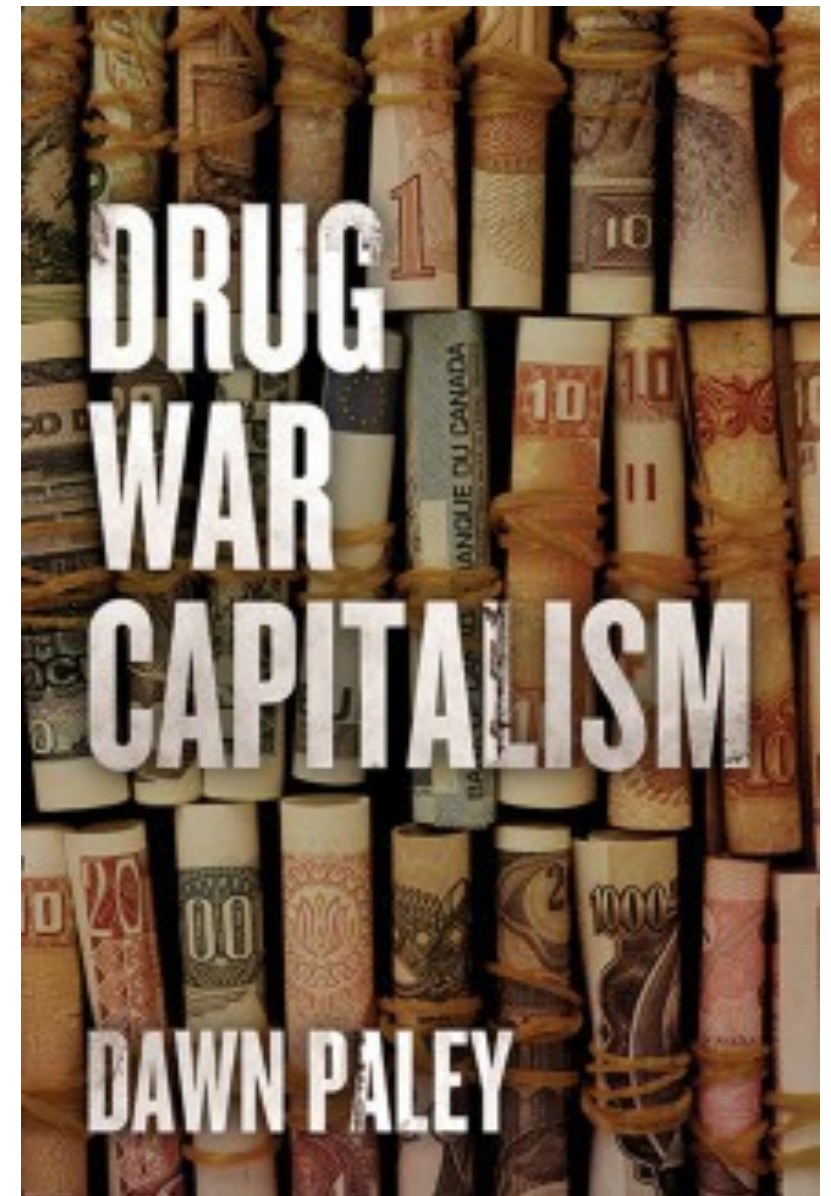
Source: U.S. International Trade Commission and Pew Hispanic Center

Plan Merida and the US-backed Drug War

Read: https://fpif.org/a_plan_colombia_for_mexico/

Read Chapter 5 from the book, Drug War Capitalism, by Dawn Paley.

Discuss - How the drug war has been a pretext for further US militarization in Mexico and how it has contributed to the immigration crisis.



Example - Central America

US Intervention in Central America timeline

<https://medium.com/s/story/timeline-us-intervention-central-america-a9bea9ebc148>

Watch the film, Harvest of Empire

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyncOYTZfHE>

Discuss - how US intervention created the current immigration crisis?

Investigation #5

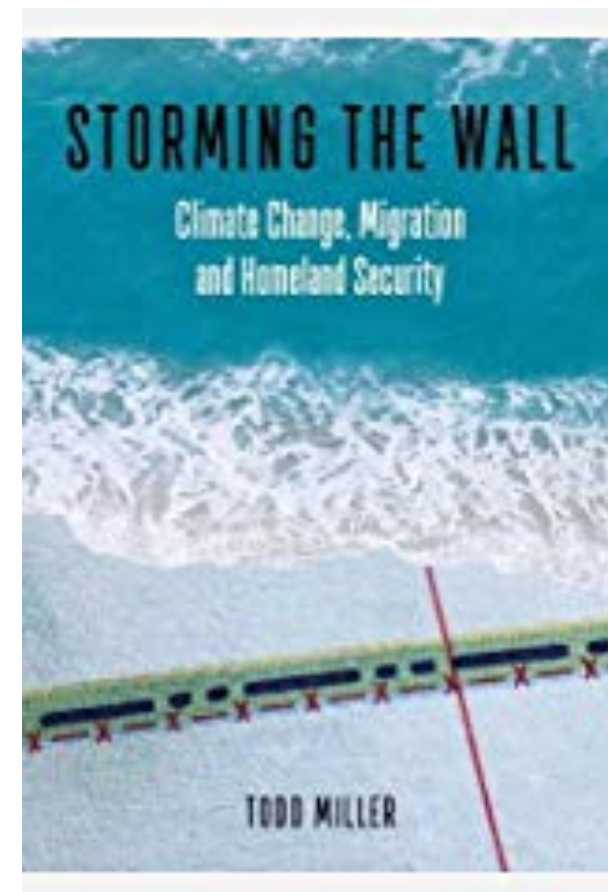
Climate and Immigration

Watch: How the Climate Crisis Is Pushing Central Americans Out of Their Homes Toward the U.S.

