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DIPLOMOVÁ PRÁCE

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The impact of Latin American immigration
on US identity

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Abstract

The aim of this master thesis is to identify the impact of Latin American immigration on US identity. Latin Americans have been coming to the United States for centuries. The United States portrays and offers a better life for people from Central, South America and the Caribbean which leads them to make a difficult journey after the “American Dream”. The theoretical part focuses on the terms which are closely related to migration and migration theories including the theories of the melting pot and salad bowl which are well known in the United States. The practical part is divided into four chapters. The first is a description of the different ethnic groups from Latin America coming to the US throughout history. The second chapter focuses on the economic impact of Latinos in the United States. The third chapter is an analysis of the social impact of Latin American immigrants on US society and the last chapter looks at the development of US immigration policies and laws as well as the political views on immigration by President Obama and the presidential candidates from the Democratic and Republican parties. At the end of the practical part I have included Samuel Huntington’s point of view on US identity and the impact of immigration on the United States.

Key words: United States, Latin America, immigration, identity, economic impact, social impact, politics, immigration theories

Cílem této diplomové práce je identifikovat vliv latinskoamerické imigrace na americkou identitu. Migranti z Latinské Ameriky po staletí přicházeli za splněním svého „amerického snu“ do Spojených států, které představovaly a nabízely lepší život pro běžence ze Střední a Jižní Ameriky a Karibiku. Teoretickou část jsem zaměřila na definice úzce spojené s migrací a migračními teoriemi jakými jsou „melting pot“ a „salad bowl“, které jsou známé především ve Spojených státech. Praktickou část jsem rozdělila do čtyř kapitol. V první části jsem popsala různé etnické skupiny historicky přicházející do USA z Latinské Ameriky. Ve druhé se zaměřuji na ekonomický vliv latinskoamerických imigrantů na ekonomiku USA. Třetí kapitola je analýzou sociálního dopadu latinskoamerické imigrace na americkou společnost a ve čtvrté popisuji vývoj US imigrační politiky a zákonů včetně a politických pohledů na imigraci amerického prezidenta Obamy a prezidentských kandidátů za Demokratickou a Republikánskou stranu. Na závěr praktické části prezentuji otázku americké identity a vliv imigrace na USA z pohledu Samuela Huntingtona.

Klíčováslova: Spojené státy, Latinská Amerika, imigrace, identita, ekonomický vliv, sociální vliv, politika, imigrační teorie

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Poděkování

Za odbornou pomoc při zpracování předkládané práce chci na tomto místě poděkovat vedoucímu práce panu Mgr. Radovanu Dluhému - Smithovi

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List of abbreviations

GDP – Gross domestic product

ID – Identification

IDP – Internally displaced person

IIRIRA – Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act

INS – Immigration and naturalization service

IRCA – Immigration Reform and Control Act

LA – Latin America

NAFTA – North American Free Trade Agreement

TPS – Temporary protection status

US – United States

USD – United states dollar

Introduction

The United States of America is a country which was affected by immigration from its establishment. People from Europe were coming to the New World in the time of colonialism and they gradually became the dominant group on this continent. The incoming society formed new policies, established an army and brought new cultures. Meanwhile the native groups such as the Inuit and the Indians began to have less control over their territories and slowly became a minority in America. Some people consider the massive depopulation of Indians as genocide and some say that it is a strong word. What many people agree on is that European and United States settler's projects were destructive to the natives. The Colonists brought with them diseases, alcohol, violence against Indians, enslavement, loss of land resources and many more things which helped to decrease the number of native communities (Ostler 2015). Throughout history, Indians were moved away from their territories because the Europeans wanted more natural resources. Today there are more than 500 tribes in the United States. The natives are mostly living in the Indian reservations which are managed by the native American tribes under the US Bureau of Indian Affairs. Tribes have some sovereignty and they are able to make few of their own laws. At this point the reservations are an attraction for tourists because native's laws permit casinos in the Indian territories (US Department Of The Interior Indian Affairs 2016). From the beginning America was home to people coming from different cultures, religions and backgrounds and they were learning how to coexist with each other. Every century brought with it a new immigration issue to the United States beginning with colonialists, the movement of Indians, discrimination of the Chinese, incoming European immigrants throughout history, the Bracero program and last but not least Latino and illegal immigration which are the issues of the present. People were coexisting with each other and formed a new American culture. Many people living in the United States today come from different countries all around the world and if they were born in the United States it is presumable that their ancestors were from abroad. Immigration to the United States (but also Canada) brought many positives but also a lot of negatives to North America therefore it was necessary to form a culture which everyone could follow and allow society to move forward and create a functioning state.

There are many reasons why immigrants arrive to the United States starting with political asylum, freedom of religion or a better life. Immigrants are bringing their

culture, traditions and customs which means that the United States is not solely based on the Anglo – Saxon background anymore but owing to these ethnicities the nation is becoming multicultural. In the past two centuries there was a significant inflow of immigrants from Latin America. Today are coming from the Caribbean, Central, South America and the numbers are increasing every year. Because of the significant numbers of people from this part of the world it is interesting to debate the future of America. This is a current topic and that's why I chose to research, analyze and generalize the impact of Latin American immigration on the development of the United States. The content of my master's thesis is to describe the historical impact (last two centuries) of Latin American immigration, the effects that it has had on American society but also how the immigration affected Latinos living in the United States. Within my theses I set out the three following research questions: What is the impact of Latin American immigration on the United States of America? Is United States still a country with Anglo – Saxon background and traditions? What role do Latin American immigrants play in today's American society?

I divided my thesis into two parts; the first is theoretical where I am analyzing migration in general. I continue with explaining basic migration terminology for example assisted migration, integration, assimilation internal and external factors of migration etc. In the theoretical part I also explain two American theories: Melting pot and Salad bowl. Thesetwo theories originate in the United States and show their view on multiculturalism. The final chapter of the theoretical part focuses on the explanation of theories of immigration such as neoclassic economy, theory of segmented market and others.

The practical part is divided into four main chapters. The first chapter describes the history of Latin American immigration to the United States. There are three significant ethnic groups which came to the United States from Latin America in the past and they are Mexicans, Puerto Ricans and Cubans. This chapter describes their history of coming to the United States as well as an analysis of Central, South American and Caribbean immigration. The second chapter focuses on the economic impact of Latin Americans in the United States. There are a significant number of Latinos living here and many of them are between the ages 19 – 49 which means that they will form the American work force in the future. They already have an impact on the US economy as workers (many of them are working in the industries, agriculture, forestry, etc), small business owners and consumers. Latinos are known for spending money and getting as much from the American dream as possible which helps the businesses (see chapter 2.2.3). Significant numbers of Latinos are employed in different types

of industries and are poorly paid. This chapter also analyzes where Latinos work the most and what sectors are missing people of this ethnicity.

The third chapter of the practical part is about the social impact of Latin Americans in the United States. Latinos are spread all over the United States but there are states, for example Florida, where the majority of immigrants from Latin America are Cubans. This chapter looks at the most significant groups of immigrants and their concentration across the United States. The social impact on the United States is important and second generation and bilingualism play a major role in American society which is the reason why I included them in this chapter. In the last chapter of my thesis I describe the development of the immigration laws and acts in American history from the 18th century until today. In this chapter I also present the Democratic and Republican parties' platforms and their proposals on how to solve the immigration issues in the United States. I include President Obama's and other presidential candidates' plans on how to deal with immigration in the United States. In the last part of the thesis I mention Samuel Huntington and his point of view on American multiculturalism and the preservation of American identity.

Theoretical part

1 Migration

1.1 Migration

What does the term migration mean? If we describe it broadly, it means a movement from one place to another or resettlement. Migration doesn't only describe the movement of people inside a country or around the world but it is also used in technologies, where it describes the movement of information and data, in fauna and flora where there is movement of different species and plants or in genetics where migration describes the flow of genes. In this part of the thesis there is a description of the migration and terms which are closely connected to this phenomenon (Svatošová 2013).

Migration was already essential to the first populations on the planet. In case there was a shortage of the plants and animals in the area where the first populations were living, they had to move to the more prosperous place which gave them a chance for better life and survivor. Migration from place to place was essential until agriculture was established which allowed people to live in one place. With the development of societies, forming of ethnic groups and establishment of structured territories was a time where emigration and immigration were established (Svatošová 2013).

There were a lot of important waves of migration throughout the history but the best known is the biblical emigration of Jews from Egypt to Israel. In this case, it is called exodus. Until today there were a lot of immigration flows which involved larger groups of people from poor countries, colonies or war tormented countries which brought with them different cultures, social customs and religious beliefs. As examples we can mention several migration flows such as Pakistanis and West Indians into Great Britain, Moroccans and Algerians to France or Italian, Yugoslavs and Turks into West Germany and now a day's Syrians and Iraqis into Europe (refugee crisis). These immigrants had an impact on their receiving country. They had a hard time accepting new culture and they were living in their own communities in the recipient state and in the worst case they were bringing political conflicts from their country of origin into their new homes. This is the time where becoming part of the new country and society stopped being a matter of a few years and begun to be a matter of generations (Esser 2003).

Big waves of immigrants change the environment and the face of cities around the world. The original expectations which the immigrants and the residents of the receiving country have do not matter anymore. The globalization brings the world into our neighborhoods and it is a shocking, hard, unexpected and confusing experience that people are getting. Theories say that immigration has always been with us along the way and that people were on the move before as they are now. That is certainly true, people were moving a lot especially in the 17th century but the question is if it made such an upheaval during those times as it does now (Scheffer 2011).

Today, society in the receiving country is not really open to the newcomers because they are bringing their culture, beliefs and customs with them, which means an unwanted change for the citizens. The mass of immigrants bring with them the pressure on many aspects of everyday life such as markets, places of worship, sport clubs or schooling where there are children who do not know the language and the system of school is different than in their native countries. The schools are now faced with the multiplicity of special needs and only this fact alone bring along a significant amount of problems. The history of immigration brings along its consequences and especially alienation which we can see today more than ever before (Scheffer 2011).

People are escaping contemptible situations in their homes for different reasons. Immigrants who came to work into the receiving country are expecting a better pay and escape from the economic misery that they are experiencing at home. Refugees are fleeing their countries because of their political or religious beliefs which could cause them their lives especially in the time of conflict. There are also immigrants who are moving to different countries to reunite with their relatives who left the country several years before them and the emotional attachments are still there, so the reunification is unavoidable. As the reasons of why people migrate differ, it all comes from “need” (Scheffer 2011).

The life of immigrant does not always have to be a sad story. There are a considerable amount of nurses, doctors, politicians, athletes or artists who achieved great success in receiving countries because they had the support and resources which made them successful. In order to have a successful path in a new country immigrants have to come up with the solution how to balance their old cultural background with the new gained customs. Sometimes it may bring the feeling of disloyalty to family or self – consciousness but in order to be successful immigrants have to adapt to the new environment (Scheffer 2011).

When families settle in receiving country and they decide to expand their family they are facing the issues of so called “in – between generation”. Parents are trying to pass the traditions and customs which they kept to their children but for this generation it is very confusing. They are growing up in a home in one environment and once the door is closed, the in – between generation is taught something different. Being raised this way causes arguments, big gaps and alienation between children and their parents. Even bigger issue is when parents live in closed communities and avoid the life outside of their door. That leads to the powerlessness of the parents when their children come home and need help or support. The parents are not able to give any of those because they are so detached from the society that they are clueless of what their offspring is going through (Scheffer 2011).

Immigrants are not the only ones who are feeling alienated. The natives are uneasy about the situation as well. The neighborhoods where families lived for generations are changing and people are moving elsewhere which leads to the creation of districts where minorities are becoming the majorities and majorities are becoming minorities. This situation is called “white flight”, it’s a phenomenon in Western countries who deal with the massive waves of immigration (Scheffer 2011).

United States of America have a long history of immigration. It all begun with the improvement of building big and sturdy ships. It was a time of discoveries because with this technology people were able to cross the oceans. The first people who landed on the American continent were Spaniards followed by French, British and Dutch. These nations began the colonization of the territory which led to migration from Europe. Migration to the North America wasn’t only in the past centuries, it still lasts until today. The largest groups of immigrants during the history were from Ireland, China, Latin America and Africa. African migration to the Americas is a little misleading because in this case it was forced migration in the form of slavery. These migrants brought with them a variety of culture, customs, traditions and believes which formed the United States of America into the country it is today. Thanks to immigrants from all around the world throughout the centuries the colonies and later states were able to grow and develop a lot faster than other countries and become a world power that it is today (Svatošová 2013).

1.2 Basic terms associated with migration

There are a lot of terms which are associated with migration. Those terms are connected to different issues that not only the migrants go through but also their native and

receiving countries. We can divide migration into many categories such as territorial, the relationship of the migrant to the native country, according to the period of time of the migrants stay in the receiving country, etc.

First we divide migrants into emigrants and immigrants. Immigrants are people who enter receiving country in order to earn money or settle down and have better life. Emigrants are people who are leaving their native country. They may leave the country for the rest of their lives or they leave the country in order to earn money and send back remittances (BBC 2014). Remittances are money which are earned by immigrants and send to their countries of origin to their families. The families use this money to improve their way of living, rebuilding their houses, paying for the children's education, etc. The problem with remittances is that not many families of the immigrants use this money to invest into different projects or small businesses and that's mainly the case of the families in third world countries. If they invested more, the countries could potentially develop faster (International organization for migration 2011). In this thesis I am using the terms according to their explanations and mainly I use the word migrant because it is used in the news, newspaper, TV, articles, etc.

