



# A Freedom to Move, Labor Mobility, and the Scope of National Sovereignty

Gregory F. Rehmke  
[www.EconomicThinking.org](http://www.EconomicThinking.org)  
[EconomicThinking.org](http://EconomicThinking.org)

**RESOLVED:**  
In matters of immigration, freedom of movement ought to be valued over national sovereignty.

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## The Ethics of Migration and Immigration

Introduction  
Migration is The Human Story  
Reasons for Migration  
Evolving Migration Characteristics  
Impacts on Sending Countries  
Impacts on Transit Countries  
Impacts on Receiving Countries  
Responses to Immigrants  
International Policies and Conventions  
Conclusion

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**Key Questions for Policy Makers**  
Lynette M. Parker

<https://www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/more/resources/the-ethics-of-migration-and-immigration/>

Do States Have the Right to Exclude Immigrants?

Christopher Bertram

ISBN: 978-1-509-52195-1  
May 2018, Polity  
140 pages

<http://crookedtimber.org/2018/05/25/do-states-have-the-right-to-exclude-immigrants-published-today/>

REFUGEE STUDIES CENTRE

## Refugee Economies

Rethinking Popular Assumptions

Alexander Betts, Louise Bloom, Josiah Kaplan, and Naohiko Omata

**Myth 1: Refugees as Economically Isolated?**  
**Myth 2: Refugees as Burden?**  
**Myth 4: Refugees as Technologically Illiterate**  
**Myth 5: Refugees as Dependent?**

<https://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/refugeeeconomies>

**Immigration and the Constitution**  
ILYA SOMIN  
GABRIEL J. CHIN  
JOHN EASTMAN

**Does the Constitution Give the Federal Government Power Over Immigration?**

By Ilya Somin  
Lead Essay  
September 12, 2018

The idea that the federal government lacks general power over immigration seems radical today. But it was actually the dominant view during the Founding era and for many years thereafter. James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution," and Thomas Jefferson were among its many exponents.

Legal theorists [claim] the power over immigration can be implied from other authorities given the federal government, or that it is somehow present without being enumerated at all. ...

The text and the original meaning of the Constitution undercut the notion that the federal government has... the power to forbid movement to the United States simply on the basis that a would-be immigrant was born abroad and is not a U.S. citizen.

<https://www.cato-unbound.org/2018/09/12/ilya-somin/does-constitution-give-federal-government-power-over-immigration>

## The Shape of Immigrants vs. the Shape of U.S.

US: few Ph.D. engineers and scientists and few without high



Immigrants: many scientists & engineers and many who didn't finish

**Glen Whitman**  
October 23 at 1:22 PM · 22


Let's put this in perspective. Every year, about 4 million babies are born in the US, fully dependent on others, possessing no skills, and not speaking a word of English. That's about 11,000 babies every single day. Letting in these 7,000 people would add fewer people to the US population than adding one extra day to the calendar... or in other words, what happens in a leap year.



CNBC.COM  
Over 7,000-strong, the migrant caravan headed for the US pushes on

**Debate\_Central** @Debate\_Central · Oct 24


"Romer's charter-cities campaign gained considerable attention... it seemed as though Honduras might fit the bill. Its government sought Romer out to help them establish a "Region Especial de Desarrollo," or red."



**The Solution to the Caravan Crisis Is in Honduras**  
The Honduran government briefly considered creating a "charter city" to which migrants could freely move. They should have gone through with it.  
theatlantic.com

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"Romer's charter-cities campaign gained considerable attention... it seemed as though Honduras might fit the bill. Its government sought Romer out to help them establish a "Region Especial de Desarrollo," or red."



**The Solution to the Caravan Crisis Is in Honduras**  
The Honduran government briefly considered creating a "charter city" to which migrants could freely move. They should have gone through with it.  
theatlantic.com

**IDEAS**

## The Solution to the Caravan Crisis Is in Honduras

The Honduran government briefly considered creating a "charter city" to which migrants could freely move. They should have gone through with it.