https://www.democracynow.org/2019/7/10/john_carlos_frey_immigration_us_mexico

Read chapter 1 & 3 from Todd Miller's book,
Storming the Wall: Climate Change, Migration and Homeland Security

Discuss - How does climate change directly impact the immigration crisis and how important is it to include in the organizing around immigrant justice?



Investigation #4

How do we counteract the dominant narratives about immigration and immigrants in the US?

Read from Aviva Chomsky's book, *They Take Our Jobs: And 20 Other Myths about Immigration*

PART ONE · IMMIGRANTS AND THE ECONOMY

Myth 1. Immigrants take American jobs · 3

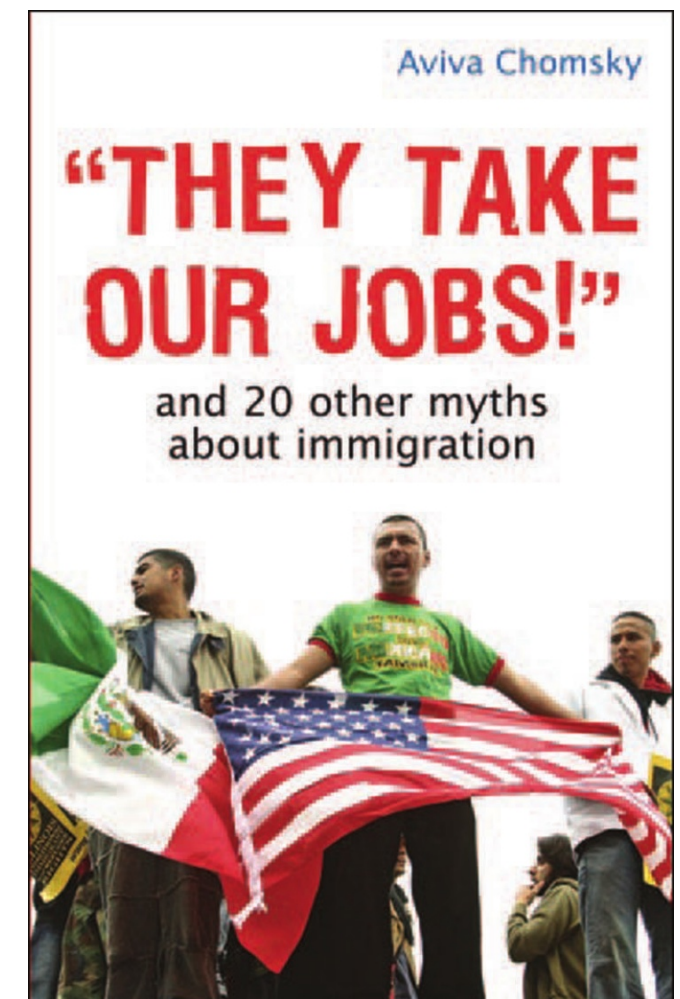
Myth 2. Immigrants compete with low-skilled workers
and drive down wages · 11

Myth 3. Unions oppose immigration because it harms the
working class · 30

Myth 4. Immigrants don't pay taxes · 36

Myth 5. Immigrants are a drain on the economy · 39

Myth 6. Immigrants send most of what they earn out of the
country in the form of remittances · 46



Continue reading from, They Take Our Jobs

PART TWO · IMMIGRANTS AND THE LAW

Myth 7. The rules apply to everyone, so new immigrants need to follow them just as immigrants in the past did · 53

Myth 8. The country is being overrun by illegal immigrants · 58

Myth 9. The United States has a generous refugee policy · 64

PART THREE · IMMIGRATION AND RACE

Myth 10. The United States is a melting pot that has always welcomed immigrants from all over the world · 77

Myth 11. Since we are all the descendants of immigrants here, we all start on equal footing · 91

Based on the analysis provided in the readings, collectively work to develop counterarguments/talking points.

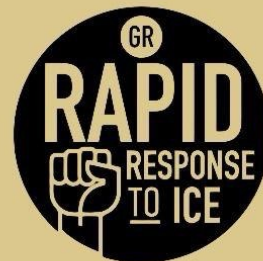
**WITH ICE HITTING OUR CITY, PLEASE
REPORT ANY ACTIVITY TO 616 238-0081
OR EMAIL:**

info@grrapidresponsetoice.org

**REMEMBER, please try to be accurate with
the information you report, this will help us
take action as soon as possible.**



- ✓ Date
- ✓ Time
- ✓ Address



**Describe how many vehicles and agents
and if they are wearing uniforms
Record if you are not at risk**



**Resistance to ICE
in Kent County**

Investigation #8

How do we get Immigrant Justice?

