



WashPost Op-Ed Says Migrants Should Replace Americans

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Migrants would have to be imported to fill millions of empty jobs, even as about seven million American men of working age have left the workforce, says a right-wing columnist for the *Washington Post*.

“We need immigrants to fill these jobs,” Marc Thiessen wrote on Dec. 4, after he fired the millions of American men who had been sidelined for the past 20 years.

Thiessen’s proposal from the Americans is “morally repugnant” but is also commonplace among the GOP branch, Mark Krikorian, the director of the Center for Immigration Studies, replied:

HE’S JUST ONE OF MANY WHO SAYS, ‘WE JUST NEED TO GIVE UP A BIG CHUNK OF OUR WORKFORCE, GIVE THEM THEIR WELLNESS CHECKS, GIVE THEM THEIR OXYCONTIN, AND LET’S BRING IN PEOPLE WHO ARE BETTER.’ ... IT’S A LOGICAL CONSEQUENCE OF THE PERSPECTIVE THAT WE ARE JUST AN ECONOMY RATHER THAN A COUNTRY.

The Establishment’s Layoff of Ordinary Americans “Is One Reason That” [establishment advocates] are no longer in charge of the Republican Party,” Krikorian added.

Many business leaders — Democrats and Republicans alike — say the government should prioritize investors and businesses over employees and citizens:

Thiessen is a former speechwriter for President George W. Bush who pushed for his open-border “Any Willing Worker” program. He wrote:

... DESPITE THE PLETHORA OF JOBS AVAILABLE, MY AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE COLLEAGUE NICHOLAS EBERSTADT POINTS OUT THAT MORE THAN 1 IN 10 MEN OF THE BEST AGE ARE “DROPOUTS – NOT WORKING OR LOOKING FOR WORK.” WHILE THE LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE OF FOREIGN-BORN WORKERS APPEARS TO BE BACK TO PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS, EBERSTADT SAYS, “ALMOST ALL OF THE REMAINING LABOR SHORTAGE APPEARS TO BE AMONG NATIVE AMERICANS.”

...

WE NEED THE NUMBER LEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND REFORMING OUR IMMIGRATION SYSTEM TO ENSURE WE BRING THE RIGHT PEOPLE INTO THE COUNTRY WITH THE SKILLS OUR ECONOMY NEEDS.

Thiessen added: “House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) says, ‘The best thing we can do for our economy is a comprehensive immigration reform’.... Pelosi is right.”

However, Thiessen’s claim of 10 million “unfilled jobs” is questionable. Many companies post jobs with little interest in hiring quickly, subcontractors post multiple ads for each job, and lawyers post fake jobs while trying to import foreign workers.

Eberstadt, a demographer, has a more nuanced view than Thiessen about the ‘flight from work’ crisis among working-age men.

“The United States has a job problem on the scale of depression,” Eberstadt wrote in a Sept *Washington Post*.

“In the absence of a dramatic reversal from the current flight from work, the labor shortage in the US will likely have to be solved through a combination of immigration, automation and recession,” he wrote.

Automation is an alternative to migration because it helps Americans do more work every day. For example, robotic milking machines for cows allow family farms to operate without a large number of hired hands.

However, business groups prefer migrants to robots as the migrants can be laid off in any economic downturn, while the loans to buy robots must be paid regardless of economic conditions. So Trump’s decision to reduce immigration put pressure on many companies to invest in productivity and automation.

Trump’s cuts to migration also helped mitigate the “flight from work” problem by pulling sideline workers back into the workforce.

But that progress was quickly reversed by President Joe Biden’s policy of welcoming about four million additional legal and illegal migrants.

That massive influx of migrants is forcing Americans’ wages down, raising their housing costs and driving many out of decent jobs.

The hardest hit Americans are the old and slow people, middle-aged technology experts, people with criminal records, people who don’t speak Spanish or who are too proud to work alongside illegal migrants, as well as people who are sick or who care for children. or sick relatives.

Eberstadt’s “flight from work” problem stems from federal support for policies that help drive young men out of the workforce, such as immigration, outsourcing and factory exports.

“This one [mass dropout] is caused by policy and institutions, not technology,” admitted Jason Furman, an economist who chaired President Barack Obama’s Council of Economic Advisers.

“We shouldn’t take it as inevitable,” he told a Brookings Institute expert, Dave Wessel, shortly before Donald Trump was elected president in 2016:

IN THE EARLY 1950S, 98 PERCENT OF MEN IN THAT AGE GROUP HAD A JOB... [OR] WERE ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR IT. TODAY, THAT FRACTION HAS FALLEN TO 88 PERCENT. ... UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS QUITE LARGE. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A RECESSION AND A NORMAL ECONOMIC PERIOD IS MAYBE TWO PERCENTAGE POINTS ON THE LABOR FORCE RATIO...SO THIS IS SOMETHING MORE LIKE 10 PERCENT AGE POINTS [FIVE RECESSIONS] SPREAD OVER A LONG PERIOD.

IN A WAY [THIS DROP-OFF] IS GREATER THAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A RECESSION AND A BOOM, AND THE IMPACT IT HAS, THE EVIDENCE IS VERY CLEAR THAT... IF YOU’RE TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE WHO IS NOT MARRIED, WHO HAS LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, THERE’S A GOOD CHANCE THAT [UNEMPLOYMENT] IS NOT A CHOICE, AND IT IS ASSOCIATED WITH DEPRESSION, WITH DRUG USE, WITH SUICIDE, WITH A RANGE OF BAD OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE.

The non-working men lead miserable lives, Eberstadt told CNN’s Michael Smerconish on Sept. 24:

IT IS A TERRIBLY DISCOURAGING PICTURE THAT THEY THEMSELVES PAINT ON THE BASIS OF SELF-REPORTED TIME USE DATA. BASICALLY THEY SAY THEY DON’T DO CIVIL SOCIETY, THEY DON’T DO MUCH WORSHIP, OR VOLUNTEER OR CHARITY, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE A LOT OF TIME TO SPARE. THEY DON’T DO A WHOLE LOT OF HELP AROUND THE HOUSE... THEY REPORT WATCHING SCREENS FOR ABOUT 2,000 HOURS A YEAR, ALMOST AS IF IT WERE A FULL-TIME JOB, AND THEY ALSO REPORT ALMOST HALF OF THESE MEN.... TAKING PAINKILLERS EVERY DAY.

In many cases, the oxycontin pain medication turns into drug addiction, fentanyl use, and death. That process has led to a huge number of “Deaths of Despair” among men standing on the sidelines. More than 106,000 Americans died from drugs in 2021, and many others died from alcohol and suicide.

Policies that can get Americans back to work “are difficult, they’re expensive and won’t be successful right away,” he said.

But the government’s support for migration policies encourages companies to stop recruiting and training the unwanted and marginalized Americans, Krikorian said:

EASY IMMIGRATION MAKES THAT POSSIBLE [REPLACEMENT MIGRATION] PERSPECTIVE... IF THERE WEREN’T LARGE-SCALE IMMIGRATION, IT’S NOT WHAT SOME OF THESE ELITE COMMENTATORS WOULD LIKE [WORKING CLASS] AMERICANS... BUT THEY WOULD HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE TO A POLICY THAT SEEKS TO BRING THESE LOST YOUNG MEN BACK INTO THE WORLD OF WORK.

“Government exists to advance the interests of its people,” Krikorian said, adding, “We have a responsibility to our own people that is different from the responsibility to others.”

