

Immigration Policy Solutions Contextualized Through American Political Interests, Economic Market Manipulation, and Legal Rulings

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Abstract: *This doctoral thesis explores the effectiveness of immigration policy solutions in the United States, focusing on the interplay between political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings. Employing a qualitative narrative literature review, the study examines these factors role in shaping immigration policies and their impact of social, legal, and economic equity. Through an interdisciplinary approach, it aims to offer insights into developing more equitable and effective immigration policies.*

Keywords: Immigration Policy, Political Interests, Economic Manipulation, Legal Rulings, United States

1. Introduction

Undocumented immigration continues to be a hotly debated topic in America, which is influenced by emerging world economies, domestic policy as well as international law and policy (Massey & Riosmena, 2010; New American Economy Research Fund, 2021). As such, this research thesis contextualizes international law and policy by exploring how undocumented immigration in America may be more effectively resolved through thoughtful, sustainable solutions, without the necessity of new statutory federal laws. As a guide and framework for understanding more effective solutions to immigration policy in the United States, this dissertation examines three primary factors found to contribute to immigration policy formation, which include political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings/laws. This paper employs a qualitative methodology and a narrative literature review design to explore these factors throughout America's immigration policy progression, and in the context of international rulings and market manipulations, in particular within the context of America and Mexico. Chapter One introduces the topic, problem, research objectives, a background history of immigration in America, and a summary of the research study's approach, significance, scope, gap, and limitations.

1.1 Introduction to the Research Topic

Immigration policy in the United States continues to be impacted by a variety of factors and domains. Moreover, a review and understanding of factors influencing immigration policy cannot be realistically constrained to a single domain, such as political, social, or economic.

Rather, immigration policy is impacted by a multitude of complex, interwoven social, psychological, political,

regulatory, legal, and economic factors, both domestically and internationally. The complexity of the topic contributes to continued debates surrounding immigration policy and struggles to achieve social and economic equity for immigrants. However, as today's immigrant populations continue to increase alongside polarized debates concerning immigration, a pressing need exists to understand the efficacy of factors contributing more practically to and influencing the development of immigration policy today, both historically and currently (Alamillo et al., 2019; Castles, 2019; Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017).

It is also useful to contextualize the percentage of the population composed of undocumented immigrants in the United States. For instance, figures estimate that in 2019 alone, over 4,000,000 immigrants originating from Mexico lacking documentation composed more than 40% of the 10 million undocumented immigrants residing in the United States (New American Economy Research Fund, 2021). In other words, figures estimate that over 40%, and growing, of undocumented immigrants, are migrants from Mexico, which implies that addressing border and documentation issues related to the Mexico-US border plays a substantial role in resolving the continual issue of undocumented immigration in the United States. Other top countries of migrant origin include India, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, with Canada topping the list for most overstayed Visa violations. Surveys indicate that over half of immigrants from Mexico reside in California and Texas. Even more important to contextualizing international policy through the lens of the issue of undocumented immigration, are statistics indicating that over 96% of undocumented workers in the US, from Mexico, are actively contributing to the economy by working in key American industries. These industries primarily include agriculture, the construction industry, in the hospitality industry. Undocumented immigrants from Mexico

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are estimated to earn over \$90 billion in household income, cumulatively, contribute over \$9 billion in total taxes, and have over \$82 billion in spending power to be contributed back into the economy. However, according to 2019 data, over 4,000,000 Mexican immigrants still lacked documentation and legal status (New American Economy Research Fund, 2021).

An initial review of the literature on the topic reveals three predominant factors contributing to immigration policy. These factors, topics, or domains include American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings (De Haas et al., 2019; Gest et al., 2014; Martinez et al., 2015). Hence, the following study uses a qualitative, narrative literature review to explore and better understand the efficacy of the use of factors of these three topic domains, as immigration policy solutions in the United States. Because more effective policy solutions that result in greater social and economic equity for immigrants, and less political contention and polarity, are needed (Boushey & Luedtke, 2020; Misiuna, 2016), the findings of this study will contribute to refining scholars' and political leaders' nuanced understanding of how political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings influence immigration decisions, and as a way to evaluate their efficacy and develop more useful, equitable, and effective future policy approaches and solutions (Martinez et al., 2015).

The use of American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings in shaping American immigration policy remains a topic of debate among both scholars and political leaders (Alamillo et al., 2019; Castles, 2019; Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017). American political interests significantly influence and shape immigration policy since political decisions in the United States are commonly motivated by factors concerning immigration, such as cultural concerns, national security, and the values or agendas of special interest groups. For instance, political policies such as the Chinese Exclusion Act and the Immigration Act, of 1882, and 1924, respectively, were the result of political interests concerning the social and economic impacts of immigration. These two rulings are a single example of the ways in which various political interests can influence policy, and likewise, legal rulings. This demonstrates the complex way in which legal rulings, political interests, and immigration policy are interwoven. However, when evaluating the efficacy of such influences, efficacy can be described as whether immigration policy rulings are equitable and fair, from a humanitarian perspective (Boushey & Luedtke, 2020; Misiuna, 2016). While many of the immigration policies formed, historically, and in the present day, are influenced by the interests of various political groups, whether they remain equitable to immigrants as well as domestic citizens remains to be better understood. For instance, political stances such as The Immigration Act and the Chinese Exclusion Act achieved the objectives of certain political parties but were criticized for being culturally discriminatory, and thus failing to be effective at preserving equity for immigrants and native citizens alike.

Scholars suggest that the efficacy of using political interests as a guidepost for immigration policy can vary, and often may be determined or influenced by the factors motivating those

political interests. For instance, political interest driven by societal and humanitarian factors may result in the creation of more equitable immigration policy solutions, whereas political interests driven by racial bias, extreme nationalism, or economic gain may lead to policy solutions advantageous to the interests of certain groups and/or domestic economic gain at the expense of social equity and to the detriment of the preservation of amicable international relations. Recognizing the influence of political interests and values on how political interests impact and shape policy decisions concerning immigration leads to a recognition of the role that market manipulation plays in influencing political interests and resulting policy decisions surrounding immigration. Based on the economic interests or values of various political parties or market entities, policy solutions may be driven by an agenda for economic gain. For instance, the Bracero Program, initiated during World War II, leveraged temporary agricultural laborers in the United States, to fill labor shortage gaps. Likewise, the H-1B visa program was also initiated for the same reason. These programs offered initial economic support to immigrants, in some cases higher wages than they would have received in their countries of origin, some scholars suggest that these programs lacked equity and fairness because they failed to offer a solution aimed at sustaining these immigrants' economic security and instead, leverage their skill for only a short period of time, eventually leading to substantial layoffs and economic hardship experienced among these workers who were forced to find other forms of employment or return to their countries of origin and adjust to lower wages. Under the H-1B program, thousands of workers who were laid off in 2022 and 2023 were forced to identify new employers who agreed to sponsor their visas within 60 days after layoff to be eligible to remain in the United States.

Opponents of the H-1B program argue that the Biden administration lags to implement a policy requiring wage increases for migrant workers, as well as a policy preventing large corporations from outsourcing and exploiting workers under the H-1B program (Economic Policy Institute, 2023a). This is one example of an instance of economic market manipulation that was arguably implemented for domestic economic benefit, without considering the holistic and cohesive impacts on immigrants' equity, and the long-term sustainability of domestic markets.

Furthermore, legal rulings such as the Plyler v. Doe (1983) case (United States Courts, 2023) shape the rights of undocumented immigrant children in the US, concerning their access to public education. These legal rulings interface with the political interests of various parties and are thus explored in greater depth in the following qualitative, narrative literature review.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The problem to be addressed in this study is the lack of meta-analysis and qualitative narrative literature review studies exploring the effectiveness of the use of American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions in the United States. In the 20th century, the complex underlying relationship between Politics, Economics, and the Law constantly influenced the

country's approach to promulgating and refining immigration-related policies (De Haas et al., 2019; Gest et al., 2014). However, the interdependence between the three factors influencing legal policies raises questions regarding the potential ineffectiveness of proposed policy solutions, and whether they are likely to consider the overall political, economic, and legal or humanitarian needs of all individuals in the society (Boushey & Luedtke, 2020; Misiuna, 2016).

Despite the already known benefits of various immigration policy solutions in the United States, there is a gap of knowledge in research surrounding the need to further understand the long-term socioeconomic impacts of using American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as the main components of immigration policy solutions (Martinez et al., 2015). As suggested by Castles (2019), more research is needed to examine how these legal approaches affect income inequality, labor markets including job opportunities for native-born and immigrant populations, and the overall economic growth and stability of the United States as a country because of promulgating new legal policies. Further, as suggested by Alamillo et al. (2019), more research is required to understand the role of different political institutions and their organizational interests in shaping immigration policy (Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017). Analyzing the confluence of political parties, interest groups, and electoral dynamics in influencing legislators' decision-making process can reveal how political considerations impact policy outcomes (Martinez et al., 2015), as well as equitable situations for citizens and immigrants.

The effectiveness of utilizing American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions in the United States remain a complex and contentious issue given the somewhat subjective nature of the term effectiveness and what it is expected to entail depending on a party's beliefs, values, and political affiliations. The interplay of these factors has significant implications for shaping immigration policies and addressing the challenges posed by the nation's immigration system (Alamillo et al., 2019).

However, there is a lack of comprehensive understanding regarding the extent to which these approaches contribute to coherent and sustainable immigration policies and how they impact various stakeholders, including immigrants, the labor market, national security, and social cohesion, using a qualitative, narrative literature review approach (Alola, 2019; Ellermann, 2021). Moreover, the literature suggests that factors underlying these three predominant influencing factors such as market manipulation in Mexico and gaps in America's legal system further contribute to a lack of effective policy solutions. To develop evidence-based and equitable immigration policies, there is a pressing need to explore the efficacy, consequences, and potential ethical considerations surrounding the utilization of American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as solutions to the multifaceted immigration problem in the United States using a qualitative, narrative literature review (Finley & Esposito, 2020; Martinez et al., 2015).

Despite the presence of qualitative and quantitative studies exploring the effectiveness of using American political

interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions in the United States, a crucial research gap exists in the form of a lack of meta-analysis and narrative literature reviews on this topic (Alamillo et al., 2019; Finley & Esposito, 2020). The absence of a meta-analysis and narrative literature review on the effectiveness of using American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions in the United States highlights a crucial research gap (Finley & Esposito, 2020; Martinez et al., 2015). Therefore, the purpose of this proposed qualitative narrative literature review study is to explore the effectiveness of using American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions in the United States.

Conducting a qualitative, narrative literature review will enable a comprehensive, synthesized, nuanced, and evidence-based understanding of the impact of these policy approaches on immigration outcomes and contribute significantly to shaping future immigration policies in the country. The findings of this research will contribute to a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding immigration policy in the United States and offer valuable insights for policymakers, scholars, and advocates seeking to develop more informed and effective immigration policy solutions.

1.3 Research Objectives and Research Questions

This study's research objective is driven by the problem to be addressed herein, which is a lack of meta-analysis studies specifically exploring the effectiveness of the use of American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions in the United States (Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017; Martinez et al., 2015; Castles, 2019; Alamillo et al., 2019). In response to this problem and to fill the gap in the literature concerning the long-term socioeconomic impacts of using American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as the main components of immigration policy solution, this study uses a qualitative, narrative literature review to collect data and forming the following research questions. The following research questions were developed to specifically inform this study's purpose, which is to explore the effectiveness of using American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions in the United States:

RQ1) How does the literature describe the effectiveness of the use of American political interests toward immigration policy solutions in the United States?

RQ2) How does the literature describe the effectiveness of the use of American economic market manipulation toward immigration policy solutions in the United States?

RQ3) How does the literature describe the effectiveness of the use of American legal rulings toward immigration policy solutions in the United States?

1.4 Background and History

The complexities of immigration policy in the United States have been a persistent source of political debates, policy discussions, and challenges. These complexities arise from a combination of historical, economic, social, and legal factors that shape the dynamics of immigration in the country.

Several key aspects contribute to the ongoing complexities and how they influence the policy debate (Massey & Riosmena, 2010). For instance, immigrants relocate to the United States for various reasons, such as to pursue more lucrative economic opportunities, to reunite with their families, to flee from potential persecution or prosecution, or to advance their career skills or education (Ngai, 2022). This diversity in immigrant profiles necessitates a flexible and nuanced policy approach that caters to the specific needs of different groups and their group-specific characteristics.

The objective truth is that immigration has both positive and negative effects on the U.S. economy. The proponents tend to claim that immigrants contribute to economic growth, innovation, and filling critical labor gaps. However, those who oppose pro-immigration measures often express concerns surrounding potential job displacement, wage depression, and increased competition for resources. Consistent with this conjecture, Finley and Esposito (2020) noted that certain industries heavily rely on immigrant labor, especially in agriculture, construction, and hospitality. The dichotomy between the demand for foreign workers and the need to protect the rights of both immigrant and native-born workers suggests that the issue is a constant balancing act for policymakers involved in immigration-related law.

A Brief History of U.S. Immigration Policy

Throughout U.S. history, more than 86 million individuals have legally immigrated to the United States from 1783 to 2019 (Ngai, 2022). The immigration laws and regulations governing this process have undergone significant transformations during this period. These changes have been a source of ongoing political contention, and past immigration policies continue to influence present-day debates (Finley & Esposito, 2020). The absence of a cohesive vision and the adoption of fragmented legislation have resulted in an outdated and disorganized immigration system, with policy objectives that no longer align with current needs (Ngai, 2022). This system is primarily under the control of the executive branch of the government (Finley & Esposito, 2020). Examining the historical context of U.S. immigration policy, including legal disputes that have empowered Congress with its immigration plenary power and historical policy decisions that still shape the current system provides a more informed understanding of the immigration debate at the beginning of the Biden administration.

A brief history of U.S. immigration policy from the colonial period to the present day demonstrates the evolution of the nation's approach to immigration and the various factors that have influenced policy decisions over time.

1) Colonial Period (1600s-1776): During the colonial period, there were no formal immigration laws as we know them today. The early American colonies encouraged immigration to increase their population and economies given that the colonies were in their beginning stages at the time (Finley & Esposito, 2020). European settlers seeking religious freedom and economic opportunities arrived in significant numbers. Notably, Native Americans and enslaved Africans were not considered immigrants, as they were often forcibly brought to the colonies (Massey & Riosmena, 2010). The economic policies developed during this time were

mercantilist, meaning they were designed to increase trade surpluses via subsidization of exports and increased import tariffs. Consequently, these economic policies resulted in the treatment of citizens as resources and restricted their freedom of residence based on social class and status (Library of Congress, 2023; Nowrasteh & Baxter, 2022; Zolberg & Zolberg, 2009). During this time, naturalization was economically important to Britain, because only British citizens were permitted to own real estate under English common law. As a result, economic freedom and options were constrained for immigrants. Because Britain was unwilling to naturalize immigrants, most alien residents were considered 'denizens,' meaning their political rights and economic rights, such as passing on assets to errors, were restricted (Library of Congress, 2023; Nowrasteh & Baxter, 2022; Zolberg & Zolberg, 2009). These policies, restrictions, and initial treatment of so-called foreigners in Britain and American soil, including African and Native American slaves, and alien residents in Britain, are suggested to have profoundly shaped America's foundational attitudes towards immigration, and the policies that emerged thereafter. As individual colonies and settlements were established, vocal communities began to evolve and developed their own, more specific approaches to immigration policy. These approaches were motivated by a variety of factors, which underpin and demonstrate the complex, interwoven nature of legal rulings, economic market manipulation, and political interests, and shaping immigration policy. Some of these motivating factors included religious and political motivations, racial bias and selectivity, and indentured servitude, meaning socioeconomically disadvantaged populations of immigrants agreed to work for a set period of time in exchange for residency. The slave trade also significantly influenced America's first policy decisions concerning immigration. Together, these motivating factors are suggested to lay the felon have laid a foundation of approaches toward immigration policy driven by nationalistic values, yet oftentimes inequitable from a humanitarian perspective (Library of Congress, 2023; Nowrasteh & Baxter, 2022; Zolberg & Zolberg, 2009).

2) Early Federal Period (1789-1882): The ratification of the U.S. Constitution in 1789 granted Congress the power to establish a uniform rule of naturalization. The Naturalization Act of 1790 set the first rules for citizenship, limiting naturalization to "free white persons" who had resided in the country for at least two years (Voice of America News, 2014; US Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2020). In the mid-19th century, as the country experienced rapid industrialization and population growth, immigration increased significantly, primarily from Europe. However, concerns arose about the impact of immigrants on American society, leading to the first immigration laws. Because the Naturalization Act of 1790 favored individuals based on ethnicity, the literature suggests that these decisions of the early federal period set an undertone of more deeply entrenched racial bias and discrimination concerning immigration policy in the United States, even though relatively free and open immigration was encouraged during the 1700s and 1800s. It was not until the late 1800s that more stringent immigration laws were passed following the Civil War, such as the Supreme Court's declaration that immigration policy ought to be the responsibility of the federal government. As a result of increasing regulation

during the late 1800s, law enforcement concerning immigration also increased, such as the 'Chinese Inspectors' that were instigated to enforce the Chinese Exclusion Act. Customs enforcement was instigated at each port of entry into the United States, taxing immigrants and enforcing regulations (Voice of America News, 2014; US Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2020). Key regulations passed during the early federal period included the Naturalization Act of 1790, as described previously, the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, the expansion of territorial acquisitions, formal and informal anti-immigration sentiments, westward expansions and land policies, and conflicting initiatives concerning slavery and immigration. The Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 emerged from the context of political tension and concerns surrounding national security. These acts authorized the non-citizens who were determined to be dangerous to domestic or national social peace and cohesion, to be deported. Essentially, these acts increased the federal government's power to subjectively determine perceived threats and deport immigrants accordingly. Consequently, anti-immigration sentiments began to emerge, and nationalistic perspectives inflated. New territories were acquired through treaties, such as the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, and Florida's annexation during the early 1800s. Land acquisition expanded. For instance, the Homestead Act of 1862 marked a period of westward expansion. These expansions caused political debates concerning the incorporation of ethnic and international diversity into various regions of the United States. As described, debates concerning slavery ensued, as evident in the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and the Compromise of 1850, which underscored debates about the allowance of slavery in newly recognized states (Voice of America News, 2014; US Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2020).

3) Chinese Exclusion Act (1882): Amid anti-Chinese sentiments and economic competition, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was enacted, which suspended Chinese labor immigration and prohibited Chinese immigrants already in the U.S. from becoming citizens (Ngai, 2022). This marked the first significant restriction on immigration based on nationality. More specifically, the Chinese Exclusion Act banned Chinese laborers from immigrating to the United States for a period of 10 years. The Chinese Exclusion Act marked the first time that federal law prohibited an ethnic working group on the premise that these immigrants or a threat to the social and economic order of local economies. The law also required Chinese immigrants to prove their qualifications before entering the country based upon skill level, however, proving this status was logistically extremely difficult for most immigrants. The Exclusion Act also required existing Chinese immigrants already in the United States to obtain additional certifications to reenter the country if they chose to leave the country for any reason. Additionally, Congress refused federal and state courts the right to grant citizenship to Chinese resident aliens. However, the courts were still permitted to deport Chinese resident aliens. After the initial 10-year period of the exclusion act, Congress extended it for ten additional years under what was known as the Geary Act, which prolonged the exclusion until 1902 and increased the restrictions placed upon Chinese residents by requiring them to obtain residence certificates upon reentry in order to avoid deportation (National Archives, 2022).

4) Progressive Era and Restrictive Legislation (1890s-1920s): During the Progressive Era, immigration laws targeted specific nationalities. The Immigration Act of 1917 established a literacy requirement for immigrants and expanded the list of excluded groups, including those from the Asia-Pacific region. In 1921 and 1924, the Emergency Quota Act and the Immigration Act of 1924 implemented strict national-origin quotas, severely limiting immigration from certain countries, particularly those in Southern and Eastern Europe. The Chinese Exclusion Act marked the transition from the Early Federal period to the Progressive Era of restrictive legislation, and a continued shift toward more racially stigmatizing and exclusionary immigration policies (Leonard, 2003; Lavery, 2022). Consequently, the Progressive Era is thought to have significantly influenced American immigration policy by entrenching the way social, political, and economic factors and values such as nativism, xenophobia, welfare issues, and eugenics, influenced immigration decisions. Hence, the entwinement of economic policy, market manipulation, and legal rulings in shaping immigration policy was more prominently demonstrated during the Progressive Era. An increase in nationalistic and xenophobic attitudes shaped evolving immigration policies, as political parties and citizens became increasingly motivated by the fear of social disruption, cultural changes, and economic competition presented to local communities as a result of increased immigration. These attitudes increased restrictive immigration policies. Similarly, welfare concerns regarding labor rights contributed to restrictive immigration policies aimed at minimizing perceived threats, competition to domestic citizen workers, ample resources, and overcrowding (Leonard, 2003; Lavery, 2022). Eugenics refers to a pseudoscience ideology intending to improve humanity through selective breeding and the preservation or perpetuation of racial purity as demonstrated by Nazi Germany during WWII. Eugenic attitudes in Europe and America contributed to racially restrictive immigration policy and policy quotas, such as the Gentlemen's Agreement limiting immigrants from Japan, the 1917 Immigration Act that increased listed prohibited immigrants, and the 1921 Immigration Act, or Emergency Quota Act, that formed immigrant quotas based on nationality or country of origin. Together, these policies contribute to an increase in cultural homogeneity favoring European immigrants at the expense of equity for immigrants from other nations. Consequently, labor unions were formed that further supported restrictive immigration policy as a means of protecting economic interests. During the early 1900s, the red scare of the 1920s marked by the spread of the fear of communism further resulted in restrictive immigration policies and attitudes (Leonard, 2003; Lavery, 2022).