There is also a possibility of assisted migration where the government or different international organizations assist the people who are moving from one place to another. The opposite term to assisted migration is spontaneous migration where people move from one place to another without any help only on their own (International organization for migration 2004).

People may also come to a new country as a refugee. People apply for an asylum and wait if they are going to be granted a refugee status which is a permit to stay in a new country. Refugee is a term which is used for people who are displaced from their native country due to persecution, civil unrest, natural disaster or war (Embrace 2016). Very close to this term is internally displaced person (later IDP). IDPs are people who were forced or obligated to move away from their home because of the armed conflict, acts of violence, violations on human rights or natural or human disasters and yet did not cross internationally recognized state border (International organization for migration 2011).

People coming to new countries do not deal only with economic issues but also with a lot of cultural issues. They are losing their identities and gaining new ones. Children especially are confused about where they belong and what culture should they follow. Identity is psychological feeling of an individual and how the person is different from the others. It is

a feeling of self – confidence, opinions, self – determination etc. which makes the individual and by moving to a different country a person may lose the feeling of their identity and in some cases that may even lead to psychological disorders (Autoři Encyklopedického institute 1986).

Immigrants are minorities in receiving country which means that sooner or later they will have to adapt to the receiving country and assimilate with the culture. Assimilation is when one group (in this case migrants – minority) has to adapt to another group (the citizens – majority). Process of assimilation may take decades and generations for the families and minority groups. When there is a chain migration there is a danger of the minority group not assimilating as quickly as they could but as long as the group of incoming immigrants is small the people will lean towards assimilative contact because they won't have that many ethnic opportunities. In case the minority group of immigrants is large the assimilation is still inevitable. The first generation of immigrants will have hard time adapting to new society but the second and third generations will try to adapt more. It might be harder for them in case there is continuous flow of new immigrants but the process is still unavoidable (Esser 2003).

The next step is integration. Integration is a process when an individual or a minority is accepted into a society of the receiving country. Each country is different which means that each country has different expectations from the immigrants. The demands and requirements which each society sets for the immigrants in order to be integrated differ. It is not a matter of one person to decide if the person or the group integrated or not. It is matter of many actors in the country for example host government, different institutions, communities, the immigrants themselves, etc. (Glossary on migration 2004).

Hartmut Esser talks in his working paper about the importance of (intergenerational) integration which mentions three different but interdependent aspects. The first aspect is the social integration of migrants. This aspect is about the immigrants individually becoming a part of the social system. That means becoming a part of the society and being included in a labor market or part of the community. The second aspect is the emergence of certain social structures which are social inequality and social differentiation. The author describes those two aspects like this : *“Social inequality refers to differences in certain traits within aggregates of (non-related) individual actors, for instance with regard to income, occupations, or cultural lifestyles; social differentiation refers to differences with regard to the various social systems within a broader societal context, for instance in the form of the*

various functional sub-systems of the societal division of labor, of communities, networks and organizations, or regional sub-societies. Both these elements of social structure have a horizontal and a vertical dimension, depending on whether or not the respective aggregates or social systems are only different, but equal in their evaluation (Esser 2003)“. The third aspect is the integration of the whole society into the receiving country’s society. This may be difficult because the societies may have to overcome structural obstacles or even conflicts (Esser 2003).

Acculturation is another term which is associated with migrants. Once migrants move to receiving country they need to adapt. Acculturation is a process where migrants adopt elements of foreign culture. These elements are for example institutions, ideas, language, words, norms, values, behavior, etc. The adaptation may be total or only partial. In order to adapt people have to keep in contact and interact with other groups and people from different parts of the society. Knowledge of another culture and the ability to adapt a new culture is accomplished through migration and trade relations (Glossary on migration 2004).

Two very important terms which are relevant to migration are brain drain and brain gain. Brain drain is a situation when highly skilled, talented and trained people leave the original country. The receiving country gains a new very talented worker but the country of origin loses very valuable part of the society. This situation is especially hard for the developing countries which value greatly every educated person they have but they aren’t able to pay them as much as in the developed countries. These first world countries don’t help the situation because they are trying to come up with programs, scholarships and different privileges for these talented people to come and at first they study in the country and after their studies they are offered jobs and stay. Countries such as Great Britain, Canada and Australia are known for these programs. A survey in India showed that nearly 40 % of Indian emigrants had more than a high – school education and in Cape Verdes, it is estimated that around two thirds of the educated population lives outside of the country. Policy makers in developing countries are unhappy about these facts and consider this as a deprivation to their economies. These educated workers are able to come up with new technologies, new strategies, they can teach at universities and work in hospitals and help the countries to raise their standards of living (The economist 2011).

Brain gain is an immigration of highly educated and skilled workers from third country into the receiving country. Countries around the world desire these talented people

and as it was said before they position their immigration policies in order to attract these desirable people. Brain gain is also called a reverse brain drain (Migration policy institute 2016).

Territorial aspects divide migration into internal migration and external migration. Internal migration is when an individual or group of individuals move within a country for a particular purpose or in order to establish new residence. These people move inside their country for example from rural to urban area, from city to city, etc.) On the other hand we have international migration where persons are moving from their native country to another country in order to establish new lives either temporarily or permanently. These people are crossing internationally recognized borders therefore it is international migration (Glossary on migration 2004).

Migration is also divided according to the time of stay of the immigrant. There is a temporary migration which may take up to several years but the immigrant doesn't stay in the country permanently. These immigrants are also called temporary migrant workers. These workers may be skilled or not but they stay in the receiving country for a periods of time. They either want to save up money for different reasons or they sign a contract with a particular business and they work there until the job is done or until the contract terminates (International organization for migration 2004). Permanent migration is when a permanent residence of an individual is in the receiving country and the person decides to settle there.

The will of a migrant also plays an important role in migration. We divide this type of migration into voluntary or self imposed migration. Voluntary migration may be realized only by one person, a group or as a mass migration and it comes only from a personal decision. A forced migration is when a person has to leave the country unwillingly for example deported, evacuated, etc. A collective migration (exodus) caused by war or natural disaster also falls into the category of forced migration (Autoři Encyklopedického institutu 1985).

Migration might be analyzed by push and pull factors. Push factors are things which drive people from the country of origin. On the other hand pull factors attract people to move to another country. The factors of migration which are linked to push – pull factors model are social, economical or environmental (Glossary on migration 2004).

Push factors:

Environmental push factors drive people from their homes on the grounds of the environmental conditions they live in. For example in Africa people move because of the lack of clean water and droughts. Other reasons may be natural disasters, wildfires, etc. Social push factors are political instability, war, civil war, fear of persecution. These factors drive people to move and in many cases it is a permanent migration. Economic push factors drive away people who see better job opportunities in another region or country (Lewish historical society 2016).

Pull factors:

Regions with warm weather are the most attractive for immigrants. The environmental pull factors are countries and regions with mountains, warm weather or seaside. These areas aren't only sought after by retirees but also migrants from harsher climates. As a social pull factor is considered political situation in the country. People are looking for freedom so countries with democratic systems attract people from non – democratic countries. Economic pull factors are most importantly jobs. People move to countries where better jobs are available or to countries which have natural resources (potential for miners, engineers, etc.). New enterprises and industries attract people like factory workers, scientists or technicians (Lewish historical society 2016).

The sciences which deal with migration are sociology, demography and social and cultural anthropology. Demography concentrates on the movement of migrants. On the other hand sociology and social and cultural anthropology concentrates on the motives and the impacts migration has on life style, social structure, family, relationships, etc. (Sociology Guide 2016).

1.3 United States' theories

1.3.1 Melting pot

Melting pot is a theory that is closely connected to the United States. With the theory of constructing a “new race” out of many came already Ralph Waldo Emerson in 1845. At first this theory was primarily meant for the first 13 colonies that formed the United States, but later as US became a nation of immigrants the theory got a new dimension. America's dynamics change, one moment America puts emphasis on unity and the other moment on diversity (Scheffer 2011).

The theory of melting pot society is America's pride. The term was founded by Israel Zangwill and it should encourage the people coming to America to assimilate and become part of the American culture, in other words newcomers should Americanize. This theory was challenged by other ideas like multiculturalism, salad bowl or the theory of "cultural mosaic" used in Canada. Those ideas were mainly built on the assumption that the immigrants won't become fully part of the society, that they will not assimilate and the society will try to integrate but still keep their own national characteristics. Samuel Huntington (Harvard political scientist) says that Latino immigration is a threat to the United States. He puts aside all of those theories and comes up with his own theory of "Tomato soup": "*The blending of new ingredients adds spice without compromising the essential character of tomato*" (BBC 2006). He says that the immigration in the past enriched the US but the Anglo – Protestant culture was the bedrock of the US identity at least until the last decades of the 20th century. He sees the biggest threat in the Mexican migration because in his theory it divides America into two identities (BBC 2006).

Melting pot is closest to the Enlightenment thinking and it looks at America as a mixture of old cultures, which are the base ingredients for new culture. Melting pot became an image of US and great examples are the Ford factories where there were huge cauldrons on the stage ("Ford English School Melting Pot – carved on them). A big show was put together where the immigrants are coming from ships, getting into the cauldrons and when they got out, they were properly dressed Americans holding stars and stripes. Ford English School was established in 1914 and it was created because Ford's Highland Park Plant saw that immigrants needed to integrate better and they needed help to do that. The Ford English School was giving English lessons to the immigrants and created more courses for the foreigners where they were able to learn how to become US citizens. Ford English School was able to provide training in English and citizenship which was very important at that time and it got to the point where US Naturalization Service counted graduating from the Ford English School as meeting most of the requirements in order to take the citizenship exam (The Henry Ford 2016). Melting pot the way America was thinking in the 1920s, the support for the Americanization of immigration grew. Some people saw it as a comfortable solution to the situation and others would say that in order for the transition to be successful it is necessary to put pressure on the assimilation (Scheffer 2011).

If we look at American history we have to ask if the melting pot really happened. Two sociologists Daniel Nathan Glazer and Patrick Moynihan came to the conclusion in their book

“Beyond the Melting Pot (1963)” which states that melting pot never happened and the migrant groups were never absorbed into the whole society. As in 1960 the ethnicity was still very important for example in New York where large communities of Italian, Irish, Puerto Ricans and Jews were living. Yet people imagine that ethnicity means holding on to the old culture and customs but they change with the generations. Glazer and Moynihan say: *“Ethnic groups than, even after distinctive language, customs, and cultures are lost, as they largely were in the second generation, and even more fully on the third generation, are continually recreated by new experiences in America. ...A man is connected to his group by ties of family and friendship. But he is also connected by ties of interest. The ethnic groups in New York are also interest groups”* (Scheffer 2011). If we look at the ethnicities throughout the generations they may fade but that is less likely with the religious identities. Those religious identities are held by people for generations. Even though marriages between national groups increased in the past, there are very few marriages between different religious groups. Does that mean the United States is put together from many melting pots? So far we are able to count four, Catholic Protestant, Jewish and Muslim (Scheffer 2011).

Time moves on and so do the theories and opinions. According to the 2000 census more people identify themselves as Americans and do not hold on to their ethnicities. Successful were especially the Europeans who melted into the American society well and we can say that America is the only place where European integration has been fruitful (Scheffer 2011).

For immigrants it is very difficult to hold on to their ethnicities especially when the second and third generations live in such an “attractive” environment like America. Children are less likely to hold on to the old customs and traditions of their parent’s native country since they are growing up somewhere else. Parents have hard time preventing their children with picking up new habits and later on the boundaries which separate those generations from the outside world fall and people will “melt” (Scheffer 2011).

1.3.2 Salad Bowl

Salad bowl (aka cultural mosaic called in Canada) is another American theory and view on immigration. This theory describes the integration as a salad. Many ingredients are put together in one bowl but they never melt into each other. This model challenges the more traditional, American theory the melting pot. In the salad bowl the different cultures stay distinct; they don’t mix together in one homogenous society. Immigrants who chose to follow

this theory assimilate into the receiving country but still keep the old cultural traditions, habits and practices from their native country. There are also groups of immigrants who decide to live on the outside of the society in ethnic enclaves and they strictly follow their traditional cultures and avoid the receiving country as much as possible. This situation causes a dilemma for the immigrants coming to US since there is more than one option to follow. They are standing in front of the decision to either assimilate and live in the multicultural society or be part of the ethnic enclave (Mahfouz 2013).

