Border Security and Immigration

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Abstract

The issue of border security effectiveness is the key priority for the U.S. homeland security. Illegal immigration is one of the factors that make this issue so significant. Analysis of the state of affairs suggests the problem needs more attention. Of course, the government pays a lot of attention to the issue with many achievements. Still, more needs to be done.

Border Security and Immigration

The question of whether border security and immigration are in accord to standards is a controversial issue. On the one hand, the government is working hard to ensure that the U.S. safety and security in this area is up to standards with many remarkable achievements that cannot be overlooked. On the other hand, as stated in the class textbook, the United States does not even have the precise data on the number of illegal immigrants present in the country in the current period (Gaines & Kappeler, 2012). Therefore, it is supposed the matter is quite sensitive. This paper aims to evaluate the U.S. border security along with the programs working currently in this area.

Speaking about whether our border security is up to standards, it is necessary to address the very concept of 'standards.' Various specialists may approach this concept from various angles. However, the majority would agree that the main border security standard refers to the ability of the border specialists detect illegal immigrants (Ngai, 2014). With over 11 million of illegal immigrants, this ability remains low (Gaines & Kappeler, 2012). Therefore, many people would agree that our border security is far off the desired standards.

Besides, insufficient border security rate is also proved by the facts that "thousands of pounds of drugs enter the United States each year" (Gaines & Kappeler, 2012, p. 330). Also, a large-scale human trafficking problem exists. As stated in Gaines and Kappeler (2012), remarkable border security issues both at the Canadian and Mexican borders threaten our homeland security. Borders are extremely porous even in urban areas with the high degree of urbanization, not mentioning the rural districts (Roberts, Alden, & Whitley, 2013). Overall, analysis of the state of affairs with the exact number of illegal immigrants unknown and growing xenophobia in the society, suggests the problems needs more attention.

As for the programs that work to solve the existing border security problems, they are many and quite promising. After the events of September 11, 2001, the government moved

visitors' identity checking procedures of shores to prevent the entrance of dangerous people when they are yet far away (Gaines & Kappeler, 2012). Next, profiling of people and goods has been used to detect the risky countries and identify the reliable partner countries we can trust (Gaines & Kappeler, 2012). Further, we have the border illegal entrance prevention programs such as Safeguard, Operation Hold the Line, and Gatekeeper (Gaines & Kappeler, 2012). The programs have had remarkable attainments with excellent illegal entries deterrence and increased border security gaps coverage. Implementation of these programs has had much positive impact on the local population. Common people began to assist the specialists in performing their work (Roberts et al., 2013).

In conclusion, the problem of border security effectiveness is the main concern for the U.S. homeland security. Examination of the situation suggests the problem needs more attention. The intelligence committee has already put a lot of attention to the problem with many achievements. Nevertheless, multiple omissions exist suggesting that more work is needed.

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