



Written by [William P. Hoar](#) on March 5, 2021

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Correction, Please!

Biden Ends National Emergency Along Southern Border, Pushes Amnesty, Prompting New Immigration Crisis



From a stream to a flood: President Biden, backed by a Democratic Congress, has been signing a flurry of executive orders in order to make sure that nearly no illegal immigrants are expelled from the country and that millions more head our way. *(Photo credit: AP Images)*

Item: Bloomberg Businessweek, in a special issue about the year ahead dated January 25, noted that President Joe Biden “plans to propose immigration to Congress immediately. The priority will be a faster path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, including ‘Dreamers,’ who were brought to the U.S. as children.”

Item: Biden did quickly issue multiple immigration-related executive orders, eliciting negative reactions. He signed three on February 2. As NPR reported that day, Biden said this “would lead to a more ‘fair, orderly, humane’ immigration system, including one that would begin the difficult process of reuniting migrant children separated from their parents after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border.”

Item: UPI reported on February 11 that Biden had just “officially ended a national emergency declaration at the United States’ southern border that allowed former President Donald Trump two years ago to divert federal funds to build his border wall.”

Item: The New York Times, in its print edition dated February 19, reported that on the previous day “President Biden’s allies on Capitol Hill” had “unveiled a far-reaching overhaul of the nation’s immigration system, describing it as a humane response to four years of President Donald J. Trump’s assault on immigrants. The U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021, formally introduced by a dozen Democratic lawmakers in the House and Senate, amounts to a lengthy wish list for pro-immigration activists and a down payment on Mr. Biden’s campaign promise to provide a path to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants.”

The legislation, said the left-wing paper, “would allow virtually all undocumented immigrants to eventually apply for citizenship; increase legal immigration; add measures to secure ports of entry and speed processing of asylum seekers; and invest \$4 billion in the economies of Central American



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countries to reduce migration. 'We're here today because last November 80 million Americans voted against Donald Trump and against everything he stood for,' Senator Bob Menendez, Democrat of New Jersey, said at a virtual news conference."

Correction: It is apparently easier for the sneer-sighted to insult the former president than to make a reasoned case for his successor's proposed mass legalization for aliens.

That's probably understandable — considering that the would-be overhaul does not secure the nation's borders; does revive the process known as "catch and release" (allowing "undocumented" aliens to stay in the United States while awaiting official proceedings); and would encourage even more illegal immigration.

Meanwhile, the Biden administration is trying to solve the illegal-alien problem, at least in part, by proscribing some inconvenient words — thus, defining it away. A recent official memo to employees of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services promotes the use of "more inclusive language in the agency's outreach efforts, internal documents and in overall communication with stakeholders, partners and the general public." The memo pushes for the terms "undocumented noncitizen" or "undocumented individual" in place of "illegal alien." Never mind that the law — the U.S. Code — has long employed the word "alien."

Disciples of wokeness in Washington marched in lockstep. The Democrat-run Senate committee dealing with immigration has dropped its "border security" name, going with the less offensive "border safety." In the corresponding House subcommittee, words dealing with "legal and illegal" are being called "authorized and unauthorized." And the Department of Homeland Security (if you will excuse the triggering expression) is going with "undocumented" and "noncitizen," eschewing the toxic "alien" and "illegal alien."

Border-jumpers were clearly happy to see Biden in the White House — with his campaign promise (among others) of a 100-day moratorium on virtually all deportations. During inauguration month, the numbers of arrests and detention cases jumped to almost 78,000, becoming the highest January total in a decade. As the far-left *Washington Post* begrudgingly acknowledged (in the final paragraph of a long article), that total was more than double from the year before, and the December numbers also rose "despite a typical winter lull."

Biden's early guidelines, outlined in internal memos, revealed that the new administration was going to have new "priorities," according to the *Post*. Under the new guidelines, it had been decided that illegal aliens convicted of simple assault, driving under the influence, and "less serious" drug crimes, among other actions, would not be deported, as they would have been otherwise.

There was a bit of discomfiture, however, for the new administration when it became known that the U.S. Marshals Service and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) had to "reevaluate" enforcement operations on sex offenders after an early executive order issued by President Biden. As pointed out by a spokesman for the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) in early February: "ICE had been planning a nationwide operation in partnership with the U.S. Marshals targeting at-large sex offenders, but it was scuttled by the new directive."

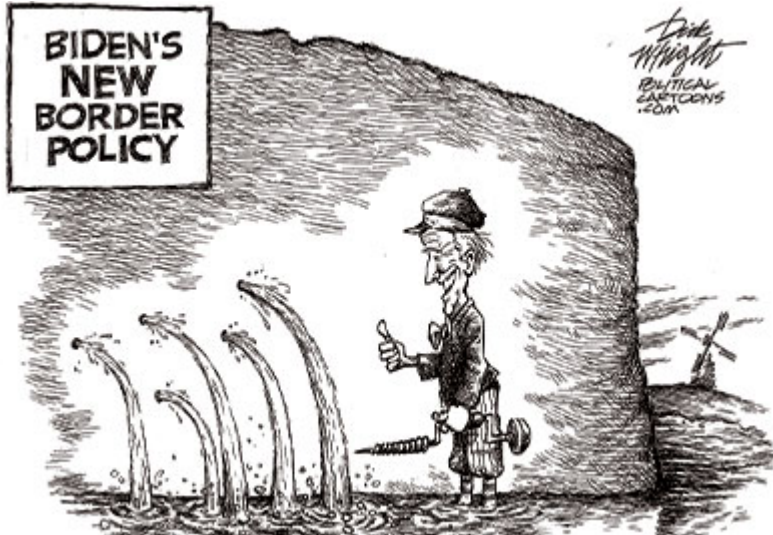
The mass media looked the other way. Similarly, there was no media-led outrage when the Biden administration decided to open a "temporary Influx Care Facility" in Texas to accommodate unaccompanied migrant children. When officials in the Trump years were required to use similar



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facilities (built by the sainted Obama administration), there was overwrought, exaggerated fury over the “kids in cages.”