This view on immigration expresses the ideology of multiculturalism. This theory makes the ethnicities living together acknowledge the differences and imagines them living together in peace and respecting everyone's culture. They are "only" connected by the dressing (figure of speech – it means territory) in this case country. United States were dealing a lot with intercultural and interracial problems in its history. Since 1940's US started to think how to help schools to deal with the intercultural and interracial tensions among people and how to get rid of discrimination against minorities. One of the ideas was to create new curriculums which would help to rebuild relationships between Americans and other minorities. Thornton says: *"Multiculturalism as we know it is not about respecting or celebrating the salad bowl of cultural or ethnic diversity, but about indicting American civilization for its imperial, colonial, xenophobic, and racist sins. Multiculturalism idealizes immigrant cultures and ignores their various dysfunctional practices and values. At the same time, it relentlessly attacks America as a predatory, soulless, exploitative, warmongering villain responsible for all the world's ills"* (Thornton 2012). Multiculturalism can be viewed in many different ways. We may take the best or the worst from it. The native culture may be enriched by incoming immigrants or other ethnicities living in the territory. On the other hand these groups may demand special treatments which are usually based on the assumption that the particular groups has been a victim of a wrong doing in the past and now it demands some form of reparation (Thornton 2012).

1.4 Explanation theories of migration

Neoclassic economy

The core of this theory comes from the uneven economical development of countries and uneven division of work and capital. There are states which have cheap labor and do not have the work for them and there are states which are looking for cheap labor. The initiation moment for migration is to balance out the supply and demand of the labor. This theory is closely connected to push and pull factors and in this case the push factors are no jobs in

migrant's native countries and the pull factor is the salary in the receiving country (Baršová, Barša 2005). The studies show that the push and pull factors aren't usually the universal rule to this theory. The research shows that many migrants who move in order to get a better job are not from the poorest countries but from countries which are going through economic transition/ development. A good example is Europe, even though there are economic differences throughout European countries, there isn't a mass immigration to look for jobs in the rich countries. This theory had its peak in the 60s of the 19th century (Szalo 2007). In my opinion many immigrants come to new countries because they want to earn more money and help their families at home. There are also political, social and cultural reasons.

Theory of segmented market

The core of this theory is the pull factors of the receiving country. In the economic sphere we move from micro to macro level. The base of this theory is not solely dependent on the supply and demand of labor; this theory is based on the socially, economically and culturally structured work positions in the receiving country. There are certain positions which are not lucrative and the salaries are low and workers do not have many chances to go up the ladder. These jobs are called the "dead end jobs". Citizens of the receiving country don't work in these kinds of jobs, not even if there is an economic crisis. It is socially unacceptable, so these jobs are there for the immigrants who do not care about the social status in the receiving country and the salary they get will earn them a decent social position in their own country which is more important to them. This situation doesn't create a conflict between the locals and the immigrants. It is also assumed that these immigrants won't stay in the country permanently, which means there is happiness on both sides. In case the immigrants decide to stay in the country permanently and try to demand the same laws and salaries as the natives, that situation may escalate into a conflict (Mazúrová 2008).

The world system theory

The roots of this theory go all the way to the 17th century when the system of nation state was formed. It was formed based on the expansion of the developed countries capital to developing countries. This transfer caused problems in agriculture in developing countries which led to releasing work labor and transferring it to the developed countries. Moving of the work labor creates cultural, economical and social connections; it is not only about the geographical movement now but also about changes in social, legal and political spheres. The arrival of new immigrants creates competition for the citizens. The employers have dilemma

whether to employ immigrants or not, they are cheap labor on one hand but have low social status on the other hand. The basic assumption of this theory is accumulation of capital. There are centers (global cities) which attract businessmen, companies, etc. and also the cheap labor which is the periphery of the social structure. Centers and peripheries are not only local problem but it is a global issue (Szalo2007).

Building on Wallerstein, the structure of the world market changes and this theory links the determinants of migration to these changes. There is increase in the interdependence of economies and new forms of production emerge every day. That is why World system theory views immigration as the product of globalization. The export, manufacturing and agriculture are connected to foreign direct investment flows from the core countries to semi – peripheries and to developing economies. This process disturbs the traditional work structures and mobilizes people. People are than moving not only regionally but are forced to move long distances away from home. In this theory the movement of capital plays a big role. This theory can be described as a coin. This coin has two sides and is dependent on the capital and labor mobility. According to World system theory migration is natural outgrowth of the capitalist development(Kurekova 2011).

New economy of migration

The core of this theory is family. This theory concentrates on the family delegate who moves from the rural area to the city either in the native country or across the border. These workers send home remittances which help their families to survive and take care of the basic needs. If the immigrants are successful in the city, they are able to send home enough financial support to start new small businesses which prevent the families from bankruptcy in case there is a bad harvest or natural disaster. The factor here which influences the range of migration is not the salary but qualitative level of insurance and credit markets. These tools may help the governments regulate migration (Szalo 2007).

The theory of migration system

This theory is about the development of the relationship between the center and periphery. These connections come from the historical, social, cultural and economical connections between the centers and the peripheries. An example is the migration system between the “Asian tigers” (South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore) and the periphery which supplies the tigers with the cheap labor (in this case Philippines). Mexico and United

States are another example of countries which have historical, political and cultural connections. United States are in this case core and the Mexican workers fill up the position of cheap workers in the US. Examples from Europe are Great Britain who plays the role of the center for immigrants from India and Pakistan which were the colonies in the past and France who is the core for immigrants from Algeria and several African countries which have historical connections to this European country (Vojtková 2005).

Practical part

2.1 History of Latin - American immigration

The immigration from Latin America has had a huge impact on the development of the United States in history. The immigrants were at first a very small group but throughout the years their numbers increased and now the population is dispersed widely throughout the United States and the number of immigrants from Latin America is estimated around 50 million (which is around 16 % of the nation's population). These incoming Latinos have had an impact in political, social, cultural and economical spheres (Gutiérrez 2016).

2.1.1 Mexican immigration to the United States

Mexican immigrants are the largest group of foreign born population in the United States (Bodvarson, Van den Berg 2009). Even though the number of Mexican immigrants did not rise significantly in the past years their population is estimated around 11.7 million Mexicans living in United States (Zong, Batalova 2016).

United States first started to question and deal with immigration already in the 18th century after the population census. The question of Hispanic immigration arose as late as 1970s. The first Mexican immigrants appeared in the United States against their will after the Mexican – American war when Mexico lost more than 55 % of its territory. During that time there were more than 74 thousand inhabitants living in the taken territory and the vast majority was Hispanic origin and Indian tribes. Some of the inhabitants decided to leave the territory and moved south to Mexico but the majority decided to stay and live in the United States (United States Census Bureau 2013).

The first significant wave of Mexican immigration to United States was in the early years of the twentieth century since there wasn't enough of cheap labor. The lack of cheap labor was caused by restriction on Japanese and Chinese immigrants in 1907 and by First World War when many of the young men left the country to fight in the war. Mexican government agreed to send their workers to the United States to help during this difficult time. After the First World War, United States were led to restrict immigration quotas because of the flows of immigrants from Europe and Mexico. The U.S. Border Patrol was created to monitor the borders and to capture the illegal immigrants and that should have helped in cutting back the Mexican immigration but the demand for cheap labor was still high after the First World War which led the Mexicans to cross borders anyways even if it meant to get there illegally. In the 1930s many Mexican workers legal or not were deported from the

United States due to depression. They were accused of taking away jobs from the Americans and living off public relief. This situation was convenient for American government because it found its scapegoat and the “answer” to joblessness in the US. The history repeated itself after the Pearl Harbor when United States got involved in the Second World War. The government of the United States came up with the Bracero program which brought Mexican workers to American farms. Mexican workers were brought to work on farms since men were away in the War which ensured that there wasn’t a food shortage and the production would continue. This program was designed to work only during the war years but after the Second World War the economy was booming and there was a continuous demand for cheap Mexican labor. The Bracero program which was bringing Mexicans legally into the United States did not meet the demand and farmers begun to bring in the workers illegally. By the end of Korean War the situation got out of hand and the United States had to take action to stop this Mexican immigration. In 1954 United States created Operation Wetback in which was captured more than one million illegal workers. As a concession for farmers the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) helped legalize most of these illegal farmers and sent them back to work on the farms. In 1964 the Bracero program officially ended because of the civil – rights movement which saw this program as exploitative. The termination of the program did not mean that the demand of cheap Mexican workers was going to decrease. United States took action in 1965 with Hart – Celler Immigration Reform which took away the privileges of Mexican migrants. They now had to apply for visas as migrants from other parts of the world. During the 1960s Mexican economy was rapidly declining and the population growth was significant, this situation led many Mexicans to cross the border and migrate to the United States illegally. The illegal immigration grew even more in the 1970s and there was a sign from the United States to try to deal with this situation together with Mexican government. Mexico did not want to be involved in difficult negotiations which surrounded the immigration because it was afraid that the United States would tie trade concessions to improvements of the border patrol. Mexican government was avoiding any discussions about the immigration since the immigration helped with the problem of underemployment in the country (Harvard Magazine 2007).

United States struggled with the Mexican immigration which led to creation of Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) in 1986. IRCA was designed to ideally stop the illegal immigration from Mexico and to secure the border. IRCA was the most complex and first real legislation that the United States created in the immigration policy. It should have

legalized unauthorized immigrants living in the United States and established new mechanisms to prevent new entries to the country. The creation of IRCA lasted more than a decade and in the end the most important elements that the bill contained were border enforcement, legalization of the unauthorized workers and the employer sanctions (Cooper, O'Neil 2005). The problem which IRCA created was that many people stopped circulating between those two countries and decided for permanent settlement in the United States. The Border Patrol did not stop the immigration, people were still trying to move to United States but it discouraged the migrants to return. Since 1986 the Border Patrols budget created by IRCA significantly increased and the officers tripled throughout the years. In the year 2000 both of the countries elected new presidents and they tried to discuss the situation and come up with the solution. The negotiations did not end up successful because each country had its own vision and after the 9/11 President G.W. Bush and his administration lost interest in negotiating common immigration interest (Harvard Magazine 2007).

NAFTA might have had an impact on the immigration from Mexico to US in the last 30 years as well. The Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch says: *"NAFTA's boosters claimed that the pact would limit immigration. Then-Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari claimed NAFTA would reduce the flow of migrants from Mexico into the United States, saying: "Mexico prefers to export its products ether than its people." Salinas infamously addend that the U.S. decision over NAFTA was a choice between "accepting Mexican tomatoes or Mexican migrants that will harvest them in the United States." According to the Pew Hispanic Center, the number of people immigrating to the United States from Mexico remained steady in the free years preceding NAFTA's implementation. However, the number of Anta immigrants from Mexico more than doubled from 370,000 in 1993 (The year before NAFTA went into effect) to 770,000 in 2000 – a 108 percent increase. The immigration surge coincided with a NAFTA – enabled flood of subsidized U.S. corn into Mexico, as shown in the adjacent graph. The number of undocumented immigrants in the United States (who are primarily Mexican) has increased 144 percent since NAFTA took effect, from about 4.8 million in 1993 to 11.7 million in 2012 (The Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch 2014)."* (The Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch 2014).

As I stated earlier there are approximately 11.7 million Mexican immigrants living in the United States now. They are the largest group of immigrants which has the most issues with immigration control and border patrol. They are also the biggest lawful group of

immigrants within permanent and temporary visa categories and this group of immigrants has also the highest number of illegal immigrants living in the territory. If we look at other immigrant groups and we compare them, Mexicans are more likely to be unauthorized, young, they usually have low education, they are working in low skilled jobs and their well – being is lower comparing to other immigrant groups. At this period of time Mexicans are spread throughout all the 50 states. There is also a big group of Mexicans which are second and third generations. This is the outcome of previous policies and actions which both countries went through (Rosenblum, Kandel, Seelke, Wasem 2012).

Mexicans have a long history of immigration to the United States. It all started with the Mexican – American war where several people were forced to live on the grounds of United States. Then the Bracero program was formed which we can put under the neoclassic economy theory. United States were looking for cheap labor and Mexico provided it at that time. Looking at the historical facts Mexico (periphery) and United States (core) have cultural, political and historical connections. That is classified as a theory of migration system. Mexicans come to the United States these days mainly for a jobs and better pay. They cannot earn a lot of money in their own country and since United States is so close, they are trying to find a way to get there (or at least a member of their family) in order to have a better life. Since Mexico and US are sharing borders, there are a lot of Mexicans living in the US and they are sending home almost third of all the remittances going to the Latin America (see chapter 2.2.4), which we can classify as the new economy migration.

2.1.2 Puerto Rican immigration to the United States

The history of movement of immigrants from Puerto Rico to the United States has very complicated history just like the Mexican group of immigrants. Puerto Rico became an “unincorporated territory” after the Spanish – American War in 1898. Spaniards left all their colonies and United States started to rule this small island. In 1900 United States passed the Foraker Act under which was Puerto Rico governed. This act meant that there is going to be a governor appointed by the U.S. president, an Executive Council which was put together from 6 Americans and 5 Puerto Ricans and an integrated court system. Puerto Ricans did not like the way their territory was ruled and the aggression towards United States was rising. In 1917 the situation was getting unbearable and the U.S. government came up with Jones Act which meant that several political reforms were made including bicameral legislature and Bill of Puerto Rican rights. The Jones Act also brought an advantage for all Puerto Ricans to have U.S. citizenship unless they don’t want it. At that time only around 300 Puerto Ricans

declined this offer. Making Puerto Ricans citizens of the United States had its effect with which the government did not count. Many people from this small island started to migrate to United States because at this point they had the right to move anywhere they wanted in the U.S. jurisdiction. The biggest waves of migrants from Puerto Rico were coming to continental U.S. were soon after the Balzac ruling and even more after the Great Depression. Puerto Ricans were leaving their country because there was not enough work for them throughout the whole year. Puerto Rico was heavily dependent on the sugar production and since the season for growing and harvesting sugar canes was only for 6 months a year, people struggled to support their families and decided to move to continental U.S. Almost 88 % of the immigrants from Puerto Rico moved to New York City, where they started to work in the growing clothing manufacturing and service sectors as a low – wage workers. Since the 1950s Puerto Rico had big unemployment rates. The unemployment rate fluctuated from 10.4 to 20 %. United States tried to come up with the plan how to stop massive emigration and may be attract some workers who were already in the United States to move back with the “Operation Bootstrap”. The U.S. government sponsored this plan which should have helped to boost up this islands economy. Operation Bootstrap was supposed to attract investments and light industries to the island. This program didn’t work and the number of Puerto Rican immigrants in the United States rose from 70 000 in 1940 to more than 300 000 in 1950 and in 1960 the Puerto Rican population in U.S. territory was around 870 000 (Gutiérrez 2016).