Read the following:

The Immigrant Justice Movement in Grand Rapids Part I

<https://griid.org/2019/04/07/the-immigrant-justice-movement-in-grand-rapids-part-i/>

The Immigrant Justice Movement in Grand Rapids Part II

<https://griid.org/2019/04/10/the-immigrant-justice-movement-in-grand-rapids-part-ii/>

Discuss the difference between Immigration Reform and Immigration Justice.



A large group of people, many wearing blue shirts, are seated in a room with wood-paneled walls. Several individuals are holding up signs and a flag, suggesting a protest or public meeting. Visible signs include "ICE", "FAMILY", and "ICE".



Investigation #6

The ICE Matrix and harm done to immigrants

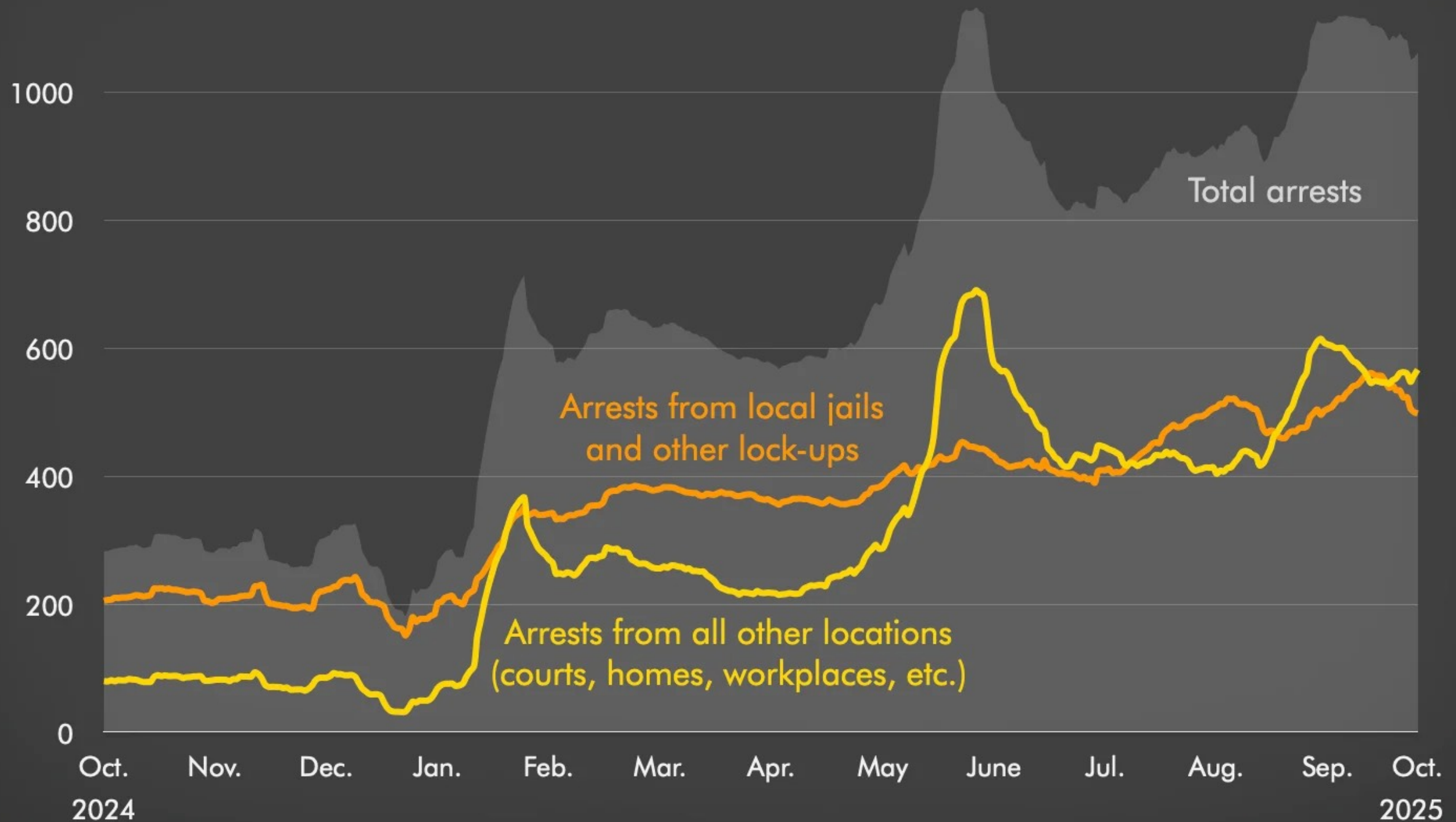
Matrix of ICE in Kent County



Local jails are essential to ICE arrest expansion

Throughout 2025, local jails were sites of escalating ICE arrests. Jails collaborating with ICE are still enabling many more arrests than before, even as ICE arrests have spiked in courts, homes, streets, and workplaces.