There were some new rules instituted in short order, superseding some of Biden’s initial moves. It still seems that the Biden administration will allow certain high-level felons and national security risks to be arrested and deported. But the Biden people are making such arrests more difficult, to the point that ICE officers “will need approval from a senior manager before trying to deport anyone who is not a recent border crosser, a national security threat or a criminal offender with an aggravated-felon conviction,” reported the *Post*.

Don’t expect the revised Biden strictures to be particularly strong. Almost all the criminals will still slide through. Look at some numbers compiled by the Center for Immigration Studies: ICE removed 95,360 aliens from the interior of the United States in 2018. However, even if the new deportation policies — the more “strict” Biden policies — were in place, writes Jessica Vaughan for CIS, “Only about 3,367, or 3.5 percent, would have been considered appropriate to remove.”

Keep in mind that this is only one part of Biden’s hydra-headed immigration fix.

Stephen Dinan gives a good overview of the larger plan in the *Washington Times* for February 19 — including the legalization of perhaps 11 million already in the United States and fewer penalties for future offenders. The plan, he reports, “goes light on border security, with backers arguing illegal immigrants come not because of lax enforcement or easy access to jobs, but because of rough conditions pushing them to leave home. The proposal calls for a major round of nation-building in Latin America to try to stem that ‘push’ factor.”

CNN, being “progressive,” calls this a \$4 billion “investment” for the Mexican-U.S. border area and Central America. Realists, on the other hand, anticipate that this would be a U.S. tax subsidization of kleptocracy (“rule by thieves”), typical of so much foreign aid.

The overhaul, as Dinan notes,

backtracks on key compromises that had made past attempts viable, such as border security or requiring businesses to check new hires against E-Verify, a government program to screen out unauthorized workers.



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The Biden plan retreats on both of those issues.

“This is not a bipartisan bill,” a senior administration official acknowledged to reporters in defending the changes.

Some legislative proponents, hoping to rope in some GOP support, are promoting a piecemeal effort. Others, anticipating that there will not be sufficient Republican backing regardless of window-dressing, are pushing for the elimination of the filibuster or applying the budget “reconciliation” tool so this overall effort can be passed through the Senate with a simple majority.

There is a lot at stake. The effort by the Biden administration is “the most ambitious amnesty proposal in history,” in the words of Heather Mac Donald.

A fellow at the Manhattan Institute and the author of *The Diversity Delusion*, Mac Donald notes in *Newsweek*:

The plan would legalize virtually the entire population of illegal aliens, including those who arrived as late as December 2020 and who have thus developed none of the alleged community ties that have justified amnesties in the past. Criminals with all but the most heinous rap sheets would also qualify.

Traditionally, amnesty proposals have come packaged with a quid pro quo: an offer of enforcement regarding future immigration violations. Amnesties have a powerful magnet effect; they induce further illegal border crossings, undertaken with the assumption that the next tranche of illegal aliens will also be granted legalized status and an eventual pathway to citizenship. The promised future enforcement is intended, at least nominally, to counter that magnet effect.

Yet, as noted previously, Biden is not even employing an additional security promise. The president’s most recent lip service suggests that he would find targeted approaches to immigration reform to be acceptable “in the meantime.”

While there are many aspects to this issue, at its root it involves national security. Those seeking to open our borders are feeding the crisis. Mark Morgan, the former acting commissioner of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is on target in saying:

By reducing border security, stopping deportations, and promising legalization, the Biden administration encourage[s] illegal immigration. With catch-and-release back in play as well, U.S. policies are a stronger recruiting tool for human smugglers and traffickers.

Commenting in mid-February, Morgan observed that, in just a few weeks in power, the Biden administration had

taken a wrecking ball to America’s border security and enforcement capabilities — ending construction of the border wall; stopping lawful deportations; terminating agreements with our neighbors to the south that helped stanch asylum fraud into the U.S.; ending the Migrant Protection Protocols program, which was responsible for the end of catch and



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release; dismantling interior enforcement authorities, which will result in thousands of gang members and criminals being released into cities across the country; and promising free health care, expansion of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and an amnesty to millions of illegal aliens currently in the U.S.

After the Biden-led Democrats introduced their revamping of the immigration system, it drew deserved scorn in some quarters. Jim Jordan of Ohio, the senior Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, blasted it, saying in part: “This blatantly partisan proposal rewards those who broke the law, floods the labor market at a time when millions of Americans are out of work, fails to secure the border, and incentivizes further illegal immigration.”

In a mid-January article entitled “America May Soon Face Unlimited Illegal Immigration,” the Heritage Foundation’s Mike Howell and Lora Ries were pessimistic about the coming Biden presidency and leftist-controlled Congress. Scarce resources, they wrote,

would be directed away from current Americans and toward amnestied immigrants. This means it would be open season on the buffet of federal government welfare programs, as well as the continued strain on America’s job availability, education budgets, health care costs, and public safety resources.

Translation? Americans forced to compete for employment opportunities as wages decrease, crowded schools with burgeoning numbers of students who don’t speak English, rising health care costs, increased COVID-19 spread, and more gang-related crime, as Americans have seen from the ruthless MS-13 where it has taken hold.

But as Biden says of illegal immigrants, “We owe them.”

Negative. It is an apology to the citizens of the United States that is owed. That, and a prompt about-face from the latest ill-starred policies.



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