

**Israel National Defense College**

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**Final Paper Research Proposal**

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## Background:

As an interconnected world population continues on an upward exponential growth pattern approaching the eight billion-mark, nation states decline in influence, and regional conflicts hit historic highs; the world faces an enormous instability phenomenon that must be addressed. Annually a mass migration takes place around the globe with an astonishing 258 million immigrants or 3.4% of the world’s population [[1]](#footnote-1). Further contributing to this problem set are migrant movements primarily coming from poorer developing countries to wealthier ones which have more economic opportunities. Terrorist organizations exploit these numerous vulnerabilities and the waves of immigrants in order to gain entry into more secure countries of interest. In 2000 there were nearly 2,000 deaths of private citizens from terrorist attacks worldwide which increased to over 12,500 in 2014, representing an increase of 550 per cent.[[2]](#footnote-2) How did these deaths climb so high with stricter laws, policy and enforcement in a post 9/11 world? Conversely, the total number of deaths from terrorism declined for the fourth consecutive year in 2018, falling by 15.2 per cent to 15,952 deaths.[[3]](#footnote-3) What adjustments have been made to laws, policy or enforcement that created a fairly dramatic drop in terrorist related events? The largest recipient of worldwide immigrants, which has an additional pre-existing population of more than 10.8 million illegal or undocumented immigrants[[4]](#footnote-4) and 44 million total foreign inhabitants, [[5]](#footnote-5) is the United States. How is the United States Government (USG) dealing with such complex issue and what specifically drove those changes?

On September 11, 2001, the entire world had a front row seat to the most devastating attack on the United States (U.S.) since Pearl Harbor. This event changed life as we know it in a matter of minutes and set the stage for the new millennium. The immediate backlash to the security posture for most nations around the globe shifted dramatically that day. The United States nominated a special commission to examine the attacks that happened on 9/11 but began policy changes even before it pushed out its conclusions. Have post 9/11 policies been effective in reducing threats while bolstering a country that was built on a strong immigration foundation? What are the costs associated with these changes and how is the U.S. dealing with other indirect consequences to the 327 million citizens and 44 million immigrants?

## Research Topic/Methodology: Using the United States of America as a case study, identify key immigration policies (1996-2005), and through multi-method analysis (both qualitative and quantitative) assess the effectiveness of these policies and derive additional unintended effects caused by the establishment of the policies. Qualitative research will be triangulated to provide multi-source validity when quantitative data is not available or suitable.

**Question:** In the Post 9/11 environment, does the security benefits gained from stricter immigration reform, outweigh the negative impacts to the success of the nation?

* Study Areas: Primarily the United States
* Possible Indicators/Variables: Unemployment rates, macro-economic impacts, surveys providing impressions, immigration census data increases/decreases and criminal data and statistics.
* Research Sites/Data: PEW Research Center, U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, The World Bank, Migration Policy Institute (MPI), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) Population Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Report, Global Terrorism Index. Research sites will allow for quantitative breakdown of strengthening or weakening effects from U.S. policy formation. Economic data/stats increased or decreases in relation to policies, increases or decreases in terrorist attacks/attempts/convictions during policy periods, and migration data to more clearly see the effects of new policy will provide a more holistic approach to demonstrate policy effectiveness.
* Historic Policies for Analysis:

(1) The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), Division C of Pub.L. 104–208, 110 Stat. 3009-546. This policy is in relation to the first modern terrorist attacks in the United States but not enough given more terror attacks five years later.

(2) The Homeland Security Act (HSA) of 2002, (Pub.L. 107–296, 116 Stat. 2135. Legislation past Post 9/11 which made significant restructure changes to national security within the United States.

(3) The Real ID Act of 2005, Pub.L. 109–13, 119 Stat. 302. Further refinement on Post 9/11 security legislation which introduced additional security measures to protect American citizens.

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Importance of Research:Through detailed examination of three major counterterrorism related immigration policies and associated metrics of success, the findings of this research are intended to persuade elected officials to better understand their decisions, intended and unintended consequences of shifts in the policy they create and ensure purposeful implementation of future policy favorable to U.S. national interests. A secondary impact is to inform the public about matters that are not readily available which may change their understand and therefore influence their elected officials and/or support special interest groups of similar ideals.

## Project Chapters:

Intro: Open with a description of the globalized world containing seven billion people facing numerous destabilizing events such as: regional conflicts, environmental shifts, globally connected economies steeped in debt which will provide a broad context that all are facing similar difficult challenges. Intro will draw down to the United States and counter terrorism changes in the strategic environment which drastically begins to impact immigration policy.

Body (CH 1): What was the environment within the United States as terrorism came onto the stage? What were the policies just prior to and after September 11, 2001? What were the terror threats the U.S. faced prior to 9/11 and how did the adjustments (or lack of adjustments) work in relation to this new threat? Key examination in the chapter will outline the 1996 IIRIRA immigration reform providing quantitative and qualitative data analysis to attempt to explain successes and failures of the policy prior to 9/11. This chapter will incorporate a discussion on 9/11 and the 9/11 Commission’s summary findings as it relates to immigration. (CH 2) How and why did policy change from 2002-2005 and what was its effectiveness? Examination qualitative and quantitative analysis of successes, failures and estimated cost of policy change. (CH 3 What were the other know or unknown consequences (2nd and 3rd order effects) observed after policy implementation and what impacts or significance can be gleaned? Expected findings include impacts to privacy, growing costs to maintain strict immigration control (i.e. drop in the number of immigrants, cost of increasing physical screening of immigrants), and the incorporation of intrusive technology to further reduce future potential risks.

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Summary: What conclusions can be drawn from the key findings? What useful future recommendations can be gleaned in support of future policy? What personal Closure of the opinions can be drawn from the body of research?

1. Connor, Phillip, and Abby Budiman. “Immigrant Share in U.S. Nears Record High but Remains below That of Many Other Countries.” Pew Research Center, Pew Research Center, 30 Jan. 2019, www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/01/30/immigrant-share-in-high-but-remains-below-that-of-many-other-countries/. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Institute for Economics & Peace. Global Terrorism Index 2016: Measuring the Impact of Terrorism, Sydney, November 2016. Available from: http://visionofhumanity.org/reports. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Institute for Economics & Peace. Global Terrorism Index 2019: Measuring the Impact of Terrorism, Sydney, November 2019. Available from: http://visionofhumanity.org/reports. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Connor, Phillip, and Abby Budiman. “Immigrant Share in U.S. Nears Record High but Remains below That of Many Other Countries.” Pew Research Center, Pew Research Center, 30 Jan. 2019, www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/01/30/immigrant-share-in-u-s-nears-record-high-but-remains-below-that-of-many-other-countries/.

Duffin, Erin. “Unauthorized Immigrant Population U.S. 2017.” Statista, 20 Aug. 2019, www.statista.com/statistics/646261/unauthorized-immigrant-population-in-the-us/.

“United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) Population Fact Sheet.” UN DESA Population Division, Sept. 2019, www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/populationfacts/docs/MigrationStock2019\_PopFacts\_2019-04.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. “United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) Population Fact Sheet.” UN DESA Population Division, Sept. 2019, www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/populationfacts/docs/MigrationStock2019\_PopFacts\_2019-04.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)