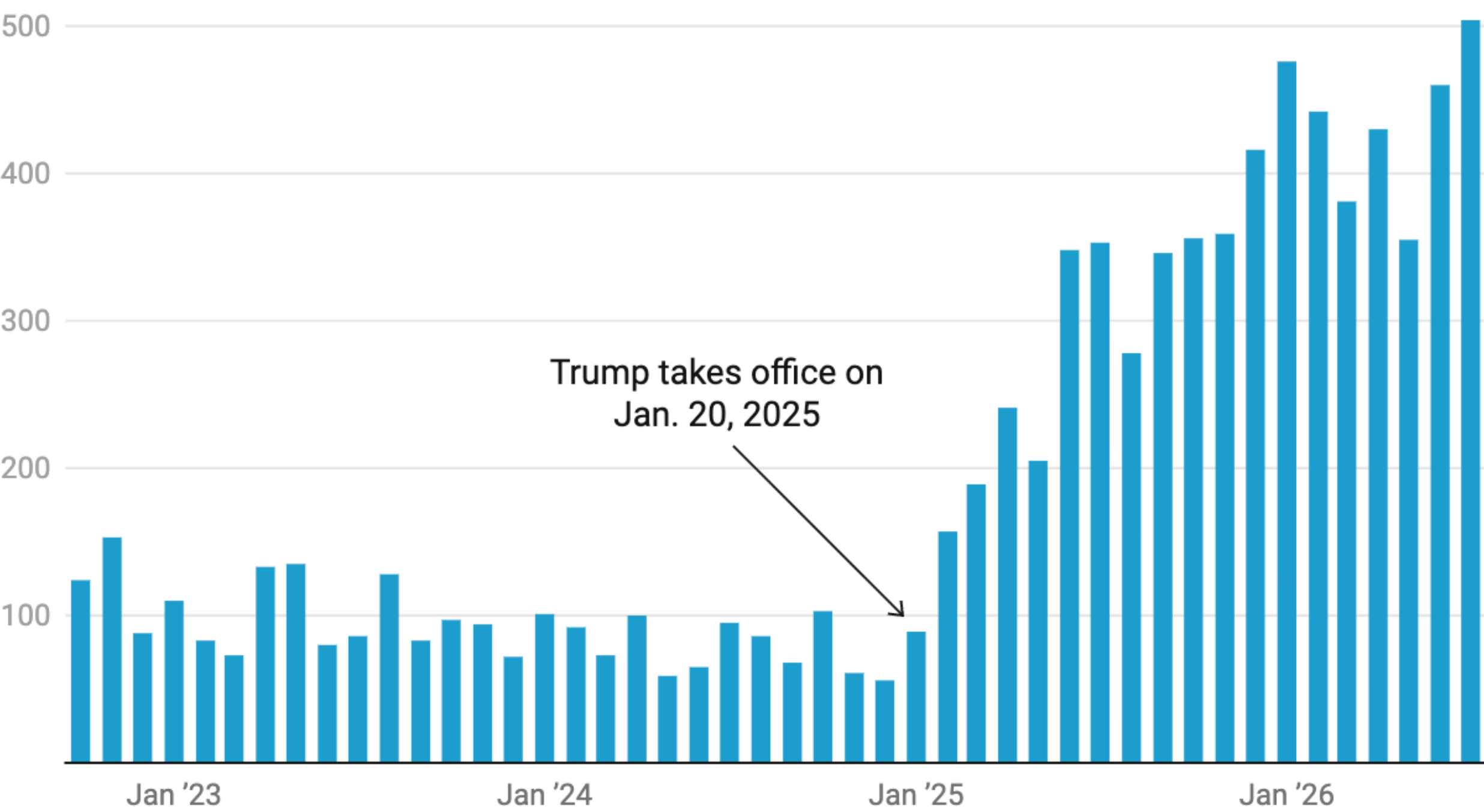
AVERAGE DAILY ICE ARRESTS BY LOCATION



Source: 14-day rolling average calculated by the Prison Policy Initiative from the ICE arrest database tables through October 15, 2025 published by the Deportation Data Project