United States overtook Puerto Rico at the end of 19th century. They were trying to rule the territory but had difficulties to come to a consensus on how to do that with the Puerto Ricans. Since Puerto Ricans obtained permits to live in the United States immigration flood begun. Looking at the historical connections and Puerto Rico being a periphery to United States this immigration can be classified as theory of migration system. United States offer job positions and better life for Puerto Ricans and United States are definitely part of theory of segmented marked in this example.

2.1.3 Cuban immigration to the United States

By the year 1850 Cuba was well known for its market with cigars. Because of the cigar market Cuba was able to develop a small middle class which encouraged the country to get the independence from Spain. Cuban rebels tried to get rid of Spanish rule during the Ten Year War (1868 – 1878) but their attempts failed and the situation became unbearable for some of them. The first wave of immigration to United States from Cuba was right after the Ten Year War. Cubans started to arrive to Key West Florida where they settled and actually

prospered. Key West became a prosperous city but this success attracted labor unions which came to the city to organize the workers and resettle them. Cubans tried to strike but it did not help and the action almost ruined their small cigar markets they have started to build there. There was no other option than to move and these immigrants chose Tampa in Florida. Vicente Martinez Ybor was one of the biggest personas in cigars market in the United States. He and his associates bought land in Tampa and created an important cigar market. Part of Tampa is known as aYbor city even today. During the Great Depression even the cigar market was suffering which made some Cubans to move away from this part of the country and resettle elsewhere in the United States. Ybor city started to fade when a significant Cuban community settled in Miami and created a Little Havana. Significant numbers of Cubans have settled and lived in Florida until today. There are several reasons why, the first one is that Cuba is only 145km away from Florida, second reason is that the climate is very similar to the one they were used to at home and the third reason is that at the time of the arrival of many Cubans Florida offered better accommodation options and larger labor market at the time of their arrivals. The modern migration of Cubans to the United States begun in 1959, when Fidel Castro has overthrown the regime of Fulgencio Batista. Since that time the relations of Cuba with United States started to fade away. Immigrants who were coming to the United States were people from the middle – income class. They were businessman, shop owners, professionals who feared the consequences of Castro regime and they managed to escape. In 1960s around 256 769 thousands immigrants came to the US and in the 1970s another 270 000 thousands of people followed. On April 4th 1980 Peruvian embassy was established in Havana which should have had organized people who wanted to leave Cuba. In a few days around 10 000 people signed up to move to the United States. These people were called Marielitos and they were composed mostly of young and single males whose education was on much lower level that of the immigrants coming to the United States in previous years and they spoke no English. Fidel Castro also opened a port in the northern part of Cuba on April 20th1980 called port of Mariel from which the emigrants could leave as well. That led to more than another 123 000 people to leave Cuba. These people were mainly composed of political prisoners and about 5 000 of them were criminals. President Jimmy Carter reacted to this situation by creating 1980 Refugee Act which meant that new arrivals had been waiting for their status. US president had to also open few American military bases for the incoming Cubans because the US government had nowhere to accommodate these immigrants.The uncertain status of these immigrants lasted until 1984 when the US government decided to go back to the previous act from 1966 which gave the immigrants permanent residency in the US

and after five years of living in the United States Cubans could apply for the citizenship. By the 1990s there were around 1 million Cubans living in the United States and most of them were concentrated in Florida and the second largest group of Cubans is around Union City in New Jersey. If we compare the Cubans to other Hispanic groups living in the United States Cubans were far more successful than other Hispanics. Since Cubans have been prospering more than other groups that prevented them to live in ghettos and they were able to move to the suburbs. Cubans are more successful because people who moved to the United States were from middle income cast. They were professionals who were able to establish themselves well in the society. Little Havana was desired by the other groups of Hispanic immigrants coming to the United States and these people were desperately waiting and trying to become part of the community. When a Cuban left Little Havana immigrants from other Hispanic countries tried to sneak into the community. Cubans were successful in bringing with them their culture. In those big communities Cubans established their schools, churches, stores, restaurants, theaters, etc. which served mainly to the Spanish speaking electoral districts (Guissepi 2016).

Cubans are a very unique example of immigration group to the United States. The historical facts point out that some migrants did not even want to move from Cuba but were forced to because of the political changes in Cuba. In this case United States is part of the theory of segmented market because they do not only offer more jobs for people who went against the regime but also a political safety. Cubans had the chance to safe their families from suffering in their own country due to their family political believes. Cubans are an example of Salad Bowl theory. They moved to United States, created their own businesses, life and even communities with their churches, schools and culture. They do not melt with the Americans but are an important asset to the United States.

2.1.4 Central American immigration to the United States

Many Central American immigrants started to come after the 1980s. These immigrants were led by political and economical situations in their countries. Before 1980s there were only few immigrants from Central America and most of them were low skilled workers or it was a privilege to get to United States. In 1960s there were only about 48 900 Central American immigrants in United States but the numbers started to increase during the times when Central American countries were suffering from civil wars. Thousand of Salvadorians and Guatemalans have left their countries to seek better and safer life in the north. Most of those immigrants were from rural areas and qualified as low skilled workers. If we compare

those immigrants to immigrants from Nicaragua who were fleeing their country as well, they were mostly well – educated elite. During these years immigrants from Central America were strongly discouraged by US government to come there because Guatemalans and Salvadorians had only 3 % chance to get political asylum compared to 12 % chance for Nicaraguans, 32 % for Poles or 60 % for Iranians. However these facts did not stop the immigrants from going north, they either stayed in the United States illegally or stayed under the protection of local religious congregations in the sanctuary movement. In the early 1990s a lot of conflicts ended and people did not have that big of a reason to leave their native lands the migration from Central America did not decrease. In the second half of the 90s Hondurans, Salvadorans and Nicaraguans got the privilege to stay in the United States because of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS). This status was granted to these immigrants due to series of natural disasters. This status meant that immigrants coming into the United States from those countries could have stayed there if they had work authorization, they were prevented from deportation. This status is valid for Nicaraguans and Hondurans until July 2016 and for Salvadorans until September 2016. Even though these countries had such a privilege of the TPS many of them were working and stayed in United States illegally. Number of people coming from Central America increased from 354 000 in 1980s to 3.2 million in 2013. Majority of these immigrants are from the so called Northern – Triangle (El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala) and they form 7 % of American immigrants (Zong, Batalova 2015). The number of immigrants from Central America increased in more than 18 US states in last two decades. More than 2 out of 5 of these immigrants are there illegally and 1 out of 10 is on the US territory under temporary humanitarian protection. As a whole people from this part of the world suffer from low education, not being able to speak English and a lack of professional qualification. More than half of the Central American immigrants settle in Texas, California and Florida and they also have big communities in New Orleans and Washington D.C. (Terrazas 2011).

2.1.5 Caribbean immigration to the United States

Geographical region of Caribbean is composed of Caribbean islands, northern coast of South America and Central American nation Belize. The Caribbean population is around 22 million people (counting long – settled migrants and people of Caribbean descent). If we only count immigrants there are around 3 million people from the Caribbean which is 9 % of the total number of immigrants in the United States. These immigrants are diverse; they may be black, Latino, East Indian, white, etc. which makes them a very unique group. These

immigrants were arriving to the United States since the second half of the past century, but three quarters of the total amount of immigrants from Caribbean arrived to United States in the last two decades. People from the Caribbean have difficulties with establishing their own identities in the US because people mistaken them for born African – Americans and this way they are losing state and federal aid for schools, hospital and senior citizen centers among other community services. People may ask how that is possible? They are Latinos? Some of them may write that in their documentation but some of them do not want to, they will rather classify themselves as African – Americans, even if they lose their advantages. People from the Caribbean are frustrated with the forms in the United States. They do not want to classify themselves as African – Americans nor Hispanics. They say that they have their own identity. (Ghosh 2012).

The majority of people from the Caribbean (70 %) live in New York or Florida. There are also big Caribbean communities in New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Washington D.C. The largest groups of immigrants are Cubans, Dominicans, Trinidadians, Haitians, Jamaicans and Guyanese (Ghosh 2012). It is interesting that in 2009 there were more women from the Caribbean than men in the United States. There are a lot of Caribbean immigrants who say that English is their first language and if it is not they say that they speak fluent English but they consider themselves as Hispanic. Many of these immigrants have got high school diploma and they are concentrated in service jobs, extraction and transportation occupations as well as administrative support positions. Even though Caribbean population has better position in American society than for example Mexicans there are still a lot of people from this part of the world who live below the poverty line (McCabe 2011).

Central American and Caribbean immigration have a lot in common. Both of these groups of immigrants are attracted to United States by the opportunities. A lot of countries in those two regions are poor and they are moving or sending family members abroad to earn money. Those two migration groups are an example of new economy migration theory. Looking for opportunities how to help their families is a priority for them and United States offer this chance at a better life.

2.1.6 South American immigration to the United States

Immigrants from South America are a smaller group if we compare them to the Mexican or Central American groups of immigrants. This group is unique because it

experienced the fastest growth since 1960s. By the year 1960 there were around 90 000 people from South America which accounted for 1 % from all the immigrants in the United States. By the year 2014 there were 2.9 million immigrants which accounted for 7 % of the all immigrant population. The biggest waves of South American immigration were in 1960s where the number of incomers increased by 285 percent and in 1970s where it increased by 220 %. Since then the immigrants were still coming but not at this pace. The countries which have the largest population of people in the United States are Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Brazil. The largest group of immigrants is Colombians, who count up to 1.2 million people living in the United States whose country of origin is Colombia. Immigrants from South America settle mostly in three states, Florida, New York and New Jersey. The cities which have the largest South American communities are New York, Miami and Washington D.C (Zong, Batalova 2016).

Majority of the South Americans are residing in the United States lawfully, they are likely to get green cards (often through family ties) than other immigrants from Latin America. South Americans are somewhat more likely to be proficient in English than other immigrants in the United States. South Americans are more likely to finish at least high school and they have a fair share of student studying in college or university (around 30 % of South American immigrants have bachelors degree or higher). There are only around 16 % of South Americans who do not finish high school living in the United States. The 2014 census states that: *“South American immigrants participated in the labor force at a higher rate than the overall immigrant population. In 2014, about 70 percent of South American immigrants ages 16 and over were in the civilian labor force, compared to 66 percent and 62 percent of the foreign and U.S. born, respectively... A significant share of immigrant workers from Venezuela (45 percent), Argentina (41 percent), and Brazil and Chile (35 percent each) were employed in management, business, science, and arts occupations, while Ecuadoran workers (30 percent) were the most likely to be in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations (Zong, Batalova 2016).”* It is less likely that immigrants from South America will live below the poverty line. If we look at South America Ecuadorians were the most likely immigrants to live below the poverty line adding up to a 17 % of all Ecuadorians living in the US territory (Zong, Batalova 2016).

Immigrants from South America are the smallest group of all the groups of Latin American immigrants living in the United States. Analyzing the facts, a lot of them have some kind of education and they are able to work at better positions than other Latin American

immigrants. The pull factors for South Americans are better opportunities in the United States. They are able to get better social and economical positions in the United States. Theory of segmented market is applicable to the South American immigration group.

2.2 Economic impact of Latin American immigrants on the United States

2.2.1 Latinos and their impact on United States economy

Latin Americans are the largest community in the United States and they have a big impact on the US economy. Some professionals analyze it and come to a conclusion that this community benefits the economy and others get a different perspective and say that Latinos are hurting the economy. It all starts with the education. Less than 65 % of Latinos under the age of 25 have a high school diploma. This leads to low paying jobs and lower living standard. However in the last two decades the number of Latinos pursuing higher education increased and almost doubled. A different story is second generation Latinos. There are more than 75% later generations of Latinos who graduated at least high school. The education pays off for Latinos. It is more likely that a Latino family with a colleague educated member will have higher incomes and will be wealthier. These families earn 2.2 times more than other Latino families and have net worth of 4.1 times greater. *“The relationship between education and economic well-being is complex. Over the long-run, the benefits of a college degree are smaller for Latinos and African Americans than for whites and Asians. Even for Latinos with a college degree, the unemployment rate is 3.9 percent, a full percentage point higher than the unemployment rate for whites (2.9 percent)(Maloney 2015).”*(Maloney 2015).

