Research Question

How does immigration affect terrorism?

Literature Review


Brouwer, Evelien. "Immigration, Asylum And Terrorism: A Changing Dynamic Legal


Mills, G. J. (2012). Beyond the Backlash: Muslim and Middle Eastern Immigrants' Experiences in America, Ten Years Post-9/11.


Slocum, B. G. (2007). Courts vs. the Political Branches: Immigration' Reform'and the


**Hypothesis**

After a terrorist attack occurs, the national government picks one of two options:

1) measured approach to counterterrorism efforts through updating of policy, improved security, and comparable increase in spending

2) overreaction causing implication of strict policies targeting minorities limiting civil and natural rights, and dramatically increased spending.

Post 9/11, in the wake of the most devastating terrorist attack to date, the U.S. chose the second option – overreaction. The U.S. was in a unique position at the time as no country had been faced with similar shock on a national scale. The citizens of the U.S. were sad, scared, and desperate for the national government to take action. Over the past fourteen years, we have been able to see the consequences of this event on policy and freedom. We are now able to study the effects of terrorism on immigration in hopes of improving future reaction to terrorism. After 9/11 many other nations followed suit in changing immigration and national security policy. Recent terrorist attacks such as *Charlie Hebdo* (France) offer an opportunity to take lessons learned from the U.S.
response to 9/11, with the knowledge we now possess of the consequences of overreaction, and put them into action.

Methods

In order to test my hypothesis, I plan to look at the total number of apprehensions and deportations each year between 2000 and 2010 seeing if there is a connection between the policy implemented and those numbers (the chart below demonstrates this data).
Case Selection Criteria

The post 9/11 case was the natural choice for this research question. This event drastically changed not only immediate governmental response to terrorist attacks; but also, the policies that followed would influence many other nations to implement similar policies.

Data and Analysis

From the data I gathered, we see that there has been a steady increase in deportations since 2000. As of 2010 having more than doubled the total number of deportations since the attacks. What is more interesting about this statistic is that while deportations have been steadily increasing the total number of apprehensions have steadily decreased as well, with 2004 and 2005 being outliers in which it slightly increased from the previous year. This begs the question if deportations are increasing and apprehensions are decreasing how are these deportation decisions being made? I feel safe to assume this is in direct correlation with the policies, which have been implemented within those ten years. These policies often have language, which allows the government a wide berth in limiting civil freedoms for those that are considered ‘suspect’, while not clearly defining exactly what constitutes ‘suspect’.