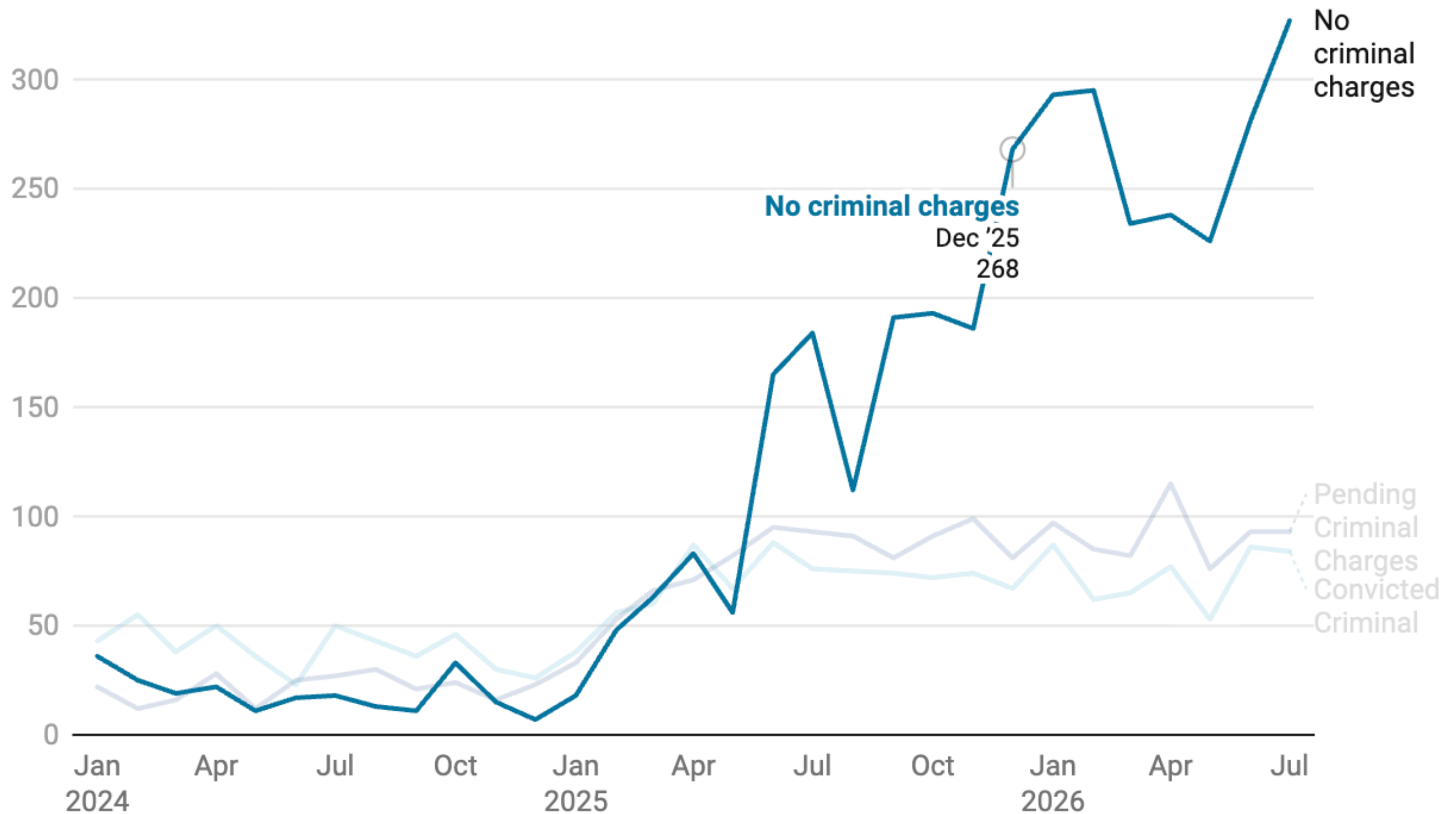
ICE arrests in Michigan

The number of monthly ICE arrests in Michigan hit the highest level in July 2026.



ICE increasingly arresting people without criminal records

The number of monthly ICE arrests in Michigan.



What GR Rapid Response to ICE does

WHAT TO DO IF ICE COMES TO YOUR DOOR	
	DO NOT OPEN DOORS- Do not open the door even if they have papers. Call (616) 238-0081
	REMAIN SILENT ICE can use anything you say against you in your immigration case so claim your right to remain silent!
	DO NOT SIGN Don't sign anything ICE gives you without talking to an attorney.
	REPORT THE RAID! Take pictures, video and notes on what you see: Badge numbers, number of agents, exactly what happened!
	FIGHT BACK! If you or a loved one is detained, get a trustworthy attorney and explore all options to fight your case. If detained, you may be able to get bail, don't give up hope!
If you are in Kent County call (616) 238-0081 Grand Rapids Response to ICE	

EN CASO DE REDADAS ¿QUÉ PUEDES HACER?	
	NO ABRAS LA PUERTA- No abras la puerta aún si te entregan papeles. Call (616) 238-0081
	GUARDA SILENCIO Tienes el derecho a permanecer callado/a si te confrontan agentes de inmigración. La migra puede usar cualquier cosa que digas contra tí así que es mejor no decir nada.
	NO FIRMES No firmes nada que te den los agentes de inmigración sin primero hablar con un abogado
	¡REPORTA LA REDADA! Toma fotos, videos y notas de todo lo que veas, tales como cuantos agentes vinieron, su número de identificación, y exactamente lo que sucedió.
	¡SIGUE LUCHANDO! Si la inmigración te detiene a tí o a un ser querido, busca un abogado de confianza. Tu puedes apelar un caso de detención y tal vez conseguir una fianza. ¡No te des por vencido!
Si usted está en el condado de Kent llame al (616) 238-0081 Grand Rapids Response to ICE	

What GR Rapid Response to ICE does

Respond to calls

Patrols

Accompaniment

Monitoring ICE

Community Safety event requests

Mutual Aid responses:

Legal, material and financial support

Transportation

Sanctuary

SPREAD INFORMATION, NOT PANIC: REMEMBER S.A.L.U.T.E.