It is generally known that Latinos work in the lower paying jobs and that they earn less money than non Hispanics. If we look at a full time employed Latino and his/her median weekly earnings, it is 27 % less than median weekly earnings of non Hispanic white worker (ex. \$ 602 vs. \$ 829 per week). *“The earnings disparity faced by Hispanic workers translates to lower incomes for Hispanic households. In 2014, median income of all Latino households was \$42,500, \$17,800 less than the median income of non-Hispanic white households (\$60,300). 36 Foreign-born Latinos fared worse with a median household income of \$34,600, while U.S.- born Latinos fared somewhat better with a median income of \$47,000.”*³⁷ (Maloney 2015)“. Latino are a big part of the bottom brackets and unfortunately underrepresented in the high income brackets, they make up almost 15 % of the households which are part of the bottom fifth on the income ladder (Maloney 2015).

\$1.3 trillion dollars, which is how much the Latino community, is worth in economic activity and in the future, the number is going to go even higher. By the year 2020 the number is estimated around \$ 1.7 trillion dollars. If we look at how much the Latinos own in the United States, it is around 3.2 million businesses which count up to \$ 500 billion in economic activity annually. A very interesting fact is that Latinos are more likely to become entrepreneurs. According to Kauffman Index of Entrepreneurial Activity Latinos are more than 1.5 times more likely to become entrepreneurs than the general population. It is also important to mention that Latinas and their small businesses are successful. They start up at the 6 times national average and are one of the fastest growing segments of the women – owned business market. Also the fact here is that these Latino entrepreneurs are low – income entrepreneurs and there is a high probability that they are going to be working under the ownership of white business owner. In order to have their own businesses and be more successful Latino entrepreneurs would have to have a better access to the capital which is unfortunate because there is a high rate of failures (Maloney 2015).

United States are demographically unique. If we make a projection into the future the Latino population is estimated to be 26 % out of the whole society by 2050. Since Latinos are a young group of people (most of them 18 – 49) they literally are the future of the United States. Since the whites are slowly retiring and the young educated Latinos are getting education, they are going to be United States future doctors, lawyers, schoolteachers etc. America’s future economic success will depend on the well being of the Latino population (especially if the prediction of Latino population is going to be a quarter of the total US population). All the minorities in the United States want the same such as good education, good government, access to health care, economic opportunity or affordable homes, but there are differences in between people living in America. It is necessary to get rid of those barriers in order to offer the communities a bigger success from which than the whole society can gain. There is evidence of successful programs on how to incorporate Latinos into the economic environment and make it successful for both sides in Northwest Arkansas. *“To develop an innovative solution that took into account the unique needs of immigrants, Arkansas leader turned to the Cisneros Center in San Antonio, which works to accelerate the integration of New Americans into local communities. Together, in partnership with the Center’s American Dream Initiative, civic leaders develop financial education, small-business planning support and microloans services to the region in support of immigrant families and entrepreneurs.”* (Lozano 2015). Latinos are a vital segment

of the American society and they are one of the nation most promising consumers, if America wants to go forward it should not look at the situation as how to help Latinos, it should look at the situation as how to help the society as a whole. The success of Latinos will ensure the success and competitiveness of the United States as a whole (Lozano 2015).

2.2.2 Employment of Latinos in the United States

Latino workers are an important part of US work force. They are an essential part of US economy and they participate among major industries. Many people with Latin American background work in the industry. In 2014 27.3 % of construction workers were Latinos. Other industries with high concentration of Latinos are agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting. The percentage of Latinos in these industries is around 23.1 %. We also cannot leave out leisure and hospitality where the percentage of working Latinos is around 22 %. On the other hand we have parts of economy where the Latinos don't participate as much and they are public administration, financial activities and information. Their participation in those branches of employment is only around 10 % (Bureau of Labor Statistics 2015).

We can also look at Latinos among occupational groups. Back in 2014 almost 44 % of Latinos were working in agriculture, farming, fishing or forestry. The second occupational group where we have almost 37 % of Latinos people is cleaning and maintenance. There is also a major group of Latinos (32.3 %) working in construction and extraction occupations. Among occupational groups Latinos are less likely to participate in jobs in social sciences, mathematical and computer occupations (there are only around 6 % of Latinos) (Bureau of Labor Statistics 2015).

The situation with Latino employment improved in last few years. If we look at the period of time from 2011 – 2013, the employment of Latinos rose three times. By looking at this population we saw that four out of five Latinos worked full – time. Looking at the unemployment senator Amy Klobuchar writes: “: *The unemployment rate for Hispanics has fallen four percentage points from its most recent peak in November 2010, outpacing the drop in the national unemployment rate. As of September 2013, 2.2 million Hispanic workers were unemployed. The number of unemployed Hispanic workers declined by 8.0 percent (194,000 workers) over the past year (Klobuchar 2013)* “. The improvement in Latino unemployment is important and significant but on the other hand the unemployment of Latinos is still above the national average(Klobuchar 2013).

In December the US unemployment was around 5 % and unemployment of Latin Americans slightly lowered to 6.3 %. The Department of Labor in the United States added around 290 000 jobs which helped to lower little bit the unemployment rate. It was said that many people who were looking for a job were able to get one. Looking at the major ethnic groups Latinos are the one with the second highest unemployment with 6.3 %. The group with highest unemployment is black Americans with 8.3 % and third group is whites with 4.5 %. On the other hand looking at the labor participation rate the national percentage is 62.6 % and looking at the ethnicities Latinos have 65.6 % of labor participation which is above the national average (Fox News 2016).

2.2.3 Hispanics as consumers

The assumption was that Latinos are going to be the whooping \$1.5 trillion purchasing force of the U.S population by 2015. If we look at buying groceries, going to the cinema, getting clothes, gas, electronics, etc. Latinos are the people, who are spending, which give benefits to businesses and consumers. Latinos are the group of people who are trying to get as much from the American dream as possible. They are creating opportunities for themselves and embracing every step of the way in order to get to where they want to be (Dimino 2014). Latinos are significantly younger than other racial and ethnic groups in the United States and the group is growing every year. The latest research believes that the purchasing power which was estimated to \$ 1.5 trillion in 2015 will grow even more by the year 2019 and it will be around \$ 1.7 trillion. This is undeniably a significant amount of money spent in the United States by one ethnic group (Huffington post 2015).

Latinos as consumers and workforce pay taxes and contribute to the US economy. *“In 2013 Hispanic households paid almost \$124 billion in federal taxes, including individual and corporate income taxes, payroll taxes, and excise taxes, and almost \$67 billion in state and local taxes. (Huffington post 2015).”* Not only the United States as a whole benefit from Latinos paying taxes but also individual states. The states that benefit from the local taxes paid by Latinos are Texas (with 23 %), California (20 %), Florida (18 %) and Arizona (15 %). Latino households also significantly contribute to Social Security and Medicare. Looking at the numbers from 2013 the contributions were \$ 98 billion to Social Security and \$ 23 billion to Medicare. At this point many economists think that the young Latinos are going to be the key to keep the American Social Security strong (Huffington post 2015).

There is a big debate in the United States if the immigrants are on welfare and using the US system or if they are makers and not takers. Since the Latinos are the largest group of

immigrants the changes in welfare are important to them. In 1996 a reform was passed in the United States to protect the nation's welfare and lower access to non – citizens and poor immigrants. People who are in the US on green card, more than five years in US or on guest visa have no access to the welfare programs except free public schooling or hospitalization. The question here is whether we should or shouldn't support the immigrants. One side says that the immigrant's children will give back to the society that it is worth it to invest in them and the other side says that it is too expensive and that it costs the United States too much. In case the welfare system would change, we may assume that the standard of living may rise. Maybe even unemployment of Hispanic immigrants would lower as well. People would take any kind of job because they would get the support from the state in a form of for example public housing, food stamps, free food for children at schools etc. (Fox Business 2014).

2.2.4 Remittances

Remittances are very important source of income for Latin American families. This sector has grown throughout the years because the technologies are going forward. Now there are more ways how to send money back to home country. In 2008 almost 65 billion USD were sent to Latin America in remittances. It was the highest amount of money ever sent to Latin America in the history. In 2008/2009 came a financial crisis and the record was not broken until 2015. Mexico which receives almost one third of all remittances is the largest recipient of the total amount with 23.6 billion USD, followed by Guatemala 5.5 billion USD, the Dominican Republic 4.5 billion USD, El Salvador 4.2 billion USD and Columbia 4 billion USD (Inter – American Development Bank 2015). In 2015 a record amount of money (68.3 billion USD) was sent to Spanish speaking countries in Latin America. The study authors say that the increase is caused by higher number of Central American immigrants crossing border and coming to the United States. The spike of gang violence in Central America causes more families and unaccompanied children to cross the border. The highest increase in remittances last year was in Honduras and Guatemala. Guatemalan remittances increased by 15 % and Honduras' remittances increased by 10 %. Groden writes in his article: *“Researchers also attributed part of the remittance growth to the depreciation in some South American currencies, incentivizing immigrants to send more money back home. Financial services provider Western Union, which is one of the leading options for remittances, reported a 3% growth year-over-year in customer transactions, but the company's reported revenues declined by 2% due to the strong dollar (Groden 2016).”* (Groden 2016).

It is important to come up with more new technologies how to transfer this amount of money to Latin America. It is necessary that people there have more opportunities to invest and save the money. Remittances are larger source of money in Latin America than foreign aid. In El Salvador remittances make up a share of 16.5 % of GDP, in Honduras it is 15.7 % of GDP and in Guatemala it is 10 % of GDP. These are the three countries which have the highest share of remittances on GDP. Most of the remittances are spent on food, clothes and other day to day necessities. Remittances which go to houses where there are not small children are more likely to be saved or invested. Households which receive remittances are more likely to pay their healthcare and education than those households which don't have income in a form of remittances (Cohn, Gonzales – Barrera, Cuddington 2013).

Looking at the Economical impact of Latin American immigrants we are able to analyze it from the point of view of immigration theories. United States are still at this time offering a lot of opportunities and the “American Dream”. Since US is close to Latin American countries which are poorer than United States and the life in those countries is not easy, people who get the opportunities to get to US take them and move. The push factors of these countries are not enough jobs, low salaries, expensive education. These factors push people away from their homelands and since US has jobs, better salaries and available education (pull factors) it is the dream destination for Latin Americans. These are facts of Neoclassic economy theory of immigration.

2.3 Social impact of Latin American immigrants on the United States

2.3.1 The concentration of Latin American immigrants in the United States

There are three states in the United States of America which are home to more than 55 % of Latino immigrants. These states are California, Texas and Florida. Almost one quarter of Latino immigrants live in California which is around 14 million immigrants with Latin American background. This fact means that California is a state with the largest Latin American population in the United States. Right behind California is Texas. Texas is home to almost 10 million of Latin American immigrants. On the third place is Florida which has around 4.4 million Latinos (Brown, Lopez 2013).

Looking at other states in the US, eight states have more than one million Latino immigrants. These states are California, Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois, Arizona, New Jersey and Colorado. An interesting fact is that New Mexico has one million of Latin

Americans living there and they make 46.7 % of the state's population. This percentage makes New Mexico as a state with the highest Latino population share among all the 50 states and Washington D.C. If we look at the last decade, the states that had the largest percentage increase of Latino population are located in the southeastern part of the United States and usually have a Latino population smaller than one million. Good example is Alabama because its Latino population increased by 158 % in the last decade (2000 – 2011). That was the highest increase of Latino population among all the states. On the other hand we have New York which surprisingly had the lowest growth in Latino immigration. The growth was “only” 22 %. No state in the United States experienced decline in Latino immigration. Mexicans are the largest group of Latino population in the top ten states with highest Latino population. These states are California, Texas, Illinois, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Georgia (Brown, Lopez 2013). Exceptions are three states in the top ten. There are New York and New Jersey which have Puerto Ricans as their largest Latino group and Florida which has Cubans as the largest Latino group (every three out of ten Latinos are from Cuba in Florida). Mexicans are the largest group of Latinos living in the United States (65 % of all Latinos) however there are 11 states where Mexicans are not the dominant Latino population. These states are New York, New Jersey and Florida which are the three largest as it was stated before and then there are Connecticut (Puerto Ricans), District of Columbia (Salvadorans), Hawaii (Puerto Ricans), Maryland (Salvadorans), New Hampshire (Puerto Ricans), Pennsylvania (Puerto Ricans), Rhode Island (Dominicans) and Massachusetts (Puerto Ricans) (Census 2010).

Analyzing the nativity of Latino population, District of Columbia is a territory with 54 % of Latinos born in a foreign country. This share is greater than in any other state in the United States. On the other side of the ladder we have North Dakota, which has only 6 % of Latinos who were born in a foreign country (Brown, Lopez 2013). Looking at the data we can see that Mexicans are dominating the west and south west of the United States, in Los Angeles – Long Beach area they make up 78 % of all Hispanics living in this county. As we move to the east coast, the dominant groups of Hispanics vary a little. I assume that it is because of the history of those dominant groups on the east coast. Cubans and Puerto Ricans predecessors settled in areas on the east coast and they live there successfully, incoming immigrants saw the success of their people and they seek not only the same success but also the same culture and language (Lopez, Gonzales – Barrera, Cuddington 2013).