5) Post-World War II Era (1940s-1960s): Following World War II, there was a shift in immigration policy. The Displaced Persons Act of 1948 allowed the entry of refugees fleeing war-torn Europe, and the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (the McCarran-Walter Act) revised and consolidated previous immigration laws, focusing on immigrants' political beliefs and associations (Ngai, 2022). However, national-origin quotas remained in place (Massey & Riosmena, 2010). Although national origin quotas remained in place After World War II, the creation of the Displaced Persons Act and the immigration nationality act in

some ways marked a shift towards a more liberal immigration policy. However, the immigration nationality act was still influenced by a preference towards various political agendas, beliefs, and commonly held ideologies suited to the interests of domestic political parties. In some ways, the events of World War II contributed to more lenient immigration policies born of humanitarian concern and compassion for European refugees, while immigration policy continued to be fueled by fears of communism, and other political sentiments (Massey & Riosmena, 2010). Post-World War II, millions of refugees were displaced, contributing to an increase in humanitarian concerns. Ideological considerations of the Cold War also influenced immigration policy, as the United States expanded its demonstration of humanitarian concern for refugees, in contrast to the closed policies exemplified by communist countries. For instance, the Displaced Persons Act of 1948, in addition to the Refugee Relief Act of 1953 was enacted to aid individuals displaced by war, and allowed for refugee entry into the United States, with the intent of helping these refugees secure social and economic stability. Furthermore, family reunification and immigration reform were demonstrated through acts such as the McCarran-Walter Act, which transformed immigration law in 1952 by introducing completely new policies aimed at reuniting families previously separated by a war crisis. The act allowed children and spouses of U.S. citizens and permanent United States residents to immigrate to the country (Massey & Riosmena, 2010). Driven by economic concerns, the Bracero Program was instigated during World War 2 with the intent of bridging labor shortage gaps. The program continued post-World War II and allowed temporary workers from Mexico and the agriculture industry to work in the United States. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 is a landmark legislation that overhauled a considerable portion of the United States' previous approach to immigration by eliminating national origin quotas previously favoring northern and western European immigrants. In contrast, the act preferences immigration based on reuniting families, assisting refugees, and qualifying immigrants based on employment skills. Hence, the act was motivated by both humanitarian and economic interests. Finally, the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 60s demonstrated shifting societal attitudes towards immigrants based increasingly on inclusion as opposed to exclusion (Massey & Riosmena, 2010).

6) Immigration and Nationality Act Amendments (1965):

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, also known as the Hart-Celler Act, was a landmark legislation that abolished the national-origin quotas. Instead, it established a preference system based on family reunification and employment skills (Ngai, 2022). This change led to a shift in immigration patterns, significantly increasing immigrants from Asia, Latin America, and Africa. As described in the previous subsection, these acts marked significant and monumental shifts in America's approach to immigration, and the social and economic values driving policy decisions. Essentially, these acts shifted immigration policy from a prioritization of quotas and discrimination based on nationality, cultural ethnicity, and country of origin, to a favoring of immigration based on family reunification and humanitarian agenda. For instance, permanent residents of the United States, and United States citizens were permitted, under these acts, to sponsor close relatives for immigration. This ultimately contributed to an

increase in immigration that resulted in an increased reunification of families (Ngai, 2022). The act was aimed in part at strengthening social cohesion and support systems within existing immigrant communities on US soil. A more structured approach to refugee immigration into the US was established under the 1965 act, as refugee categories were created, allowing the US president to admit refugee immigrants in correlation to the severity of various international humanitarian crises. The act was intended to respond to global displacement needs, and literature suggests this act was motivated by post-World War II values. Although these acts demonstrated a shift towards a more inclusive immigration policy with the intent of greater equity and diversity, these acts nonetheless faced criticism from those arguing that the acts contributed to an excessive concentration of various ethnic groups in the United States and resulted in detrimental economic impacts and labor competition to existing U.S. citizens (Ngai, 2022).

7) Immigration Reform and Control Act (1986):

In response to concerns about undocumented immigration the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986 was enacted. It granted amnesty to some undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. and implemented sanctions against employers hiring undocumented workers. However, it did not effectively address the root causes of undocumented immigration (Calavita, 2018). The immigration reform and Control Act marks a shift toward more conservative immigration policy fueled by domestic concerns such as labor competition, and as some scholars suggest, pervasive racially discriminatory attitudes, despite the more inclusive shifts and perspectives that permeated immigration policy after World War Two. In many ways, the evolution and adaptation of immigration policy throughout the last few centuries is characterized by an ebb and flow between socially and politically conservative and liberal values shifting in response to international relations, domestic economic challenges, and sociocultural evolutions and attitudes (Calavita, 2018). More specifically, the IRCA provided legal status to undocumented immigrants residing on US soil, based on a specific residency start date. These legal provisions and rulings or intended to address the increasingly complex issue of mounting unauthorized

immigration efficiently and unanimously by imposing stricter, time-based, and thus fair eligibility status on immigrants. Similarly, labor sanctions were intended to minimize the demand for unauthorized labor by discouraging employers from hiring and thus exploiting undocumented immigrants. Despite these attempts, many employers today continue to hire undocumented immigrants, contributing to the debate concerning the efficacy of employer sanctions. Alongside employer sanctions and eligibility requirements, the IRA increased the amount of border enforcement and surveillance intended to prohibit unauthorized immigrant crossing. The temporary agricultural worker program, known as the special agricultural worker or SAW program, was enacted to allow agricultural workers to apply for they form of temporary legal status. The SAW is essentially aimed at preserving economic stability, and bridging labor shortage gaps while offering immigrants some form of legal protection. Critics of these immigration reform and control acts argue that these legislation measures failed to effectively address the root causes of unauthorized immigration, and had

detrimental yet unintended consequences, such as acts of economic discrimination against worker groups (Calavita, 2018).

8) Post-1990s Immigration Policy: In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, immigration policy continued to be a contentious issue (Massey & Riosmena, 2010). Various proposals for comprehensive immigration reform were introduced but faced challenges in Congress. Concerns about border security, unauthorized immigration, and the status of undocumented immigrants remained prominent in public discourse. Overall, the literature suggests that political agenda and influence continued to have an increasing degree of influence on the formation of immigration policy during the late 1900s and early 2000s. As political polarity increased, and the issue of immigration grew increasingly complex and economically intertwined, debates ensued, and often futile policy change proposals continued. Moreover, globalization and economic factors continue to increase the interconnectedness of immigration policy (Massey & Riosmena, 2010). As industry and trade became increasingly globalized alongside advancements in technology, the demand for globalized, international labor increased, which complicated attempts to revise and improve immigration policy (Economic Policy Institute, 2023b). Consequently, temporary worker programs expanded, to include industries such as healthcare and technology aside from agriculture. These programs aimed to continue addressing labor shortages while addressing immigrant equity and legal rights. However, 911 brought another significant shift in immigration policy and attitudes (Massey & Riosmena, 2010). Concerns about international terrorism in anti-American sentiments led to more conservative approaches to immigration policy, driven by republican agenda interwoven with political and economic interests. Scrutiny towards visa applicants was increased, border security measures were made more stringent, and the Department of Homeland security was established By the Bush administration. Consequently, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA program, was established, which allocated temporary protection from deportation to undocumented children in the US. The DACA also provided temporary work authorization for these children (Massey & Riosmena, 2010). However, political polarization concerning immigration policy continues to intensify, leading to heated debates concerning border security, the legal status of immigrants, and overall immigration policy approaches. Not only did national tensions between political parties rise, but tensions between federal and state initiatives also increased, leading some states to adopt their own immigration policies under the umbrella of federal reform (Massey & Riosmena, 2010). In summary, U.S. immigration policy has evolved significantly since the colonial period. U.S. immigration policy has been influenced by economic needs, cultural attitudes, national security concerns, and humanitarian considerations. Throughout history, the nation has grappled with identifying a balance between welcoming immigrants and enforcing laws to regulate entry and resident status. The intricacies of immigration policy continue to lead to contentious political debates and policy discussions in the U.S., even more so in the present day.

1.5 Justification and Significance of the Study

The study exploring the effectiveness of using American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions in the United States is justified for several reasons. The first justification relates to policy relevance. Immigration policy is a critical and contentious issue in the United States that directly impacts millions of individuals and has far-reaching consequences for the nation's social, economic, and political landscape (Castles, 2019). Understanding the effectiveness of different policy approaches is essential for shaping evidence-based and well-informed immigration policies (McDaniel et al., 2019). This study aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of the various policy solutions utilized to address immigration challenges in the U.S. By examining the interplay between American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings; the study can offer a holistic view of the complexities and dynamics involved in immigration policymaking.

Analyzing historical policy decisions and their outcomes provides valuable insights into the evolution of immigration policy in the U.S. By contextualizing the current debates within a historical framework, the study can better inform current policymakers and stakeholders about potential pitfalls and successes of previous policy measures. Additionally, this study is justified because there is a need for a multidisciplinary perspective on immigration policy solutions: The study's interdisciplinary approach allows for a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted factors influencing immigration policy. By incorporating insights from political science, economics, law, and sociology, the study can capture the diverse implications of policy solutions on various aspects of immigration.

As mentioned earlier, existing research on the effectiveness of these policy solutions might be fragmented and lack a comprehensive analysis. This study aims to fill the gap by conducting a qualitative, narrative literature review, providing a more thorough and integrated assessment of the evidence (McDaniel et al., 2019). The findings of this study can have significant policy implications. Policymakers can use evidence-based insights to design more effective and equitable immigration policies that align with national interests, economic goals, and legal principles. As immigration policy continues to be a polarizing topic, a rigorous and data-driven study can promote informed decision-making and foster constructive dialogue among stakeholders with differing perspectives. The study can serve as a foundation for future research in the field of immigration policy. It can identify research gaps, methodological shortcomings, and areas requiring further investigation.

In summary, the study exploring the effectiveness of using American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions in the United States is well-justified due to its policy relevance, comprehensive assessment, historical context, multidisciplinary perspective, and potential to address knowledge gaps. The findings can contribute to evidence-based policymaking, promote transparency and accountability, and guide future research efforts, ultimately helping the nation navigate the complexities of immigration policy in a more informed and effective manner.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The scope of this study is constrained to addressing the factors specified through the proposed study's problem and purpose statements, and guiding research questions. The study addresses the problem of a lack of meta-analysis and narrative literature reviews specifically exploring the efficacy of the use of American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions in the United States. Therefore, the scope of the study concerns peer-reviewed empirical, and government-published literature describing American immigration policy reforms, American political interests, American economic market manipulation, and American legal rulings. Because the study specifically evaluates America in the context of international relations and immigration policy, yet focuses on American immigration policy, only literature published during and after the colonial period in America, and pertinent to the topics described above, will be examined and included for review.

1.7 Gap in Literature

This study addresses the gap in the literature concerning a lack of meta-analysis and narrative literature review studies exploring the effectiveness of the use of American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions in the United States. A gap in research exists concerning the need to further understand the long-term socioeconomic impacts of using American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as the main components of immigration policy solutions (Martinez et al., 2015). As suggested by Castles (2019), more research is needed to examine how these legal approaches affect income inequality, labor markets including job opportunities for native-born and immigrant populations, and the overall economic growth and stability of the United States as a country as a result of promulgating new legal policies. Further, as suggested by Alamillo et al. (2019), more research is required to understand the role of different political institutions and their organizational interests in shaping immigration policy (Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017).

1.8 Limitations of the Study

Because this study uses a qualitative methodology, the sample size of the literature included is not substantial enough to provide significant, statistical evidence on the topic. However, a qualitative review of the literature was chosen due to the ability of qualitative research to provide in-depth, nuanced, narrative, and explanatory insight into a phenomenon or topic. Because the topic addressed is complex in nature and looks at the interrelationships of American political interests, economic market manipulation and legal rulings on American immigration policy, an in-depth evaluation and interpretation of themes found throughout the literature is appropriate for informing the research questions that seek to understand *how* existing empirical literature describes the effectiveness of the use of American economic market manipulation, political interests, and legal rulings to guide an approach to immigration policy solutions. Therefore, while a small sample size of literature describes the limitation

of this study, this aspect also describes a delimitation and the sense that a smaller sample size of empirical literature will allow for a more in-depth evaluation and discussion of findings and a consequential comprehensive, cohesive analysis and interpretation of the results. Additionally, the proposed study is limited in the sense that only data concerning published literature will be included and evaluated. In other words, the study is limited in the sense that it does not consider individual political leaders' subjective experiences or opinions. Rather, the study looks only at published literature. Therefore, the findings cannot be assumed to inform a psychological or sociological understanding of these aspects as gleaned from direct, primary insight regarding immigration policy, aside from what is published within the existing literature. Hence, the study is limited to the use of secondary data. However, the use of secondary data also describes a delimitation in the sense that the findings are constrained to interpretations based on empirically valid and peer-reviewed published literature, as well as government-published data. Hence, the findings are not informed by personal opinion.

Summary of Chapter One

Chapter One introduced the topic, a statement of the proposed study's problem, the gap in the literature, the purpose, and guiding research questions. First, the complex topic of American immigration policy, as it has progressed since the colonial period of the 1600s, to the present day, was introduced. Major milestones and periods of immigration policy reform were highlighted, beginning with the colonial period, and progressing through the early federal and beyond. Early American immigration policy was characterized by a less formal agenda and more free movement between territories. However, early nationalistic sentiments and racially discriminatory attitudes began to emerge during the colonial period and early federal periods as the slave trade was exercised and northern and western European immigrants were economically and socially prioritized. Overall, approaches to immigration policy became increasingly complex and shaped in an interwoven manner, by complex political interests, economic interests, and legal rulings. Post-World War II policies were characterized by increasingly inclusive attitudes, which shifted back towards conservative approaches after 911. The debate concerning solutions to immigration policy continues today, and as Castles (2019) suggests, a need exists to more specifically examine how legal, political, and economic approaches to immigration continue to affect labor markets, job opportunities, income inequality, and overall economic and social stability in the United States. The need for future research exploring the complex, interwoven influence of political, economic, social, and legal influences on immigration policy is supported by multiple scholars (Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017; Martinez et al., 2015; Alamillo et al., 2019). Chapter two, the literature review will provide a more in-depth exploration of literature selected and evaluated within this qualitative study's narrative literature review. Chapter three describes the methodology used to carry out the literature review, while Chapter four describes the results, and Chapter five concludes with a discussion of the findings.

2. Literature Review

Chapter two, the literature review, provides a synthesis of the findings of this study's qualitative narrative literature review, according to the topics outlined by the study's guiding research questions. The literature reviewed in this chapter provides the basis within which to contextualize the study's findings, supports the gap in the literature identified, and provides the data with which to evaluate results, which are the findings of literature organized by theme, and therefore, use this data to inform the proposed study's guiding research questions. The problem addressed by this study is the lack of meta-analysis and narrative literature review studies exploring the effectiveness of the use of American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions in the United States. Despite the complex and continued debate concerning American immigration policy, a gap persists in empirical knowledge concerning the need to further understand the long-term socioeconomic impacts of using American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as the main components of immigration policy solutions (Martinez et al., 2015). This gap in cohesive understanding is due in part to the complex way in which perspectives toward immigration policy solutions are driven by a diverse array of political interests, values, economic interests, and consequential legal rulings emerging from these values (Castles, 2019; Alamillo et al., 2019; Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017). However, despite the increasing polarization of political interests and tensions in the United States, a lack of understanding exists within the research concerning the role of diverse political institutions in shaping immigration policy, and how these policies specifically impact job opportunities, economic solvency, and social stability of immigrant populations alongside native-born citizens. To synthesize empirical and government-published data concerning this knowledge gap, this literature review will be discussed in conjunction with the following primary sections. First, an overview of the literature concerning the use of American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions will be described, in addition to competing evidence on the efficacy of immigration policy. Next, operationalized definitions will be clarified. Following, this study's guiding theoretical frameworks will be discussed and immigration will be contextualized within international law. Thereafter, the literature will be discussed in conjunction with three topic sections aligned with this study's research questions. Finally, the literature review will conclude with a primary section discussing the influence of political interest's economic market manipulation, and legal rulings on immigration equity in the United States, before providing a summary and transition to chapter three.

2.1 Use of American Political Interests, Economic Market Manipulation, and Legal Rulings as Immigration Policy Solutions

Using American political interests as an immigration policy solution refers to implementing immigration policies and regulations that align with the strategic objectives and priorities of the United States government and political actors (Massey & Riosmena, 2010). In this context, political interests encompass various considerations, including

national security concerns, electoral politics, public opinion, foreign relations, economic goals, and social and cultural values (Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017). National security interests play a significant role in shaping immigration policies. The U.S. government seeks to protect its borders and prevent the entry of individuals who may pose security risks or threaten public safety (Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017).

Another form of political interest includes foreign relations and diplomacy. Immigration policies are designed to identify and screen potential threats while ensuring that legitimate travelers and immigrants can enter the country lawfully (Ewing, 2008). Immigration policies are often influenced by foreign relations considerations (Ngai, 2022). The U.S. may enter into bilateral or multilateral agreements with other countries to manage migration flows, promote cooperation on border security, or address humanitarian challenges such as refugee crises. There are also economic interests (Martinez et al., 2015). For instance, economic factors also play a role in shaping immigration policies (Ewing, 2008). The U.S. may adopt visa programs or policies that attract skilled workers or entrepreneurs to mitigate labor shortages in specific industries or promote economic growth (Finley & Esposito, 2020).

Using economic market manipulation as an immigration policy solution involves employing various economic measures and incentives to influence the flow and characteristics of immigrants entering the United States (Martinez et al., 2015). This approach seeks to align immigration policies with economic goals, labor market needs, and the country's overall economic well-being (Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017). Economic market manipulation focuses on adjusting immigration policies based on the demand for labor in different sectors of the economy (Ngai, 2022). For instance, if certain industries face labor shortages, policymakers may create visa programs or pathways to attract skilled workers or temporary laborers from abroad to fill those gaps (Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017).

Other reasons for using economic market manipulation as an immigration policy solution include: (1) to balance meeting the country's labor market demands, (2) to support economic growth, and (3) to effectively manage increased rates of immigration to the country.

Policymakers often consider the long-term economic implications of immigration policies and potential challenges related to labor market competition, income inequality, and workforce integration (Finley & Esposito, 2020). By leveraging economic market manipulation, the U.S. government has the objective to harness the potential benefits of immigration to bolster economic gains while addressing labor market needs across various sectors of the economy.

The use of legal rulings as immigration policy solutions involves the interpretation and application of existing laws and regulations to address specific immigration issues and challenges (Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017). Legal rulings, often issued by courts or other legal authorities, can significantly affect how immigration policies are enforced and how immigrants' rights and status are determined (Ewing, 2008). Legal rulings provide interpretations of immigration laws, clarifying their scope, applicability, and implications

(Finley & Esposito, 2020). Courts may issue rulings that define the eligibility criteria for certain visa categories, asylum claims, or other immigration benefits, shaping the legal framework for immigration policy (Martinez et al., 2015). The use of legal rulings as immigration policy solutions reflects the significant role of the judiciary in shaping immigration law and practice. Courts play a crucial role in balancing executive powers, protecting individual rights, and ensuring adherence to the rule of law in immigration. The legal rulings issued in immigration cases have the potential to set significant precedents and have lasting effects on the treatment of immigrants and the implementation of immigration policies in the United States (Finley & Esposito, 2020)/,

Although a more in-depth discussion of each of the three factors described herein, including American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings, will be described in later subsections of this chapter, this section provides in preview of examples concerning each. For instance, the influence of American political interests on shaping immigration policy, and its debated efficacy, is demonstrated through changes in policy concerning refugee admissions, the formation of bilateral agreements, and engagement and diplomatic relations. America's political interests shifted from primarily conservative and nationalistic values prior to World War II, toward more humanitarian-driven, equitable, and inclusive political perspectives after World War II. This led to political values and interests that increased the admission of refugees in the United States and emphasized bilateral, mutually supportive agreements between nations. Most bilateral agreements were also influenced by economic agendas and the need to fill labor shortage gaps. Additionally, the shift to more inclusive immigration policies resulted in an emphasis on diplomatic relations, which led to policies prioritizing immigrants based on nationality and the United States' relationship with the nation in question (Benkler et al., 2018; Nteta, 2012; Zolberg, 1999)

As described, economic incentives were also used to drive immigration policy in a way that began to further manipulate American markets. As labor gaps in the agriculture, healthcare, and manufacturing sectors intensified, provisions were instituted that allowed for an increased number of qualified immigrants to fill these labor shortage gaps. While this provided benefits to the immigrants in question, it also was enacted to sustain certain industries. Skilled worker programs were implemented, such as the H-1B visa program which was met with debate and resulted in sudden layoffs of immigrants by the thousands. Seasonal labor programs as well as investor visas were also implemented. These programs were characterized by economic advantages to domestic companies and immigrant workers, as well as disadvantages to long-term labor sustainability and immigrants' economic equity (Benkler et al., 2018; Nteta, 2012; Zolberg, 1999).

Finally, considerations of human rights issues served as a primary driver of legal rulings defining immigration policy, in addition to economic and political incentives. For example, the Refugee Convention served to guide immigration policies concerning asylum seekers and those fleeing violence and

persecution. Legal rulings were also enacted intended to ensure non-discrimination by employers based on religion, race, gender, and nationality. However, systemic racist attitudes continue to influence social interaction, employment prioritization, hiring decisions, wage and compensation, and other factors informally but significantly. Policies were also enacted aimed at ensuring immigrants were granted equitable access to fair treatment and due process concerning deportation procedures. However, many argue that the deportation process still fails to equitably address individuals, and results in unnecessary family separation and injustice (Benkler et al., 2018; Nteta, 2012; Zolberg, 1999).

More specific examples of how American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings have impacted immigration policy reform include the institution of acts and programs such as the Cuban Adjustment Act, the special immigrant visas program, the H1B visa program, the EB5 investor visa, and the Canadian Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program. Examples of legal rulings concerning immigration policy include the Asylum Seekers in US courts, DACA, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Refugee Protections. The Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966 allowed Cuban immigrants to become US residents after a year on US soil. Fueled by political interests and humanitarian concerns, the act was intended to offer refuge to Cuban refugees fleeing the country during the Cold War (Cuban Refugee Adjustment Act, 1966). The Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) program provided visas to immigrants working for the US government, and was also fueled by political interests recognizing allied nation contributions (Benkler et al., 2018; Nteta, 2012; Zoldberg, 1999).

