

SAMPLE OP-ED ARTICLE 'B'

Time to Seal the Borders

All across the country, immigrant populations are exploding. Consistent with the tenets of “diversity,” Third-World immigrants are diluting Western culture and Balkanizing our once-unified nation.

Settlers from Britain founded the United States and instituted its core cultural attributes: a constitutional government based on individual freedom; a Judeo-Christian religious tradition; and a free economy that fostered ingenuity and wealth.

For generations thereafter, Americans remained overwhelmingly of European descent. That homogeneity stabilized and unified our nation. It assured the preeminence of our founding Western culture, and (with the exception of the Civil War) provided citizens the civic peace they needed to achieve and prosper.

But after the Immigration Act of 1965, tens of millions of Third-World immigrants poured into America. Their influx reduced America’s European-descended population from 90 percent in 1960 to 75 percent today. At current immigration levels, America will be minority European by 2050.

Most Third-World immigrants are good, well-intentioned people. But they are products of their native countries and cultures — most of which are characterized by autocratic or collectivist governments, codified racial or religious intolerance, armed political strife, or primitive, undisciplined economies. “People carry their culture in their heads and hearts and do not leave it behind when they move,” notes columnist Samuel Francis. “Immigration, therefore, affects culture, importing new habits and patterns of thought and behavior that often conflict with the . . . culture that receives immigrants.”

In years past, immigrants would work to “Americanize”: to imbibe their new country’s governmental, cultural and linguistic traditions and integrate into its mainstream. But in recent years, immigrants have reached the critical mass to force recognition of “multiculturalism”: the idea that non-Western cultures have the right to exist in America on separate and equal terms with its founding Anglo-European culture.

The result: millions of immigrants — and even their American-born children — no longer seek to Americanize. Increasingly, they segregate themselves into geographic enclaves that supplant Western cultural and commercial institutions with those of their home countries, enabling them to retain and even fortify their native cultural traits. Such enclaves abound in big border-state cities like New York, Los Angeles and Miami — and now even appear in smaller interior ones like Columbus, Ohio, where 14,000 Somalis have settled in a mere five years.

Even in a northwest state like Oregon, which is far from America’s easily penetrated southern border, influxes of Mexicans have transformed Portland’s blue-collar neighborhoods and the small agricultural towns of Dayton and Gervais. Portland, once a pioneer settlement of rugged individualist Americans, is home to growing, insular East African communities.

Historically, America’s great unifying force was the English language. But under multiculturalism, use of English has become optional. Government documents now are printed, and public schoolchildren taught, in countless languages. Foreign-language radio stations saturate the airwaves. At many workplaces throughout the country, native-born workers must learn to tolerate a growing army of Asian and African employees, many of whom segregate themselves in the lunchrooms and converse in Vietnamese, Tagalog and Ethiopian; as Asian managers and workers even discuss company business in their native tongues.

Immigrants’ ignorance of English can have tragic consequences. In Portland last year, a policeman shot and killed Jose Mejia, a mentally-disturbed, non-English-speaking Mexican immigrant who had charged the policeman with a metal bar. Before shooting him, the officer had tried to communicate with Mejia, but Mejia didn’t understand him.

The response to the shooting demonstrated multiculturalism’s hold. For many Portlanders’ presumption was not that Mejia — who came to America voluntarily — should have known English. Rather, it was that Portland police should know Spanish — and are insensitive and even racist when they don’t.

A true nation is a distinct people bound by common ancestry, history, language and traditions. But today, after the influx of tens of millions of non-Western immigrants, America is not such a nation. Instead, she is a polyglot mishmash of unrelated peoples — her noble Anglo-European culture diminished as her template and guide.

To preserve what remains of our founding ethnic and cultural core, the U.S. should impose an immediate, 15-year moratorium on Third-World immigration. When the moratorium expires, any further immigration should be at levels much lower than today’s. And in each case, the criterion for admission should be what a potential immigrant can do for America — not what America can do for that immigrant.

America has been extraordinarily generous to foreign peoples. But that generosity has been at the expense of her culture, her unity, and her native-born citizens. Lest we lose irredeemably the Western character that made America great, we must, for a time, seal our borders.