Mexicans by far are the largest group of Latinos in the United States. They are followed by Puerto Ricans, Salvadorans and Cubans as it was written above. What are the other largest groups of immigrants from Latin America living on the US soil? Other significant groups of Latin American immigrants are Dominicans, Guatemalans, Colombians, Spaniards, Hondurans, Ecuadorians, Peruvians, Nicaraguans, Venezuelans and Argentineans. All these 14 groups of immigrants make up 95 % of the nations Latino population where 6 of those Hispanic origin groups have more than one million people (Lopez, Gonzales – Barrera, Cuddington 2013).

2.3.2 Bilingualism of Hispanic immigrants

Pew Research Center in the United States was analyzing the bilingualism of Hispanics in the United States. They divided the Hispanics into three groups. First group is Hispanics who are bilingual (36 %). The second group is Hispanics who mainly use English (25 %) and the third group are people who mainly use Spanish (38 %). Pew Research center also states that: *“Latino adults who are the children of immigrant parents are most likely to be bilingual. Among this group, 50% are bilingual, according to our 2013 survey. As of 2012, Latinos with immigrant parents (defined as those born outside the U.S. or those born in Puerto Rico) made up roughly half (48%) of all U.S.-born Hispanics. By comparison, a third (35%) of Hispanic immigrants are bilingual, as are a quarter (23%) of those with U.S.-born parents (Krogstad, Gonzales – Barrera 2015)”*. Being bilingual is essential for the future success of Hispanics. Hispanic adults value the ability to speak both languages, they are proud of their heritage and want to keep their language but they also consider learning English as very important factor for the future generations if they want to succeed. Almost half of the Hispanic population between the ages 18 – 29 is bilingual. With the older generations (30 – 64 years of age) is worse. Only one third of this population is bilingual, the change comes again with the older generation (64 and above) where almost 40 % of Hispanics are bilingual. Spanish is the most spoken language in the United States after English. 35.8 million Hispanics use this language plus additional 2.6 million people who are non – Hispanic are able to speak Spanish. If we look at the overall picture three in four Hispanics (including those who are bilingual), which is about 73 %, above the age of 5 speak Spanish in their homes. Looking at the expected demographic changes in the future of the United States it is expected that the number will decline from 73 % of people speaking Spanish at home to 66 % and the increase in numbers of Hispanic solely speaking English at home will raise from 26 % to 34 % by the year 2020. An interesting fact is that a hybrid made out of both languages called “Spanglish” is widely

used by the Hispanic population aged 16 – 25. More than 70 % of these Hispanics are using this type of language on everyday basis(Krogstad, Gonzales – Barrera 2015).

One of the hypothetical questions asked in the United States is “should the United States be officially bilingual?”. There are already a lot of signs, posters, phone options, etc. in Spanish why not make it official than? People in the United States are afraid that English there is losing its strength and power. That is not entirely true, the biggest minority in the US are Hispanics and with them comes another language but thanks to British Empire English is widely used all around the world. English is nowadays language of technology, business, research and education and it would be very difficult to get rid of this language. There is also influence in form of MTV, Nike, Coca – cola, Hollywood, internet, etc. and all these things awash us (not only people in US but people around the globe) with American English every day. Looking at the usage of English and the growing hegemony of the United States we can easily assume that English won’t be in jeopardy any time soon. Another assumption in the United States is that the immigrants don’t want to learn English or they don’t even have to learn it. Many people who came to America throughout the history and made a visible impact had to learn English in order to succeed, so why would the Spanish speaking immigrants be any different from them? These immigrants from Latin America are more than aware of the fact that they have to learn English as soon as possible if they want to live the American dream. The author of the article in Huffington post describes a story of several people from the low – paying jobs and their journey, how they are trying to learn English as quickly as possible in order to fit into the society or become an entrepreneur. Sometimes these people are forced to learn English because their livelihood, self dependence or even self worth dependson it. There are thousands and thousands of language schools in the United States that promise to teach English quickly and without tears. There is a local joke in Florida where people say: “If you want to travel to a foreign country, just go to Florida”. Author of the article in Huffington post talks about discussions with people from Latin America and it comes as far as them calling Miami the business center of the United States for Latin America. If it is the truth it’s hard to say. There are different opinions and points of view on United States being bilingual; the most important fact of all is that English is not disappearing, the Latin American immigrants are not influencing the strength of English in the world and that the United States can benefit from having more than one language in its territory (Leveen 2011).

2.3.3 Latin American immigrants in the American society

Latin American immigrants are part of the today's American society. Do they have the same vision on life values as Americans? Probably not and that may impact the social, economical and political course of the United States in the future. The Barna Group in partnership with other American societies conducted a research about the Latino life views. The study found that almost 69 % of Hispanic Americans think public schools should teach values found in Bible. Another interesting fact is that more than 54 % identify themselves first as Hispanic or Latino before American, Catholic or Christian. The thing that Latinos are most concerned about is the rate of school dropouts, right behind is the unemployment followed by health care, immigration and housing. Around 42 % of Latinos living in America say that Bible influences their views of political and social issues. What Latinos believe in is that the number one thing how they contribute to American society is their commitment to the family which leads to almost 80 % of Latinos saying that traditional family is the main building block of the society. Almost 97 % of people who were surveyed said that they are proud of their Hispanic heritage. There are certain predictions made due to this research: *“By 2050, it is predicted that there will be no ethnic or racial majority in the U.S. and Hispanics are projected to make up 25 to 30 percent of the population. Thus, the impact of beliefs and behaviors of Hispanic-Americans is becoming increasingly significant (Huffman 2012).”* (Huffman 2012).

Latin American immigrants deal with many issues in the United States from low paid jobs to discrimination. In past years the anti immigrant sentiment has been fueled and people are more angry than before about the immigration and especially about the illegal immigration. This anger leads to discrimination of Latinos. The effects of discrimination are causing many issues to the Latin American society in the US. The discrimination starts at work. Lot of Latinos are working at low-paid jobs and they are dealing with exploitation. If the individual is not strong this may cause serious psychological issues and that deeply affects families. Latino immigrant families are dealing with many problems at once. It starts with housing. There are ethnic enclaves which are sought by Latinos. They feel comfortable and safe on those places but it takes them even further away from the rest of the society. This discrimination also affects family dynamics. There have been many raids which led to families being torn apart. Latino children are raised in fear of their parents being deported and that changes their personalities and causes the children to either live in constant fear or be ashamed of their parents. Children who experiences and witnessed their parents being

detained in the past are more likely to experience a range of behavioral and emotional problems. It is necessary for the United States to come up with the solution to this fears in Latino families because a lot of these children are US citizens and they are part of the American society. Emotionally unstable second generations Latinos may cause a serious disruption in the society so why don't stop it at the beginning (Ayon 2015)?

People in United States, have many different opinions on the Latin American population. There are many different opinions and points of view on the integration of Latin American minority into American society. However people should realize that this minority makes up a big part of American culture at this point and in the future Latinos are going to have a say in the functioning of the United States. The institutions are going to be affected some of them even dependent on Latinos in the future. Looking at the business sector, it will be affected by Latinos because they are going to work in this sector as entrepreneurs, employees, investors and mainly they will be consumers. These people will be very valuable when United States expands its markets more into Latin America because businessman from that part of the world will relate to these immigrants; they will be more trustworthy for them not only because of the language but also because of the similar cultures. Latino impact on US identity is not going to be solely business related, education institutions will have more students and teacher coming with Latin American background, health care system needs to be prepared for more Latinos being recipients and providers and even political institutions will find out Latinos increasing powerful role in the outcome of elections as voters or even political candidates. At this point the growth of Latin American population in the United States is unstoppable. Latinos are now moving into states which have never had any representatives of this minority until now which means that all parts of the United States will feel the social impact of these people (Saenz 2004).

2.3.4 Second generation Latin Americans in the United States

Second generation Americans are doing much better than their parents. There are approximately 20 million adult US born citizens who are children of the immigrants. The second generation is doing better in many ways, they have higher incomes than their parents, they have higher education and fewer live in poverty. They are more likely to live like Americans and reach the "American dream". Hispanics and Asians make up 7 out of 10 second generation adults to this day and they are more likely to speak English and have interethnic marriages. The positive side of this generation is that they are putting more effort towards hard work and career success. Second generations proudest moment is when they are

able to say that they raised the bar and have a higher standard of living than their parents (Pew Research Center 2013).

People in the United States can't do anything about the second generation at this point. Their assumption is that if they decrease the immigration flows the impact isn't going to be as big. That is not true. The Second generation is the product of previous immigration flows and their impact on the American society is unavoidable. Comparing the Latino first and second generations is positive. For example in 2003 a Population Survey found out that there were differences in incomes. The first generation Latinos had mean weekly income 457 USD, the second generation had 535 USD and the third generation reached 550 USD. In education Latinos also registered improvement. Almost half of the first generation did not have a high school diploma; with second generation only quarter of Latinos did not finish high school. The number of Latinos also increased in colleges and universities. A big intergenerational difference was also noted with the language. 72 % of people in first generation Latino spoke predominantly Spanish, second generation was 47 % bilingual and 46 % spoke predominantly English and third generation noted the biggest step forward with 78 % of people speaking predominantly English (Suro, Passel 2003).

More than half of second generation Latinos consider themselves as "typical American" and there is a significant amount of these people who say that they are more politically liberal than their parents were and than most of other groups are. That is around 71 % of second generation immigrants saying that they lean towards democratic views. Looking at the results of the second generation we are able to say that it looks optimistic. The author Taylor says: "*Immigration is the great American story*", referring to the data Taylor says: "*it's hard to say this is anything but positive. It's not all perfect, but it's a positive story*" (Lilley 2013). In order to improve living for the first generation there should be more helping in between first, second and third generations. Second generations should not forget where they come from and who their parents are and keep some cultural imprints, problem may raise when parents are too strict and force second generation children to strictly follow their native culture. Second generation is able to help their parents with living in United States since they are growing up in this territory and they speak much better English. This helping approach is needed when it comes to proper treatment and services available to immigrants. Second generation is this way able to help not only their parents but the communities as a whole by writing articles in the newspapers, giving information at the community centers or forcing it politically. As long as these generations cooperate and take care of each other by healing,

emancipating and validating themselves they are going to make it and raise the standard of living for all of them now and in the future (Vargas 2015).

There are many ethnicities living in the United States and each and every one of these groups brought with them piece of their culture. Looking at the different groups of Latin American immigrants it is difficult to say if they melted into United States culture or kept their identities like it is described in salad bowl theory. Incoming immigrants are keeping their culture and their traditions. They do not want to give up the last piece of their identity which they brought with them. We are able to describe the incoming immigrants as a salad bowl theory. Those people live in the United States with their customs and connected to the country by the territory and American jurisdiction. If we look at the second and third generations they are more likely to be recognized as melting pot. They are confused, they are trying to keep some of their parents' traditions but since they are growing up in the United States influenced by their classmates, culture and surroundings, they are able to melt into the American culture much better. This is the reason why the culture in the United States is so diverse. People bringing customs from home, creating new ones (hybrids) or others which are following what Anglo – Saxon ancestors brought long time ago.

2.4 The United States immigration politics

2.4.1 Historical development of immigration policy in the United States of America

One of the first immigration legislation passed in the United States was The Naturalization Act of 1790. This act said that white males who are in the United States illegally must live in the territory for at least two years before they obtain citizenship. Later in 1795 the Act was renewed and extended the residency requirement to 5 years. In 1798 The Naturalization Act was changed again due to rise of xenophobia which extended the residency to 14 years. In the next 80 years the legislation was modified several times and had put in some exceptions and later on cancelled them. The next significant change in immigration legislation came in 1875 with The Page act which became a law. It was the countries first exclusionary act which banned all the criminals, prostitutes and Chinese labor workers from coming to the United States. In 1882 a new Immigration Act was passed which extended the bans to “convicts, lunatics, idiots and persons likely to become public charges”. As well the law imposes a 50 USD tax on new arrivals. This Act underwent another revision in 1891 where the entry is also denied to polygamists, mentally ill and people with contagious diseases (Rowen 2016).

In 1882 The Chinese exclusion act was passed together with new Immigration Act which I mentioned above. This act banned all the skilled and unskilled Chinese workers from entering the United States. It also meant that Chinese workers are not going to be able to obtain a citizenship in the United States. After this Act was passed many Chinese workers (especially those who finished working on transatlantic railway and construction workers) were left unemployed. In 1892 the Act was renewed and had even worse impact on Chinese workers. At this point they had to carry their work permit on them at all times otherwise they could have been sentenced to hard labor or deported. In 1921 The Emergency Quota Law of 1921 is passed. It is another significant immigration law in the history of United States. It limits the number of incoming immigrants to United States to 350 000 a year and implements a nationality quota. The nationality quota was that immigration from any country cannot be over 3 % of the population of that nationality based on the 1910 census. The Emergency Quota Law of 1921 reduced the immigration from eastern and southern Europe and was an advantage to people from northern Europe. In 1924 The Emergency Quota is modified and the number of incoming immigrants is reduced to 165 000 and the national quota is lowered to 2 %. This modification also creates the U.S. Border Patrol (Rowen 2016).