S

SIZE AND STRENGTH - It's critical to report how many ICE or federal agents and vehicles you see. If there are different law enforcement agencies or local police, note the number of agents and agencies involved.

A

ACTIVITY AND ACTION - What is happening? A traffic stop? Is ICE targeting specific individuals? Are ICE vehicles circling a school? The more information, the better.

L

LOCATION - Where did you see ICE? At a school or local business? At someone's house? Take note of the cross streets and if ICE is going in a specific direction.

U

UNIFORM - Specify what agents are wearing. Are they wearing civilian clothing, uniforms, or vests? Masks, face coverings, hats, shades, or anything else concealing their identity? What do any badges or vests say?

T

TIME AND DATE - One of the most critical pieces of information to note when reporting or posting about ICE sightings is the time and date ICE was spotted.

E

EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONS - Are ICE agents carrying weapons? Identify any equipment agents have (including guns, tear gas, pepper spray, or other weapons) and whether they use them on people.

You have a right to film activity in public spaces. Record at a safe distance and explain what is happening. Remember, report ICE sightings by calling the GR Rapid Response to ICE hotline 616-238-0081.

Privately owned detention
centers in the US.

FATAL NEGLECT

How ICE Ignores Deaths in Detention



ACLU and Dention Watch Network Reports

<https://www.aclu.org/issues/immigrants-rights/immigrants-rights-and-detention/immigration-detention-conditions>

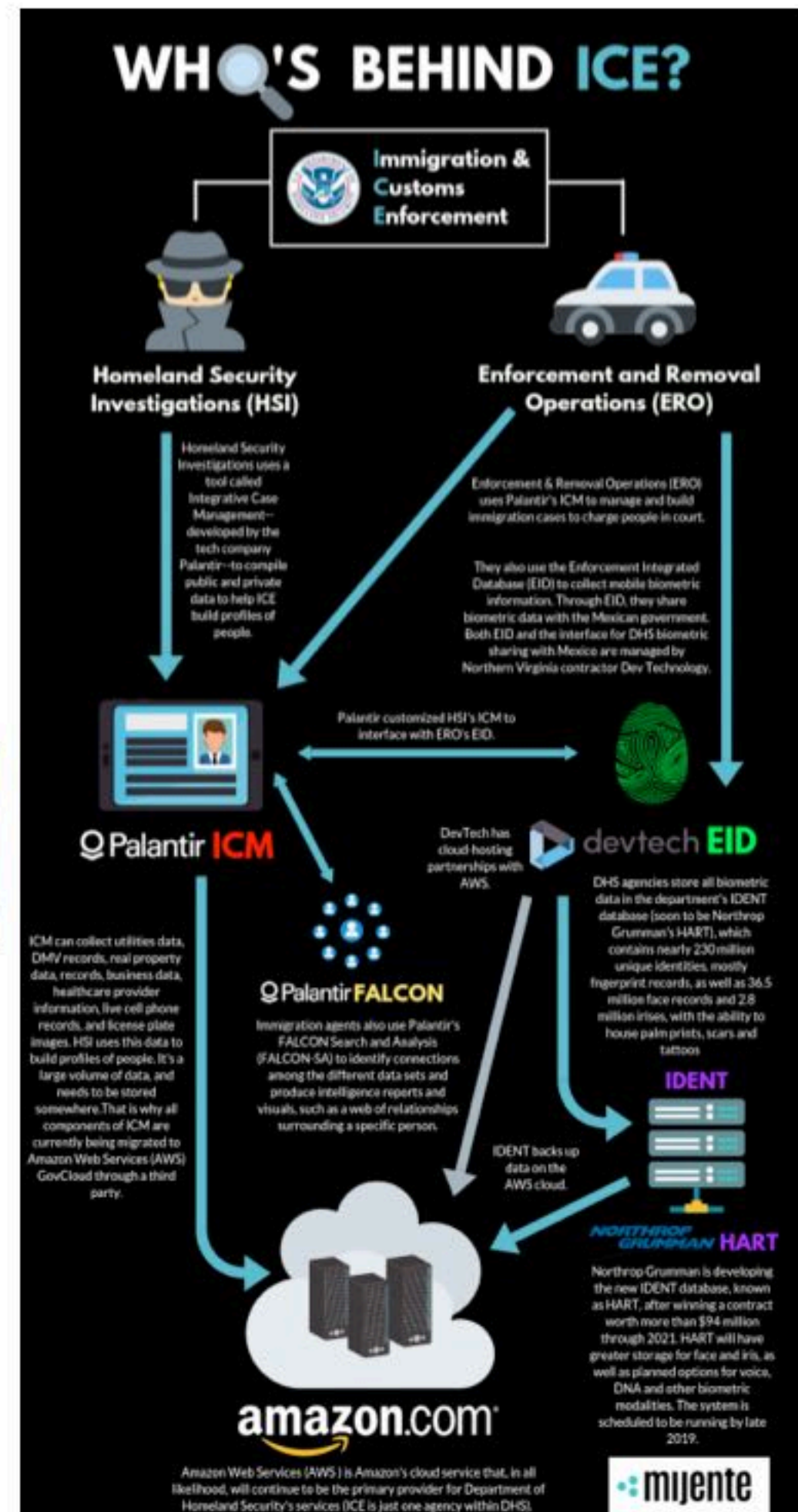
<https://www.dentionwatchnetwork.org/resources/reports>