**Reihan Salam**  
Contributing writer at The Atlantic and  
senior editor of National Review

- At the start of this decade, the Honduran government briefly pursued an experiment so bold as to be almost baffling.
- With the help of a cadre of international experts, led by Paul Romer, the celebrated economist who was recently awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize for his contributions to the study of economic growth, it promised to create a new kind of city that would foster opportunity in a stretch of the country where there was precious little of it.
- Romer had dreamed up this idea of a "charter city" some years before, inspired by the case of Hong Kong, which became a magnet for impoverished Chinese migrants while still under British rule, and China's "special economic zones," the most notable of which, Shenzhen...  
573832/

**intelligence<sup>2</sup> DEBATES** [economicthinking.org/UII20](http://economicthinking.org/UII20)

## LET ANYONE TAKE A JOB ANYWHERE

The Research Join The Discussion Related Posts




- If we value a free market in goods and free movement of capital, should we embrace the free movement of labor?
- Reciprocal treaties would allow citizens of the U.S. and other countries to work legally across borders.

<https://www.intelligencesquare.com/debates/let-anyone-take-job-anywhere>

**Look inside**


**BOOK**  
**Let Their People Come**  
Breaking the Gridlock on Global Labor Mobility  
By Lant Pritchett | September 15, 2006



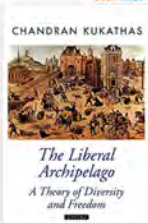
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<https://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/9781933286105-Pritchett-let-their-people-come.pdf>

**MIGRATION FREEDOM**  
PROFESSOR CHANDRAN KUKATHAS



**Chandran Kukathas: Controlling Immigration Means Controlling Citizens**  
F.A. Hayek Program | April 26, 2017



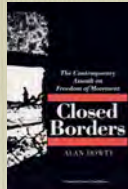
**https://ppe.mercatus.org/%5Bnode%3A%5D/essays/chandran-kukathas-controlling-immigration-means-controlling-citizens**

- But what I also want to suggest is that immigration control is the danger to freedom.
- ...the attempt to control outsiders ...is the danger because you can't control outsiders without controlling insiders.
- What immigration control is about, ultimately, is not the control of immigrants—it's the control of citizens and residents.
- "[W]ithout some kind of equality, freedom is just a privilege. So we want freedom for everyone. That's what a liberal democratic society means."

UIL Online: Rehmke\_UTA\_AdCXImmig-3

# Closed Borders

The Contemporary Assault on Freedom of Movement by Alan Dowty. A Twentieth Century Fund Report; Yale University Press, 1987



- Human history is the history of movement.
- Migration the principle drivewheel of historic change.
- Migration the means for diffusion of ideas, techniques, and cultures, and new advances stimulated.

# Free Trade & Migration

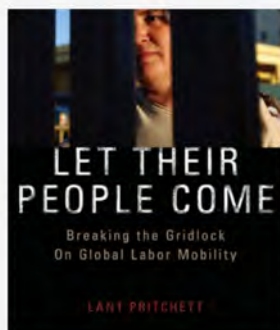
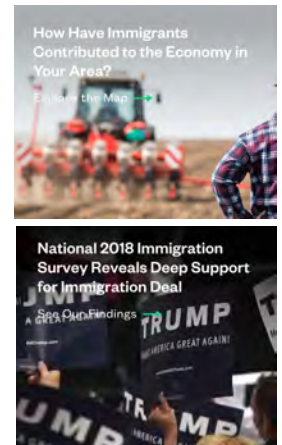
- “As supporters of free trade argue that the flow of goods will regulate itself, so defenders of free movement contend that the unhindered flow of people will find a natural balance.
- “In this view, the accumulation of millions of individual decisions will produce a better social result than any centralized scheme of control.
- The movement of people thus serves as a ‘thermostat’ of the relative pressures and opportunities existing in different societies.” p. 58