In 1952 all acts and immigration laws were unified into one comprehensive statute. This statute reaffirmed the quota system, it limited immigration from the eastern hemisphere and didn't put any restrictions on the western hemisphere, it established preferences for relatives of residents in the United States and skilled workers and the statute improved and strengthen the security and screening standards and procedures. In 1965 finally the origin quota system was abolished. Nevertheless *“still maintained was the principle of numerical restriction by establishing 170,000 Hemispheric and 20,000 per country ceilings and a seven-category preference system (favoring close relatives of U.S. citizens and permanent resident aliens, those with needed occupational skills, and refugees) for the Eastern Hemisphere and a separate 120,000 ceiling for the Western Hemisphere.(FAIR 2008)“*. In 1976 the statute was modified once again and it restricted Western Hemisphere ceiling to 20 000 per country and the preference system applied to this hemisphere as well (FAIR 2008).

In 1986 one of the most significant immigration laws in the United States history yet was passed. The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA) was a comprehensive reform effort. It had 4 main goals which it wanted to accomplish. 1. It allowed the immigrants who came to United States before January 1st of 1982 to get a legal status but it also required them to pay fees, fines and taxes. 2. It prohibited employers to hire or recruit illegal

immigrants. If they did not follow this law they were facing sanctions. 3. It legalized temporary agricultural workers and provided them with new classification and 4. It established a visa waiver program. This program was for people who weren't immigrants and wanted to stay in the United States for a period time. These people were admitted without visa. By passing this law almost 3 million immigrants in the United States at that time gained a legal status (FAIR 2008).

In 1996 The Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) were passed. This Act broadens the meaning of “aggravated felony”. More crimes at this point are classified as aggravated felony and therefore more immigrants could be deported for wider range of crimes. This law also increases the number of people serving as Border Patrol. As well the Act established “expedited removal” which could deport the immigrants without a formal hearing. In the same year Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act was passed which cut down the eligibility for legal residents to access public – assistance benefits. In 2005 Real ID Act of 2005 was passed and this act required states to verify the status of the immigrant. The immigrants had to prove that their status is legal or they have citizenship before they could obtain any legal documentation. On November 20th 2014 president Obama said that he was going to take an executive action in order to delay the deportation of at least 5 million of illegal immigrants residing in the United States. Under Obamas policy illegal immigrants who are parents of U.S. citizens won't be deported. They will receive deportation deferrals and are going to be able to work legally in the United States if they lived in the territory more than five years and they pass all the background checks. As well immigrants under the age of 31 who were brought to the United States as children are going to be able to receive two year deportation deferrals and they will get work permits. “ *Twenty six states challenged the executive order and in February 2015 a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction, temporarily blocking the provisions of the executive order while the states pursued a lawsuit to permanently shut down the program (Rowen 2016)*” (Rowen 2016).

2.4.2 Examples of aggressive US policies in Latin Americawhich might have led to migration

We can date the beginning of US interference to Monroe doctrine (1823). It talked about the dominance of the US in the Americas. It stated that if any European country will try to colonize or interfere with any country in the North, Central or South America, it would be

viewed as aggression where US would have to interfere. This doctrine was issued at the time when almost all Spanish and Portuguese colonies gained or almost achieved their independence (The library of congress 2015).

The intervention Latin America continued with president Theodore Roosevelt with the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine in 1904. *“In the early 1900s Roosevelt grew concerned that a crisis between Venezuela and its creditors could spark an invasion of that nation by European powers. The Roosevelt Corollary of December 1904 stated that the United States would intervene as a last resort to ensure that other nations in the Western Hemisphere fulfilled their obligations to international creditors, and did not violate the rights of the United States or invite “foreign aggression to the detriment of the entire body of American nations.” As the corollary works out in practice, the United States increasingly used military force to restore internal stability to nations in the region. Roosevelt declared that the United States might “exercise international police power in ‘flagrant cases of such wrongdoing or impotence.’” Over the long term the corollary had little to do with relations between the Western Hemisphere and Europe, but it did serve as justification for U.S. intervention in Cuba, Nicaragua, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic (Office of the Historian 2016).”* (Office of the Historian 2016).

Many people from Latin America did not only move because of the bad economy in their countries they also moved because of political reasons. One of the reasons could have been the School of Americas which is considered as one of the US aggressive policies. School of Americas was founded in Panama in 1946. The aim of his school was to establish stability in Latin America. During 50s there were around 65 thousand students and many of them happened to become dictators. Some of them were so cruel that they were sentenced for cruel violence, murders, and massacres or for crimes against humanity. As examples of cruel dictators who studied at this school we can point out the king of Argentina Leopoldo Galtieri (he got to power thanks to bloody coup), dictators in Panama such as Omar Torrijos (he overthrew civilian government in 1968) and Manuel Noriega, Guatemalan dictator Efraín Ríos Montt (he got the power after the coup in 1982 and was the head of the campaign against mayans. Other examples are Guillermo Rodríguez (who was from Ecuador and overthrew civilian government in 1972), Bolivian dictator Hugo Banzer Suárez (he got to power after bloody coup in 1971) or Guido Vildozo Calderón (another dictator who got power in 1982). As the last example I chose Peruvian dictator Juan Velasco Alvarado (who overthrew civilian government in 1968). There were many more cruel people who studied at this school and

went on the wrong path. After those experiences at first the school was moved to Georgia US and in the year 2000 it was closed. The congress disagreed with the way the school functioned. The odd thing is that a year later the school was reopened. This school is supposed to train soldiers. The question here is why does it produce than so many dictators? And why most of the dictators are from Latin America? At the same time the school trains around 2000 soldiers from LA and Caribbean. There are lots of studies and articles about this school, but most of the publishing is rewritten or censored. It is odd that this school still exists and especially in US where they are trying to fight against terrorism but are producing people who are in their own way terrorists to their countries (Al Jazeera 2012).

As a second US policy which might be considered as aggressive is the Plan Colombia. The Colombian government proposed “Plan Colombia” in 1999, so they could get a financial and political support to the countries which fight against violent people: revolutionaries; narcotraffickers; self-proclaimed vigilantes; and common criminals. This plan was called “the plan for peace, prosperity, and the strengthening of the state”. The plan got a 7.5 billion USD budget. As the first thing the government tried to solve the problems with were drug cartels but there were more interests groups (such as militaries, guerillas, paramilitary groups, narcotic groups and cartels) with which the government had to talk because they are fighting each other. The government of Colombia, its military and US are trying to get rid of the coca which is used for making cocaine by applying pesticides. The problem here is that by using those pesticides the regular crops which are supposed to feed the people are dying because they are sprayed as well. This is a very expensive way how to get rid of coca leaves. Columbia has diverse geography which makes it difficult for the planes to spread the pesticides well. The US is the main financial contributor in fights against guerillas. The results are misleading. There is a better security in Columbia now than it was before but it is still pretty bad and the cocaine production is still very high. The export is a lower from Columbia now but if there will be more significant cut, the production may move to neighboring countries (Peru, Bolivia) and then we could start the fight against coca production all over again. From the results that we have and the possibilities which could happen in the future, the conclusion here is that the plan failed. IS it possible that the US is hiding behind the economical growth and security in the country but the actual interest is in the lobbying? If we want to be specific is the US interested more in oil (Oxydental Company) than other things in Columbia? It is difficult to say if they really want to help with the

situation which is in Columbia or they are just protecting their interests (Plan Colombia video, 2011).

2.4.3 The Democrats view on immigration

Democratic Party in the United States believes that a new reform in immigration is essential in order to continue the United States tradition. Throughout the years immigrants played an important role and brought an innovation to the American economy. Democrats say that Republicans have refused to act and cooperate on new immigration acts and laws that may protect the national security and give a chance for immigrants to become a fair and legal part of United States community. Democratic Party supports permanent solutions which can keep families together and the United States a safe country. President Obama wants to work with the new Congress on a comprehensive, immigration, reform bill. Democrats believe that immigrants are bringing richness to the United States therefore democrats are committed to make a new, working immigration system. Democrats are supporting a comprehensive reform which is based on the principles such as accountability and responsibility. Those principles are: 1. the responsibility of the government to secure the borders. Obama's administration is working on decreasing the illegal trafficking in both directions. They dedicated a significant amount of money to secure the US borders. 2. The employers have to take responsibility after they employ an illegal worker. These employers are breaking the laws, they are exploiting illegal workers and they need to take accountability for their actions. 3. People who are living in the United States need to take responsibility as well. These illegal workers must admit that they are breaking laws, they have to pay taxes and penalty, learn English and they have to follow the laws and follow the right path to citizenship (Democrats 2016).

In 2013 Senate passed a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill that had the ability to strengthen United States communities, streets, economy and future of the state as a whole. Representatives from both sides agreed and saw the potential in this bill and even US citizens did not strongly disagree with this legislation. However House Speaker John Boehner and house leadership refused to deal with this bill and did not even bring it up for discussion. That is why president Obama is taking action and fights for new immigration system which could help the United States. As I mentioned above president Obama wants to give a chance to immigrant families. He is willing to give parents of US citizen's deportation relief if they follow the legal steps, undergo a background check, live in the United States longer than five years and pay taxes. Obama believes that this way the enforcement officials will have more resources and time to catch illegal felons instead of deporting and tearing apart families.

Obama's administration believes that these steps could help the United States and help to grow countries economy. Obama believes that the economy could grow up by 210 billion USD in ten years and the federal deficit could shrink by up to 25 billion USD over decade. President Obama says that he can do as much on his own. Only Congress is able to finish the job and pass the bills and there was not enough support until now with this particular bill. In summary Obama considers 4 important facts in order to fix United States immigration system and they are 1. Provide a pathway to earned citizenship, 2. Streamline legal immigration, 3. Continue to strengthen United States borders and 4. Crack down on employers who hire undocumented workers (Obama 2016).

Hillary Clinton is one of the two presidential candidates for Democratic Party in the United States. If she wins and becomes president of the United States, she wants to continue fighting on the bill and believes that president Obama has. She believes in the same values especially in the fact that tearing apart families of working illegal immigrants is not right. Hillary Clinton says: *"We have to finally and once and for all fix our immigration system – this is a family issue, it's an economic issue too, but it is at heart a family issue. If we claim we are for family then we have to pull together and resolve the outstanding issues are our broken immigration system. The American people support comprehensive immigration reform not just because it's the right thing to do—and it is—but because it will strengthen families, strengthen our economy, and strengthen our country. That's why we can't wait any longer, we can't wait any longer for a path to full and equal citizenship (Clinton 2015)."* (Clinton 2016).

As a president, Hillary Clinton wants to fight for comprehensive immigration reform and as president Obama provide a legal path to citizenship, she wants to defend president Obama DACA and DAPA executive actions (reliefs from deportation), she wants to protect families. Also she wants to end the 3- and 10- year bars which divide the families (in order to get green cards people need to leave the US and loved ones behind or live in the United States illegally – Hillary Clinton wants to change that), Clinton also wants to conduct a humane immigration enforcement (end family detention and close private immigrant detention centers). As one of the last steps she would like to take as a president that are related to immigration are promoting naturalization and expand access to affordable healthcare to all families across the United States (Clinton 2016).

Bernie Sanders is the second candidate for Democratic Party in the upcoming presidential election in United States. The first thing that comes up on his official page is his quote: *“We are a nation of immigrants. I am the son of an immigrant myself. Their story, my story, our story of America: hard – working families coming to the United States to create a brighter future for their children. The story of immigrants is the story of America, a story rooted in family and fueled by hope. It continues today in families all across the United States (Sanders 2016)”*. Senator Sanders in some of his program points agrees and has same views as Hillary Clinton and President Obama and in other actions he goes deeper. If he becomes a president he will try to implement a humane and secure immigration policy that will: 1. Remove inhumane detention programs and centers 2. As well as Clinton and Obama he will try to implement a fair legislative roadmap to citizenship 3. He will ensure that the borders will remain safe and that the communities living along the borders are safe 4. He thinks that regulation of immigrants may be achieved by new visa system and by rewriting bad trade agreements 5. He would enhance access to justice and reverse the criminalization of immigrants and as a last point 6. He wants to establish new parameters for key agencies of US Department of Homeland Security. Sanders in his program point out that NAFTA was a bad treaty and are in some ways to blame for the immigration flow. NAFTA was supposed to help Mexico and the free trade should have raised the standard of living in Mexico and the flow of illegal immigrants should decrease significantly. As the past years demonstrated it wasn't true. Since NAFTA treaty was implemented the number of Mexicans living under the poverty line increased by at least 14 million and the increase of Mexican illegal immigrants to United States was around 185 % from 1992 to 2011. Bernie Sanders believes that it is important to mobilize American citizens including Latinos in order to make Congress act on what most of the Americans demand which is comprehensive and humane immigration reform (Sanders 2016).

