

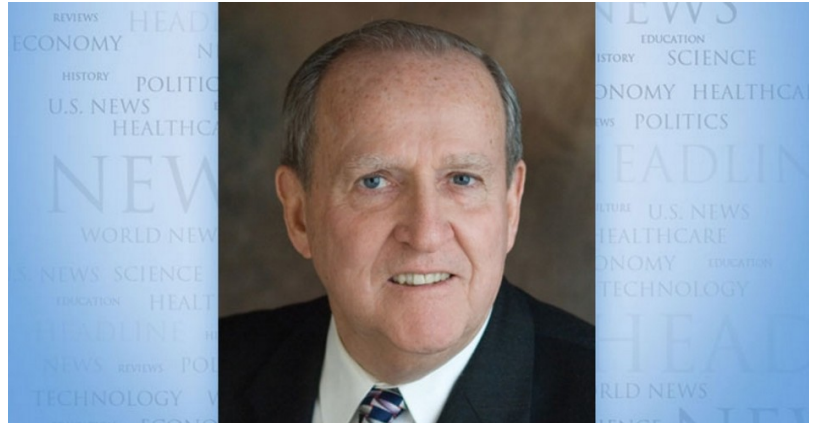


Written by [John F. McManus](#) on July 31, 2014

Laws Governing Immigration Don't Work — When They're Not Enforced

Over recent years, legislation and policy dealing with immigration into the United States aren't doing the job. Many laws are being ignored, others are working in ways contrary to their intent, and some that aren't even laws (e.g., executive orders) have the effect of increasing the number of border crossers.

The U.S. Constitution mentions the word "invasion" twice. Article IV, Section 4 mandates: "The United States ... shall protect each of them [the states] against invasion." Article I, Section 8, Paragraph 15 places on Congress the responsibility to "call forth the militia to ... repel invasions." Neither of these portions of the Constitution uses the word "military" as a qualifier for invasion. Neither is being employed to stem what amounts to an invasion.



During recent years, upwards of 20 million persons have crossed our southern border with the intention of staying here. Is that not an "invasion"? Millions of these individuals have been provided housing, welfare, medical care and education. No other nation in history has been so kind to invaders. And, as evidence clearly shows, some of the border crossers are drug traffickers, and others have committed rape, robbery, mayhem and even murder. Jails in the southwest are overflowing with criminals who aren't even citizens.

[Plenty of headlines today point to the current wave of children seeking entry, a new category of invaders.](#) Does anyone even ask how these youngsters, many unaccompanied by any adults, arrived at the border from Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica? They certainly didn't walk from their homes through hundreds of miles in Mexico before reaching the Rio Grande. It's obvious that help was provided and the children are being used to further erode our nation's immigration policy.

On June 15, 2012, President Obama did his bit to weaken immigration restrictions with an executive order now known as "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)." It directed agencies tasked with policing the border to use "prosecutorial discretion" in its enforcement actions. In other words, "Look the other way if you see illegal entrants that are children, or with children." Critics have labeled DACA "a path to amnesty" which it surely appears to be. The effect of this unconstitutional use of executive power has actually encouraged more to enter our country.

No one can doubt that immigrants overall have contributed significantly to making America productive and strong. Nor can there be assurance that past procedures were problem-free. But the penniless entrants of years gone by came into the United States legally. They got in line, secured qualified



Written by [John F. McManus](#) on July 31, 2014

admittance, and eventually won citizenship. Private agencies, mostly backed by religious groups, took care of many of the new arrivals. Allowing today's millions of illegal entrants to bypass the previous process for entry into the United States denigrates the worth of properly gained citizenship achieved by millions. But that is not the only problem.

Many of today's illegal immigrants have found jobs, worked hard, obeyed laws, and moved toward assimilation. But, with little or no understanding of America's foundations, even they threaten to alter the cultural and political basis of our country. Each massive wave of immigration throughout history has led to fundamental change.

Beginning around 370 A.D., for instance, Emperor Valens opened the gates of the Roman Empire and allowed entry to Germanic Goths and Visigoths. He did so to obtain recruits for his army and a source of cheap labor. Only a decade after the gates had come down, those immigrants began a war against the Roman legions in the provinces and it eventually reached Rome itself. In short order, the Roman army was decimated, the Goths sacked Rome, and the Roman Empire collapsed.

Even though there are some militants among the illegals here, there is little likelihood that any military uprising could duplicate what the Goths did to Rome. But changing the country can be accomplished with leadership supplied by liberals and leftists who can't be unaware of the dangerous policies and programs they are supporting, including the extremely deficient educational system given to all of America's youngsters.

There are more than enough laws on the books to put an end to the immigration crisis. What's needed is a determination to use them, properly and humanely. That's what swearing an oath to the U.S. Constitution should mean.

John F. McManus is president of [The John Birch Society](#) and publisher of The New American. This column appeared originally at the insideJBS blog and is reprinted here with permission.



Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative,
non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



Subscribe

What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.