AMAZON Collaborates with ICE to Separate Immigrant Families

The Amazon Web Services' cloud computing platform is the host for Palantir's Investigative Case Management (ICM) software. ICM is then used by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to manage their caseload and facilitate the tracking down and deportation of undocumented immigrants. Palantir, a data analytics firm, receives taxpayer dollars to provide these algorithms to government agencies, with its ICE contract being worth over \$51 million. For its part, Amazon in turn receives \$600,000 a month from Palantir. In addition, Amazon's new home-security company (Ring), works with hundreds of law enforcement agencies and ICE to provide video from the Ring system that can also be used to target the undocumented community.



- * We are calling on Amazon to END their collaboration with ICE.
- * Employees of Amazon & Whole Foods (also owned by Amazon) are calling for an end to Amazon's collaboration with ICE.
- * Sign our petition, which sends a direct message to Jeff Bezos, CEO of Amazon bit.ly/EmailJeffBezos
- * If you are interested in being part of our Abolish ICE work in Kent County and specifically the campaign to end Amazon's collaboration with ICE, message us at info@grrapidresponsetoice.org
- * For more information on Amazon's collaboration with ICE, see the report by Mijente, [*Who's Behind ICE? The Tech and Data Companies Fueling Deportations*](#)



"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses
yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of
your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless,
tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

#RefugeesWelcome



How is the US living up to this Message?

Immigration Resources

Books

Taking Children: A History of American Terror, by Laura Briggs

Bans, Wall, Raids, Sanctuary: Understanding US Immigration for the Twenty First Century, by A. Naomi Paik

America for Americans: A History of Xenophobia in the United States, by Erika Lee

American Intolerance: Our Dark History of Demonizing Immigrants, by Robert Bartholomew & Anja Reumschuessel

They Take Our Jobs! And 20 Other Myths About Immigration, by Aviva Chomsky

The End of the Myth: From the Frontier to the Border Wall in the Mind of America, by Greg Grandin

No Wall They Can Build: A Guide to borders & migration across North America, by CrimeThink

Undocumented: How Immigration Became Illegal, by Aviva Chomsky

No One is Illegal: Fighting Racism and State Violence on the US-Mexican Border, by Justin Akers Chacon & Mike Davis

We Built the Wall: How the US Keeps Out Asylum Seekers from Mexico, Central America and Beyond, by Eileen Truax

The Militarization of the US-Mexico Border 1978 - 1992, by Timothy Dunn

Undoing Border Imperialism, by Harsha Walia

Storming the Wall: Climate Change, Migration, and Homeland Security, by Todd Miller

Sand and Blood: America's Stealth War on the Mexican Border, by John Carlos Frey

Empire of Borders: The Expansion of the US Border Around the World, by Todd Miller

All-American Nativism: How the Bipartisan War on immigrants Explains Politics as We Know It, by Daniel Denvir

The Right to Stay Home: How US Policy Drives Mexican Migration, by David Bacon

Drug War Capitalism, by Dawn Paley

Abolish ICE: A Passionate Plea for a More Humane Immigration System, by Natascha Elena Uhlman

Migrating to Prison: America's Obsession with Locking Up Immigrants, by Cesar Hernandez

Sanctuary: The New Underground Railroad, by Renny Golden & Michael McConnell

Sanctuary: A Resource Guide for Understanding and Participating in the Central American Refugees' Struggle, by Gary MacEoin

Not a Nation of Immigrants: Settler Colonialism, White Supremacy, and a History of Erasure and Exclusion, by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Border & Rule: Global Migration, Capitalism, and the Rise of Racist Nationalism, by Harsha Walia

Books continued

Build Bridges Now Walls: A Journey to a World Without Borders, by Todd Miller

In the Shadow of Liberty: The Invisible History of Immigrant Detention in the United States, by Ana Raquel Minian

The Deportation Machine: America's Long History of Expelling Immigrants, by Adam Goodan

The Case for Open Borders, by John Washington

Resisting Borders and Technologies of Violence, edited by [Mizue Aizeki](#), [Matt Mahmoudi](#), and [Coline Schupfer](#)

Unbuild Walls: Why Immigrant Justice Needs Abolition, by Silky Shah

Online Resources

<https://www.afsc.org/key-issues/issue/defending-immigrant-rights>

<https://www.aclu.org/issues/immigrants-rights>

<https://www.wola.org/program/migration-border-security/>

<https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/immigration-timeline>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_immigration_laws

