

Written by <u>William P. Hoar</u> on December 21, 2020 Published in the January 4, 2021 issue of <u>the New American</u> magazine. Vol. 37, No. 01

### **Correction, Please!**

# Biden Dreams of Mass Amnesty, "America Last" Immigration Agenda



**Flood the country:** Presumptive President-elect Joe Biden's campaign pledges on immigration say that he only plans to evict dangerous criminals from the country, thereby inviting in by lack of enforcement tens of millions of illegal immigrants, most of whom are poor and will need welfare. (*Photo credit: AP Images*)

**Item:** In his first television interview after the presidential election, Joe Biden told NBC News' Lester Holt on November 24 that he was making a "commitment" for his "first 100 days" in office. "I will send an immigration bill to the United States Senate with a pathway to citizenship for over 11 million undocumented people in America."

**Item:** "There will not be another foot of wall constructed on my administration, No. 1," Biden told NPR's Lulu Garcia-Navarro during an interview with journalists from the National Association of Black Journalists and National Association of Hispanic Journalists, reported NPR on August 5.

**Item:** "After Mr. Biden is sworn-in in January, his administration will move to fully restore an Obamaera program that shields 640,000 undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children from deportation, halting Mr. Trump's unsuccessful efforts to end it, people familiar with the plans told CBS News." The Biden administration, CBS News reported on November 11, "also intends to rescind Mr. Trump's travel and immigration restrictions on 13 countries, most of which are African or predominantly Muslim. Mr. Biden will look to implement a 100-day freeze on deportations while his administration issues guidance narrowing who can be arrested by immigration agents."

**Item:** The Washington Post for December 2 summarizes: "The Biden campaign's immigration proposals are loaded with the wish-list items of immigration advocates and Democratic activists. The president-elect has pledged to renew and expand Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) protections, raise the refugee limit sevenfold, to 125,000 per year, and immediately end construction of Trump's \$15 billion border wall. Biden also has promised to overhaul the country's asylum system and once again make violent and serious offenders the priority for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).





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**Item:** The Biden-Harris campaign website ("Battle for the Soul of the Nation") blasted the incumbent U.S. president, saying in its "immigration" section that Donald Trump "has waged an unrelenting assault on our values and our history as a nation of immigrants. It's wrong, and it stops when Joe Biden is elected president."

**Correction:** Perhaps you have heard Joe Biden doubling down on his persistent calls for unity and national healing. Indeed, in what was billed as his first speech as president-elect, he implored all of us to "put away the harsh rhetoric," "give each other a chance," and end what he termed "this grim era of demonization in America."

Do you buy that? C'mon man!

You might be a tad dubious if you opened the vicious section of the official Biden campaign statement on "immigration." There, within just a few paragraphs, he smears Trump's policies as "cruel and senseless," "detrimental," mismanaged to "fuel violence and chaos at the border," "counter to our values as Americans," and basically "un-American."

On the other hand, true-blue Biden swears that he stands for immigration policies that "safeguard our security, provide a fair and just system that helps to grow and enhance our economy, and secure our cherished values."

Those willing to take that bait would probably swallow the fatuous claim that a pandemic can be cured through economic lockdowns and open borders.

Saying and doing are different things. Joe may pledge not to build another foot of border wall, because it is the sort of thing done by that evil Orange Man, but that does not account for the costs of halting construction — such as an estimated \$420 million for a single contract in Arizona in potential termination fees. (That must be true because it was in the establishment *New York Times*, albeit at the tail end of a piece.)

Even the leftist *Washington Post*, deep in a recent article, felt obliged to speak to an analyst from the Migration Policy Institute, who observed that a moratorium of all wall construction would be quite unusual. "A future Biden administration would still likely need to dedicate some funds to barrier maintenance, but if he really doesn't construct another foot of wall, that would be a break from the past five administrations," Jessica Bolter told the paper. "New border walls and barriers have been constructed under every president since at least President George H.W. Bush."

Joe says no, though.

Honest observers not necessarily in either the Biden or Trump camps admit that Biden's promised policies are likely to trigger a flood of "economic" migrants without realistic asylum claims.

First, some definitions are in order. Here are some of the terms often used when discussing illegal aliens. A Heritage Foundation report has summarized several of the programs involved, paraphrased below, including the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA), which was established lawlessly by President Obama:

- DACA recipients are those who applied for and received DACA benefits from the Department of Homeland Security; they number approximately 825,000 people.
- "Dreamers" are a broad label for anyone who came to the U.S. illegally by up to age 18 on





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the date a Dreamer bill would be enacted. This "Dreamer" population is estimated to be at least 3.6 million.

The population of illegal-alien parents in the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program is also estimated to number about 3.6 million. This means that half of all illegal aliens (11 million) living in the U.S. could receive amnesty via DACA or DAPA.

Nonetheless, widespread amnesty for illegal aliens — if not that name — still seems to be on the Biden agenda. Legalizing the "Dreamers" is said to be somewhat popular with the electorate. That is, if you believe the polls. However, Members of Congress don't seem willing to risk their seats with votes to do this legally.

This legal action could not even pass during the Obama-Biden administration. Irwin Steltzer, a Hudson Institute senior fellow, recalled in 2017 that was the case when the Democrats controlled the White House as well as both houses of Congress.



