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Are Illegal Mexican Immigrants Destroying California?

By [The CATO Institute](#) , Individual Liberty, Free Markets, Peace - 11 Hours Ago



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by *Daniel Griswold*

An article published this week by *National Review* magazine blames the many problems of California on—take a guess—high [taxes](#), over-regulation of business, runaway state spending, an expansive welfare state? Try none of the above. [The article](#), by Alex Alexiev of the Hudson Institute, puts the blame on the backs of low-skilled, illegal immigrants from Mexico and the federal government for not keeping them out.

Titled “Catching Up to Mexico: Illegal [immigration](#) is depleting California’s human capital and ravaging its [economy](#),” the article endorses high-skilled immigration to the state while rejecting the influx of “the poorly educated, the unskilled, and the illiterate” immigrants that enter illegally from Mexico and elsewhere in Latin America.

Before swallowing the article’s thesis, consider two thoughts:

One, if low-skilled, illegal immigration is the single greatest cause of California’s woes, how does the author explain the relative success of Texas? As a survey in the July 11 issue of [The Economist](#) magazine explained, smaller-government Texas has avoided many of the problems of California while outperforming most of the rest of the country in job creation and economic growth. And Texas has managed to do this with an illegal immigrant population that rivals California’s as a share of its population.

Two, low-skilled immigrants actually enhance the human capital of native-born [Americans](#) by allowing us to move up the occupational ladder to [jobs](#) that are more productive and better paying. In a new study from the Cato Institute, titled “[Restriction or Legalization? Measuring the Economic Benefits of Immigration Reform](#),” this phenomenon is called the “occupational mix effect” and it translates into tens of billions of dollars of benefits to U.S. households.

Our new study, authored by economists Peter Dixon and Maureen Rimmer, found that legalization of

low-skilled immigration would boost the incomes of American households by \$180 billion, while further restricting such immigration would reduce the incomes of U.S. families by \$80 billion.

That is a quarter of a trillion dollar difference between following the policy [advice](#) of *National Review* and that of the Cato Institute. Last time I checked, that is still real money, even in Washington.

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[No the illegal alien population is a consequence](#)

of ignoring Godly principles and precepts and California has been choosing anything and everything over God for years, in the [schools](#) , in their courts of [law](#) , in their government,with one exception being recently when Prop. 8 passed,so for the most part the only persons to blame for the mess California is in are the liberal secular progressives Californians and those who are conservative who do not try to stop them that is what is destroying any chance this California has for restoration from all the damage done by ignoring Godly precepts and principles.Californias finacial situation, their illegal alien situation, their corrupted [police](#) and schools systems are destroying California and horrific crimes statistics, debt beyond their control and this current illegal alien situation are only consequences to the bigger picture of lack of respect for Godly things and instead they have exchanged morality for immorality, financial

soundness to out-of-control spending and inflation, safe communities for hostels of gang violence and mob corruption, California has exchanged the good life for a burden no one can bare and its finally getting to the " what goes around comes around stage" and thats the best thing that could happen to them. I think maybe hitting rock bottom might cause them to finally get a focus on putting priorities in the right place which are Godly ones not worldly ones.Its always interesting to watch California and see what happens they dont seem to have that objective luxury.

- [angelmama](#)  August 27, 2009 10:58AM

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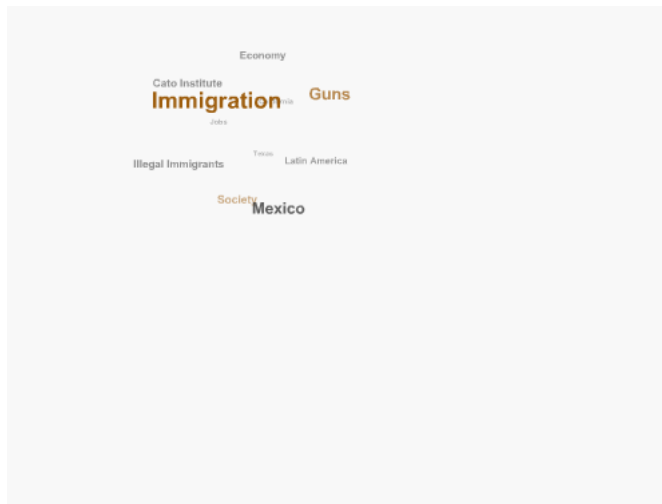


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