



Written by [William P. Hoar](#) on October 8, 2018

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## Correction Please

### Progressives Press for Porous Borders

**Item:** *The left-wing Washington Post, in part of its campaign against the enforcing of the law on illegal aliens, reported (on page one of its August 30 issue) that the Trump administration “is accusing hundreds, and possibly thousands of Hispanics along the [southern] border of using fraudulent birth certificates since they were babies, and is undertaking a widespread crackdown.”*



*Under President Trump, said the Post, “the passport denials and revocations appear to be surging, becoming part of a broader interrogation into the citizenship of people who have lived, voted and worked in the United States for their entire lives.”*

**Item:** *The following day, August 31, Washington Post columnist and associate editor Eugene Robinson wrote that “President Trump’s bigoted hatred of Latino immigrants has been clear from the beginning. Now his administration is aggressively persecuting Latino citizens as well.” He referred to the “multiple daily outrages committed by Trump and his minions.”*

*Robinson charged that the Trump administration “simply doesn’t see Latinos as full-fledged Americans.” He described how his administration “cruelly separated nearly 3,000 Central American children from their families.”*

**Item:** *Apparently prompted by the Washington Post passport report, a U.S. congressman from Arizona tweeted ominously on August 30, issuing a warning on his personal account against federal immigration officials who have been enforcing the law, warning that they “will not be safe” once Democrats regain power. Said Democrat Representative Ruben Gallego: “If you are a US government official and you are deporting Americans be warned. When the worm turns you will not be safe because you were just following orders.”*

**Item:** *During a televised debate with his Democratic primary challenger Cynthia Nixon, New York Democrat Governor Andrew Cuomo went ballistic in his references to agents for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The leftist, London-based New Statesman commented in its August 30 issue about that recent exchange: “Jaw-droppingly, Cuomo even described ICE as ‘a bunch of thugs’ at one point in the debate, a statement that would have been unthinkable for a mainstream Democratic politician even 18 months ago.”*

**Item:** *The Trump White House’s separation of immigrant children from their parents, claimed the London-based Economist for June 23, will “one day be taught in history classes alongside the internment of Japanese-Americans during the second world war.”*

**Item:** *Following the death of a University of Iowa female student, which led to the arrest of a suspect whom police called an illegal alien, a Time magazine piece attempted to refute what it called the claims*



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*of the president and other “anti-immigration forces” who “are quick to paint the incident as evidence that illegal immigration presents a mortal threat to those here legally.” Chris Wilson wrote on August 23: “Several tomes worth of research have failed to turn up even tepid evidence that an immigrant of any legal status is more likely to commit a crime than a native-born citizen.”*

**Correction:** Let’s follow the law — or change it. The crossing of the border into another country without permission is considered a crime worldwide. It is the president’s constitutional duty to see that the laws be faithfully executed — including immigration laws. And the president of the United States, in his own words, has acknowledged: “My job is to execute laws that are passed, and Congress right now has not changed what I consider to be a broken immigration system.” That president, however, was Barack Obama, in 2013. He apparently changed his mind.

The ongoing chaos involving immigration has been triggered because the current president is acting responsibly and implementing and enforcing the laws.

Many of Trump’s enemies clearly prefer to protect illegal-alien criminals than American citizens; at the same time they attack those whose job is to enforce the laws passed by Congress.

Some critics would rather decriminalize border crossing; the more radical favor open borders altogether — apparently not recognizing that protecting our frontiers preserves our sovereignty.

Specious arguments are often accompanied by iffy data about the relative level in the rates of crimes committed by illegal aliens.

But even *Time* did not look very hard to find what it did not want to see. Below, for instance, are highlights of what John Lott of the Crime Prevention Research Center found in his study (last revised on February 18, 2018), “Undocumented Immigrants, U.S. Citizens, and Convicted Criminals in Arizona.” From the abstract:

Using newly released detailed data on all prisoners who entered the Arizona state prison from January 1985 through June 2017, we are able to separate non-U.S. citizens by whether they are illegal or legal residents. Unlike other studies, these data do not rely on self-reporting of criminal backgrounds. Undocumented immigrants are at least 142% more likely to be convicted of a crime than other Arizonans.

The abstract also notes that such aliens tend

to commit more serious crimes and serve 10.5% longer sentences, [are] more likely to be classified as dangerous, and [are] 45% more likely to be gang members than U.S. citizens. Yet, there are several reasons that these numbers are likely to underestimate the share of crime committed by undocumented immigrants.

That study further found that, after adjusting for the fact that young people commit crimes at higher rates, young illegal aliens commit crimes at twice the rate of young U.S. citizens.

To find low rates of illegal-alien crime, a number of studies, as noted not long ago by writer Brad Wilmoth for the Media Research Center’s “NewsBusters,” do not make a distinction “between illegal immigrants who sneak across the border and those who overstay visas.” As he put it, those “who cross without permission are able to avoid the criminal background check process, while those who enter legally have background checks conducted in their home countries before they leave, so it is not surprising that legal immigrants and visa overstays would have a relatively low crime rate.”