2.4.4 The Republican view on immigration

The Republican platform praises legal immigrants. Republicans say that the legal immigrants help United States to be a state that it is today. They have helped in the past and they are still helping now. Legal immigrants are part of American society, culture, economy and they are committed to American values. In this century full of drug cartels, terrorists, human trafficking, gangs, etc. the unauthorized people pose great threat to the safety and sovereignty of the United States. Therefore the highest priority for Republican Party is the rule of law at both their borders and at ports of entry. Republicans believe that people who try

to get to United States illegally do not respect their homelands rule of law and that they won't respect one in the United States. Republicans say that everyone is treated equally in the United States and that US gives a chance to one million legal immigrants every year to become part of the US society. Those people have to obey the law and go step by step in order to become citizens and that brings up the issue of legalizing people who came to US illegally. Republicans are against amnesty for illegal immigrants because that would put the people who got to US legally in disadvantage and the process wouldn't be fair and amnesty would encourage more people to break the law or to get to US illegally. Republicans strongly believe that a working person is the biggest contribution for the American economy. They also point out that it is necessary to create a new immigration system in the United States because current system is not functioning and according to the republican opinion it is even broken. At this point it is necessary to transform the immigration policy so it corresponds with the needs of 21st century (GOP 2012).

Ted Cruz agrees and goes into more detail with his ideas about immigration. He says that border security equals to national security. Cruz believes in need to secure the borders once and for all. He wants to stop Obama's amnesty and enforce the rule of law. Cruz says that the United States know how to solve the problem of illegal immigration but they are missing the political will to get it done. Cruz's platform says that he will stop illegal immigration that he will build a wall that will work, he will triple border security and that he will put surveillance everywhere where it's needed. The promise that Cruz gives to his supporters is that he will stop Obama's amnesty the first day he is appointed president. He also wants to strengthen E-verify system which checks people's right to stay in the United States and he wants to suspend and audit H – 1B visas as long as American unemployment remains unacceptably high. Cruz has previously introduced strong legislation act in the Congress to stop illegal immigration and he came up with the outline that can protect Americans in the future (Cruz 2016).

John Kasich is one of the candidates for the Republican Party and now is a governor of Ohio. He believes that it is necessary to finish the border. The United States have to be able to close its doors. He believes that a guest worker program could be working and people would come and work in the United States in an orderly way. He also talks about more than 11 million illegal immigrants. He believes that if they did not commit a crime and they would pay some fines and back taxes but he thinks that those people could be on a path to legalization (not citizenship). He says that it is unimaginable to take a dad or mom from

home, deport them and leave the children on their own in the United States. He does not believe that this is the way to do it. He believes that Americans and Congress would support a plan to finish borders followed by guest worker program and find a path to legalization to non citizens who are without criminal record. He believes that if he becomes a president that within the first 100 days he would be able to put a proposal with those steps to Congress and that it would pass (Kasich 2016).

Donald Trump says that “we don’t have a country if we don’t have borders”. He believes that United States need to build the wall and it needs to be a great wall in order to do what it is designed to do and that is to keep illegal immigrants away from the United States. Trump says that in the middle of the wall there is going to be a “nice big door” which will welcome legal immigrants. Trump wants to welcome new people into the United States and he wants the same rules and opportunities for everyone. Trump is complaining about “taking the heat” when he started to talk about illegal immigration and he states that he was right from the beginning but that people just did not understand him. The main point that he is making in his statements about immigration is that the inflow of illegal immigrants has to be stopped right away. He states: “We either have a country or we don’t, we need a border, we need a wall” (Trump 2016).

2.5 Huntington’s point of view on immigration and its impact on the United States national identity

Samuel Huntington put together his theses after the Cold War. Those theses were about the end of ideologies which were primary source of conflict in the 20th century all around the world. According to Huntington borders in the global environment are formed according to civilizations which consist of cultural, religious or ethnic groups. These groups generated globally throughout time (Huntington 1996).

The population of the United States is multicultural and there are many ethnicities living inside the borders of the United States. This population has one thing in common and these are American values. Huntington expressed these values in his theses. People in the United States wanted to have their identities since the colonial times. First step was when most British and some foreign colonists in America identified themselves as Americans and they refused to be ruled by the native country, at that time the United Kingdom. Nationalism spread around the United States after the civil war and continued to the next century. This tendency was challenged in the 20th century by different identities which were trying to disturb the authority of American nationalism. The first definition of American national

identity was formulated by T. Jefferson and was based on the “American values”. These values are product of Anglo-Saxon culture and most important of them are English language, Christian values, Anglo –Saxon understanding of the nations executive and jurisdiction, laws of an individual, individualism, ethics, work and believes (Huntington 2005).

Anglo – Saxon culture has beendominating in the United States for three centuries and was a significant part of the American identity. Currently this American primary culture is facing the challenge from the expanding Hispanic culture. If people will continue to support Spanish language as a second national language in the United States and there is going to be aim to legitimize different identities which are based on ethnic differences, the American national identity might be in danger. Huntington came up with five possible and different scenarios which could become a solution to the situation. First solution is that everyone would identify themselves with traditional American values, the second solution is a model of a country which is divided into two (American and Hispanic culture and there are going to be two languages coexisting alongside each other: English and Spanish). Third solution is a model where white and European race are preferred, that would mean the revitalization of traditional Anglo – Saxon protestant and Christian values. The last solution would be a combination of all four of the solutions written above. Huntington does not oppose immigration and multicultural societies in the United States, he analyzes the impact they have on the American society and the consequences the multiculturalism brings to this society. He strongly disagrees with the fact that these ethnicities should have their own special political and cultural representation. These groups should not be able to influence the American cultural and political scene to a certain extent where the United States would lose their American national identity (Huntington 2005).

Huntington was a man of science and publicist so in comparison with Clinton, Sanders, Cruz, Kasich or Trump he did not have to please his voters and follow the Party’s platform. That is why he was able to define the current situation in 2005 and made assumptions on the development of the American identity. He looked at the situation in 2005 and analyzed it from current point of view and he took into consideration the different impacts that ethnic communities from different civilizations created. It is absolutely necessary for the United States presidential candidatestofocus on the immigration issue from the point of view which their voters prefer because they are fighting for each and every vote which means that they have to please several members of different ethnic groups. All these politicians are discussing the problematic of illegal immigration and how to stop it or help the situation at

this point. None of them are actually discussing the problematic of losing the American national identity and how to prevent the nation from losing its cultural, political and social background (Huntington 2005).

2.6 Summary of the most important economic and social impacts of Latin American immigrants on United States social identity

Social Impacts on US social identity	Economic impacts on US social identity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mass concentration of Latin American ethnicities in particular states - Mexicans being the largest group of Latin American immigrants in US - Bilingualism - Spanish signs, documents, forms - Difficult adaptation of migrants (especially of the 2nd generation which was affected by their parents deportation) - LA migrants brought their culture along - Miami -> Center of Latin American business - Migrants do not recognize themselves as Americans (not even some of the 2nd generations) - Discrimination of LA migrants in the US - Illegal immigration - Ethnic enclaves - Children with psychological and emotional problems caused by deportation - Integration - LA migrants as voters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low paid jobs taken by LA migrants - Low education - Low incomes (Most of the bottom 15 % are from Latin America) - 1.3 trillion USD worth community - 3.2 million businesses owned by Latin Americans in US - LA migrants make 500 billion USD in economic activity - LA migrants are future workforce - Programs which include LA migrants into the society (US spending money) - Many workers in the major industries are from Latin America (ex.: forestry, industry, cleaning, etc.) - Consumers -> spending - Tax payers -> contributing to the US economy - Contribution to the Social security and Health care system - Welfare -> changes because of the LA migrants - Remittances -> A lot of money from US goes to LA countries

Conclusion

The flow of immigrants arriving to the United States has been continuing for centuries. It all begun with the colonization and now one of the biggest issues that United States is dealing with is illegal and Latin American immigration. The first signs of Hispanic population in the United States are dated back to the Mexican – American war (1846 – 1847). Mexico was defeated and lost 55 % of its territory. The first almost 74,000 Mexicans appeared on US soil at that point and the majority of them decided to stay. The second significant flow of Mexicans started at the beginning of the 20 th century when the United States imposed restrictions on Chinese and Japanese immigration. People in the United States were seeking low paid workers and they turned to the Mexicans. At the end of 19 th and at the beginning of the 20 th century Mexicans were followed by Cubans and Puerto Ricans. Thousands of those immigrants were moving to the United States mainly because of political and for economic reasons.

Many of the Latin American countries suffered from military putsches, wars, and authoritarian regimes and for people who lived in these situations life in United States seemed like a dream. Today, there are around 50 million Latin American immigrants living in the United States. This number is not precise because it is impossible to count how many illegal immigrants from Latin America actually live on US soil. There is rough estimate that there are around 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States and almost 6.5 million of them are from Mexico. This fact brings the question about border security. Latin American immigration is an issue that has occupied the American government and legislature branch as a whole for the last fifty years. In the last couple of years President Obama has been trying to find a solution as to how to help the illegal immigrants who are living in the United States for many years. His political efforts have not been successful yet. The reason why his attempts of legalizing immigrants hasn't been successful is Congress. There are still more than enough senators who support deportation and strongly disagree with President Obama.

The primary impact of Latin American immigration is in the political, social and economic spheres. Each of the governments in the past have been struggling to come up with successful immigration policies which would stop the flows of migrants and especially to reduce illegal immigration. The wall along the border with Mexico has not been fully constructed yet and there are many lawmakers in Congress who have different ideas about the immigration policies and they failed to find a solution on this issue which would satisfy both

Republicans and Democrats. Latinos have enriched the American culture by their cultural elements but also have created communities which have their own churches, schools, shops and where people speak primarily Spanish. That is not a positive social aspect of Latin American immigration, once they decided to move elsewhere they should at least attempt to follow and become a part of the new society. Looking at the economic impact of the legal Latino migrants who are paying their taxes and fees, we can state that they are a valuable element for the United States. They work at low paid jobs, in construction and take on work which is not attractive for the local population. Latinos like to live the American dream so they are spending a lot of money on fun, cinemas, restaurants, celebrations, groceries, etc. This way they are supporting businesses.

The United States of America is one of the global powers. If the United States would change their identity it could lead to turmoil in foreign affairs and then even to a shift in the global order. The United states have been a target for immigrants for centuries and they brought with them different cultural and religious values. Taking all the information written above an adequate question here is: “is the United States of America still a country with an Anglo – Saxon background and tradition?” Today we can still consider the United States as a country with prevailing Anglo – Saxon characteristics. Starting with the United States Constitution, it is still a symbol of statehood since the day it was created. The legislative, executive and judiciary branches are still the same and function according to traditions. The United States is still holding on to its Euro Atlantic connections and is allied with a lot of European countries including Great Britain. There are two primary political parties, the Republicans and Democrats, and even though people with Hispanic roots are part of these parties there is not a change in the political traditions of the country. The American traditions are still preserved despite many ethnicities living in the United States and the “Salad Bowl” theory. Americans still celebrate their holidays as they did before the immigration flows. Looking at the language, the United States is still Anglophonic even though Spanish has significance in this territory.

The role of Latin American immigrants is important in United States society. Around 16 % of the American population are Latin American immigrants. They are part of American society because they are neighbors, aunts, uncles, ancestors, a valuable work force, consumers and much more. Some of them stay in their communities and while others try to fit in with the citizens and adopt the American values and way of living. Latinos imported their traditions and culture and since a lot of them live in the United States there are not many people who are not familiar with Spanish terms like “quinceanera”, “cinco de mayo”, “piñata”, “feliznavidad”, etc. The United States even created a Hispanic Heritage Month which is dated annually from the 15th of September to the 15 th of October. It is a month where people in the United States acknowledge this ethnic group and celebrate with them the group’s cultural

contributions to the United States. Later generations of Latinos are an important part of the society as well. They are still following some traditions that their parents passed on to them but also they are more likely to be educated, work at better positions and speak much better English. Even though some people question the fact that English is the only official language in the United States since a lot of signs and legal papers are available in English and also in Spanish, English still remains the only official language of the United States.

In my opinion, the United States is still an Anglo – Saxon based country because even though there are many people coming from Latin America and Spanish is used everywhere, there are still a majority of people who follow Anglo – Saxon culture, traditions and everyone is learning English in order to succeed in the United States. This country is one of the richest countries in all the Americas and that attracts people not even from this south and central America but also from all around the world. People cannot choose where they will be born and they have to deal with the circumstances along the way. Every one of us would like to have a piece of the American dream (having a good job, opportunities, education, health care, etc.). I am not asking myself why are people from Latin America moving to the United States, I am asking myself why not? The United States is dealing with bad immigration policy especially toward the immigrants from Latin America. It is necessary that US officials come up with a more humane way as to how to stop the immigration at the Mexican – American border. Looking at the people losing their lives and giving away their hard earned money to smugglers in order to get to the United States is heartbreaking. I am of the same opinion as the Democratic Party. People who live in the United States for many years and raise children there should get the chance to get a legal permit. I am not saying that they shouldn't be punished, they should be charged some fine otherwise it would be unfair to people who came to the United States legally. What both parties agree on and I consent to as well is that the United States is in desperate need of a new immigration policy because the one they have now clearly doesn't work.

This masters thesis could be enlarged by a more detailed history of Latin American immigration to the United States and by detailed analysis of the number of immigrants from each and every nation in Latin America. It could be interesting to look at the different impacts of immigrants from Portuguese, French, Spanish and English speaking countries in Latin America and to analyze which one of them is more successful in American society and why. This thesis could be also enlarged by a research which would focus on the Hispanic roots of politicians and important people in the United States.

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