[https://www.zinnedproject.org/materials/?](https://www.zinnedproject.org/materials/?wpsolr_fq%5B0%5D=themes_str%3AImmigration)

[wpsolr_fq%5B0%5D=themes_str%3AImmigration](https://www.zinnedproject.org/materials/?wpsolr_fq%5B0%5D=themes_str%3AImmigration)

<http://infographic.replacenafta.org/nafta-at-25-promises-vs-reality/>

<https://fpif.org/long-road-immigration-reform/>

<https://medium.com/s/story/timeline-us-intervention-central-america-a9bea9ebc148>

http://umich.edu/~ac213/student_projects06/student_projects/usica/main.htm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyncOYTZfHE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ueNWIMyUNy4>

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/link-voices/deportations-assassinations-and-dictator-nations-a-timeline-of-us-intervention-in>

https://fpif.org/a_plan_colombia_for_mexico/

https://fpif.org/plan_mexico/

<https://theintercept.com/2019/02/10/us-mexico-border-fence-history/>

<https://vimeo.com/121373551>

<https://michiganimmigrant.org/frontpage>

<http://www.nnirr.org/drupal/>

<https://unitedwedream.org/>

<https://www.immigrantiustice.org/>

[Left to Die: Border Patrol, Search and Rescue, & the Crisis of Disappearance](#)

[Joe Biden’s New Immigration Policy Is a Boon to Right-Wing Xenophobia](#)

[The Border Industrial Complex Goes Big Time](#)

[Biden Administration Takes Fresh Steps to Limit Access to Protection in the United States](#)

[Supreme Court Keeps Title 42, Causing Rise in Deadly Human Trafficking & Blocking Asylum Seekers](#)

[Number of Immigrants Under Punitive Surveillance Quadrupled on Biden’s Watch](#)

[BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION RESUMES UNDER PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN](#)

[The Border Patrol Has Vast, Largely Unchecked Powers That Are Expanding](#)

[In New Jersey, Activists Are Learning What “Abolish ICE” Means in the Biden Era](#)

[San Antonio’s Mass Migrant Deaths Are a Logical Outcome of Joe Biden’s Anti-Immigrant Policies](#)

[Tragedy in Texas: 46 Found Dead in Suspected Smuggling Attempt Amid Biden’s Harsh Border Enforcement](#)

[Biden Is Locking Up Thousands of Immigrants in For-Profit Detention Centers](#)

[Beyond the Enforcement Paradigm](#)

[Biden FY 2023 Budget Maintains Trump-Era Spending on ICE and CBP](#)

[JOE BIDEN DETAINED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN THE LAST YEAR](#)

[After Two Years and Over 1 Million Expulsions, Advocates Demand Biden End Title 42 Deportations](#)

[AMAZON CO-OWNS DEPORTATION AIRLINE IMPLICATED IN ALLEGED TORTURE OF IMMIGRANTS](#)

[‘Act of Cowardice’: Biden Pulls Out of Negotiations Over Compensation for Separated Families](#)

[Human Rights Defenders Warn Biden Border Policy ‘Quickly Transforming Into Trump 2.0’](#)

[Haitian Asylum Seekers Held Under Del Rio Bridge Now Face Inhumane Conditions in New Mexico ICE Jail](#)

[Joe Biden Beat Donald Trump — Then Stole His Immigration Policy](#)

[BIDEN’S PICK TO LEAD CBP SUPPORTS TWO OF TRUMP’S MOST CONTROVERSIAL BORDER INITIATIVES](#)

[“People Are Desperate”: Biden Vows Mass Deportations as Thousands of Haitian Refugees Shelter in Del Rio](#)

[‘Vile’: Biden DHS to Turn Away Migrant Families Under ‘Expedited Removal’ Policy](#)

[Free the Children: Advocates Demand Biden Close Fort Bliss Detention Center Holding 800 Migrant Kids](#)

[ICE DISCUSSED PUNISHING IMMIGRANT ADVOCATES FOR PEACEFUL PROTESTS](#)

[THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION IS ROUTINELY SENDING MEXICAN CHILDREN BACK TO DANGER, REPORT FINDS](#)

[BIDEN’S BORDER AGENDA COLLIDES WITH THE REALITIES OF MEXICO’S VIOLENCE](#)

[ICE SUBVERTING BIDEN’S PRIORITIES FOR DETENTION AND DEPORTATION](#)

[NEW REPORT DOCUMENTS NEARLY 500 CASES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST ASYLUM-SEEKERS EXPELLED BY BIDEN](#)

[As Biden Continues Trump’s War on Asylum, Danger Mounts in the Deadly Sonoran Desert](#)

[The Border’s Long Shadow: How Border Patrol Uses Racial Profiling and Local and State Police to Instill Fear in Michigan’s Immigrant Communities](#)

[BIDEN’S JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS DEFENDING A TRUMP RULE THAT RESTRICTS OPTIONS FOR IMMIGRATION RELIEF](#)