## Notes on Immigration to U.S.

- After railroads & steamships, but before passports... (“temporary wartime measure”)
- Migration: 1895-1920: 145,000 Romanians came to the United States. Many others migrated to Western Europe.
- 450,000 Hungarians to U.S. - 1894 to 1914.
- World’s largest migration: Europeans to North & South America in this period.
- Civil Rights movement points out that U.S. immigration regulations based on race, so advocated reforms, passed in 1964 and immigration rises through 1980s, 1990s, 2000s



[www.newamericaneconomy.org/](http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/)



BOOKS  
**Let Their People Come: Breaking the Gridlock on Global Labor Mobility**  
Lant Pritchett  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

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PAPERBACK

<https://www.cgdev.org/publication/9781933286105-let-their-people-come-breaking-gridlock-global-labor-mobility>

## Do States Have the Right to Exclude Immigrants?

- Christopher Bertram, Do States Have the Right to Exclude Immigrants? (Polity Press/ Wiley, 2018)  
<http://crookedtimber.org/2018/05/25/do-states-have-the-right-to-exclude-immigrants-published-today/>
- The Full Cost of the Anti-Immigrant State  
<http://blog.independent.org/2018/01/30/the-full-cost-of-the-anti-immigrant-state/>
- <https://lse.academia.edu/ChandranKukathas>

## Immigration Debate Topic

"The topic for the Spring [Global Debates] campaign reads: All states should immediately ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families." ([Global Debates](#))

Young people should understand, I think, that claims of "social rights" have the unintended consequence of blocking migration. "Social rights" claims usually turn out to be welfare rights claims, providing "free" (i.e. state-funded) education, medical, and housing services for poor migrants.

And it is just these fears of expanded welfare expenses for immigrants that push middle-income, everyday people, in the U.S. at least, into the anti-immigration camp.

If instead the topic were viewed as a freedom of association issue, and a rights and responsibilities issue, then a "freedom of responsible migration" would be more compelling. And students could learn of the thousands of associations that voluntarily assist immigrants (for both nonprofit and for-profit reasons).

## Articles on Immigration

[Migration Rights, Natural Law, and the Free Society](#), by Joe Klesney

[The Freedom to Move as an International Problem](#), by Ludwig von Mises

[Fighting Communism with Free Trade and Open Immigration](#), by Frank W. Bubb

[Closed Borders](#), by Alan Dowty

[We Import Capital or We Export People](#), by Gustavo R. Velasco

[Free Markets Mean Free Movement](#),

## Quick Links

[RedCardSolution.com](#)



Check out our new web site dedicated to the immigration issue.

[redcardsolution.com/](#)

**Opportunity** This free-market system gives businesses the opportunity to hire the workers they need, and provides opportunity to workers through upward mobility, job changes and permit renewals.

**Protection** The Red Card plan protects America's borders and respects the rule of law. It protects workers from exploitation and abuse.

**Fairness** The Red Card system means fairness because it will keep families together. It doesn't support special treatment for special groups, but provides equal treatment for all.

## Should We Let Them All In? How Immigration Helps the Economy



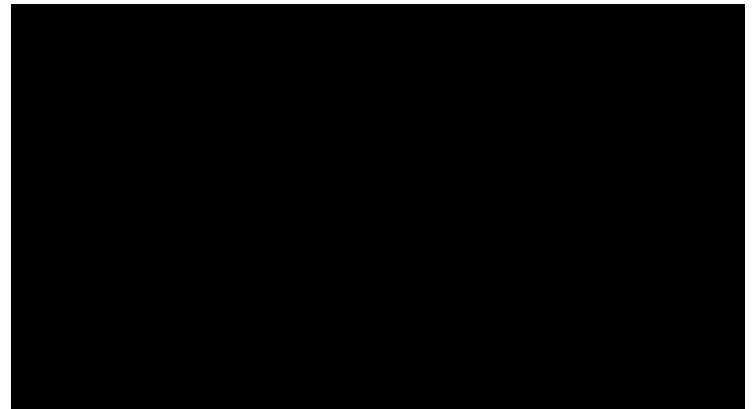
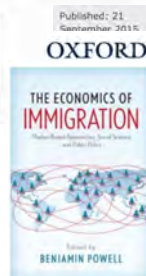
Facebook Twitter Email 41,732

<http://www.learnliberty.org/videos/should-we-let-them-all-in-how-immigration-helps-the-economy/>

Free Market Institute

Director and Professor of Economics

Benjamin Powell is the director of the Free Market Institute and a professor of economics in the Jerry S. Rawls College of Business Administration at Texas Tech University.