A line in the sand: Under a Biden administration, there wouldn't be any more border fence built, making it easier for illegal immigrants to enter the country and claim asylum, whether they need asylum or not. (*Photo credit: AP Images*)

Since the Biden folks have not been forthcoming about plan details, critics wonder if a new amnesty might involve more than 11 million illegals. The Department of Homeland Security, at least the pre-Biden version of DHS, has been worried about what might take place following another amnesty. As noted in a recent report by the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS),

DHS's most recent Homeland Threat Assessment predicts a massive wave of illegal migration in 2021. Whether that occurs (and whether the media reports on the effects of such a crisis) would likely determine whether the Biden administration attempts to turn down the magnet that a massive amnesty would create.

Under a Biden administration, DHS personnel would have different marching orders. Homeland Security components include, among others, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), United





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States Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The former vice president has already tapped Alejandro Mayorkas to run DHS; the presumptive nominee previously worked there in the Obama administration. As the AP has noted, the Havana-born Mayorkas was "a primary architect of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and a primary negotiator of the thaw in then-frozen U.S.-Cuban relations." Hearings could be interesting. Senator Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) has accused Mayorkas of "selling citizenship to well-connected Chinese nationals on behalf of Democratic Party donors" during an earlier tenure at the department. And a DHS inspector general report in 2015 found that Mayorkas "exerted improper influence" in assisting companies with obtaining employment visas, according to the Associated Press.

Is this disqualifying? We shall see. The Deep State tends to protect its own.

The Biden campaign pledged to "reassert America's commitment to asylum-seekers," but that can mean different things for different observers — especially for illegals seeking to extend their stays. As a Heritage Foundation report observed in late October:

The asylum process has become a major loophole in the immigration system. Recognizing that the immigration courts are overburdened and an asylum claim triggers a lengthy legal process, illegal immigrants often falsely claim eligibility for asylum as a tactic to extend their stay in the country. From 2008 to 2017, asylum claims exploded by almost 1,700%. Ultimately, about 90% of these claims were rejected as invalid or fraudulent.

Meanwhile, Biden wants to undo in 100 days — in terms of immigration policies — virtually everything that Trump was able to do in four years, against left-wing opposition. Overall reversing would be more difficult in a divided Congress. And while executive actions can be effective in relatively short order, it takes longer to change regulations.

If you suppose that the pandemic will thwart a Biden administration and its "progressive" allies from overturning Trump's moves to protect our borders, you are likely to be disappointed.

The Trump administration, as the editors of "Issues and Insights" (I & I) noted on November 20, has been using the

health and welfare provisions of Title 42 of the U.S. Code to immediately expel these border crossers, rather than let them hang around in detention centers and then be released into the U.S. This, the administration says, is "in the interest of public health." Data from the Customs and Border Protection agency show that it sent back nearly 58,000 border jumpers in September alone. Given the surge in coronavirus cases in Mexico and other Latin American countries, this policy is no doubt helping control the spread.

Yet instead of endorsing this public health campaign, or promising to beef it up, Biden appears willing to scrap it altogether. The Biden-Bernie Sanders "unity" document, for example, promises that Biden will "take urgent action to undo the Trump administration's unilateral executive orders on immigration, including abuses implemented during the pandemic."





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Biden's spokesmen have only been willing to say that, when in office, the new chief executive "will direct the CDC [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] to review the expulsions policy."

That's not particularly reassuring. "Instead of expelling illegals to protect U.S. neighbors and families," continued the I & I editorial board, "the Biden-Sanders priority is to make sure that 'health coverage is available to everyone for testing, treatment, medical services, rehabilitation, and that vaccines are available free of charge, regardless of immigration or economic status.'"



**An empty suit?** Joe Biden has indicated that his preferred pick to run the Department of Homeland Security is Alejandro Mayorkas (shown), who is most famous for being credibly accused of selling citizenship to Chinese nationals and flaunting U.S. immigration laws. (*Photo credit: AP Images*)

Elections have ramifications. In the runup to November, there was relatively little attention paid by the mainstream media to border security and other immigration issues — probably because the electorate was more on Trump's side than Biden's.

As the election loomed, Mark Krikorian, executive director at the Center for Immigration Studies, said Trump had the strictest immigration policy of any major-party nominee in modern political history, and "clearly Biden has the most permissive."

Speaking of Biden, Krikorian told the *Washington Times* that the issue was not "just legalizing all the illegal immigrants, which obviously you'd need Congress to do. Bush and Obama tried the same thing. But he's also proposed to stop all deportations for 100 days, which would include hardened criminals."

A senator for 36 years before becoming vice president, Biden likes to boast about his alleged foreign-policy expertise. In his dreams. Why is he so eager to throw away Trump's foreign-policy victories in Central America that proved so beneficial to U.S. security? To a large degree, the swell of migrants receded because of the agreements the Trump administration made with Central American governments.

It seems, unfortunately, that the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) was on target when a FAIR spokesman observed that the "Biden-Harris administration is determined to implement an 'America Last' immigration agenda despite having no mandate to do so."

If Biden's campaign positions are imposed, commented the spokesman in a late November article in *The Hill*, it will "spark the largest and most sustained surge of migrants pouring across our borders. Among





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other steps, the president-elect has said he intends to cancel agreements with Mexico and Central American governments under which they halted large, organized migrant caravans that were headed for the U.S. border."

Welcome to the flu world order, where invitations are being prepared for new caravans of aliens.



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