Attempts to manipulate the United States economic markets also significantly contributed to the shaping of immigration policy since the colonial period. For instance, as mentioned previously, and in more recent years, programs such as visa programs regulated immigrants based on economic and labor-related qualifications and based on the benefits immigrants posed to US economies. The H1-B Visa program Allowed employers to temporarily higher immigrants, but resulted in mass layoffs after the set period (Smith, 2020; Borjas, 2019). Similarly, the Canadian seasonal agricultural workers program was designed to enable temporary workers from such nations to work in Canada during growing seasons. Although this program addresses Canadian policy, it demonstrates the adoption of similar, temporary immigration policy programs driven by economic interests, internationally (Smith, 2020; Borjas, 2019). The EB-5 Investor Visa Program was designed to grant green cards to foreign investors in the US, who are determined to be making substantial investments in job-creating commercial enterprises.

Economic incentives initiated the program which was intended to attract foreign investment and stimulate economic growth (Smith, 2020; Borjas, 2019). Finally, an overview of the literature demonstrates various, milestone legal rulings that influenced immigration policy, including asylum seekers in US courts, the deferred action for childhood arrivals, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. After World War II, the United States courts enacted rulings giving rights to asylum seekers, to undergo a thorough and fair assessment of claims. Additionally, the DACA program was not a legal

ruling but offered temporary protection to undocumented children on US soil, intended to protect the rights of these children (Paschero & McBrien, 2021). Finally, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Refugee Protections set forth guidelines concerning the treatment of International asylum seekers and refugees, including those fleeing to U.S. soil (Paschero & McBrien, 2021).

2.2 Competing Evidence on the Effectiveness of Immigration Policy

Competing evidence on the effectiveness of immigration policy solutions in the United States is a common aspect of the immigration debate. Stakeholders, researchers, and policymakers often present diverse findings and interpretations based on their perspectives, methodologies, and underlying assumptions (Finley & Esposito, 2020). For instance, according to Alamillo et al. (2019), proponents argue that increased border security, such as constructing physical barriers and deploying additional Border Patrol agents, has decreased illegal border crossings and enhanced national security. On the contrary, critics contend that border security measures have not addressed the root causes of undocumented immigration and instead pushed migrants to more dangerous and remote crossing points, leading to higher risks for those attempting to enter the country (Finley & Esposito, 2020).

Another immigration policy solution is the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). As reported by Castles (2019), supporters assert that DACA has provided protection and opportunities for hundreds of thousands of young undocumented immigrants, allowing them to contribute to the economy and society. However, opponents argue that DACA incentivizes undocumented immigration, encourages family members to follow suit, and circumvents the legislative process (Alola, 2019; Finley & Esposito, 2020).

The United States has also used Asylum and Refugee Policies to address the immigration problem. Advocates of humanitarian-based asylum policies argue that providing refuge to those fleeing persecution aligns with American values and international obligations (Finley & Esposito, 2020; Harwood, 1986). Within this context, skeptics raise concerns about potential abuses of the asylum system, exploitation by criminal organizations, and the strain on resources caused by many asylum seekers (McDaniel et al., 2019). Concerning family reunification and employment-based immigration, evidence shows that supporters of family reunification policies highlight the importance of keeping families together and the positive social and economic contributions of family-sponsored immigrants (Ewing, 2008; Finley & Esposito, 2020). On the other hand, critics contend that family reunification policies can lead to chain migration and increase the strain on public services, potentially impacting native-born workers' job prospects (Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017).

Some studies suggest that immigrants contribute to economic growth, fill labor gaps, and enhance innovation, leading to positive economic outcomes (Alola, 2019; Finley & Esposito, 2020). Other studies highlight potential negative effects on wages and job opportunities for certain native-born workers,

particularly in low-skilled labor markets (Alamillo et al., 2019; McDaniel et al., 2019). Opponents raise concerns about the human cost of deportation, including the separation of families, and argue that it may create fear and inhibit immigrants from accessing essential services (Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017). Proponents of comprehensive immigration reform advocate for a holistic approach that addresses various aspects of the immigration system and provides a path to legalizing undocumented immigrants (Alola, 2019; Page et al., 2020). Skeptics may argue that such reforms could increase undocumented immigration, undermine the rule of law, and reward those who violated immigration laws (Castles, 2019; Finley & Esposito, 2020).

A synthesis of competing perspectives suggests that competing evidence concerning the effectiveness of political agenda, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings on immigration policy is characterized by various positive and negative impacts. In other words, a review of the literature suggests that constraining the efficacy to a positive or negative impact alone is dismissive, overly simplified, and inaccurate. For example, positive economic impacts of current immigration policies fueled by attempts to manipulate the market include an expanded labor force, and increased cultural diversity, which some conclude leads to and subsequent increase in consumer demand, innovative abilities, and diversified workforce dynamics.

However, the negative impacts of using market manipulation to form and evolve immigration policy are suggested to relate to wage gaps and resulting economic inequity immigrant workers continue to face since many of the economically driven incentives shaping immigration policy favor US corporate profits (Camarota, 2018; Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017; Alola, 2019; Page et al., 2020; Castles, 2019; Finley & Esposito, 2020). These incentives also have positive and negative impacts on labor market dynamics, such that some suggest immigrant workers are more apt and inclined to assume job roles that native citizens would otherwise fail to fill, such as rules characterized by taxing physical labor, and agricultural work. This may contribute positively to the labor force by minimizing food and product costs produced by workers willing to assume more demanding roles for a lower wage. However, others argue that the filling of these labor gaps with low-wage immigrant labor contributes to job displacement for native workers, and the continuation of economic inequity and marginalization for migrant workers (Camarota, 2018; Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017; Alola, 2019; Page et al., 2020; Castles, 2019; Finley & Esposito, 2020).

Conflicting evidence describing the efficacy, drawbacks, and benefits of leveraging political interests, legal rulings, and market manipulation to influence American immigration policy also surrounds the impact these incentives shaping immigration policy have on cultural and social integration, national security and crime, and federal fiscal impact. For instance, the shaping of these policies is suggested to have an overall positive impact on immigrants' social assimilation into the US, in some ways, in cases when the agenda shaping immigration policy contributes to an increasingly diverse social fabric, which necessitates solutions to language learning, integration, and cultural blending. However, others argue that such language barriers, cultural differences, and

even conflicts, lead to social tension, systemic discrimination, continued inequity, unjust cultural appropriation, and the dilution of cultural identities (Camarota, 2018; Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017; Alola, 2019; Page et al., 2020; Castles, 2019; Light et al., 2020; Finley & Esposito, 2020). Such tensions, discriminations, inequity, and dilution of cultural identity are thought by some to contribute to psychological challenges and detriments, which ultimately are thought to contribute to an increase in crime resulting from social tensions and a lack of secure belonging felt by immigrant minorities (Light et al., 2020). Finally, scholars suggest that the nation's fiscal solvency may be impacted positively because of an increase in certain taxes paid by immigrant populations. However, critics suggest that the increased cost of providing public services to an influx of immigrant populations constrains local economies and infrastructure (National Academies, 2016). While no simple or perfect solution seems to be presented or suggested within existing literature, these considerations point to the need for a careful balancing of priorities and agenda when forming and revising immigration policy (Huang & Theriault, 2012).

The competing evidence on the effectiveness of immigration policy solutions underscores the issue's complexity. The inconsistencies in research findings regarding the effectiveness of previous immigration policies in the United States highlight the importance of considering multiple perspectives, conducting rigorous research, and engaging in constructive dialogue to develop balanced and evidence-based policies that address the challenges and opportunities of immigration in the United States (Ellermann, 2021; McDaniel et al., 2019). This study seeks to address this gap in the literature by adopting a qualitative narrative literature review to review scholarly literature to gain insights into the effectiveness and challenges of employing American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions.

2.3 Definition of Key Terms

- 1) **American Political Interests:** "American political interests" refer to the strategic objectives, priorities, and concerns of the United States government and political actors in shaping immigration policies (McDaniel et al., 2019). These interests may encompass national security considerations, electoral politics, public opinion, and broader policy goals related to immigration (Finley & Esposito, 2020).
- 2) **Economic Market Manipulation:** "Economic market manipulation" refers to deliberate actions taken to influence or control the labor market and economic conditions related to immigration (Finley & Esposito, 2020). It may involve policy measures to attract or deter specific types of immigrant workers based on labor demands, wages, and workforce needs.
- 3) **Legal Rulings:** "Legal rulings" pertain to the decisions and interpretations made by courts, legal authorities, or the judiciary concerning immigration laws and regulations. These rulings can influence the implementation and enforcement of immigration policies and have implications for the treatment of immigrants and asylum seekers (Ewing, 2008).
- 4) **Immigrants:** Immigrants are individuals who have moved

from their country of origin to a different country, known as the host or destination country, to settle there for an extended period or permanently (Finley & Esposito, 2020). Immigrants are distinguished from temporary migrants, such as tourists or temporary workers, as they seek to establish long-term or permanent residence in the new country (Ewing, 2008).

- 5) **Immigration:** Immigration is the process of individuals or groups moving from one country or region to another to settle in a new location. These individuals are known as immigrants. Immigration involves crossing international borders and relocating to a foreign country for various reasons, such as seeking better economic opportunities, reuniting with family members, escaping persecution or conflict, pursuing education, or simply seeking a new and better life.
- 6) **Immigration Policy Solutions:** "Immigration policy solutions" refer to the approaches, strategies, and measures policymakers adopt to address immigration challenges and achieve specific objectives (Ewing, 2008). These solutions can encompass a wide range of policies, such as border security measures, visa regulations, asylum and refugee policies, pathways to citizenship, and enforcement mechanisms (Finley & Esposito, 2020).

2.4 Theoretical Framework

Three theoretical frameworks were chosen as most appropriate in exploring the effectiveness of using American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions in the United States. Given the complexity and multifaceted nature of immigration policy, a comprehensive approach is necessary to capture the diverse factors at play. These frameworks, which will be integrated in this study, include the policy analysis and evaluation theory, the political science and public policy theory, and the economic theory and labor market analysis framework.

Policy Analysis and Evaluation Theory

This framework provides a systematic approach to assess the effectiveness of immigration policy solutions. The theory involves identifying policy objectives, analyzing policy design and implementation, measuring outcomes, and evaluating the impact of policies on various stakeholders (Dunn, 2015). Policy analysis and evaluation can help understand the intended and unintended consequences of using political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as policy solutions (Dunn, 2015). The policy analysis and evaluation theory has been used extensively throughout public administration, policy studies, and political science to evaluate the efficiency and efficacy of various policies on economic, political, and social sectors (Guyadeen & Seasons, 2016; Stufflebeam & Coryn, 2014). The framework outlines a systematic process for evaluating policy options, consequences, and informed decisions derived from the systematic evaluation. The framework guides the decision-making process based on and aims towards policy design and implementation improvement and bridges the gap between policy creation and outcomes using a structured approach (Dunn, 2015). For this reason, the framework is useful for applying to the proposed study that seeks to examine the influence of various factors on the efficacy of

immigration policy, over time.

The policy analysis and evaluation framework includes nine key assumptions or guiding components as follows (Dunn, 2015): a) The framework first requires the identification of the problems to be addressed. In the case of the proposed study's topic, the problem includes not only a lack of empirical literature describing the efficacy of three components and influencing immigration policy creation, but more importantly the problem of a lack of efficacy of immigration policy, the continued debate and polarity concerning immigration, and the continued lack of equity faced by immigrants in the United States. More effective policy solutions are needed to create more equitable economic, social, and political environments. The policy analysis and evaluation framework assumes that a clear problem definition is critical for contextual understanding and evaluation of solutions. b) Next, the framework necessitates the formulation of policy options, which may include strategies, interventions, or approaches to the desired outcome. The third through ninth guiding steps include: c) an evaluation of the options identified, d) informed decision making, e) planning and implementation, f) evaluation and monitoring, g) collecting feedback and adjusting policy accordingly, h) to demonstration of accountability and maintenance of transparency through the process of policy creation, and i) continual improvement through a repetition of feedback collection and policy evolution (Dunn, 2015).

Political Science and Public Policy Theory

Drawing from political science, this framework examines the influence of political actors, institutions, and interests in shaping immigration policies (Cairney, 2012). The theory explores how political considerations, electoral dynamics, and public opinion impact policy decisions and implementation (Cairney, 2012). This perspective can shed light on the motivations behind specific policy solutions and the political complexities of immigration policymaking. Originally informed by Ranney's (1971) publication on political public policy, the theory was later revised by Cairney (2012) to apply to a modern context. Political science and public policy theory essentially examine the processes, dynamics, and structures by which political systems are formed, implemented, operated, and evaluated. Processes, dynamics, and structures are characterized by interactions between government entities, political parties and groups, social agendas, and the outcomes of policies. In the context of the proposed study, this framework underscores and illuminates insight surrounding the complex nature of immigration policy and the factors influencing its formation and outcomes (Cairney, 2012; Ranney, 1971). The political science and public policy theory assumes and posits the inherent complexity of these interwoven factors surrounding and contributing to the creation of public policy (Cairney, 2012; Ranney, 1971), and thus aligns with this study's assertion of the complex nature of immigration policy as influenced by the three primary factors outlined herein, including political agenda, economic market manipulation and legal rulings.

Economic Theory and Labor Market Analysis

The economic theory and labor market perspective provide essential insights into how immigration policy solutions can

impact the economy, the labor market, and the overall economic well-being of the United States. This perspective draws from economic principles and empirical analysis to understand the dynamics of immigration and its effects on various economic indicators (Cain, 1986). Economic theory helps assess how immigration affects the labor market by analyzing the supply and demand for labor (Cain, 1986). The theory examines how the arrival of immigrant workers influences native-born and foreign-born workers' wage levels, employment opportunities, and labor force participation rates (Cain, 1986). This framework provides valuable insights into the potential benefits and challenges of using economic market manipulation as an immigration policy solution. The economic theory and labor market analysis framework can provide insights into how economic market manipulation influences immigration policies. Analyzing labor market dynamics, wage effects, and skill demands can help assess the economic implications of different policy solutions, such as visa programs and employment-based immigration policies. Integrating these theoretical frameworks will allow for a comprehensive and interdisciplinary analysis of the effectiveness of immigration policy solutions. By considering political, economic, legal, sociological, and international factors, researchers can understand the complexities in shaping immigration policies in the United States. This multifaceted approach is crucial for providing a nuanced and evidence-based evaluation of the effectiveness of policy solutions and informing future policymaking in this critical area.

The economic theory and labor market analysis framework has been applied throughout research in business management and economics, across a variety of disciplines. The framework guides the examination of the influence of various economic factors and market dynamics on society, including immigration policy (Cain, 1986). For instance, the economic labor theory aids in understanding how the supply and demand of Labor influence immigration and immigration policy. Using a labor market analysis, policymakers and scholars have evaluated factors influencing labor trends, including job and skill vacancies, skills shortages, and changing industry demands alongside industrial and technological advancements. These factors characterizing labor market and labor market transformations are often used by policymakers to guide decision-making concerning policies aimed at attracting workers (Cain, 1986). Economic theory and labor market analysis framework can also aid in understanding wage dynamics, and how influxes or suppressions of immigration can affect wages for both immigrants and native-born citizens. The framework suggests that increases in immigrant labor not only influence wages for immigrant workers but also for native citizens. Understanding the influence on wages in this way can aid executives and policymakers in enacting decisions concerning changes to minimum wages, immigration and employment programs, and the protection of immigrant workers. For instance, in some cases, an influx of immigration can lower wages for all populations due to increased wage competitiveness, while in other cases, an increase in immigrant employees paid a lesser wage frees up capital to be allocated toward higher wages for other teams and departments (Cain, 1986). The economic theory and labor market analysis framework also serve to explain public

perceptions of unemployment, seasonal labor needs, the institution of social welfare programs, and economic mobility. For instance, the framework evaluates how the socioeconomic mobility of immigrants impacts the development of policy related to immigrants' access to healthcare, education, and many social services. Moreover, the labor market analysis framework also evaluates how changes in immigrants' income can influence the creation of policies aimed at minimizing otherwise persistent economic disparities between native citizens and immigrants (Cain, 1986).

Summary

Cohesively, the three theoretical frameworks described in this section provide a comprehensive guidepost explaining the philosophical interaction of economic market manipulation, legal rulings, and political agenda on immigration policy in the United States. These frameworks, which are applied to an interpretation of the literature reviewed in this proposed study, include the policy analysis and evaluation theory (Dunn, 2015), the political science and public policy theory (Cairney, 2012), and the economic theory and labor market analysis (Cain, 1986). These frameworks, further serve to connect the interrelationships between these factors, and the complexities of their influences and immigration policy outcomes.

2.5 Contextualization of American Immigration Issues within International Law

When contextualizing American immigration issues within international law, it is useful to understand several key aspects or factors describing international law in relation to immigration. Pertinent aspects of international law and policy involving refugees and asylum seekers, nonrefoulement, multi- and bilateral agreements, labor standards, regional agreements, and human trafficking, all of which intersect with undocumented immigration in America. These factors are useful to discuss before a more focused discussion of political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings, because these aspects of international law interweave throughout a discussion of each of the three factors. For instance, concerning asylum seekers, current international laws recognize individuals' right to seek asylum and prohibit individuals from returning to countries wherein they may continue to encounter persecution. However, the issues involved with returning to countries inflicting harm are simply not clear cut, and the prohibition of returning to one's country of origin or persecution may present more complex issues such as family separation, legal constraints encountered during prolonged time spent in the country of asylum, and more. America theoretically participates in current international human rights laws protecting the right of international refugees to seek asylum, to have access to legal representation, and to be provided with fair treatment (Androff et al., 2011).

The non-refoulement principle of international law prohibits governments from returning individuals to nations within which an immigrant's life and/or freedom is at risk. However, conflicting political interests and subjective national perspectives have muddled determinations of what may constitute a threat to one's life and/or freedoms, creating

complications. Multi- and bilateral agreements are intended to foster international collaborations aimed at addressing root issues concerning immigration, and migration, to improve or regulate border controls, immigration management, and international cooperation. Again, multi- and bilateral agreements are theoretically well-intended but in many cases are hotly debated, such as within the U.S. where democratic polarities and tensions concerning the issue of immigration conflict (Androff et al., 2011). Human trafficking is an issue that can contribute to the phenomenon of undocumented immigration since some undocumented immigrants migrate because of involvement with smuggling and trafficking, which are considered criminal activities carried out through international networks. America plays a pivotal role in internationally collaborating with other allied nations to combat international trafficking through improved enforcement, sharing of intelligence, technology use, and policy cooperation (Androff et al., 2011).

Another key factor influencing illegal migration is international labor standards.

Enforcing labor standards is critical to managing organizations' demand for undocumented workers, since many organizations compensate undocumented workers well below the minimum wage, and working conditions may be suboptimal. To undocumented immigrants, these standards and wages may still be more plausible than those otherwise achieved within their country of origin (Androff et al., 2011). The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine indicates that undocumented workers currently contribute to the U.S. economy in numerous ways including but not limited to tax payments (payroll, property, and sales tax), and the consumption of goods and services—both of which contribute to economic stimulation (Kaufman, 2022). Specific figures indicating the exact annual net contributions of undocumented workers to the economy are unknown, but estimates from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine estimate that the financial impact is positive, implying that undocumented workers contribute more to the economy than received in the form of government benefits—an argument leveraged by Democrats in justifying policy supporting the rights and legalization of undocumented workers (Kaufman, 2022). However, exact figures remain Unknown and are influenced by a multitude of continually, and dynamically shifting economic and social factors. Kaufman (2022) reports estimates that undocumented immigrants contribute significant tax payments, annually. Consequently, Kaufman (2022) suggests that if undocumented immigrants were given temporary and/or permanent legal status, and thus be compensated with minimum or greater wages, they would therefore earn more, pay more in taxes, and contribute more to the domestic economy. The Institute of Taxation and Economic Policy (2017) estimated that of the total taxes contributed to the United States economy by undocumented workers, over \$11 billion, annually, is contributed to municipal and state taxes. In California alone, state tax payments contributed by undocumented workers are estimated at over 3 billion, annually, considering that the state houses over 3 million undocumented migrant workers. In terms of income percentage, this equates to an average of 8% of an undocumented worker's income paid in state taxes. When

compared to the percentage of state taxes paid by the highest income earning bracket of United States citizens, this is over three percentage points higher. The highest-income earners of domestic citizens pay a state tax rate of just over 5% (Institute of Taxation and Economic Policy, 2017).

Recent International Rulings

Several recent international rulings impact current policy concerning undocumented immigration, in a global context. The Global Compact on Refugees, or GCR, describes global compacts that were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, with the intent of improving international cooperation concerning immigration and offering a framework to be used when addressing and developing policy related to immigration. The GCR Does not describe legally binding obligations but does describe intended commitments shared by allied nations.

The GCR is the first UN global agreement that specifies a common, shared approach to addressing all facets of international immigration. The GCR is characterized and defined by values that include shared responsibility, non-discrimination, the sovereignty of states, and the importance of human rights (UN, 2018). The agreement emphasizes a collaborative approach between allied nations to addressing immigration issues and is therefore relevant in laying a groundwork for contextualizing how the United States may address issues of immigration, as will be described in the final solutions section, within Chapter Five, of this thesis. The objectives set forth through the GCR align with the objects of the proposed solutions discussed in Chapter Five, and are as follows: 1) Risk and vulnerability mitigation related to migration and the protection of human rights; 2) the addressing of state economic and social concerns concerning migration; 3) the enrichment of society through proper management of migration contributing to sustainable economic development; and 4) mitigation of adversities in countries of origin that hinder individuals from fostering and maintaining sustainable livelihoods without migrating (UN, 2018).