<http://www.learnliberty.org/videos/should-we-let-them-all-in-how-immigration-helps-economy/>

## Many Disagree... and Focus on Problems of Immigration

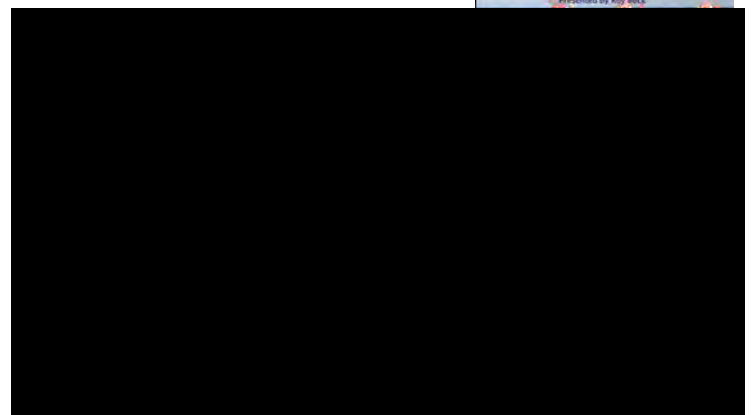
- Over 5 million views for *Immigration, World Poverty and Gumballs* by NumbersUSA
- Claims: 3 billion in world with income under \$2/day. And world population growing by 80 million a year.
- USA can't much help the world's poor by letting 1 million (or even 5 million) in each year.
- Poverty must be solved in the countries where the poor live.
- Immigrants and their children are only reason US population is increasing...
- Longer video claims overcrowded schools, parks, roads and, environmental harms.

