| **RESEARCH ARTICLE**

The Development of U.S. Immigration History: Historical Factors, Formation Mechanisms, and Migrant Groups

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| **ABSTRACT**

Regional economic integration has emerged as a significant focus for China in the post-pandemic era, as the nation seeks to establish mutually beneficial relationships with external economies and promote national development. In this study, the entropy method is employed to construct an index system tailored specifically to the four provinces within the Yangtze River Delta region. This research aims to explore the advantages and challenges of regional economic integration in China by conducting a comparative analysis of the Yangtze River Delta. The study also evaluates the merits and drawbacks of different integration models, drawing on examples from developed countries. The ultimate goal of the research is to provide insights and recommendations for China's regional economic integration, thus contributing to the country's overall prosperity. The results revealed that factors such as economic downturns caused by the pandemic have led the United States to experience a resurgence of racism and xenophobia, reminiscent of historical periods of American nativism, marked by economic insecurity and rapid demographic changes due to mass immigration. However, unlike previous eras with unrestricted immigration, the U.S. has tightened border policies and reduced the number of immigrants, using violent methods to expel unauthorized immigrants, such as Mexican migrant workers, along with their children born in the U.S., forcing them to move to a country where they may not speak the language or understand the culture.

1. Introduction
1.1 Research Background
Immigration has long been closely related to survival, but legal immigration remains closely linked to the policies of the host countries and is influenced by mainstream ideologies and power structures. Also, colonial and racial histories closely intertwined visa systems and entry policies. The phenomenon of immigration has a long history, mainly since the last century, with Western countries, led by the United States, accepting immigrants from various nations. However, influenced by domestic societal factors, these Western countries have been gradually reducing the intake of immigrants in recent years.

1.2 Literature Review
With the trend of economic globalization, immigration has become a common choice. Immigrants can be categorized into two groups: those entering host countries through regular channels, seeking better employment opportunities and personal security, and those entering through unauthorized methods, staying and developing in developed countries. This led to the emergence of the "illegal foreigner" group. Undocumented immigrants often live in poverty, are technically isolated, and linguistically marginalized. They seek employment while attempting to avoid local law enforcement and immigration officials due to fears of imprisonment and deportation. Thus, undocumented immigrants are both welcomed and unwelcomed in developed countries'

economies: they are woven into the economic structure but are seen as cheap, disposable labor (Ngai, 2014). These immigrants are marginalized due to their uniqueness, and being excluded from the political system, they may be considered a caste, clearly outside the formal membership and societal legitimacy.

2. Research Method
Through the study of social models, it was found that the historical immigration history of the United States was accompanied by the economic development stage of the United States.
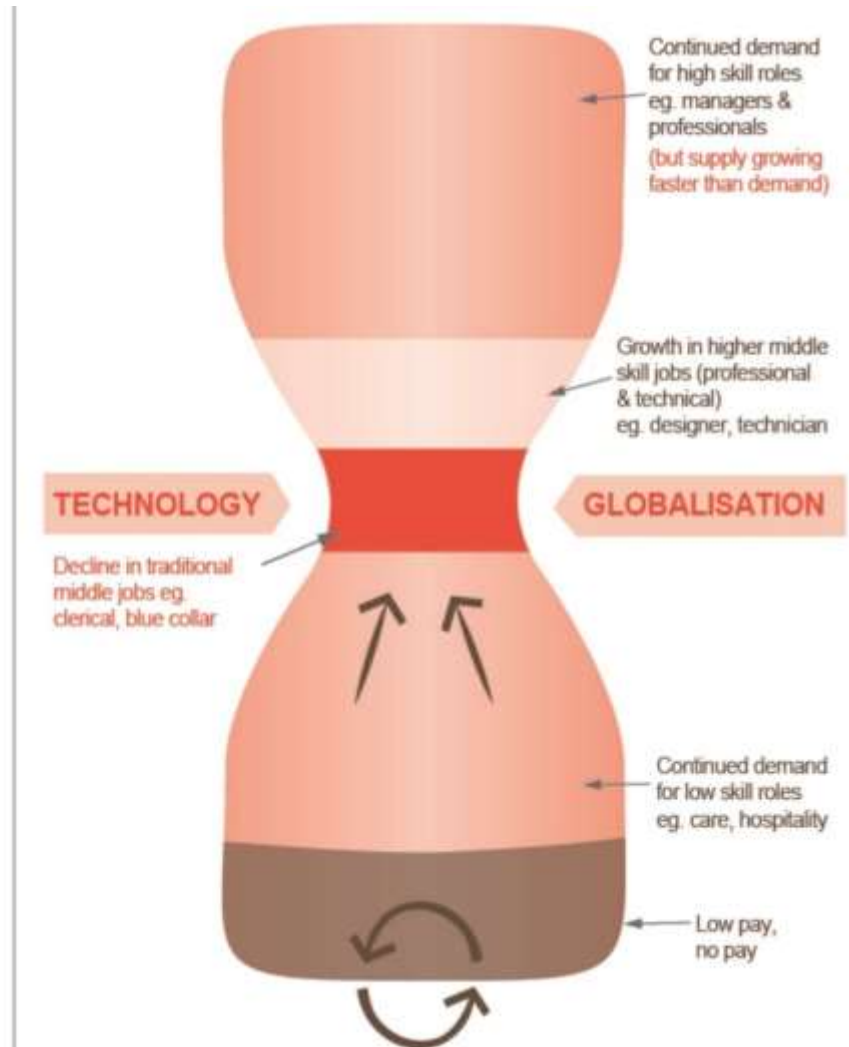

