

USA: AC: 3.a Global Migration creates opportunities and challenges which reflect the unequal power relations between countries

Number	Factor
41.3 million	Immigrants living in the USA
2.98 million	US citizens living abroad
675,000	Annual worldwide limit of permanent immigrants to USA
13%	Of total population are immigrants
78	Nationalities
50,000	In each nationality
9 nationalities with over 1 million people	
28%	Mexican
5%	India & China (each)
4%	Puerto Rico
3.5%	Vietnam
3%	El Salvador, Cuba and South Korea (each)

5 principles USA immigration policy based on:

Rashid = RRSHD

1. **Reunification** [480,00 visas available]
2. **Refugees** [70,000 in 2013]
3. **Skilled workers** [140,000 visas available]
4. **Humanitarian relief** [temporary visas available for natural disasters or conflict]
5. **Diversity** [from areas of low immigration to the USA, mostly Africans, 50,000 visas]

6 reasons why the USA is an attractive destination for immigrants from a wide variety of countries: GRREEF

- Green Card** [possibility of becoming resident]
- Remittances** [wages are higher than many places]
- Refugee** admission
- Education** [& access to other services like health]
- Employment** opportunities [low and high skilled]
- Family reunification** [migrant policy]

Obviously this has changed in recent years with the Donald Trump Administration.

4 points on interdependence with countries

USA and Mexico = the world's largest bilateral migrant corridor. This connection illustrates political, economic, social and environmental **interdependence**.

- In 2013: **11.5 million Mexicans** lived in the USA and **1 million Americans** lived in Mexico. There is a large growing **social and cultural connectivity**.
- Low-skilled Mexicans [many illegal] contribute to USA economy by working in: **agriculture, construction and low-paid services**. Wages are higher so **remittances** are large. Formal channels = **US\$22billion in 2013** = 2% Mexico's GDP.
- **NAFTA** [North American Free Trade Agreement] = **bilateral trade** agreement between USA and Mexico. Mexican industry has benefited in the development of **aerospace and IT** by **FDI** from the USA.
- Political power relations remain imbalanced, but they are working together on: **border security, drug trade, human trafficking and environmental** issues like water scarcity. Joint management of Colorado River and Sonoran Desert.

Opportunities created by international migration

- Immigrants take **jobs Americans don't want**.
- Attracts **high skilled** well qualified professionals in: arts, science, education, business, athletics
- Most immigrants to USA are **young working** age (increase tax)
- Immigrants are **consumers**.

Challenges created by international migration

- **11.5 million unauthorized immigrants** (6 million = Mexican)
- **Lack of integration** on a social, economic & political level.
- Areas of high immigrant populations need more **services** which are **unavailable**, e.g. water in California.

- The USA has a **net migration gain**.
- Citizens of the USA **emigrate** to **Mexico, Canada, UK, Puerto Rico, Germany, Australia and Israel**.
- This is a lot of **return migration**.
- **High skilled** workers in **education, IT and communications** move to **Canada, UK and EU**.

Migrant Caravan 2018

- 2018-19 **+ 7,000 migrants** travelled **+ 4000km** from Central America to the US-Mexico border, this was called a **migrant caravan**. Many have stayed in Mexico building **makeshift camps**. Mexico is unprepared.
- They are coming from areas of **poverty & violence: Honduras, Guatemala & El Salvador**.
- Trump called it an **invasion** and said gang members were in the caravans and the military would meet them at the border.