The EU implemented several immigration-related policies during the early 2000s, such as the EU-Turkey Statement of 2016, which sought to better manage the flow of migration from Turkey into the EU by requiring the resettlement of Syrian refugees coming from Turkey to EU states, and by returning irregular migrants to Turkey. The European Justice Court issued rulings concerning asylum and migration including Dublin Regulation judgments determining which EU member state is responsible for reviewing asylum applications (European Parliament, 2022).

Additionally, the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, or GAMM, was adopted in 2011 and provides a framework for EU-third country relations based on irregular immigration and trafficking, regular mobility and immigration, asylum policy and international protection, and a maximized impact of migration on economic development. In June 2014, strategic guidelines were set forth by the Stockholm program for the area of freedom, security, and justice (AFSJ), proposing an open, but secure, EU. In summary, these guidelines emphasize the need for a holistic approach to managing migration, by offering protection and equity for

those most in need, while maintaining the interests of economic sustainability and management by combating irregular or unnecessary immigration (European Parliament, 2022).

In 2015, the European agenda on migration was published, which proposed measures aiding the EU and coping with the Mediterranean crisis. More recently, in September 2020, the New Pact was announced, with the intent of integrating current asylum procedures more clearly into the overall management of migration policy involving pre-screening, border control, response procedures, and crisis preparedness. Legislative developments during the early 2000s have included sectoral legislation categorizing immigrants with the intent of establishing a more regular approach to EU immigration policy, and the establishment of Directive 2009/50/EC, which governs entry and residence conditions of third-country nationals using EU blue cards and fast-tracking work permit and residence procedures. Furthermore, the Single Permit Directive (2011/98/EU) specifies shared, simplified procedures governing third-party nationals' residency and work permit applications in member states. This directive also sets forth rights required to be granted to regular immigrants (European Parliament, 2022). As in the United States, political debate surrounding immigration has intensified alongside globalization and rising concerns regarding refugee crises (Center for Global Development, 2018). Still, the outcome of ensuing debates remains fruitless, warranting and necessitating practical, effective solutions such as those proposed in Chapter Five.

Recent Rulings in the U.S.

In the context of the United States, recent rulings concerning immigration relevant to the context of, and proposed solutions set forth in Chapter Five include the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), travel bans, legislation concerning same-sex marriage and immigration, and the public charge rule. DACA describes a program that was initiated in 2012 by the executive action of President Obama (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2022). The program enabled qualifying undocumented immigrants entering the US as children, to be protected from deportation, while also receiving work authorization. In 2020, the Trump administration attempted to overthrow the program, but during the summer of 2020, The US Supreme Court ruled in favor of DACA's continuation, stating that the Trump administration's attempt was in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act and that the administration's attempt was not justified. Socioeconomically, DACA has resulted in tremendous impacts, enabling over 800,000 qualifying youth to lawfully work and attend school in the United States, without the threat of being deported. According to the Migration Policy Institute, over a million US residents qualified for DACA upon the program's inception. Data from the Center for American Progress estimates that most DACA recipients first migrated to the United States in 1999, at the average age of seven. Consequently, because of the program's provisions, recipients have experienced statistically significant socioeconomic improvements. For instance, a 2019 survey reported findings indicating that nearly 60% of participants had switched to a higher-paying job, while almost 50% switched to jobs with better working conditions and/or better benefits (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration

Services, 2022). The same results indicate that most DACA recipients experiencing pay increases averaged an increase of nearly double their previous pay rate (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2022).

In 2017, executive orders resulted in temporary travel bans placed on migrant individuals from predominantly Muslim nations. The executive orders were met with legal challenges, though during the summer of 2018, the US Supreme Court upheld the travel ban's 3rd version, stating that the president held the authority to restrict travel based on national security. While the travel bans were intended to improve national security and better manage immigration issues, the bans failed to address the nuances and complexities involved with the economic factors associated with migration and undocumented immigration.

(Chishti et al., 2020). 2013 marked the year when the Supreme Court of the US ruled in favor of the federal government recognizing same-sex marriages in states within which it is legal. This ruling was significant to immigration law because it allowed lawful permanent residents and U.S. citizens engaged in same-sex marriage to advocate and petition for foreign spouse benefits and immigration (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2014). Finally, the public charge rule, introduced by the Trump administration in 2019, sets forth criteria to be used when determining whether a green card-seeking individual is likely to depend on welfare. In 2021, the Biden administration revoked the rule, offering greater flexibility to immigration-related public charge issues. The version of the public charge rule set forth by the Biden administration in 2021 included the following indicators describing public assistance: Supplemental Security Income, state and local cash assistance, the provision of temporary assistance for needy families, use of food stamps, and/or long-term reliance on Medicaid (Protecting Immigrant Families, 2021).

2.6 Effectiveness of the Use of American Political Interests as Immigration Policy Solutions in the United States

The first essential aspect to recognize when evaluating literature describing the efficacy of the use of American political interests as immigration policy solutions in the United States is to clearly define efficacy and its implications. Although a homogenous conceptualization of efficacy concerning the topic is nonexistent, for the purposes of the proposed study, efficacy refers to how immigration-focused policy solutions achieve economic and social equity for all parties involved. Hence, using this criterion as a guiding benchmark, in conjunction with political science and public policy theory (Cairney, 2012), which recognizes the complex interaction between parties and outcomes, literature can be evaluated.

Examples drawn throughout the literature of the way in which the use of political interest to guide immigration policy decision-making may be effective can be seen through the way that strategic objectives are achieved, flexibility is maintained, and geopolitics are considered. For instance, when American political interests are the driving force behind immigration policy creation, political interest may serve to align immigration policy created with The United States

overarching national objectives, economic stability, and diplomatic relations (Volden & Wiseman, 2014; Burns & Gimpel, 2000; Massey, 1999). Similarly, the use of a political agenda in forming immigration policy may be advantageous in the sense that it may respond to geopolitical change, and thus serve to preserve amicable international relations. However, a synthesis of the literature suggests that challenges and limitations may also arise as a result of predominantly leveraging political interest to guide immigration policy decision-making and structures. These challenges and limitations may relate to inconsistencies, international and diplomatic tension, and ethical debates (Volden & Wiseman, 2014; Burns & Gimpel, 2000; Massey, 1999). For example, as new leaders and Congress members are elected, immigration policy changes may take effect that concerns only one aspect or facet of society and ignore the network influence they have upon other economic or sociopolitical outcomes. This can lead to inconsistencies or incongruities between agendas, opposing pressures and interests, and conflicting outcomes such as labor, wage gaps, compromised access to education and healthcare, and more challenges presented to immigrant populations. Political interests as a driving force guiding immigration policy creation can also contribute to ethical concerns as leaders struggle to balance political interest with humanitarian ethics (Volden & Wiseman, 2014; Burns & Gimpel, 2000; Massey, 1999).

Examples of the pressures and conflicting interests often surrounding immigration policy driven by political interests can be seen through instances and Acts such as the Cuban Adjustment Act, US-Mexico border policies, admissions of refugees, and bans enacted on immigrant travel (Volden & Wiseman, 2014; Burns & Gimpel, 2000; Massey, 1999). The Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966 was fueled by political interests and enabled Cubans arriving on US soil to apply for permanent residency after living in the United States for one calendar year. The CAA was born of intentions to undermine the Cuban government by encouraging Cubans to migrate to the US. Although the policy was born of political interests, it is an example of a politically fueled immigration policy with a socially positive outcome concerning equity and humanitarian agenda. Similarly, US-Mexico border policies enacted and fueled by political interests aimed at minimizing Mexican immigrants from engaging in smuggling and drug trafficking across the Texas-Mexico border describe an example of the politically driven, crackdown, which some argued resulted in positive humanitarian outcomes reducing smuggling, trafficking, and drug trade. Others argued that these crackdowns resulted in an increase in familial separation and humanitarian crises (Volden & Wiseman, 2014). These two examples demonstrate how positive and negative effects can often occur, simultaneously and in relation to differing domains, as a result of immigration and policy an action driven by political interests.

The Refugee Act of 1980 defines a more formal process of admitting refugees into the US. The act was motivated by US foreign policy interests based alongside the humanitarian agenda, as the US government intended to demonstrate alliance with certain nations from which refugees were prioritized. Likewise, the institution of travel bans demonstrates another politically fueled immigration policy agenda that was enacted with the intent of increasing national

security and showing alliance with selected nations while discriminating against others deemed to be threatening, often because of religious profiling. While some scholars argue that travel bans, and immigration policies motivated by political agenda, positively served to increase national security, others argue that these policies remained ineffective, and increased systemic racism and discrimination based on national heritage. These examples further demonstrate the subjective nature of what constitutes effective immigration policy (Volden & Wiseman, 2014; Burns & Gimpel, 2000; Massey, 1999).

A synthesis of the literature (Volden & Wiseman, 2014; Burns & Gimpel, 2000; Massey, 1999) suggests that leveraging American political interests to guide the creation of immigration policy solutions in the United States can be effective concerning the achievement of strategic, political and even economic goals, but that leveraging political interest to guide policy creation presents issues concerning diplomacy, humanitarian equity, policy outcome consistency, and ethics. Although political interests currently play a predominant role in forming modern-day immigration policy that reflects national political values, interests, and issues such as Homeland Security concerns, international relationships, and political dynamics, the use of political interest in guiding immigration policy may not always be affected from an equitable perspective.

2.7 Effectiveness of the Use of American Economic Market Manipulation as Immigration Policy Solutions in the United States

This section synthesizes literature involving a discussion of economic market manipulation as it has guided and continues to guide immigration policy solutions in the United States and explores the efficacy of the use of economic market manipulation on immigration policy solutions. An application of the economic theory and labor market analysis framework (Cain, 1986) is useful to understanding the literature described herein because the framework explains that the influence between market manipulation and immigration policy is mutually influential. In other words, immigration policy solutions impact the labor market and economic outcomes, and likewise, labor market decisions impact immigration policy. Thus, together, these components influence the overall financial and economic health of the United States (Cain, 1986).

Similar to how the use of political interests to motivate immigration policy decisions is complex and often characterized by conflicting pressure, agenda, and subjective perspectives concerning its efficacy, the use of economic market manipulation as a guide and instigator of immigration policy is equally complex, riding with opposing agendas, and often characterized by opposing subjective perspectives. However, market manipulation, and resulting outcomes, can be measured quantitatively in the form of labor market outputs, wage gaps, components of the gross domestic product, and various other industry and nationwide key performance indicators, which together, assist in describing the efficacy of certain economically motivated policy initiatives in benefiting the nation's economic health (Benkler et al., 2018; Esses et al., 2001; Martinez et al., 2015; Stiglitz,

2015). Market manipulation specifically refers to the intentional influence of economic factors and aspects including but not limited to wages, labor demand, skill demand, job availability, and other facets of supply and demand (Benkler et al., 2018; Esses et al., 2001; Martinez et al., 2015; Stiglitz, 2015).

Concerning the efficacy of market manipulation as a guiding force in the creation of immigration policy, from an equity perspective, a synthesis of the literature suggests that immigration policy emerging from manipulation of economic factors may contribute to short-term immigration pattern changes (Benkler et al., 2018; Esses et al., 2001; Martinez et al., 2015; Stiglitz, 2015). For instance, previously mentioned provisions implemented expanding opportunities for seasonal and temporary agricultural immigrant workers contributed to an increase in immigrants from Mexico to agricultural regions in the United States. This change in immigration patterns contributed to saturations of Latino populations in areas of Texas and Southern California, for example. Changes in wages and labor demands influence immigration patterns. Depending on additional environmental contextual factors, such as living conditions of various areas, surrounding socioeconomic environments, or the converging healthcare and education-related immigration policy in those areas, this may be beneficial or detrimental to immigrant populations. Immigrant populations drawn to an area because of labor demand, which lacks equitable access to healthcare and education, may navigate the negative repercussions of a lack of cohesive immigration policy (Benkler et al., 2018; Esses et al., 2001; Martinez et al., 2015; Stiglitz, 2015). This convergence of policy dynamics illustrates one way in which the conflicting interests of immigration policy motivated by political factors versus economic factors, and policy agendas, may create situations for immigrants characterized by both benefits and drawbacks of residing and working in the United States. An assertion of these contextual factors also underscores the need to align politically driven immigration policy, from an equitable perspective, with economically driven immigration policy.

Moreover, the synthesis of literature also suggests that the use of market manipulation in the guiding of immigration policy solutions can contribute to outcomes characterized by market distortions, ethical issues, short versus long-term sustainability, change in public perception, global competition, unintended consequences, and challenges concerning legal regulations. For instance, immigration policy driven only by economic agenda without concern for equitable treatment of immigrants can contribute toward intensified political tensions and dampened public perceptions of government entities, especially in circumstances in which immigrant populations are being compensated with below minimum wages, and working in suboptimal working conditions. The agricultural industry and meatpacking industries are two such domains that have been criticized for the unethical treatment of immigrant workers for economic gain and the preservation of cheap labor (Benkler et al., 2018; Esses et al., 2001; Martinez et al., 2015; Stiglitz, 2015). However, others argue that if changes concerning the working conditions of and wages paid to immigrant workers are to be made, the price of goods, products, and services such as groceries, will rise considerably (Benkler et al., 2018;

Esses et al., 2001; Martinez et al., 2015; Stiglitz, 2015), thus pointing to the need to carefully weigh economic health and needs with the equitable treatment of immigrants and its impact on the nation's socio-cultural and socio-political health. If not weighed appropriately, careless enactment of immigration policy driven solely by economic gain can lead to unintended, detrimental consequences such as international accusations, labor strikes, or compromised workers' health and productivity (Benkler et al., 2018; Esses et al., 2001; Martinez et al., 2015; Stiglitz, 2015).

Although the overwhelming opinion of the Democratic political party is characterized by a support for liberal immigration policies rather than anti-immigration policies, conservative proponents of anti-immigration policy argue that a restriction of undocumented immigrant workers serves to preserve the equitable treatment of these individuals, rather than allowing employers to higher and maintain immigrant workers paid unfair wages in suboptimal working conditions (Martinez et al., 2015). A systematic review from the early 2000s evaluated the impact of immigration policy on the health status of undocumented workers, showing insight into the well-being-related outcomes of immigrant workers often receiving below minimum wage, and working in challenging conditions. While many workers were found and reported to be working in questionable conditions and receiving minimum wages, results of the systematic review also indicated that anti-immigration policies were positively correlated with increases in cases of anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder among immigrant populations (Martinez et al., 2015). These findings suggest that neither anti-immigration policy nor previously enacted liberal immigration policies are substantially effective at achieving equitable treatment and well-being for immigrant populations working in the United States (Martinez et al., 2015; Benkler et al., 2018). Furthermore, Esses et al. (2001) described the influence of economic resource competition on immigration policy, and its outcomes, and found resource competition-driven policy to be correlated with changes in perceived inclusiveness and perspectives toward national identity among immigrant populations. Esses et al. (2001) demonstrate how economic-driven immigration policy changes may converge with and influence social health and outcomes among immigrant populations and U.S. citizens.

Another aspect to consider in the context of market manipulation concerns the debate surrounding undocumented workers' economic contributions. As described in a previous section regarding a contextualization of immigration within international law, immigrants, overall, make significant fiscal, economic, and productivity-related contributions to the American economy.

Despite undocumented workers' tax contributions, and thus welfare contributions, complications often arise considering that undocumented workers lack legal documentation. While payroll deductions contribute to federal and state revenues, undocumented workers generally do not receive tax refunds or government benefits, contrary to politically motivated narratives.

Contributions to economic goods and services may include but not be limited to rent or housing payments, food

purchases, the use of transportation, and other leisure goods and services contributing to national economies. Consequently, undocumented immigrants contribute to the United States economy in both indirect and direct ways (Institute of Taxation and Economic Policy, 2017).

Overall, existing empirical literature suggests that the efficacy of the economic market manipulation on immigration policy solutions in the United States is complex, and characterized by the need to more carefully balance equity and humanitarian concerns with a profit-driven agenda. Wall policy solutions driven by economic agenda may result in short-term advantages to certain industries, or wages paid to certain immigrant populations, if these policy initiatives do not take into account other facets of immigration policy, such as equitable access to health care and education, interests can conflict and detriments to immigrant workers well-being and health can be caused. Furthermore, a lack of policy goal alignment can lead to social unrest and division, over time (Benkler et al., 2018; Esses et al., 2001; Martinez et al., 2015; Stiglitz, 2015).

2.8 Effectiveness of the Use of American Legal Rulings as Immigration Policy Solutions in the United States

Finally, this section explores the third component or factor influencing the creation of immigration policy in the United States, legal rulings, and their efficacy in creating equitable immigration policies. The policy analysis and evaluation theory is useful for application when considering the impact of legal rulings on the creation of immigration policy, because the framework identifies policy objectives, or in this case, the objectives of legal rulings, with regard to their actual outcome and impact on stakeholders involved (Dunn, 2015). Similar to the way in which economic market manipulation and political agenda have complex influences on the creation of immigration policy and its outcomes, legal rulings also result in complex policy solution outcomes (Gibney & Hansen, 2005; Backhouse & Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, 1999; Ryo, 2018; Meyer, 2010).

A review of the literature suggests that the advantages of leveraging legal rulings to shape immigration policy in the United States include the potential for increased equity and fairness, as a result of decisions and rulings made on the basis of ethics and justice, and the potential for clarity and consistency concerning rationales for policy decisions, and there are alignment with other national and humanitarian-based agendas based in justice. Furthermore, the use of legal rulings as a guide to policy creation may serve to protect the rights of immigrants, since justice is considered (Gibney & Hansen, 2005; Backhouse & Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, 1999; Ryo, 2018; Meyer, 2010). However, these suggestions are based on theoretical perspectives recognizing the inherent focus on justice in legal proceedings. In contrast, the application of the policy analysis framework indicates that bias, systemic racism, marginalization, and other ethical issues often still pervert the outcomes of legal rulings concerning the rights and protection of immigrants (Gibney & Hansen, 2005; Backhouse & Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, 1999; Ryo, 2018; Meyer, 2010).

Examples of the ways in which legal rulings have impacted

immigration policy, and the complex, ethically debated outcomes and efficacy of these rulings can be seen through cases such as the Plyler v. Doe case of 1982, the INS v. Cardoza-Fonseca case of 1987, and the Matter of Acosta case of 1985. The Plyler v. Doe case of 1982 resulted in a Supreme Court ruling granting undocumented immigrant children the right to equitable, free access to public education. The outcome of this ruling demonstrates a positive way in which leveraging legal rulings to influence immigration policy can impact equitable access to education for immigrants and future immigrant descendants and generations in the United States. The INS v. Cardoza-Fonseca case of 1987 more liberally granted asylum to refugees by ruling that asylum applicants must only demonstrate a well-founded fear of persecution rather than a clear probability. The Matter of Acosta case of 1985 Also concerned asylum seekers, by granting asylum to immigrants based on social group membership. These rulings also demonstrate positive social and civil rights-oriented outcomes that can result from leveraging legal rulings to influence immigration policy (Gibney & Hansen, 2005; Backhouse & Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, 1999; Ryo, 2018; Meyer, 2010).

Other cases demonstrating the impact of legal rulings on immigration policy include the United States versus Windsor case of 2013, the Obergefell v. Hodges case of 2015, the DACA program implementation, and the institution of Migrant Protection Protocols, the Matter of A-B of 2018, and the Bosock v. Clayton County case of 2020. These cases concerned topics of marriage equality, the allowance of same-sex Spouses of U.S. citizens to receive equal immigration benefits as opposite-sex spouses, the provision of economic equity to undocumented children immigrants, and the requirement of asylum seekers to remain in Mexico until their court hearings. Furthermore, the Matter of A-B case narrowed the criteria by which asylum seekers could be qualified, for domestic violence and gang violence, while the Bostock v. Clayton County case of 2020 extended anti-discrimination policies based on sex to LGBTQ immigrant populations. Although the Remain in Mexico policy and the Matter of A-B case carried out under the Trump administration is criticized as minimizing the equitable access to protection and refuge available to asylum seekers, cases such as the Bostock v. Clayton County case further demonstrate humanitarian and equity-oriented outcomes resulting from legal rulings, concerning immigration policy (Gibney & Hansen, 2005; Backhouse & Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, 1999; Ryo, 2018; Meyer, 2010).

Interestingly, another prominent subtopic found throughout literature concerning the impact of court rulings on immigration policy and its outcomes concerned mention of the increasing integration and use of technology to facilitate court hearings, especially during and following the pandemic (Boushey & Luedtke, 2020; Briggs, 2020). One study from the 1980s, during the emergence of modern technology, concluded that the use of video and teleconferencing to facilitate asylum seeker hearings resulted in a decreased likelihood that asylum seekers would be granted asylum, and suggested the more selective use of video teleconferencing (Stern, 1988). However, despite the rapid implementation of technological advancements, less is known about how modern-day Zoom video conferencing impacts the outcomes

of hearings. While a discussion of the influence of technology represents a diversion from the primary topics discussed herein, it nonetheless was a prominent topic throughout the literature, pointing to a potential need for future research and a potential moderating variable that may influence the way in which legal rulings influence immigration policy outcomes and efficacy. Concerning the efficacy of immigration control and minimizing illegal entry into the United States during the 1990s, Cornelius (2001) found that immigration policy solutions emerging from legal rulings during the 1980s and 1990s resulted not necessarily in a reduction of immigration, but a rechanneling of immigrant flows to more hazardous areas. The policy also discouraged immigrants from returning to their countries of origin. Whether or not these outcomes were equitable and effective, remains politically debated (Cornelius, 2001).

2.9 Influence of American political interests, Economic Market Manipulation, and Legal Rulings on Immigration Equity in the United States

Because an aim toward equity is used to describe and define the concept of immigrant policy efficacy, this final section of the literature review synthesizes the conclusions of the literature reviewed in the previous three sections, with respect to the influence of these factors on immigration equity in the United States, as described by economic and social equity experienced by immigrants and native citizens. Mink (2019) underscores the subjective nature of political and social perspectives toward equity. Nonetheless, equity is considered in the context of non-discriminatory, equal employment opportunities, healthcare and education access, equal treatment, and wage equity. It is also important to note that equity does not necessarily and always imply equality. For instance, in an educational setting equality may imply that all students are spoken to equally, in the English language, regardless of their ethnic background, language proficiency, or learning needs. Contrarily, the provision of equity would necessitate accommodations and supportive solutions to English language learners, based on their proficiency, native tongue, and specific learning needs, thereby providing equitable access to education (Mink, 2019).