Figure 1. The future shape of the labor market

2.1 Problem Statement and Objectives
In the 1850s, the rapid increase of Catholic immigrants from Ireland and Germany severely impacted American nativism, leading to mainstream society's rejection of foreign immigrants, as seen in the expulsion of undocumented Irish in Boston. American nativism turned its dissatisfaction towards the "Yellow Peril," culminating in the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 in California, which prohibited Chinese immigration to the United States (Massey, 2020). Nativists, in various periods, blamed social issues caused by the surge in immigration on minority immigrant groups. It's evident that when numbers rise, these immigrants cannot have fundamental civil rights and a voice in mainstream society.

Immigration is not limited to economic factors; many immigrants choose to have their children become new-generation citizens. Illegal immigration is not a fixed condition. Under certain conditions, illegal foreigners can adjust their status to become legal citizens. Legal foreigners who violate specific laws may become illegal immigrants and thus be deported and permanently barred from entry or citizenship. This is perhaps why immigrants wish to stay in developed countries, as unlawful foreigners can complete the act of immigration over two or even three generations. Therefore, the shifting boundary between legality and illegality may be a way to study the construction of a nation (Ngai, 2014).

3. Immigration Policies and Treatment of Different Races in U.S. History
3.1 Differential Treatment Received by Different Races
Immigration policy is an integral part of how Americans understand national membership and citizenship and serves as the basis for nativists to exclude different racial immigrants (Ngai, 2014). In a sense, foreign citizenship reflects a state of racial difference, a marker of inescapable foreignness. The bloodline quota system set by host countries distinguishes different groups, often segregating non-white races from the mainstream. This phenomenon appeared in the 1924 Johnson-Reed Act, where Chinese, Japanese, Indians, and other Asians were excluded from the immigration group because they did not meet the racial qualifications for citizenship, further solidifying the legal boundaries for whites. This is an example of a "nativist" scenario, where a "white American" movement revived a United States that excludes and suppresses non-whites and Europeans (Montejano, 2004). Thus, immigration policy reflects not only a country's self-perception but also its global status and relationships with other nation-states, implying that foreign policy, to some extent, reflects the formulation of immigration policy.

4. Conclusion
This research aims to explore the advantages and challenges of regional economic integration in China by conducting a comparative analysis of the Yangtze River Delta. The study also evaluates the merits and drawbacks of different integration models, drawing on examples from developed countries. Factors such as economic downturns caused by the pandemic have led the United States to experience a resurgence of racism and xenophobia, reminiscent of historical periods of American nativism, marked by economic insecurity and rapid demographic changes due to mass immigration. However, unlike previous eras with unrestricted immigration, the U.S. has tightened border policies and reduced the number of immigrants, using violent methods to expel unauthorized immigrants, such as Mexican migrant workers, along with their children born in the U.S., forcing them to move to a country where they may not speak the language or understand the culture (Ngai, 2014).

What did the construction of "illegal" applied to people respond to? What additional barriers were imposed on people being classified as "illegal?"

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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