

We live in a globally interconnected society. Our immigration laws have not kept pace with the larger forces that cause migration.

The production of an iPhone, for example, is the result of hundreds of components sourced from over 40 countries, assembled internationally and bought in the United States by millions of people.

Source: lifewire.com / financesonline.com

While Americans take iPhones for granted, it is not acknowledged that these same forces, trade and technology, push people to move, and make moving easier than ever.

The “right way” to immigrate was – at one time in our nation’s history – simply just showing up. That changed with The Immigration Act of 1924, which required that visitors obtain immigration visas, which were limited by race and nationality.

Source: [American Immigration Council](http://AmericanImmigrationCouncil.org)

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 was intended to rectify racial restrictions on immigration. In effect, it also established numerical limits on legal immigration at the southern border, where none had previously existed. This caused the number of immigrants considered to be “unauthorized” to skyrocket.

Source: Douglas S. Massey, Princeton University and Mexican Migration Project / [The Washington Post](http://TheWashingtonPost.com)

If you are undocumented (even if you have DACA), there is no straightforward way to adjust your legal status.

To better understand this process, please see our infographic, “The Game of Getting Legal.” [Click here](#)

2/3 of all undocumented adults have lived in the United States for at least a decade.

Source: [Pew Research Center](http://PewResearchCenter.org)

Undocumented Americans paid \$23.6 billion in federal income taxes in 2015 using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).

Source: [IRS](http://IRS.gov)

The Trump Administration's immigration agenda is unique in that it is focused on limiting legal immigration.

The immigration debate was previously centered on the fate of undocumented Americans. Rhetorically and legislatively, this administration have instead challenged traditional means of legal immigration.

Family-Based Immigrant Visas: The number of immigrants approved for family-based visas has dropped in 2018 to the lowest level in more than a decade. The administration has also proposed ending family-based reunification, lobbying instead for a “merit-based system.”

Source: [Reuters](http://Reuters.com)

Asylum (Refugee) Status: The U.S. Justice Department has changed the definition as to what qualifies for asylum status. Now, victims of domestic abuse and gang violence can no longer apply.

Source: [The New York Times](http://TheNewYorkTimes.com)

The 14th Amendment: President Trump stated that he wants to amend the 14th Amendment with an executive order. While it is impossible to amend the Constitution with an executive order, the President’s intentions are clear. This Administration seeks to end Birthright Citizenship, a core principle of democratic inclusion.

Source: [Axios](http://Axios.com)

More than eight million U.S. citizens live with at least one family member who is undocumented.

Source: [American Immigration Council](http://AmericanImmigrationCouncil.org)

More than three million undocumented Americans own a home.

Source: [Migration Policy Institute](http://MigrationPolicyInstitute.org)

White immigrants did not universally “assimilate” and not all had papers.

22% of adult white immigrants did not speak English in 1910. 38% of adult white immigrants did not have papers in 1920.

[1910](#) and [1920](#) U.S. Census of Population and Housing, [1920](#) U.S. Census Volume II, Sections 10 & 15