The political interests of American citizens and leaders shape the equity inherent in immigration policy in ways that seem dependent on and correlated with the political interests of involved and initiating parties. For example, proponents of more highly regulated national security regulations and border controls argue that policies such as this driven by conservative political agenda and nationalistic values protect the equity and safety of native citizens (Protection of the homeland and the establishment of the organization of the United States Department of Homeland Security, 2017). However, opponents of these policies suggest that more strict border controls often result in the unnecessary separation of families at the border, and result in a lack of ethical, equitable access to opportunities, and unfair deportation without regard for the influence these policies have on the nation's cohesive social, psychological, and mental health and well-being (Volden & Wiseman, 2014; Burns & Gimpel, 2000; Massey, 1999). Likewise, the use of economic market manipulation to form immigration policy also influences the equity inherent in policies created. An economic agenda driven by the need

to fill labor shortages can result in an increase in opportunity and economic equity granted to immigrant workers. However, this equity can sometimes be short-lived, such as was demonstrated by the H-1B program. Moreover, if economically driven policies are instigated without concern for political, social, educational, and healthcare-related aspects of immigration equity, they can undermine other ethical and equitable considerations for the sake of domestic, economic corporate gain (Benkler et al., 2018; Esses et al., 2001; Martinez et al., 2015; Stiglitz, 2015; Kerr & Lincoln, 2010). Finally, although legal rulings are theoretically understood to contribute to more equitable provisions of immigration policy, the court rulings, in practice, are inherently influenced by political agenda and bias (Conlow, 2012; Koh, 2019; Gosse, 2021; Gibney & Hansen, 2005; Backhouse & Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, 1999; Ryo, 2018; Meyer, 2010). An example of this bias can be seen through the *Jennings v. Rodriguez* case of 2018, during which the Supreme Court ruled that immigrants could be detained without bond hearings, a decision that sparked concerns regarding a lack of Fair process and due process rights for immigrants (Kushner, 2012).

Summary of Chapter Two

Chapter two began by introducing what is known within existing empirical literature concerning the use of American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions, asserting the complex overlap between these factors (Massey & Riosmena, 2010; Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017), and reviewing competing evidence concerning the efficacy of immigration policy. Although quantitative data concerning economic outcomes and immigration patterns can provide objective evidence concerning policy outcomes, efficacy, as a concept related to equity, remains subjectively debated by political leaders and scholars alike (Finley & Esposito, 2020). Next, the literature review described the assumptions and applicability of three primary guiding theoretical frameworks used in this narrative literature review, which include the policy analysis and evaluation theory (Dunn, 2015), the political science and public policy theory (Cairney, 2012), and the economic theory and labor market analysis framework (Cain, 1986). After describing these guiding theoretical frameworks, the literature review contextualized immigration issues within the context of international law, and following, described each of the three factors, including American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings, with respect to their efficacy and influencing immigration policy solutions in the United States, according to three respective subsections. A final subsection of the literature described the influence of these factors on the equity inherent in immigration policy solutions in the United States, revealing literature conclusions concerning the subjective nature of equity, and the ways in which all three of these factors can contribute to both equitable and inequitable ways to immigration policy, depending upon political interests, surrounding contexts, and alignment with other, simultaneously existing policy solutions. Chapter three, the methodology chapter, describes this qualitative narrative literature review's research methodology, design, procedures, and justification.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Methodology

This study uses a qualitative methodology to carry out a narrative literature review informing the research purpose and aligned research questions. Qualitative methodologies seek to answer the *how* and *why* questions of research that must be answered using rich, explanatory data as opposed to numerically quantifiable data informing quantitative research questions (Teherani, 2013; Starr, 2012; Ollerenshaw & Creswell, 2002). Because this study asks *how* existing literature describes the efficacy of the use of American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings in developing immigration policy solutions, a qualitative methodology is most aligned and appropriate. Furthermore, because the purpose of the proposed study is to explore the effectiveness of using these factors as immigration policy solutions in the United States, a qualitative methodology is most appropriate. Qualitative methodologies explore data to interpret solutions, whereas quantitative methodologies answer *what* and *to what degree* questions of research that measure and illicit numerical results that can be tabulated and statistically evaluated (Teherani, 2013; Starr, 2012; Ollerenshaw & Creswell, 2002). Although qualitative methodologies traditionally have not been recognized as equally valid and empirically rigorous as quantitative studies, qualitative methodological approaches are gaining increasing recognition among scholars across disciplines as important to providing the rich findings often required to complement and explain the findings of quantitative studies (Teherani, 2013; Starr, 2012; Ollerenshaw & Creswell, 2002). Hence, because the nature of the topic explored concerning immigration policy and the complex, interwoven factors influencing its creation and efficacy, is highly nuanced, and socially, economically, and politically complex, a qualitative approach is most appropriate for this study that seeks to understand, describe, and explain themes throughout these factors concerning their efficacy as approaches to policy development.

3.2 Research Design

In alignment with a qualitative methodological approach, the proposed study uses a narrative literature review design to identify and extract data informing the research questions, from empirical and government-published sources. A narrative literature review is a research design that involves the systematic collection, synthesis, and analysis of existing research on a topic, with the aim of developing a comprehensive understanding of the topic (Ollerenshaw & Creswell, 2002). In contrast to quantitative research designs, a narrative literature review focuses on exploring the meanings, nuances, and contexts characterizing and present within the literature review. Therefore, because the proposed study seeks to explore the efficacy of three factors in influencing immigration policy, and understand how these three factors influence immigration policy and equity, a narrative literature review is appropriate for and allows for the in-depth extraction of meaning and themes found throughout the literature. Although a narrative literature review is not exhaustive in the inclusion of a variety of published studies to the degree that meta-analysis and quantitative methods of a

literature review may be, the smaller focus of literature reviewed throughout a narrative literature review allows the researcher to conduct a more in-depth evaluation, exploration, and analysis of the meaning and themes inherent in the literature in relation to the research purpose and research questions (Ollerenshaw & Creswell, 2002). As demonstrated through each chapter's progression in this study, a narrative literature review design is carried out by defining clear research questions, conducting a comprehensive search of literature throughout academic databases, using keywords and phrases, defining inclusion and exclusion criteria, thematically evaluating the literature, and writing a synthesis and interpretation of the results and findings (Pautasso, 2019; Ferrari, 2015).

3.3 Methods and Procedures

To begin the literature review, the numbered search phrases below were developed based on the studies guiding theoretical frameworks and research questions. The Boolean search of literature will be performed by inputting these search phrases into empirical databases including the university database, Google Scholar, ERIC, JStor, and government websites such as the Department of Homeland Security.

- 1) Policy Analysis and Evaluation Theory
- 2) Political Science and Public Policy Theory
- 3) International Immigration Law
- 4) Economic Theory and Labor Market Analysis
- 5) American Political Interests AND immigration Policy Solutions
- 6) American Economic market manipulation, AND immigration policy Solutions
- 7) American Legal Rulings AND immigration Policy Solutions
- 8) American immigration policy equity

The literature will be selected for inclusion based upon the following criteria: a) relevance to the topic, and b) credibility, with peer-reviewed and government published literature prioritized. A range of publications spanning multiple time periods will be selected, to provide a historically chronological and cohesive perspective towards the topic explored since the colonial era. Articles will be chosen for inclusion in chapter two, the literature review, based on their cohesive applicability to the topic, prioritized appearance in search results, and level of evidence with systematic reviews prioritized.

After identifying articles for inclusion based on scholarly recommendations concerning the process for conducting a narrative literature review (Pautasso, 2019; Ferrari, 2015; Ollerenshaw & Creswell, 2002), each article will be read in its entirety, and predominant findings and conclusions drawn from each article, or highlighted themes pertinent to this study's research questions, will be uploaded into an excel spreadsheet for thematic analysis. Thematic coding will be performed on the extracted data by pinpointing common themes, patterns, keywords, and phrases across sources. Rows and columns will be used in Excel to sequentially and systematically reduce the essential meanings identified through each study's findings to a cohesive statement. These essential meanings will be synthesized, according to their

respective citations, and included in the literature review write-up of Chapter Two, Chapter Four's presentation of results, and Chapter Five's discussion. Chapter Two presents a synthesis of the data itself according to each theme, while Chapter Four presents the essential meaning of the results found, and Chapter Five presents an interpretation of the significance and implications of those results with regard to this study's purpose and research questions.

The study will utilize a meta-analysis approach. Meta-analysis is a statistical technique used to synthesize and combine the findings from multiple independent studies regarding a specific construct or a variable representing a research topic or a research question (Field & Gillett, 2010). Meta-analysis is a quantitative method that allows researchers to analyze and pool data from various studies to obtain more comprehensive and robust estimations of the effect sizes as well as more accurate point estimates and measures of statistical significance (Field & Gillett, 2010). In meta-analysis, researchers interpret the overall findings, considering the combined effect sizes, heterogeneity, and potential sources of bias in the point estimates. The researchers then draw conclusions based on the accumulated evidence from all included studies, summarizing the necessary metrics using statistical techniques (Field & Gillett, 2010). Meta-analysis is a powerful tool that allows researchers to draw more robust conclusions by synthesizing evidence from multiple studies. Meta-analysis provides a quantitative approach to summarize and analyze data from diverse sources, helping to establish more reliable estimates of the effects and relationships studied (Field & Gillett, 2010).

Meta-analysis is an appropriate and valuable method for exploring the effectiveness of using American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions in the United States. Firstly, meta-analysis allows researchers to integrate findings from a large sample of independent studies providing empirical evidence on the same construct or variable of interest. Given the complexity and multifaceted nature of immigration policy, numerous studies may have examined the effectiveness of different policy solutions (Field & Gillett, 2010). Meta-analysis enables the researcher to synthesize these studies, providing a comprehensive and consolidated assessment. Additionally, meta-analysis helps identify consistent patterns and trends across multiple studies (Field & Gillett, 2010).

Meta-analysis can reveal whether certain immigration policy solutions consistently produce positive or negative outcomes, or whether the effectiveness varies depending on specific contextual factors.

Consistent with the typical meta-analysis approach, the researcher will collect data on the empirical evidence provided by each independent study, compiling them into a single dataset prior to analyzing the estimated average effect sizes of the main parameters, estimated level of heterogeneity between the parameters, p-values, and confidence intervals or prediction intervals reported by the studies (Mathur & VanderWeele, 2019; Veroniki et al., 2018). The data analysis will follow the scientific method, where a descriptive analysis consisting of summary measures describing the constructs

and articles will be provided first, followed by an inferential meta-analysis where inferences will be made regarding effect sizes, heterogeneity, p-values assessed at the 0.05 alpha level, and 95-percent confidence intervals from the compendium of sources considered. All statistical analyses will be conducted using the SPSS software.

In conclusion, meta-analysis is an appropriate method to explore the effectiveness of using American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions in the United States. A meta-analysis offers a systematic and evidence-based approach to evaluate the accumulated evidence from multiple studies, providing valuable insights for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders involved in immigration policy discussions. As mentioned in earlier sections, there is limited research in the extant literature covering an analysis of political, economic, and legal factors on how effective they are, collectively, in addressing immigration-related issues. Conducting a meta-analysis can contribute to addressing this research gap by providing a rigorous and comprehensive examination of the topic indicating a consensus, or the lack thereof, among scholars in the business, humanitarian, legal, and political sectors.

3.4 Population and Sampling

In cases of a narrative literature review, the population and sampling procedures refer to the body of literature explored, and the sampling procedures used to collect the samples of literature included in the study. In contrast to primary research involving participants in which the population refers to individuals recruited through a sampling strategy, a narrative literature review samples data, or published studies, from a body of literature (Pautasso, 2019; Ferrari, 2015; Ollerenshaw & Creswell, 2002). In the case of this study, a body of literature will be selected from search results populating across databases, in relation to the Boolean search phrase listed in the previous section. A sampling or selection of studies will be chosen based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria also outlined in the previous section.

3.5 Ethical Considerations

Just as in cases of research involving human subjects, ethical considerations are equally important when conducting literature reviews, whether quantitative or qualitative. In the case of a narrative literature review, ethical considerations include respect for transparency, integrity, and responsible conduct. These ethical considerations can be achieved by directly citing sources and attributing credit, avoiding misinterpretation or the application of bias, maintaining confidentiality and privacy when appropriate or when collecting data from your primary source, respecting intellectual property, and maintaining a sensitivity to cultural considerations (Pautasso, 2019; Ferrari, 2015; Ollerenshaw & Creswell, 2002). A minimization of researcher bias will be asserted and achieved through the practice of reflexivity. Reflexivity involves the recognition of preconceived notions, knowledge, personal opinions, or beliefs prior to, during, and after conducting the research. Reflexivity can be practiced by bracketing, an exercise that involves journaling and writing down these potential biases and beliefs (Ollerenshaw &

Creswell, 2002). As the researcher journals and asserts any biases and beliefs, their recognition minimizes their influence on the researcher's interpretation of data and conclusions drawn. In the case of this study, the researcher will recognize the presence of political bias toward and preference for humanitarian concerns, equity, and inclusivity. As such, although these values are recognized through an interpretation of literature, the researcher will also take measures to recognize opposing perspectives and interpretations throughout the data collected.

3.6 Assumptions and Limitations

Assumptions refer to aspects inherent in the data collection that must be true for research findings to be considered trustworthy and invalid. Limitations refer to constraints placed upon the research, or weaknesses inherent in the research design and methodology (Ollerenshaw & Creswell, 2002). Assumptions and limitations are important to maintain and strengthen the study's trustworthiness and credibility. In the case of this study, three predominant assumptions recognized included the assumption of research quality, the assumption of research transparency and integrity, and the assumption of relevance. The quality of the research reviewed will be assumed to be in alignment with and conducted according to the methodological procedures outlined in each study. It is assumed that researchers of the studies that will be reviewed accurately reported their procedures and conducted research in a way that reflected those procedures so as not to compromise the integrity of findings, information, immigrant data, or legal rulings outcomes reported. Additionally, and similarly, it will be assumed that each literature source maintains transparency and integrity and is true to the events, research findings, and case ruling outcomes reported. Finally, it will be assumed that the literature to be reviewed is relevant to the topic studied because the researcher will screen each selected article based on relevance to the topic.

Three predominant limitations were identified as relating to and characterizing this study.

This study is limited due to the presence of publication bias, availability of data, and a small sample size of literature. Publication bias refers to the bias inherent in studies that may report positive outcomes and could potentially skew the researcher's perspective of the topic studied. Publication bias is especially present in narrative literature reviews involving a smaller sample or body of literature since the findings are influenced by a large sample size. The availability of data also describes a limitation applicable to this study, since some studies refrain from publishing full data sets or reporting fully on an event or legal proceeding. Similarly, government publications may refrain from reporting confidential data relevant to the topic study. Finally, this study is limited by a small sample size of literature. Although thousands of studies have been published on the topic, small sample size was chosen to allow the researcher to conduct and complete an in-depth exploration and narrative evaluation of the literature in a reasonable time frame, leading to in-depth insight and relevant study findings.

Summary of Chapter Three

Chapter three described this study's methodology, design,

population and sampling, ethical considerations, assumptions, and limitations. This study will use a qualitative methodology, to collect and interpret data from the literature in a way that aligns with the study's research purpose and questions, which aims to explore the efficacy of American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as factors shaping immigration policy. The research questions align with this purpose, and because the study seeks to explore rather than measure, and inquire concerning how versus to what degree, a qualitative methodological approach is most appropriate. Chapter three also describes this study's design, which will use a narrative literature review to collect data informing the research questions. In contrast to a meta-analysis or other quantitative designs, a narrative literature review allows the researcher to explore a smaller body of literature to a greater depth, pinpointing key themes and findings found throughout a thematic, coding analysis of literature. A narrative literature review was chosen as the most appropriate design for synthesizing and exploring literature on the topic and seeking to understand the essential meaning of literature, concerning the research questions.

Next, chapter three describes the search and sampling strategy that will be used, including the inclusion and exclusion criteria of empirical and government-published literature relating to a broad time frame. Following, this study's ethical considerations were discussed such as respect for transparency, integrity, and responsible conduct. Sources are cited appropriately, and the researcher will practice reflexivity and bracketing as a means to minimize the potential influence of bias. Finally, three predominant assumptions and three predominant limitations were discussed, regarding this study's data and procedures.

4. Data Collection, Results, Interpretation and Analysis Data Collection

Data was collected by first inputting the following numbered search phrases into the empirical databases of the university database, Google Scholar, ERIC, JStor, and government websites such as the Department of Homeland Security. The search phrases used were as follows:

- 1) Policy Analysis and Evaluation Theory
- 2) Political Science and Public Policy Theory
- 3) Economic Theory and Labor Market Analysis
- 4) International Immigration Law
- 5) American Political Interests AND immigration Policy Solutions
- 6) American Economic market manipulation, AND immigration policy Solutions
- 7) American Legal Rulings AND immigration Policy Solutions
- 8) American immigration policy equity

Search results averaged between 500,000 to 1,000,000 per search phrase, across databases, when results were included for all time. Literature was selected for inclusion based upon the following criteria: a) relevance to the topic, and b) credibility, with peer-reviewed and government-published literature prioritized. A range of publications spanning multiple time periods was selected, to provide a historically chronological and cohesive perspective towards the topic

explored, but a majority of relevant articles were found as published during the 1980s through the early 2000s, suggesting a prominent focus on the topic of immigration post-Cold War and post-9/11. Although thousands of search results populated each search trace, only 35 articles were chosen for inclusion in Chapter Two's literature review due to their cohesive applicability to the topic, prioritized appearance in search results, inclusion of all search phrases in the publication's topic focus, and level of evidence with systematic reviews prioritized. There was no feasible way the researcher could have manually reviewed the thousands of search results populating, in a feasible time period, in an in-depth, qualitative manner. Hence, articles were chosen based on their search rank, in part, to aid in making the research achievable for the researcher. However, as described in Chapter One concerning the gap this study addresses, few systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and narrative literature reviews were found on the topic, supporting the need for this study and its findings.

After identifying articles for inclusion based on scholarly recommendations concerning the process of conducting a narrative literature review (Pautasso, 2019; Ferrari, 2015; Ollerenshaw & Creswell, 2002), each article was read entirely. The data that was most relevant to the research questions and purpose, and the most relevant, applicable, and meaningful conclusions drawn from each article, were copied in quotations, with appropriate citations, and uploaded into an Excel spreadsheet for thematic analysis. Thematic coding was performed on the extracted data by pinpointing common themes, patterns, keywords, and phrases across sources.

Rows and columns were used to sequentially and systematically reduce the essential meanings identified through each study's findings to a cohesive statement that expressed key meanings and findings of each study in conjunction with this study's research questions. These essential meanings were then synthesized, according to their respective citations, and included in the literature review write-up of Chapter Two, Chapter Four's presentation of results, and Chapter Five's discussion. Chapter Two includes a synthesis and review of the predominant highlights found through published studies and government data, while Chapter Four presents the essential meaning of the results found according to themes. Finally, Chapter Five presents an interpretation of the significance and implications of those results with regard to this study's purpose and research questions.

4.1 Summary of Results

The following summarized results are presented in accordance with their relevance to each research question and with respect to results concerning an in-depth analysis of the problem. Research question one asks how literature describes the effectiveness of the use of American political interests toward immigration policy solutions in the United States. A synthesis of literature (Volden & Wiseman, 2014; Burns & Gimpel, 2000; Massey, 1999) suggests that American political interests are effective in guiding the creation of immigration policy in a way that conforms to the agenda and interests of respective political parties. Said simply, leveraging political interests to guide immigration policy may

benefit certain parties equitably, but is not a reliable means of creating unanimously fair, equitable, and diplomatic immigration policy, especially in today’s modern climate characterized by political tensions and conflicting agendas. Hence, more equitable, balanced approaches to immigration policy may be useful that consider the impact of policy on immigrants, immigration patterns at large, economic outcomes, national fiscal health, and the sociocultural cohesion of the U.S. (Volden & Wiseman, 2014; Burns & Gimpel, 2000; Massey, 1999).

Research question two asks how the literature describes the effectiveness of the use of American economic market manipulation toward immigration policy solutions in the United States. The literature reviewed suggests that the efficacy of economic market manipulation in forming equitable immigration policy solutions in the United States is complex and characterized by a need to better balance economic advantage or gain with equitable, humanitarian-driven concerns. Literature also indicates that immigration policies driven by economic agenda may result in short-term advantages to corporations and immigrants, but may not necessarily be financially or socially sustainable and thus equitable, as demonstrated by the significant layoffs occurring at the end of the H-1B visa program time frame. Moreover, it was determined based on a synthesis of literature concerning international law, that America’s market manipulation provides adverse economic systems in Mexico, which creates inequity and drives undocumented immigration and that wage inequities exist because major employers are not held accountable to a livable wage standard (Benkler et al., 2018; Esses et al., 2001; Martinez et al., 2015; Stiglitz, 2015).