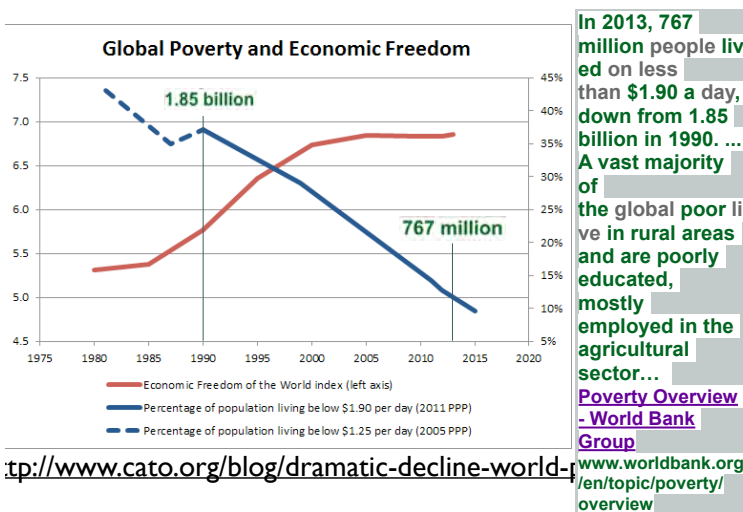


Immigration, World Poverty and Gumballs - NumbersUSA.com  
5,102,614 views



World Poverty, Immigration & Gumballs  
Presented By Roy Beck



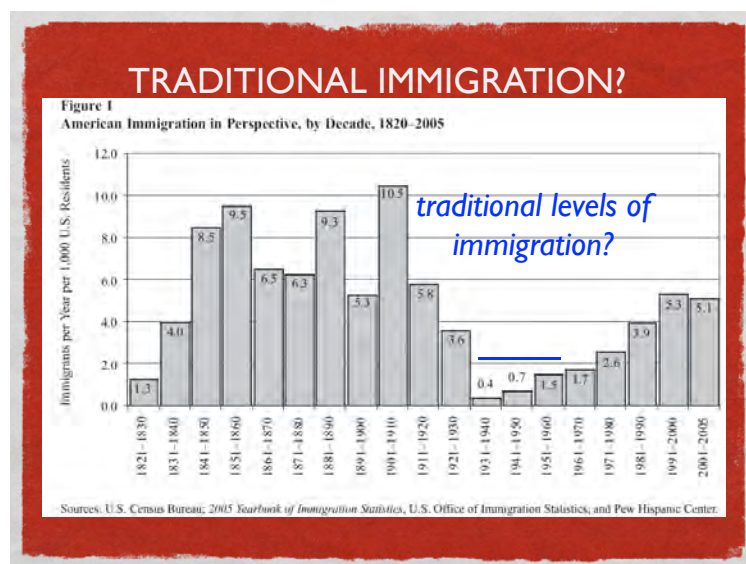
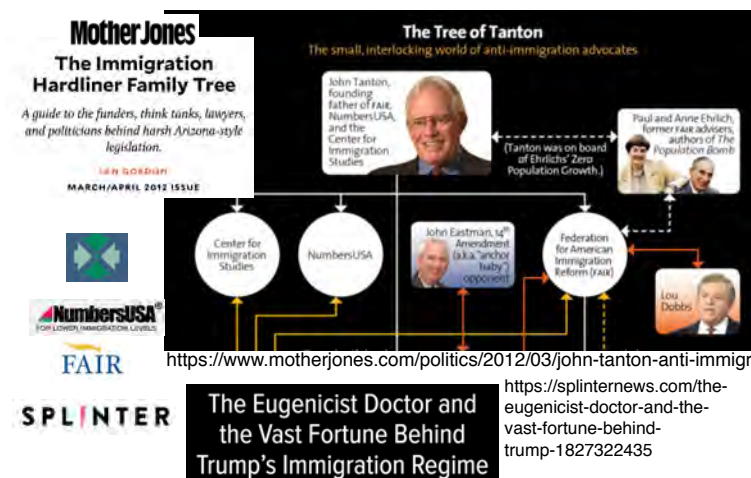


## The Anti-Immigration Crusader

By JASON DePARLE APRIL 17, 2011

- WASHINGTON — Three decades ago, a middle-aged doctor sat outside his northern Michigan home and saw a patch of endangered paradise.
- A beekeeper and amateur naturalist of prodigious energy, John Tanton had spent two decades planting trees, cleaning creeks and suing developers, but population growth put ever more pressure on the land. Though fertility rates had fallen, he saw a new threat emerging: soaring rates of immigration.
- Time and again, Dr. Tanton urged liberal colleagues in groups like Planned Parenthood and the Sierra Club to seek immigration restraints, only to meet blank looks and awkward silences.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/17/us/17immig.html>



## An 'America First' Immigration Policy

By Stephen Moore

March 6, 2018 | [Matters](#)

- America greatly benefits economically from a steady flow of immigrants (... 1 million new legal arrivals each year)
- Immigrants' age profile is beneficial to the U.S. They tend to come to the United States when they are young — between the ages of 16 and 35.
- They are educated in China, or Mexico, or Germany, or Ireland, and then America gets most or all of the benefits of their labor and the public return on the education.
- This is one of the greatest wealth transfers in the history of the world. It is worth trillions of dollars to American citizens. greatest comparative advantages in the global economy. ...

