

We Wanted Workers: Unraveling the Immigration Narrative

By George J. Borjas

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From “America’s leading immigration economist” (*The Wall Street Journal*), a refreshingly level-headed exploration of the effects of immigration.


We are a nation of immigrants, and we have always been concerned about immigration. As early as 1645, the Massachusetts Bay Colony began to prohibit the entry of “paupers.” Today, however, the notion that immigration is universally beneficial has become pervasive. To many modern economists, immigrants are a trove of much-needed workers who can fill predetermined slots along the proverbial assembly line.

But this view of immigration’s impact is overly simplified, explains George J. Borjas, a Cuban-American, Harvard labor economist. Immigrants are more than just workers?they’re people who have lives outside of the factory gates and who may or may not fit the ideal of the country to which they’ve come to live and work. Like the rest of us, they’re protected by social insurance programs, and the choices they make are affected by their social environments.

In *We Wanted Workers*, Borjas pulls back the curtain of political bluster to show that, in the grand scheme, immigration has not affected the average American all that much. But it has created winners and losers. The losers tend to be nonmigrant workers who compete for the same jobs as immigrants. And somebody’s lower wage is somebody else’s higher profit, so those who employ immigrants benefit handsomely. In the end, immigration is mainly just another government redistribution program.

“I am an immigrant,” writes Borjas, “and yet I do not buy into the notion that immigration is universally beneficial. . . . But I still feel that it is a good thing to give some of the poor and huddled masses, people who face so many hardships, a chance to experience the incredible opportunities that our exceptional country has to offer.” Whether you’re a Democrat, a Republican, or an Independent, *We Wanted Workers* is essential reading for anyone interested in the issue of immigration in America today.

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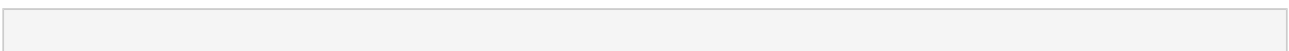
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Editorial Review

Review

““However much you think you know about immigration, you'll learn something from this book. And buy a second copy for your congressman?he needs it even more than you do.”” (Mark Krikorian - The National Review)

““A readable and detailed historical tour of America’s immigration debates and policies....[Borjas] generously provides readers with arguments on all sides.”” (The Wall Street Journal)

“An intriguing, clearly written polemic.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“One of America’s leading immigration economists presents a level-headed exploration of the effects of immigration on migrant and nonmigrant workers.” (Publishers Weekly)

“*We Wanted Workers* is essential to understanding America’s future. Drawing on decades of research, Borjas cuts through the myths and obfuscations plaguing our immigration debate. This is the most lucid, powerful work of social science I’ve ever read.” (Reihan Salam, executive editor, National Review)

“An invaluable addition to the literature on U.S. immigration policy. A model of lucid exposition, it delves deeply into the subtle complexities of a subject that has been rife with sloppy and wishful thinking. Borjas reviews a mountain of evidence in support of a forceful argument for the position that, while there are benefits, one needs also to be mindful of the considerable costs associated with the liberalization of immigration policies.” (Glenn C. Loury, Merton P. Stolz Professor of the Social Sciences, Brown University)

“Borjas, the world’s leading economic expert on immigration, has penned a nontechnical, nearly conversational book pointing out all the issues in immigration’s effects on an economy?particularly the American economy. The central message is ‘it depends’?impacts are positive or negative for different natives, different kinds of immigrants, and at different times. With immigration again a central political issue, this book is must-reading for every voter.” (Daniel Hamermesh, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) and Royal Holloway University of London)

““Wir riefen Arbeitskräfte, es kamen Menschen?We wanted workers, people came.’ Max Frisch’s comment on the economically motivated after-war migrations from Southern Europe and Turkey into Northern Europe lends this fascinating book its title, and points at the core of what distinguishes movement of people from movement of goods. It is this aspect of migration that Borjas emphasizes alongside the economic dimensions, when he ventures in a thoughtful and well-structured way through the various facets of migration. This excellent book is also very personal, telling the story of the migrant George Borjas who arrives as a child refugee from Castro’s Cuba and the life’s work of the economist George Borjas, pointing at how personal experience has influenced highly acclaimed academic work. A captivating, insightful and easily accessible book that makes great reading for everyone interested in the subject.” (Christian Dustmann, University College London)

“Lucid and illuminating.” (Binyamin Appelbaum, correspondent for The New York Times)

About the Author

George J. Borjas is the Robert W. Scrivner Professor of Economics and Social Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. He is the recipient of the 2011 IZA Prize in Labor Economics.

Users Review

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Christine Flint:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information currently can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even a huge concern. What people must be consider when those information which is within the former life are challenging to be find than now's taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you get it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take *We Wanted Workers: Unraveling the Immigration Narrative* as the daily resource information.

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Susan Bannister:

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Reading can called head hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book specially book entitled *We Wanted Workers: Unraveling the Immigration Narrative* your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a guide then become one contact form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get previous to. The *We Wanted Workers: Unraveling the Immigration Narrative* giving you yet another experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful details for your better life with this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this

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