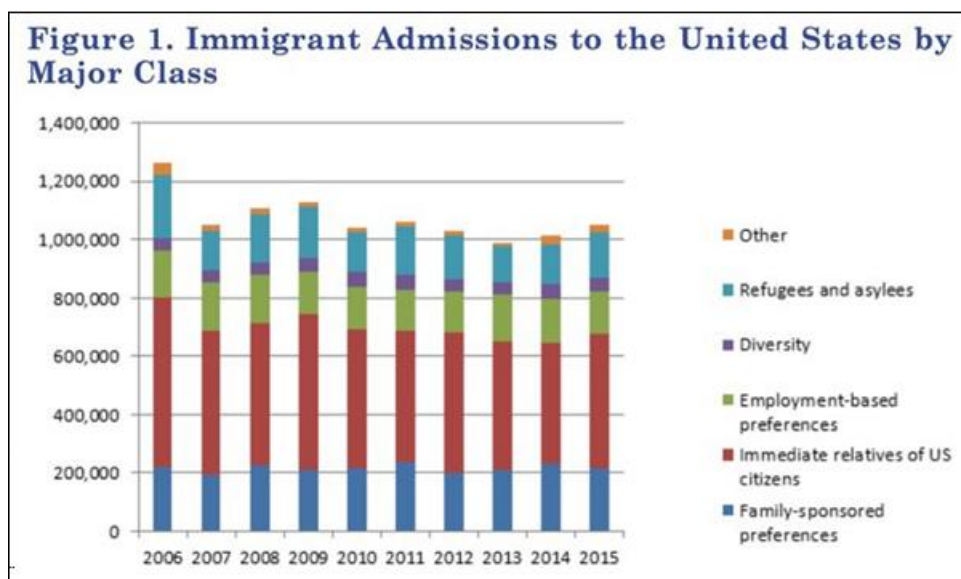
Finally, research question three asks how the literature describes the effectiveness of the use of American legal rulings toward immigration policy solutions in the United States. An evaluation of the literature reviewed indicates notable advantages inherent in leveraging legal rulings to shape immigration, since legal rulings ideally and theoretically prioritize ethics and justice. However, the literature also calls attention to the importance of recognizing fallacies in the U.S. justice system and the tendency for

political agenda and bias to influence the outcomes of legal rulings advertently and inadvertently. Literature also suggests that the lack of funds for a civil penalty for undocumented but employed individuals in America contributes to the perpetuation of hiring undocumented workers and that inadequate corporate law, documentation, and border trade laws perpetuate the hiring of undocumented workers and fail to create beneficial border trade and/or shared intelligence (Gibney & Hansen, 2005; Backhouse & Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, 1999; Ryo, 2018; Meyer, 2010).

The literature reviewed and synthesized concerning an in-depth analysis of the problem illuminated the issue that although undocumented workers are known to contribute to the economies to which they immigrate, critics also argue that undocumented workers leverage public services such as healthcare and education, thereby straining these government-provided resources because undocumented immigrants may not be fully financially contributing.

Nonetheless, others argue that many immigrants pay into local governments in the form of taxation, but do not reap the benefits. Because quantitative figures are complex and multifaceted, the debate continues, and more clear guidelines are needed to resolve the ongoing debate and issues surrounding undocumented immigration. Finally, social, and cultural integration describes another issue arising in the context of undocumented immigration. Influxes in undocumented immigration present challenges to domestic industries and institutions such as the education sector, by intensifying language barriers and gaps and presenting cultural conflicts that can strain social and psychological health. Socially liberal advocates argue that immigration contributes to the cultural and human capital diversity of a nation, while opponents argue that it places strain upon the social cohesion of a nation (Harwood, 1986; Ngai, 2022; Van Hauwaert, 2022).

The diagram below provides a quantitative perspective of immigrant admissions volume, by class, to the United States, between 2006 and 2015 (Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017, p. 419).



A more in-depth analysis of the literature findings concerning the problem addressed will be discussed in the subsequent 'Analysis' section of this chapter. The analysis closely examines market manipulation (an aspect of economic market manipulation), lack of funds (an aspect of political interests), and inadequate corporate law (an aspect of legal rulings), since these facets of the problem inform the solutions derived in Chapter Five.

In summary, the literature reviewed indicates that benefits are inherent in each factor's influence toward the development of immigrant policy solutions, but that each factor's influence also contains significant potential for a biased, inequitable influence on policy creation—namely political interest influence and economic market manipulation. An interpretation of the literature, as will be summarized next, suggests that neither aspect is most effective, but rather, each aspect is effective to the degree that parties involved in policymaking can set aside personal bias or agenda and consider the equitable social and economic impacts to all parties involved in and influenced by policy solutions, including native citizens and immigrants.

4.2 Interpretation

This study's results were interpreted using the process of thematic coding described through the data collection and procedures, which involved extracting the essential meaning from the results, in relation to the research questions. An interpretation of the summarized results described in the prior section leads to the following essential meanings, or themes, which were interpreted and extracted in relation to each of the three research questions, and contextualized in light of the modern-day, increasingly globalized, technologically driven, and politically charged international climate.

RQ 1 Themes. Concerning the effectiveness of the use of American political interests toward immigration policy solutions in the U.S., themes identified through literature include: a) Political interests predominantly influence immigration policy solutions in a biased, agenda-driven manner, whether equitable or exploitive; and b) Political debates are continually evolving and thus immigration policy solutions derived from political interests are likely to be equally divisive, socially unstable, and subject to continual adaptation and debate (Volden & Wiseman, 2014; Burns & Gimpel, 2000; Massey, 1999).

RQ 2 Themes. Regarding the effectiveness of the use of American economic market manipulation toward immigration policy solutions in the United States, identified themes include: a) Economically-driven policy solutions commonly result in short-term gain but complex, long-term consequences and equitable misalignment with the needs or rights of immigrants and b) A need exists to consider social, cultural, educational, and health-related impacts of economically-driven immigration policy solutions (Benkler et al., 2018; Esses et al., 2001; Martinez et al., 2015; Stiglitz, 2015).

RQ 3 Themes. Themes identified concerning the effectiveness of the use of American legal rulings toward immigration policy solutions in the United States include: a)

legal rulings have the potential to shape equitably just and ethical immigration policy; and b) legal rulings are subject to the influence of political interests and biases, which may subsequently impact the immigration policy decisions and solutions derived from legal rulings (Gibney & Hansen, 2005; Backhouse & Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, 1999; Ryo, 2018; Meyer, 2010).

Cohesively, the themes informing and relating to each of the three research questions point to and underscore a final, seventh theme which is that the equitable efficacy of these factors in driving immigration policy is influenced by political, legislative, and corporate leaders' and citizens' collaborative efforts to minimize the influence of personal bias, stigma, or economic agenda in singularity, and consider the complex, compounded influences of a policy solution.

4.3 Analysis of the Problem Using a Review of Literature

In alignment with a narrative literature review design, the analysis described herein was arrived at based on a synthesis and contextualization of the results and themes reviewed previously in this chapter. After a summary introduction of the analysis of themes, the problem is analyzed more deeply herein, as supported by literature reviewed. Additionally, conflicts and trends found through literature were asserted and are described as part of the analysis.

Existing empirical literature reviewed described the effectiveness of the use of American political interests toward immigration policy solutions in the United States as effective in guiding immigration policy in a way that conforms to the agenda and interests of respective political parties (Volden & Wiseman, 2014; Burns & Gimpel, 2000; Massey, 1999). Themes interpreted through these findings included: Theme 1) political interests predominantly influence immigration policy solutions in a biased, agenda-driven manner, whether equitable or exploitive; and theme 2) political debates are continually evolving and thus immigration policy solutions derived from political interests are likely to be equally divisive, socially unstable, and subject to continual adaptation and debate (Volden & Wiseman, 2014; Burns & Gimpel, 2000; Massey, 1999). When analyzed, these themes lead to the assumption that because the use of political interests to guide immigration policy in the United States may result in unequal socioeconomic benefit to involved parties, and may favor the political parties in power responsible for mobilizing policies, more fair and equitable approaches to policy creation are needed to not only benefit immigrants and native citizens but also, to ease political tensions and contribute to resolving the ongoing issue of immigration policy.

The literature reviewed also indicates that the efficacy of the economic market manipulation in forming equitable immigration policy solutions in the United States is highly complex and often characterized by short foresight and planning to the advantage of corporations or industries, and thus may result in short term advantages but lack long-term fiscal and social solvency (Benkler et al., 2018; Esses et al., 2001; Martinez et al., 2015; Stiglitz, 2015). An interpretation of this literature led to the following themes derived, including Theme 3) economically-driven policy solutions

commonly result in short-term gain but complex, long-term consequences and equitable misalignment with the needs or rights of immigrants, and theme 4) a need exists to consider social, cultural, educational, and health-related impacts of economically-driven immigration policy solutions (Benkler et al., 2018; Esses et al., 2001; Martinez et al., 2015; Stiglitz, 2015). An analysis of these themes suggests the need to better balance long and short-term gains, and align economically-driven policy solutions with other domain objectives such as health, education, and social equity. These themes also lead to the interpreted analysis that market manipulation in Mexico perpetuates the issue of illicit immigration into America. Moreover, major employers are not held accountable to a livable wage standard thus contributing to wage inequities.

Finally, the literature reviewed also suggests potential advantages to using legal ruling outcomes to guide immigration policy solutions (Gibney & Hansen, 2005; Backhouse & Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, 1999; Ryo, 2018; Meyer, 2010).

Interpretation yielded the following themes: Theme 1) legal rulings have the potential to shape equitably just and ethical immigration policy; and b) legal rulings are subject to the influence of political interests and biases, which may subsequently impact the immigration policy decisions and solutions derived from legal rulings. An analysis within the current, modern socio- and geo- political context suggests that the outcome of rulings and whether outcomes are effective in guiding equitable immigration policy solutions is thus dependent upon the national climate, political agenda, and enforcement of derived policy solutions. Although the justice system proclaims to uphold fairness and equity, a review of literature concerning the ongoing political tensions in the United States underscores that no system, including executive government branches, is exempt from the influence of political interests. A synthesis of literature also suggests that a lack of civil penalty funds and inadequate corporate law contribute to the inefficacy of the American legal system to more optimally contribute to equitable immigration policy solutions.

In-Depth Analysis of the Problem

As described, undocumented workers in the United States and other nations undoubtedly contribute to the United States economy, and other nations' economies and diverse and immeasurable ways, despite the complications and issues arising from influxes of undocumented immigrants. These contributions take place in the form of the consumption of goods and services, labor contributions, and tax payments. However, the issue of migration remains a heated topic, with many arguing that undocumented immigrants present competition for domestic labor, taking jobs from otherwise qualified citizens, especially when undocumented labor appears more appealing to corporations paying migrant workers exceptionally low wages. Additional concerns arising concerning undocumented immigration and its economic impacts include national security, the rule of law, impacts on labor markets, financial or economic impacts, and challenges involving social and cultural integration. Many advocating for more stringent regulations placed upon undocumented immigration cite the rule of law, meaning that undocumented immigration undermines the integrity of a

nation's legal system. Additionally, national security concerns are commonly cited as issues arising in the context of undocumented immigration. Inadequate border control poses risks to Homeland Security, especially in a current global context characterized by rising rates of international terrorism. Undocumented immigrant workers also impact labor markets by presenting unfair competition in job sectors such as hospitality and tourism. Labor market impacts may also include decreased wages and poor working conditions when employers are not held to ethical standards. Hence, more useful and effective immigration policy solutions are needed, which warrants a thorough analysis of the narrative review of the literature reviewed concerning the problem of immigration policy in the United States. The following analysis closely examines market manipulation (an aspect of economic market manipulation), a lack of funds (an aspect of political interests), and inadequate corporate law (an aspect of legal rulings), since these facets of the problem inform the solutions presented in Chapter Five.

Market Manipulation: Market manipulation remains one of the key issues involved in undocumented immigration, specifically as government corruption and market manipulation drive individuals out of their country of origin. Mexico offers a key example of this phenomenon. Market manipulation and government corruption in Mexico are arguably driving an influx of undocumented immigrants into the United States, in pursuit of more advantageous economic and social opportunities and living situations. Americans benefit from this economic inequity through the outsourcing of American labor. Several factors contribute to Mexican immigrants migrating to the United States. Limited job opportunities, socioeconomic inequality, and government economic manipulation play a role, as do human trafficking, and drug trade to a lesser degree. Additionally, historic trade patterns, political instability, international investments, and poor social safety nets also contribute to the economic conditions driving Mexican citizens to migrate to the United States. Underlying factors involved with market manipulation include but may not be limited to political and social challenges, structural factors, family networks, and other market push-pull factors (Koczan & Loyola, 2018; Hernandez & Patino-Echeverri, 2022; Falcón-Cortés et al., 2022).

Structural factors include financial and economic inequalities in Mexico, which may arise from trade patterns, the influence of globalization, and economic policy such as that set forth by NAFTA and USMCA, which influence the Mexican economy in a complex way, through both negative and positive impacts. Both agreements have expanded investment and trade opportunities, while also resulting in the displacement of small family businesses and agricultural industries. Consequently, the underlying effects of these increments have concentrated wealth and widened wealth gaps, leading many Mexican citizens to seek higher-paying work in the United States. This driving factor can be especially problematic when most of the wealth earned by a residing undocumented immigrants in the United States is sent back to family members and the residing company rather than poured back into the United States economy (Koczan & Loyola, 2018; Hernandez & Patino-Echeverri, 2022; Falcón-Cortés et al., 2022).

Political, and social challenges and challenges concerning family networks also drive Mexican citizens to migrate to the United States in pursuit of better opportunities. The Mexican government is laden with political corruption, which exacerbates regional issues of violence and crime resulting from bribery, coercion, and economic instability. Therefore, Mexican citizens may leave the country due to several resulting issues including unfair wages, poverty, or a lack of effective governance otherwise creating safe living environments for themselves and or their families. Because family is a strong cultural value among this population, many migrants from Mexico move to the United States intending to work and support their families remotely.

Furthermore, family ties and bonds can contribute to continued migration patterns, as family members of migrating individuals may also be encouraged to migrate. However, such patterns can contribute to complications that arise when forming policies concerning immigration, as strict immigration policies can result in family separation (Koczan & Loyola, 2018; Hernandez & Patino-Echeverri, 2022; Falcón-Cortés et al., 2022).

Finally, push-pull factors concerning Mexico's government and economy can also contribute to undocumented immigration. Push factors relate to aspects that drive immigrants to leave their country of origin. In the case of Mexico, this includes limited work opportunities, exceptionally low pay, and the result of living in poverty. Pull factors relate to aspects of the United States economy that incentivize migrants to move to the United States. These factors may include the prospects of more stable, higher-paying employment, better working conditions, and a perceived greater quality of life. Therefore, addressing the issue of undocumented immigration requires carefully considering push and pull factors incentivizing and driving migration.

Minimizing push factors includes collaborative, international efforts to reduce poverty in Mexico resulting from government corruption using the inception of greater Government Accountability and policy (Koczan & Loyola, 2018), as the proposed solutions herein intend to do.

One example of the government corruption presence in Mexico affecting low-income families or individuals' decisions to migrate to the United States in pursuit of better opportunities can be seen in the way that subsidies are distributed to households in Mexico. Hernandez and Patino-Echeverri (2022) Evaluated how utility bill subsidies benefit Mexican households.

Findings revealed that the top 20% of households consuming the most energy received 50% of the subsidies offered. Findings also revealed that electricity consumption is directly correlated with and determined by household socioeconomic status. In other words, the higher the income a family in Mexico earns, the more electricity they consume, and consequently the more they benefit from subsidies. This is also the case when factoring in the percentage of subsidies offered relative to an individual's income bracket. In other words, ironically, the families who need subsidies the most benefit the least from the distribution of those subsidies. This

phenomenon is theorized to be due in large part to the designing of legislation governing subsidies by individuals and lawmakers subsidies will impact. Said differently, high-earning government officials benefiting from such subsidies are the responsible parties governing their inception and distribution. Consequently, third-party checks and accountability are needed to curb the corruption contributing to economic disparities in Mexico that drive migration. Finally, although the Mexican government has declared crackdowns on corruption, data involving information from over 1,000,000 contracts between 2013 and 2020, found that although expenditure on corrupt companies decreased significantly, federal patterns of corruption continued, with expenditure changes indicating potentially larger, and more severe instances of public sector corruption (Falcón-Cortés et al., 2022).

Lacking Funds and Regulation: The second component addresses the issue of undocumented immigration and concerns a lack of, and improperly allocated government funds. In the case of America, this thesis proposes that a fund is needed, which can be assessed as a civil penalty for undocumented but employed individuals in America. The 8 U.S. Code § 1324a outlining the unlawful employment of aliens clearly specifies that it is illegal to hire and employ an illegal alien (Cornell Law School, 2020), however, regulations, funding, and enforcement are lacking, which has resulted in an undermining of the law. Currently, the issue of unauthorized employment ensues, resulting in subsequent problems such as those described previously herein, including domestic workforce competition, undocumented contributions to the U.S. economy, and more. Currently, financial penalties imposed on organizations hiring undocumented workers are lacking and inadequate (Cornell Law School, 2020). Hence, economic incentives to refrain from hiring undocumented workers are lacking, which contributes to organizations hiring undocumented immigrants and engaging in illegal employment practices such as the perpetuation of below-minimum wage compensation and unfair or unsafe working conditions.

Such practices create unfair competition for U.S. workers who require a higher hourly wage and cannot compete with undocumented immigrants being paid well below the minimum wage simply because companies are not held accountable for such actions. Moreover, unsafe or poor working conditions characterized by a lack of physical cleanliness, a lack of imposed proper work breaks or hourly regulations, and a lack of anti-discrimination policies may arise, which compromises not only the safety and well-being of immigrant workers, but also, compromises the integrity and quality of products and services produced therein, and the working conditions of citizens employed alongside undocumented workers (Cornell Law School, 2020).

Inadequate Corporate Law, Documentation, and Border Trade Laws: Like how funds and proper regulation are lacking, similarly, corporate law, a proper documentation process that is efficient and trustworthy, and border trade laws that are appropriate, current, and effective, are lacking (Chowdhury, 2023a). For instance, inadequate corporate law creates loopholes and gaps in the system that can allow complying employers to exploit undocumented workers

through unfair pay and unsafe working conditions. A cycle of illegal unemployment is established when these employers knowingly continue hiring cheap, undocumented labor.

Consequently, a need exists to strengthen the applicability and use of corporate laws, so that proper enforcement can de-incentivize employers from hiring undocumented immigrants, and can contribute to fair labor practices. Revising these requirements first requires reevaluating documentation requirements, specifically. Currently, the documentation process for attaining green cards, and temporary, and permanent resident status is excessively complex and cumbersome. This creates challenges for both immigrants seeking legal residency, as well as individuals involved in the review process. The expensive and prolonged process creates barriers to gaining legal residency and thus contributes to and incentivizes illegal labor. Hence, the documentation process requires a review and a minimization of the bureaucratic complexities outlining requirements. Border trade laws also present a problem, as current border laws are often imbalanced, thereby contributing to disparities.

Because the issue involves inadequate and poor border trade laws, documentation systems, and corporate law, revising these aspects of the issue of undocumented immigration is an interdisciplinary and complex process requiring a holistic approach. Border trade laws currently fail to incentivize job creation and development in countries of origin, and often contribute to the development and exacerbation of economic disparities.

Documentation: As described, a primary and current issue with of documentation system in place is the excessively long processing times required to complete the process. Visa applications, for instance, are forced to undergo excessively lengthy processes, which can result in frustration and inhibit an immigrant's ability to obtain legal residency. Furthermore, process delays and waiting periods can incentivize many immigrants to enter and work in the United States illegally. High documentation costs associated with legal fees, visa fees, and needed translation services can place financial strains on immigrants seeking legal residency, thereby inhibiting them from obtaining legal documentation and incentivizing undocumented immigration and undocumented employment. These high costs limit many families' access to legal immigration options in the first place. Also, excessively complex requirements characterizing the process for obtaining legal citizenship prevent many individuals, especially those lacking translation services or other accommodations, from obtaining legal status or pursuing the process legitimately (Chang et al., 2019). The current process involves extensive paperwork and the obtaining of complex, supporting documentation that many immigrants lack access to. The complexity and high costs associated with legal documentation are push factors incentivizing many immigrants to use fake Social Security numbers and other identifying information to continue working unlawfully in the United States. Therefore, the lack of a streamlined documentation process contributes to the problem by incentivizing undocumented immigration rather than minimizing immigration (Chang et al., 2019).

Border Trade Laws: Current border trade laws are also

complex, and inadequacies contribute to the continuance of undocumented immigration and its issues. Trade barriers, smuggling, informal economies, poor regulations, disparities, and limited infrastructure all describe weaknesses and issues associated with border trade laws. Trade barriers refer to quotas, tariffs, and regulations imposed on customs (Chowdhury, 2023b). These barriers can impede the flow of goods and services. Additionally, exceedingly complex bureaucratic procedures and regulations elevate the transaction costs associated with trade, thereby discouraging legal trade activities, and incentivizing, or acting as push factors, toward illegal trade. In other words, just as the complex documentation process discourages legal immigration and encourages undocumented immigration, similarly, excessively complex, and cumbersome trade barriers are theorized to incentivize the opposite of what the laws theoretically intend. The complexity of existing trade laws and the difficulty of navigating these laws contribute to and incentivize shortcuts, ultimately undermining the law (Chowdhury, 2023b). Shortcuts include the use of smuggling—and activity that can contribute to the drug trade and human trafficking, and therefore, and the deterioration of human rights. Weak border controls and a combination of government corruption, such as the corruption described within the Mexican government, and an excessively complex process characterizing current trade laws, contribute to contraband and trafficking (Chowdhury, 2023b).

Additionally, misalignment exists between current border law regulatory processes and those of neighboring countries, which makes smooth importation and exportation difficult.

Disparities relate to but are not limited to labeling requirements, product standards, and procedures concerning customs (Chowdhury, 2023b). Discrepancies in these processes, especially at the US-Mexico border, are detrimental to otherwise diplomatic cooperation, and thus similarly incentivize illicit trade, including trafficking. Many of these border law issues discussed relate to the exchange of products, and goods, and the interface with illegal migration, since undocumented immigrants may cross borders as a means of transporting goods and services, or as victims of human trafficking. Therefore, border laws and regulations interface in nuanced and complex ways with the issue of undocumented immigration (Chowdhury, 2023b).