<https://www.creators.com/read/stephen-moore/03/18/an-america-first-immigration>

## An 'America First' Immigration Policy

By Stephen Moore

March 6, 2018 | [Matters](#)

[continued...](#)

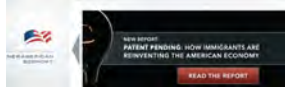
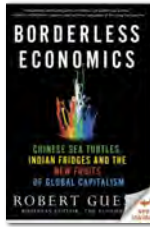
- Immigrants are especially beneficial now because of our unfavorable demographic[s]. ... 75 million baby boomers... are retiring at the pace of 10,000 a day, and there aren't enough young people to fill the gaps.
- Immigrants can and hopefully will — or else Social Security and Medicare will go belly up much faster than anyone imagines.
- —Since there is such a high global demand for entry into the U.S., we should set a price on these visas, perhaps \$25,000 or even \$50,000. We could raise about \$20 billion a year to reduce the budget deficit.

<https://www.creators.com/read/stephen-moore/03/18/an-america-first-immigration-poli>

# Migration Economics

How Moving Makes Us Richer

- Stories of immigrants who see problems and act on opportunities. *Cheun Yan from China saw lots of paper thrown away in the U.S., built Nine Dragons Paper, now she is worth \$1.6 billion.*
- *Sergey Brin, son of Russian immigration to Google. Similar stories with PayPal, eBay, Sun Microsystems.*
- [www.renewoureconomy.org](http://www.renewoureconomy.org)



## POPULATION CONTROL AND IMMIGRATION

- “What can we do? It is very simply. Congress merely has to lower the number back to what it was in 1965.”
- What is the history that led to restrictive U.S. immigration policies? (Chinese Exclusionary Laws (1892?), “Gentlemen’s Agreement” (Japan), Immigration Act of 1924).

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

### Terra Firma — A Journey from Migrant Farm Labor to Neurosurgery

Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa, M.D.

Read the full article in [Forbes, Aug. 2007.](#)

and sent back to Mexico, but I tried again and succeeded. I am not condoning illegal immigration; honestly, at the time, the law was far from the front of my mind. I was merely responding to the dream of a better life, the hope of escaping poverty so that one day I could return home triumphant. Reality, however, posed

### High schoolers beat MIT in robotics contest

**La Vida Robot**  
How four underdogs from the mean streets of an underwater bot championship.

**WIRED** High schoolers beat MIT in robotics contest...

## Free article... just email to request: [grehmke@aol.com](mailto:grehmke@aol.com)

### The Case for Immigration: The secret to economic vibrancy

by Phillip Legrain  
and TCS Daily  
interview  
with Phillip Legrain

depressing their wages. Others fret the burden on the welfare state. Some see somehow simultaneously "steal" jobs.

Governments increasingly accept highly skilled immigrants. The immigration would tilt U.S. policy in that direction system that gives preference to univ focused points systems are in vogue: one; Britain is introducing one; and c considering them.

For sure, as the number of universities and other emerging markets soars in increasingly important for the United the widest possible pool of talent—no individual skills and drive, but for th

It is astonishing how often the ex come up with brilliant new ideas hap Twenty-one of Britain's Nobel Prize

There is a contradiction at the heart of our globalizing world: while goods, services, and capital move across borders ever more freely, most people cannot. No government except perhaps North Korea's would dream of banning crossborder trade in goods and services, yet it is seen as perfectly normal and reasonable for

## Crackdown on Illegal workers...

### Crackdown Upends Slaughterhouse's Work Force

In agriculture, about 70% of all workers are illegal immigrants, according to independent estimates, and an existing guest-worker program supplies less than 2% of the work force required each year.

*"A lot of the people who left or were detained were strong union supporters," said Gabriel Lopez Rivera, a Smithfield worker.*

By STEVEN GREENHOUSE  
Published October 12, 2007

TAR HEEL, N.C. — Last November, immigration officials began a crackdown at Smithfield Foods's giant slaughterhouse here, eventually arresting 21 illegal immigrants at the plant and roosting others from their trailers in the middle of the night.

Since then, more than 1,100 Hispanic workers have left the 5,200-employee hog-butcher plant, the world's largest, leaving it struggling to find, train and keep replacements.

Related: [At a Slaughterhouse, Some Things Never Die \(June 16, 2000\)](#)