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Meanwhile, here are some other relevant numbers:

- This is from the Department of Justice: 94 percent of confirmed aliens in our federal prisons are here illegally.
- Here's an excerpt from a report about U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) activities: During Fiscal 2017, "ICE ERO conducted 143,470 overall administrative arrests, which is the highest number of administrative arrests over the past three fiscal years. Of these arrests, 92 percent had a criminal conviction [or] a pending criminal charge, were an ICE fugitive or were processed with a reinstated final order."
- And this is from Mark Metcalf, a Kentucky prosecutor who served in the administration of George W. Bush in posts at the Justice and Defense departments, including a judgeship on the Miami Immigration Court, as reported in the *Daily Signal* (July 12, 2018): "Of the 1,254,152 aliens who were ordered deported from 1996 through 2016, 76 percent of them — 953,506 to be exact — remained in the U.S."

Yes, there are plenty of problems with crime and illegal immigration.

The London-based *Economist* (quoted above) has blasted the Trump administration for its immigration policies, in particular for "separating families." Yet, that liberal publication publicly supports some policies that many American conservatives could back: securing the borders and enforcing laws, as well as work and language requirements and "preventing the hiring of illegal immigrants and deporting those denied asylum."

The *Economist* also acknowledges that the administrations of George W. Bush and Barack Obama deported "many more people annually than Mr Trump." Yet, it insists that the "fear of immigration is poisoning Western politics. Donald Trump owes his job to it. Brexit would not be happening without it."

The State Department answered the *Washington Post's* front-page tirade about passport denials on the southern border (cited above). Days later — on a national holiday, in a small section of an inside page — the *Post* deigned to carry a bit of that response (even as it disparaged State's alleged incompleteness).

According to a chart provide by State, a lower percentage of people had their passports denied in 2017 and so far in 2018, under Trump than in the final years of the Obama administration. "The facts don't back up the *Washington Post's* reporting," said a spokeswoman. "This is an irresponsible attempt to create division and stoke fear among American citizens while attempting to inflame tensions over immigration."

Here's some background about the family separation issue, which the mass-media cameras exploited unfairly. This involves the children who were not kept with their parents who were being detained for illegally entering the United States.

This is not a new phenomenon imposed suddenly by the Trump administration, as has been pointed out by Hans von Spakovsky, a senior legal fellow at the Heritage Foundation. Indeed, it also happened during the Obama, Bush, and Clinton administrations.

The policy dates to 1997. At the time, von Spakovsky recalled, then-Attorney General Janet Reno settled a lawsuit (*Flores v. Reno*) that had been filed in California and challenged the Clinton administration's detention of juvenile migrants taken into custody by the then-United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). He continued:



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In the settlement, the government agreed that it could detain unaccompanied minors for only 20 days before releasing them to the Department of Health and Human Services for placement either in foster care or with their parents, close relatives, or a legal guardian. A controversial decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit [the most left-wing circuit in the nation] extended this 20-day limit to juveniles who illegally cross the border with their parents.

So the reason that children can't stay with their parents who are being prosecuted under federal immigration law is because of a court's misinterpretation of a settlement agreed to by the Clinton administration — not the Trump administration.

The parents would have been reunited, immediately, with their family members if they had just volunteered to go back to their native country. But it is easier and better politics — or so some believe — to blame those executing the law of the land. Thus, we get the spectacle of (for example) the governor of New York vilifying the new enemies of the far left: agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

ICE's former acting director Tom Homan, appearing on Fox News, rightly took umbrage at Cuomo's verbal attack, saying:

To call ICE agents thugs — think about it....

[They] strap a gun to their hip every day. Put a Kevlar vest to go out there in the community and protect America and protect the community. He calls them thugs. Actually, ICE arrests thugs.

But call names leftists do, and even threaten, with Representative Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.) warning ICE agents about how they would not be safe should the Democrats take over the Congress — hypocritically, of course.

As recently as 2010, a full 46 percent of polled Democrats supported “building a wall or security fence along the U.S.-Mexico border to stop illegal immigration.” Yet, last year — amid convulsions of leftist opposition to anything that Trump favored — that number among Democrats all but disappeared, down to eight percent.

Andrew Sullivan, the former editor of the radical *New Republic*, noted in *New York* magazine last fall that Democrats are now no longer willing to attack “illegal immigration” as a fundamental problem. That is, in Sullivan's words, “political suicide”:

In fact, the Democrats increasingly seem to suggest that any kind of distinction between citizens and noncitizens is somehow racist.

A major poll this summer revealed that only one in four voters supports the abolishing of ICE — which would seem to make this difficult to exploit successfully as a broad campaign issue.

That doesn't mean the Left will give up on the general issue. After all, if Trump supports something, it must be wrong.

In early September the administration proposed rules to hold the parents and children together until courts decide their cases. This was the headline of the *Washington Post*: “First, separation. Now, incarceration.”

The *Post*, you may recall, not long ago, dreamed up a slogan for itself: “Democracy Dies in Darkness.” This writer offers, gratis, a new one for that newspaper, to wit: “Some Papers Stretch the Truth. We



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Mutilate It.”

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