Wage Inequities: As described briefly, wage inequities compose another issue describing characterizing undocumented immigration, globally, and in American contexts. In the United States, wages and equities can arise because of a variety of factors, including pressures and constraints placed upon employers, demand for low-cost products, goods, and services, and exceedingly lower wages paid in an undocumented immigrants' country of origin, which can make low wages on American soil seem appealing (Borjas & Cassidy, 2019). Undocumented immigrant workers in the United States are especially vulnerable to discrimination and exploitation in many ways, as it concerns wages. Some employers take advantage of these workers and their lack of documentation to deny workers benefits, pay workers below the minimum wage, or avoid state and federal regulatory inspections, thereby subjecting workers to unsafe or unclean working conditions. Workers may also be subject

to discriminatory practices and psychologically unsafe working conditions, because of the lack of management and enforcement placed upon the hiring organization. Additionally, discrimination may be experienced by undocumented workers relating to language gaps and a lack of otherwise necessary accommodations. Because such workers are undocumented and ungoverned by United States federal employment law, employers can slip under the radar with unlawful, undetected practices. Additionally, because of the exceedingly unfair working conditions and low wages many immigrants previously experienced in countries of origin, such as Mexico, even below minimum wages and unsafe working conditions in the United States may appear plausible or advantageous to immigrant workers. This can contribute to a perpetuation of the issue and little incentive being placed upon employers to abide by legal standards, especially when immigrant workers raise no complaints or push back or have no support in doing so (Borjas & Cassidy, 2019).

As a result of being undocumented and many employers failing to comply with wage and other treatment requirements, undocumented workers lack access to legal protection that would otherwise ensure they are paid according to minimum wage standards and treated fairly and equally. However, if a workplace issue, discrimination, or a worker's compensation claim arises, an undocumented worker not only faces barriers in accessing legal representation but also may lack rights, to begin with, due to their undocumented status. This can create more complex financial challenges in cases in which undocumented immigrants are provided with little financial support for issues, accidents, or costs incurred on the job. Consequently, many immigrant workers refrain from asserting rights or seeking higher workplace compensation due to fear of deportation, which further contributes to unfair competition faced by domestic workers. Such issues are especially prominent and observed in the agriculture and food processing industries, where the pressure to keep costs low and competitive is high, and employers often subject undocumented workers to long shifts comma low wages, and high manual workload burdens characterized by intense physical labor. Because undocumented workers often refrain from reaching out for legal support due to fear of deportation or ramifications, wage inequities are perpetuated (Borjas & Cassidy, 2019).

Because of the wage inequities experienced by undocumented workers and the factors contributing to this phenomenon described herein, many undocumented immigrants workers are situated in low-paying jobs with limited access to career advancement. Career advancement is often limited due to a lack of documentation and legitimacy, a lack of cultural integration or qualification, language barriers and lack of assistance, and restrained training and educational opportunities resulting from a lack of residency and access. Such occupational segregation also influences wage gaps between domestic citizens and undocumented immigrants, leading certain industries such as agriculture and hospitality, to be characterized by higher concentrations of undocumented immigrant workers.

Wage inequities experienced by undocumented immigrant

workers are also experienced in the form of cash-based, informal work situations. While this may seem advantageous at the time of payment due to the untraceable nature of cash and under-the-table money resulting in minimized tax payments, cash payments can be detrimental in the long term to immigrants' well-being and the health of domestic economies (Borjas & Cassidy, 2019). Because cash payments are not traceable, and often go without being otherwise legitimately taxed, individuals such as immigrant workers receiving tax payments are not contributing to Social Security payouts that would be received later in life were they to be documented, as legal residents. This results in a lack of government benefit payouts received later in life, which can be detrimental to individuals' economic stability and sustainability later in life when economic support is often needed most.

Simply said, if undocumented immigrants are not paying Social Security tax, they will not receive the supportive benefits later in life. Additionally, lack of legitimate pay and consequential lack in tax payments deprives the United States economy of welfare contributions, which is detrimental not only to immigrants but to all citizens reliant on welfare benefits and the benefits of tax expenditures such as public services like roads, education, Medicaid, and other services (Borjas & Cassidy, 2019).

Borjas and Cassidy (2019) evaluated what various factors were most influential on wage gaps experienced by undocumented workers. Findings indicated significant wage gaps between legal and undocumented workers, of over 35%. This wage gap was found to be greater among women undocumented workers than men. The same study found that wage gaps between undocumented immigrants and citizens were minimized significantly in correlation with the imposition of legal ramifications, a finding that justifies the proposed solution of a civil penalty fund described in this thesis.

Wage inequities are also experienced by undocumented immigrants migrating within the UN. Consequently, the UN has attempted to minimize these wage gaps by advocating for human rights protection through the imposition of the International Labor Organization, the holding of the International Migrant Workers Convention, the introduction of Sustainable Development Goals, the introduction of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, and the introduction of a special report on the rights of migrants. The International Labor Organization is designated with the responsibility of protecting the rights of migrant workers, concerning working conditions, wages, and social protection, such as representation and support for workplace, and racial discrimination (Rodgers, 2019). The international migrant workers convention also works to preserve the human rights of migrant workers, by outlining a comprehensive set of provisions, protections, and rights. However, although this policy document exists, not all participating United Nations have adopted it, reviewed, or enforced it.

Once again, a gap between policy and policy adoption and efficacy exists in part due to bureaucratic and policy complexities. The United Nations also set forth sustainable development goals for 2030, which include goal 8,

specifically focused on promoting sustainable economic growth through the use of Fair wages for migrant workers and inclusive working environments.

The global compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration specifies a policy the UN adopted in 2018, which is a non-binding agreement outlining standards for international cooperation and the protection of immigrant workers' human rights, including fair and competitive compensation.

Guidelines set forth through these initiatives presented and proposed by the United Nations also govern and specify the fair treatment and compensation of racial and ethnic minorities, since employees are often discriminated against not only based on immigration status but also, and often primarily, based on race—the latter of which can be confused with and sometimes assumed to imply immigration status in America and other allied nations (Rodgers, 2019).

Recent research findings indicate most immigrant workers are evaluated to begin employment in the US with a disadvantage of approximately 40 to 45% when compared to US native citizen workers. These gaps were less significant in the construction industry. Findings of the same study also indicated that over 20 years, as immigrant workers remained in the United States, wage gaps decreased in comparison with native workers, even when factoring in illegal versus legal status (Peri & Rutledge, 2020). Additionally, research describing how immigrant workers contribute to the theory of human capital accumulation, found immigrants to accumulate more human capital, relatively speaking, the native workers, but that immigrants were most often found to lack the ability to transfer skills between work positions or opportunities. Additionally, and interestingly, findings indicated statistically significant data showing immigrants to be more labor-productive than natives, likely due to being selected based on ability rather than confounding political influencers of selection (Abdulla, 2020).

4.4 Conflicts and Trends

The primary conflict found throughout the literature reviewed pertains to a weighted bias within the literature found, rather than a necessary conflict. For instance, most of the literature reviewed seemed to favor a diplomatic, democratically oriented-perspective toward immigrant policy (Harwood, 1986; Martinez et al., 2015). Although the researcher acknowledges a personal preference toward this perspective, it is important to recognize all potential influences, biases, and perspectives when conducting sound, trustworthy research. Hence, it was noted that most literature underscored the importance of immigration equity (Burns & Gimpel, 2000), family unity (Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017), humanitarian perspectives, the longstanding, systemic influence of racism on immigration policy (Backhouse & Osgoode, 1999; Cain, 1986), and often, conclusions drawn within literature advocated for a more socially and fiscally liberal and accommodating approach to immigration policy (Borjas, 2019; Burns & Gimpel, 2000). Few studies mentioned the potential for radical left perspectives, while literature referenced the radical right (Alamillo et al., 2019; Benkler et al., 2018). Thus, this phenomenon through literature is not accurately described as a conflict, but rather,

a potential bias. Although the perspectives of most empirical studies align with an equitable, ethical approach that is aligned with the researcher's perspective, purely sound research on the topic ought to account for all potential political perspectives, arguments, and rationales concerning the efficacy of these factors in driving immigration policy solutions, and what constitutes effective solutions.

Additionally, trends illuminated through the literature reviewed, in addition to the themes underlying and informing each research question topic, included: Frequent mention of the impact of COVID-19 on immigration policy, regulations, precautions, travel, and hearings (Page et al., 2020); the influence of advancing digital technology on immigration policy and processes (Boushey & Luedtke, 2020; Briggs, 2020); and immigration policy through the Trump era (Alamillo et al., 2019). Additionally, the continued presence and influence of racial stigmatization and debates concerning its influence on immigration policy continue to be a debated topic among scholars, with some advocating for the use of the critical race theory and similar frameworks in guiding more equitable immigration policy solutions, while others suggest such frameworks disempower individuals and further contribute to group stigmatization (Volden & Wiseman, 2014; Burns & Gimpel, 2000; Massey, 1999).

As described, a review and analysis of the literature indicated that benefits are inherent in each factor's influence toward the development of immigrant policy solutions, but that using each factor, or a combination of factors to guide immigration policy solutions also is ridden with a significant potential for political and economic bias—even in the case of legal rulings. Hence, the analysis of findings suggests that political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings are effective in guiding immigration policy solutions to the degree that involved parties can minimize the influence of weighted bias and take a more equitable, balanced approach to examining inter-policy influences and outcomes for all parties. Even the weighted political perspectives present through literature demonstrated the potential for political bias and the complexity of the issue.

Summary of Chapter 4

Chapter four, the results chapter, describes the results of this qualitative, narrative literature review, followed by an interpretation of the literature as described by the following seven themes, which inform this study's three guiding research questions as follows:

RQ1) How does the literature describe the effectiveness of the use of American political interests toward immigration policy solutions in the United States?

Theme 1) Political interests predominantly influence immigration policy solutions in a biased, agenda-driven manner, whether equitable or exploitive.

Theme 2) Political debates are continually evolving and thus immigration policy solutions derived from political interests are likely to be equally divisive, socially unstable, and subject to continual adaptation and debate.

RQ2) How does the literature describe the effectiveness of the use of American economic market manipulation toward immigration policy solutions in the United States?

Theme 3) Economically driven policy solutions commonly

result in short-term gain but complex, long-term consequences and equitable misalignment with the needs or rights of immigrants.

Theme 4) A need exists to consider the social, cultural, educational, and health-related impacts of economically driven immigration policy solutions.

RQ3) How does the literature describe the effectiveness of the use of American legal rulings toward immigration policy solutions in the United States?

Theme 5) Legal rulings have the potential to shape equitably just and ethical immigration policy.

Theme 6) Legal rulings are subject to the influence of political interests and biases, which may subsequently impact immigration policy decisions and solutions derived from legal rulings.

Theme 7) The equitable efficacy of these factors in driving immigration policy is influenced by political, legislative, and corporate leaders' and citizens' collaborative efforts to minimize the influence of personal bias, stigma, or economic agenda in singularity, and consider the complex, compounded influences of a policy solution.

Chapter four concluded with an analysis of the themes and an in-depth analysis of the issue concerning market manipulation, labor dynamics, inadequate corporate legal systems, and wage gaps, which reinforced the complexity of the issue of American immigration policy solutions.

5. Findings Summary of the Findings of Research

The research findings of this qualitative, narrative literature review sought to inform the research purpose of exploring the effectiveness of using American political interests, economic market manipulation, and legal rulings as immigration policy solutions in the United States.

Findings were outlined according to seven themes, six of which informed the study's three research questions, and a seventh, summarizing and concluding themes. The themes indicated that American political interests most influenced immigration policy solutions in a biased way driven by political values and agendas, and thus are not necessarily trustworthy as a means to create equitable immigration policy (Volden & Wiseman, 2014; Burns & Gimpel, 2000; Massey, 1999). Also, because political debates are continually evolving, immigration policy solutions derived from political interests are likely to be divisive and unstable, over time (Benkler et al., 2018; Esses et al., 2001; Martinez et al., 2015; Stiglitz, 2015). Furthermore, themes indicated that most economic market manipulation driving immigration policy is shortsighted and fails to fully consider the socio-cultural and socio-political interests or needs of all parties involved (Gibney & Hansen, 2005; Backhouse & Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, 1999; Ryo, 2018; Meyer, 2010). Finally, it was found that while legal rulings have the potential to shape equitable immigration policy, the United States justice system is not exempt from biased political agenda and influence, and thus the formation of equitable solutions necessitates the minimization of bias and narrow-sighted agenda, and instead, the consideration of the complexity of factors and outcomes involved.

General Policy Solution Recommendations

An analysis of the literature findings leads to the drawing of conclusions driving and suggesting future research and policy solution recommendations. First, a broad-view perspective and approach will be taken toward suggesting a revised framework toward immigration policy solutions, with respect to each of the three factors evaluated. Next, specific examples will be provided.

General Policy Approach Solutions Concerning Political Interests

Because findings indicated that political interests guiding immigration policy solutions do not reliably yield equal and unanimously fair solutions (Volden & Wiseman, 2014; Burns & Gimpel, 2000; Massey, 1999), it is suggested that a framework be explored for guiding immigration policy solutions that necessitates the setting aside of leaders' biases. While this seems an idealistic approach, its practical implementation in complex situations may be facilitated by leveraging aspects of the Policy Analysis and Evaluation Theory (Dunn, 2015) in combination with the practice of bracketing. As political leaders and policymakers responsible for devising, proposing, and passing legislation and policy practice reflexivity and are upheld to a standard of equity and the methodological steps outlined in the policy analysis framework, the result may be the creation of more equitable policy. However, the creation of equitable policy also requires input from leaders representing multiple perspectives and presenting the advantages and disadvantages of policy options applicable to all parties involved, which will necessitate the maintaining of culturally, politically, economically, and socially diverse legislative bodies representing and presenting multiple perspectives underscoring the complexity of issues impacted by policies.

An example relates to the implementation of revised border control policies. For example, border controls have aimed to minimize issues such as human trafficking and drug smuggling (Protection of the Homeland and the establishment of the organization of the United States Department of Homeland Security, 2017), but have also resulted in the separation of families, prolonged and delayed hearing processes due to bureaucratic inefficiencies and shortfalls, and the perpetuation of racial stigma by those failing to understand the complexity of the problem (Volden & Wiseman, 2014; Burns & Gimpel, 2000; Massey, 1999). Moreover, trafficking and drug trade have continued, suggesting the need for a policy that reinforces what the U.S. government professes to uphold, rather than a policy that fiscally rewards U.S. government power structures and legal authorities for incarcerating and punitively reinforcing illicit behavior. Just as a healthcare system that is economically maintained by the presence of sicknesses, U.S. border control has long been maintained by the presence of the issue. Hence, revised ontological frameworks are needed to reinforce a more effective, less corrupt management system and immigration policy solutions.

Also governing parties are currently failing to use infrastructure that would otherwise streamline or simplify the process and ensure more effective border control enforcement and management. As digital technologies improve and are expanded, technologies such as blockchain, as mentioned

previously, present promising solutions to manage these issues more effectively and efficiently. However, the implementation of such technologies requires the cooperation of international players, including Mexico, the United States, and allied nations. This cooperation first requires a recognition of the influence of government corruption and manipulations within governments such as Mexico's, and a willingness of players to relinquish behaviors that currently perpetuate the continuance of corruption. In other words, the players among Mexican authorities must be willing to relinquish sole authority in developing legal procedures and policies that only favor elite classes and those they are developed by, which will be discussed in greater depth within the solution proposal concerning Mexico's market corruption and economic market manipulation. Hence, while the issue is partly due to logistics and infrastructure, the deeper issue concerns human rights, diplomatic willingness, and cooperation (Chowdhury, 2023b).

Finally, the use of reflexivity among political leaders and policymakers may aid in minimizing the influence of racial bias, just as an increase in cultural diversity in congressional units and legislative branches may contribute to minimizing unfounded xenophobic attitudes. For example, the Exclusion Act and the Geary Act (National Archives, 2022) were examples of legislative measures taking a blanket approach toward immigration policy arguably founded heavily on xenophobia. On the contrary, the DACA program exemplifies an attempt to extend assistance and protection to vulnerable immigrant populations (Massey & Riosmena, 2010).

General Policy Approach Solutions Concerning Economic Market Manipulation

Concerning the findings related to research question two describing the efficacy of the use of American economic market manipulation toward immigration policy solutions in the United States, policy recommendations are driven by the recognition of often short- and narrow- sighted economically driven policy solutions. For instance, the H-1B visa program benefitted employers and immigrant workers for a period (Benkler et al., 2018; Esses et al., 2001; Martinez et al., 2015; Stiglitz, 2015), but lacked solutions for immigrants after the period expired.

Allowing immigrants 60 days to identify a new employer is a minimal and unrealistic time frame considering that many of these immigrants lack the educational and financial resources to leverage new opportunities within a rapid time frame. A more equitable policy approach to issues such as this, guided by economic market manipulation, may entail the provision of welfare assistance to these individuals to extend the time frame and resources available to them to continue pursuing employment opportunities on U.S. soil. Additionally, because documentation and monitoring of policy outcomes, and immigrants' progress in adhering to the requirements of such policies has traditionally been a cumbersome and overwhelming administrative process, new AI-driven, digital technology tools may be leveraged to keep pace with immigrants' compliance, progress, and use of provisions in the same way that the IRS is leveraging AI technologies to facilitate the monitoring of tax evasion and the conducting of audits.

General Policy Approach Solutions Concerning Legal Rulings

The findings related to research question three described the effectiveness of the use of American legal rulings toward immigration policy solutions in the United States such that there are notable advantages to leveraging legal rulings to guide immigration policy solutions since legal rulings theoretically prioritize justice. However, corruption exists in the judicial branch of government, and thus legal rulings are not exempt from the influence of political or other bias (Gibney & Hansen, 2005; Backhouse & Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, 1999; Ryo, 2018; Meyer, 2010). Thus, while the use of legal rulings may be effective to some extent, policy solution recommendations aimed at overcoming this shortfall entail strengthening the level of accountability inherent in the judicial branch through a more diversified system of third-party checks and oversight, involving representation from multiple stakeholder parties and interest groups. For instance, while the Plyler v. Doe case extended educational equity to immigrant children, the Matter of A-B case ended up narrowing the criteria by which asylum seekers could be qualified, which many argued was inequitable and unjust (Gibney & Hansen, 2005; Backhouse & Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, 1999; Ryo, 2018; Meyer, 2010). From an international perspective, trade laws may be revised to promote domestic investments and improve security. International cooperation between the US, Mexico, and allied nations may be instigated to revise international law and develop mutually beneficial strategies for managing borders (Chowdhury, 2023a). The following section explores specifically-proposed, in-depth solutions derived from an analysis of this study's results, and findings, and proposed general revised solution approaches.

Specific Solutions and Expected Outcomes Based on an In-Depth Analysis of the Problem

Resolving the issue of undocumented immigration requires a complex, interdisciplinary, and collaborative approach that considers both drivers of undocumented immigration, the impacts of on domestic economies, and international strategies America in partnership with the allied nations may leverage to address the issue. Several key, high-level potential strategies will be discussed in this final section, which include: Addressing America's market manipulation (a facet of the influencing factor of economic market manipulation and political interests), which contributes to economic inequity and therefore, undocumented immigration to the United States; creating a civil penalty fund for undocumented workers (a facet of the influencing factor of legal ruling); strengthening law enforcement against corporations hiring undocumented workers (a facet of legal rulings and economic market manipulation); and enforcing livable wage standards by creating an international, regional trade union (a facet of political interests, legal rulings, and economic market manipulation). Addressing and implementing these solutions at an international level will contribute to an increase in economic stability within developing countries, reduce the exploitation of undocumented workers, increase levels of tax revenue, improve social integration and minimize tensions, and will also improve working conditions for all workers, including immigrant workers, while also ensuring American workers are not unfairly competing with immigrant workers being paid below the minimum wage (Androff et al., 2011).

Ultimately, the inception of these solutions will have a positive impact on families and children, including the children of immigrant workers who will be contributing to nations' future economic health (Androff et al., 2011). Furthermore, the proposed solutions are outlined in underlying subsections herein, and respond directly to the following specific problems identified through the narrative literature review:

- 1) America's market manipulation provides adverse economic systems in Mexico, which creates inequity and drives undocumented immigration.
- 2) Lacking funds for a civil penalty for undocumented but employed individuals in America.
- 3) Inadequate corporate law, documentation, and border trade laws perpetuate the hiring of undocumented workers and fail to create beneficial border trade and/or shared intelligence.
- 4) Wage inequities exist because major employers are not held accountable to a livable wage standard.

These solutions are presented as resolutions for immigration policy, outlining how America and allied nations can resolve undocumented immigration through a consideration of foreign policy. The solutions presented in this section were also developed with the intent of contributing to increased economic stability and developing countries, reduced exploitation of undocumented workers, an increase in tax revenue collected, an improvement of social integration, and an improvement of working conditions. As America increases the provision of economic and allocation, infrastructure and educational investments can be increased, and more trade policies can be promoted. Thus, America can contribute to stabilizing the economies of developing countries, which subsequently will contribute to a minimization of push factors incentivizing migrants to leave those countries and enter others illegally. This would also create new opportunities for mutually beneficial trade relationships.

Another high-level intended outcome of the solutions outlined in this section is a reduction in the exploitation of undocumented workers, through the provision of an undocumented worker fund, the collection of civil penalties, and the enforcement of laws against corporations hiring undocumented workers. This would create a more just and equitable society for all workers while leveling the playing field for American workers. Additionally, by increasing tax revenues, undocumented workers would necessarily be brought into the formal economy, allowing America to increase tax revenue, which could be used to fund social services, infrastructure developments, and other domestically beneficial programs. Improved working conditions and social integration are also expected because of the proposed solutions. By providing social services to undocumented workers and their families, America may aid in merging immigrant populations into U.S. society, which would reduce social tensions and create a more cohesive and inclusive society. The creation of improved working conditions using unions holding major employers to a livable wage standard would result in improved working conditions for all American workers, including immigrants, thereby ensuring that American workers are not unfairly competing with undocumented workers who are paid unlivable wages, and work in unfit conditions due to a lack of pushback and legal

representation ("Health Status of U.S. Immigrants," 2019).

Solution 1: Addressing Market Manipulation in Mexico.

The first proposed solution concerns addressing market manipulation in Mexico, which creates economic inequity and increases economic instability in developing nations. Market manipulation in Mexico may be attempted to be addressed through the enactment of fair-trade policies, investment in the development of assistance programs, and the implementation of better governments aimed at combating corruption. The strengthening of existing regulatory frameworks and the addition of third parties to these frameworks, in combination with technical assistance, better monitoring techniques, and diplomatic collaboration constitute high-level approaches to combatting the existing manipulation, which acts as a driver or push factor, of migration from Mexico into the U.S. (Espinoza & Piña-García, 2023).

This thesis proposes that America ought to collaborate with allied nations to outline and initiate more fair-trade policies. Such policies may include but not be limited to the removal of cumbersome and costly trade barriers (the cost of which are misaligned with predominantly participating importing and exporting nations, goods, and services), the minimization of subsidies that contribute to market distortion, and the prioritization of international trade agreements that benefit developing countries. A leveling of the playing field will contribute to the development of more sustainable economic growth and just competition.

Additionally, by investing in assistance programs for qualifying families, individuals, and businesses, businesses, and individuals may be less tempted to default to coercion, bribery, and government manipulation. If given proper support and funding, parties in need will be de-incentivized from perpetuating manipulation. Moreover, proper subsidies and assistance programs ought to be developed to contribute to covering the basic living needs of low-income individuals in Mexico, such as those who are currently in need of utility assistance programs but are not benefiting from electric subsidies. Such programs would remove a significant push factor incentivizing migration and associated with an economic struggle among low-income earners in Mexico. Collaboratively developed assistance programs funded through international efforts undertaken by the United States and allied nations and targeting Mexico may also work to support infrastructural development in Mexico, the development of sustainable agriculture projects, and the bolstering of public education in Mexico. Through the improvement of access to quality education, developing countries such as Mexico may experience reduced incentives for migration resulting from economic disparity. However, education alone does not solve the issue, as the patterns of government corruption and coercion by design must be addressed through the inception of governance leveraging third-party checkpoints and accountability (Espinoza & Piña-García, 2023). Additionally, as federal and state governments in America collaborate to address regional, cultural, geographic, and economic issues incentivizing undocumented immigration, drivers of illicit migration may be dampened while opportunities in countries of origin may be strengthened. For instance, as America's international relations and policy efforts work to strengthen Mexico's

domestic economy and minimize drivers of immigration to the U.S., while also cracking down on local policy and regulatory incentives in border states, the issue may be more effectively managed (Androff et al., 2011)

As described previously, corruption, coercion, and manipulation patterns in the Mexican government arise in part due to the self-serving interests of legislators and parties enacting laws and regulations for the benefit and gain of the elite ruling classes. Therefore, governance correction and the institution of ethical governments require the intervention of allied nations proposing third-party accountability and regulatory checks. Such agreements may be initiated by forming agreements that benefit international trade relations and the interests of both parties, with the underlying agreement of instituting policies, programs, and public aid initiatives that benefit those living in poverty and promote the economic advancement of previously underserved populations in Mexico. American allied nations may work collaboratively with Mexican authorities to improve the transparency of institutions through international incentives and implement anti-corruption measures through routine audits and international checkpoints influencing the ease of international trade involving imports and exports crucial to the Mexican economy. As mentioned previously, the use of digital technology may also be leveraged to minimize workload burdens placed on international parties and auditors, enabling more effective and streamlined monitoring and regulation. This will build America and the allied nations' capacity to offer and implement assistance and intervention. Furthermore, international cooperation between all parties may be fostered through bilateral and multilateral initiatives outlined by organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization.

Expected Outcomes: Key expected outcomes of addressing the current market manipulation in Mexico relate to a reduction of push factors incentivizing Mexican citizens to immigrate illegally into the United States. Through the provision of aid, infrastructure, and education, as well as fair trade policies, it is expected that developing economies, such as Mexico's, will be stabilized thereby minimizing the incentive for migration out of the country. Economic development will also foster incentives toward mutually beneficial trade relationships with the United States and allied nations. As market manipulation is reduced, economic disparities in Mexico are also expected to minimize, thereby leveling the distribution of wealth, and reallocating government subsidies and welfare programs to those who need it most. This is expected to improve economic stability and provide more options for investment, sustainable growth, and the origination of new businesses, employment opportunities, and equity. As a result of improved opportunities, economic stability, and sustained growth, living conditions are projected to improve. Consequently, it becomes clear that the impacts of combating market manipulation and corruption in Mexico are multifaceted and have arguably immeasurable direct and indirect impacts on the economic health and quality of life of citizens in Mexico, which include economic benefits and improved educational access and quality. As the strength and accountability of governing institutions are improved, loopholes otherwise allowing manipulation and coercion will be closed, and

diplomatic cooperation domestically and internationally will be strengthened. Consequently, all these factors are anticipated to result in a reduced burden placed upon existing immigration management systems, both in the United States and other allied nations. As the push factors driving Mexican immigrants out of the country are reduced, less administrative, financial, and social-political resources and energy will need to be expended upon defensively managing undocumented immigrants and undocumented workers.

Solution 2: Fund Creation

As described, the second solution proposed within this thesis is the creation of a fund assessed as a civil penalty for undocumented but employed workers in America. Funds will be collected through the imposition of penalties on organizations that knowingly hire and continue to hire undocumented workers. Funds will be used to support initiatives aimed at combating undocumented immigration, minimizing market manipulation in Mexico, enforcing border controls, and providing more equitable opportunities and protections to immigrants. The fund is anticipated to be more effective than existing policy because it will be imposed upon employers, and the funds collected therein will be used to assist immigrants in navigating the process of gaining legal residency. In contrast to current conditions, which create a cumbersome, difficult-to-navigate, and bureaucratically complex process that de-incentivizes immigrants from pursuing legal residency, the creation of a civil penalty fund will instead impose fines upon organizations, while assisting immigrant individuals. This measure will essentially make it easier for undocumented immigrants to navigate the challenges currently faced, which currently act as pull factors towards undocumented immigration, and will make it more difficult for organizations to hire undocumented workers. Were funds to be collected through civil penalties imposed upon organizations hiring undocumented workers, these funds could be directed toward strengthening immigration enforcement, aiding legal immigration processes to speed the process by which regulatory requirements are reviewed and approved, thereby contributing to the number of legal immigrant workers. Additionally, funds may be used to support educational programs—all of which are lacking, and which will be discussed in more depth in the final section.

Moreover, alongside the creation of this fund, relaxing the residency and citizenship process for immigrants may lessen the number of undocumented workers hired in the first place. For instance, relative to income, undocumented workers pay a considerable amount in state taxes, thereby making significant contributions to the economy of their state of residence (Institute of Taxation and Economic Policy, 2017). Based on these figures, the Institute of Taxation and Economic Policy (2017) suggests, from a pragmatic perspective, if undocumented immigrant workers in the United States were given permanent or temporary legal status, state, and local tax contributions would be increased by over \$2 billion, annually, and the nationwide local and state tax rates would increase to over 8%.

Several considerations must be carefully assessed and addressed so that the fund can be successfully implemented and leveraged. These include the monitoring of suspected organizations and the collection of funds, The assertion of

proportionality, and an awareness of humanitarian concerns. Currently, appropriate, and feasible infrastructure and an efficient documentation system are lacking concerning the collection of such funds. Additionally, a system by which to evaluate the imposition of funds, and determine the appropriate associated monetary fees is lacking, which exacerbates the issue of a lack of accountability and support imposed upon these organizations—many of which are within the hospitality and agriculture sectors. Thus, the use of undocumented workers in agricultural sectors provides cheap labor for employers but compromises food ethics and contributes to unethical labor practices, potentially compromising the safety and quality of food produced. Still, the argument is made that without the use of current cheap agricultural labor, food prices may soar and become insurmountable.

Balancing enforcement with human rights and humanitarian concerns is also a component of fund reallocation that must be addressed. For instance, to enforce immigration law under the Trump administration, many argued that human rights failed to be respected and due process was not upheld, resulting in prolonged and unjust separation of families and youth residing in inhuman conditions within detention centers. Hence, to avoid the type of manipulation and corruption present within governments such as Mexico and incentivize migration, third-party checks, and accountability may be essential to ensure funds collected continue to be used appropriately and ethically.

Circling back to the specifications outlined in the 8 U.S. Code § 1324a (Cornell Law School, 2020), the code does specify exemptions under certain conditions. Some exemptions are made for agricultural employers, so long as employers comply with the subsection (b) requirements of the law. However, many agricultural employers are found to not be in compliance, when investigated. Moreover, this code also states that an employer must not continue to hire an unauthorized alien in the United States after becoming aware that that individual is unauthorized. The law also specifies certain constituents, including the use of contract labor, the use of state employment agency documentation, and procedures for navigating the documentation of employees. In summary, lacking funds and regulations concerning organizations' employment of undocumented immigrants creates the issue of a lack of enforcement contributing to the unsuccessful management of undocumented workers and undocumented immigrants.

A streamlined system of evaluating suspected organizations will need to be developed so that the workload burden imposed upon policymakers and government officials is not unachievable or excessively costly. Therefore, innovative digital technologies may be used to better survey, document, and track instances of suspected undocumented immigrant employment. In the case of penalties imposed, fund collection will need to be carried out in a way that is administratively manageable for government officials, and trackable, while also just and fair from an organizational perspective. In other words, while the fund aims to act as a disincentive toward hiring undocumented laborers, imposing massive civil penalties without the option for payment or installment plans may have severe and detrimental social consequences for

certain industry sectors, in populations. For example, if a firm employs both Americans in undocumented immigrants, and is faced with a civil penalty that is unfeasible, the firm risks bankruptcy and dissolution, which could detrimentally impact a multitude of American families in addition to immigrants. Therefore, methods of fund collections must be developed that are substantial enough to allow the fund to be a disincentive, while also considering case-by-case scenarios and ensuring that the civil penalty does not create more damage than it intends to solve. Hence, fairness and proportionality must be considered concerning the burdens of civil penalties imposed, which considers consideration of the humanitarian impacts of civil penalties on specific firms and organizations and their local social and economic impacts.

The proposal for a civil penalty fund is justified by the initiative set forth through the US Citizenship Act of 2023, which calls for humane, effective approaches to solving immigration issues. The legislation aims to offer hard-working immigrants who have contributed to the American economy, the chance to achieve citizenship status (Sanchez, 2021) more easily. The creation of a civil penalty fund will work towards these initiatives by garnering and reallocating funds towards initiatives that streamline this process for immigrants, and place technological and administrative processes in place that reduce wait times and make citizenship status more achievable. Moreover, the collection and reallocation of funds gained through the civil penalty fund will be used to expand health and educational services accessible to immigrants working in the United States, provisions that are currently lagging (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2022). Existing federal public benefits have and continue to exclude many non-U.S. citizens from assistance eligibility. These include programs such as the Nutrition Assistance or food stamp program, non-emergency Medicaid, temporary assistance for needy families, and Social Security income (National Immigration Law Center, 2023). Civil penalty funds collected will be used to contribute to the expansion and allocation of services to immigrants through the facilitation of more streamlined, easily achievable processes by which immigrants may achieve legal status.

Expected Outcomes: The inception of the civil penalty fund imposed on employers of undocumented workers is expected to minimize the exploitation of undocumented workers by leveling compensation playing fields and eliminating enormous wage gaps and poor working conditions. As fewer undocumented workers occupy positions and organizations, American workers will receive less competition, and in instances of unfair compensation or poor working conditions, labor unions, legal protections, and employee rights laws will uphold and support the eradication of such conditions and discriminatory actions. Hence, this will reduce the exploitation of vulnerable, undocumented immigrants (The White House, 2021). Although some argue that this would take jobs away from undocumented workers, the end aim is to allocate funds to the contribution of easing the process of gaining citizenship, thereby creating more sustainable opportunities for immigrants.

Solution 3: Law Enforcement

As a means of ensuring the use, maintenance, and efficacy of

government manipulation and corruption efforts as well as improved governance, improved law enforcement will be necessary as a critical solution proposed herein. Assigned law enforcement parties will need to be responsible for enforcing laws against corporations that hire and continue to knowingly hire undocumented immigrants. Law enforcement actors will also be responsible for collaboratively creating mutually beneficial border trade laws and intelligence-sharing procedures, in contrast to current cumbersome and unequal border trade laws, and lack of transparency. First, the exercise of enforcement measures and consequences will need to be strengthened. This may involve increasing fines imposed upon corporations hiring undocumented workers as a means of disincentivizing organizations from hiring illegitimate workers. However, as mentioned previously, careful consideration will need to be given to the impacts of fine imposition on specific industries and underlying organizations, with respect to potential direct and indirect economic ramifications to others employed by a corporation and the surrounding local economy. The necessary considerations concerning the implementation of civil penalties illustrate the interwoven and inextricably complex nature of the issue and its economic impacts. For instance, different fine tiers may be applied to companies depending upon there are net proceeds or other qualifying factors. A tiered fine structure may be used to minimize otherwise detrimental community economic impacts of imposing insurmountable fines on key players in pre-existing local economies. This may include a tiered structure applicable to food production industries and organizations, which may rely heavily on undocumented laborers but contribute significantly to the well-being of the community. The transition away from hiring undocumented laborers must be facilitated gradually, to allow organizations to cope with change and implement new solutions, thereby avoiding otherwise devastating effects. Regulators and law enforcement officials may proactively aid organizations found to be hiring undocumented workers by providing critical recommendations and case-by-case counsel involving legal advice, and alternatives that may be pursued to facilitate a more sustainable and legitimate, while still affordable, option for employees.

Key law enforcement efforts will also be applied to border trade. Fair-trade agreements will need to be established that promote reciprocally beneficial transactions between America, the allied nations, and Mexico. This will involve simplifying the customs process and minimizing trade barriers through decreased tariffs and expanded flow of goods and services. Doing so will encourage investment in trade infrastructure while expediting trade processes and disincentivizing illegal smuggling. Improving intelligence-sharing efforts using digital technologies, tracking systems, and the development of reporting mechanisms will also be needed to track undocumented employment, the exploitation of labor, and illicit trade activities. Specific projects, tasks, budgets, and timelines will need to be outlined by respective policymakers and parties according to each facet of each high-level initiative proposed herein. Critical components will need to be addressed and enforced to ensure legitimate border crossing by individuals, including criminal background checks and due process to ensure that only felons are deported rather than the unnecessary deportation of

families (The White House, 2015).

Expected Outcomes: If implemented effectively, improved law enforcement will work to uphold the rule of law, protect Americans' and immigrants' rights, promote economic fairness, and enhance national security. Additionally, such law enforcement is intended to improve social cohesion and cultural integration while fostering international collaboration. Expected outcomes include but may not be limited to increased revenue from taxes because of undocumented workers being brought into the formal economy, improved social services, infrastructure, and other beneficial programs, and a reduction in the underground economy. The reduction of the underground economy is expected to shift transactions that are cash-based to formal employee payouts, which results in improved accountability and transparency thereby contributing more funds to welfare and Social Security, which will benefit all Americans, including immigrants.

The shifting from underground to formal legitimate economies will also help in combating tax evasion, thereby facilitating a fairer distribution of tax burdens among law-abiding businesses. Consequently, social welfare systems are anticipated to be improved and bolstered, which is likely to increase public trust in government programs. Furthermore, as a result, this level playing field is anticipated to contribute to a minimization of the current intensified polarities surrounding the immigration debate based on taxation, wages, and economic competition.

Finally, the results of improved law enforcement are expected to result, as the other solutions will, and improved labor market conditions and working environments, because of minimizing unfair competition and holding employers accountable for the fair treatment of all employees

Solution 4: Trade Union Creation

The final solution proposed herein involves the creation of a trade union holding major employers accountable for the provision of livable wages to all employees. This will involve increasing the minimum wage to reasonable standards for undocumented workers, without the need to navigate the cumbersome and timely process of passing a new law. Unions will aid in holding employers responsible. This will involve the empowering of existing trade unions by strengthening and supporting these unions through the provision of financial assistance and resources for workers and bolstering the representation of workers. These resources may include education concerning employee rights and the promotion of collective bargaining. Outreach and awareness may also be included in the creation and strengthening of trade unions, including public education targeting undocumented workers and outlining their rights as well as the benefits of joining trade unions. All these educational efforts will be targeted toward increasing awareness of the criticality of fair wages and safe working environments while providing both American workers and undocumented workers resources they may leverage for empowerment and the advocacy of their economic health.

The creation of trade unions will also involve the development of collaborative agreements between trade

unions and major employers, to ensure livable wage standards are upheld, regardless of immigration status. It would be best for these negotiations to be based on mutual consent rather than negative reinforcement implemented through legislative mandates, to incentivize active collaboration and accountability to these standards rather than the identification of loopholes and evasion. Finally, mobilizing public support and advocacy efforts will be an important part of creating and empowering trade unions. This may involve the use of campaigns, media, and public presentations. Additionally, the creation of trade unions may be facilitated through incentives, certificate programs, and civil society organization collaborations (Furåker & Larsson, 2020). The creation of such trade unions will also result in an economic environment in which employers compete for workers, and wages are therefore raised. This may involve launching long-term public investments providing immediate increases in public infrastructure, clean energy, childcare, education, and job opportunities that facilitate the provision of more fair and equitable employment opportunities for all while attending to the demographic circumstances and needs of diverse local environments and neighborhoods. Federal budget cuts Congress pushed in 2011 arguably contributed to a lack of funds available for use in resolving immigration issues. A reversal of these budget cuts would open funding to be allocated toward the creation of trade unions and other immigration management solutions described in this proposal. Additionally, it will be essential to nominate and retain governors of the Federal Reserve Board who are in favor of increased wage standards for all regardless of immigration status. Finally, the successful execution of these solutions outlined in this section will depend upon targeting solutions towards areas with substantially high unemployment rates, and areas with high concentrations of low-wage workers and or undocumented immigrants (Economic Policy Institute, 2023).

Expected Outcomes

Expected outcomes of the creation of labor and trade unions include the holding of major employers to livable wage standards, and the improvement of American working conditions for all workers, regardless of immigration status. Doing so would aid in ensuring that American workers no longer compete with undocumented workers being paid below minimum wage. Additional expected outcomes include improved occupational health and safety, minimization of workplace incidents, abuses, and discriminatory practices, and more fair scheduling of work-life balance through the reduction of excessive overtime imposed upon undocumented immigrants and labor industries. The provision of funds towards legitimate employment and wage increases is also anticipated to result in bolstered training and skill development, as employers are likely to take more seriously the retention of key employees through the implementation of career advancement training and skill development. Last, the creation of trade unions will bolster the collective bargaining power of workers to negotiate for fair practices concerning workers' rights issues.

Final Considerations

A common theme found throughout the review of the literature and the solutions presented was the need for more efficient documentation and administrative process

solutions—a need that advancements in technology clearly address. As bureaucratic layers and complexities currently characterize border laws, international trade, documentation, and corporate law, technology presents promising solutions that potentially facilitate more streamlined processes of documentation. Blockchain is one such technology presenting an innovative approach to managing an otherwise complex process (Chang et al., 2019). A considerable amount of literature review on the topic involved a discussion of the use of blockchain technology, in some way, in the revision of immigration documentation process management (Chang et al., 2019).

For example, research suggests blockchain technologies promise to transform global supply chains, and present solutions for managing and tracking tax expenditures and collections, monetary allocations, contributions of undocumented immigrants, and the documentation process and trail of immigrant applications for residency and citizenship. Findings of Chang et al.'s (2019) systematic review estimate that by 2030, the blockchain industry will be a disruptive, \$3 trillion business. Hence, it becomes clear that one of the primary issues contributing to a lack of or inadequate documentation and management processes is the lack of a streamlined tool, or system, for managing an otherwise profoundly complex process involving millions of individuals' data. Thus, it is recommended that policymakers and political leaders explore ways in which AI-driven technologies may streamline the processes and solutions presented herein, to be more effective and efficient.

6. Conclusions

In conclusion, the proposed solutions herein are intended to minimize unfair competition for American citizens and improve homeland security while creating a more just and equitable society, and improving the prospects, working conditions, and future outcomes for immigrants. Most of the literature reviewed on the topic of immigration policy solutions, equity, and the influence of political interests, market manipulation, and legal rulings, was characterized by a socially and physically liberal perspective (Harwood, 1986; Martinez et al., 2015). Considering that many university programs, and academia, at large, are characterized by politically democratic contexts, the nature of literature emerging through empirical databases aligns with these contextual recognitions. However, in the interest of conducting balanced and trustworthy research, a useful future direction of both quantitative and qualitative analysis would be to explore the perspectives and opinions of Republican or conservative leaders concerning the topic of immigration policy. Although the literature references the radical right, no studies were found on the topic that explore the perspectives or opinions of leaders and individuals in this political category (Alamillo et al., 2019; Benkler et al., 2018). Gaining insight into all parties' perspectives may aid in the formation of policy solutions that do not privilege one political party over another, but take into account all social and political perspectives to create policy solutions that consider the agenda of all stakeholders, and therefore, are less antagonistic or divisive, and instead, result in more effective resolve. When considering the efficacy of immigration policy solutions, equity, such as family unity, equal access to

economic resources, education, healthcare, and social support (Burns & Gimpel, 2000; Gubernskaya & Dreby, 2017; Backhouse & Osgoode, 1999; Cain, 1986) despite racial, cultural, or ethnic background is underscored as a primary objective—from a humanitarian rather than a political perspective.

Finally, future research paths may include and closer and more specific exploration of the influence of technology, including AI automated tools in forming and assisting the implementation of revised policy solutions. As technology solutions continue to rapidly expand, government entities and citizens may leverage AI technologies and other digital platforms to facilitate the implementation and tracking of aspects of revised immigration policies, such as filling out paperwork, contacting individuals, holding court hearings, identity verification, and application status documentation more easily. Existing literature suggests that doing so may reduce management expenses incurred by the government and imposed in the form of taxes, concerning attending to these aspects, and consequently, may speed the pace at which these issues are managed and resolved (Page et al., 2020; Boushey & Luedtke, 2020; Briggs, 2020).

Future research may explore the challenges and advantages of implementing various technologies concerning different policy solutions.

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