

Does the USA Have Border Protection?

Let's Take a Look

by

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A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF THE USA

Between 1990 and February 2020, the U.S. Border Patrol counted “apprehensions” and “expulsions” separately. As of March 2020, the U.S. Border Patrol changed its methodology to include both apprehensions and expulsions as “encounters.” Some recent history follows.

The population of unauthorized immigrants in the USA has been estimated to be around 10.99 million people as of 2022, a number which seems stabilized after a period of rapid growth. However, studies show that the amount of alien encounters by the USA Border Patrol has significantly increased in the last few years, with 2,963,692 registered alien apprehensions and expulsions recorded in 2023. In addition, there were 895 immigrant deaths recorded near the south-west border in the USA, the greatest number reported by the USA Border Patrol since 1998, suggesting that illegal immigration may be on the rise again. Currently Mexico is the leading country of origin for most unauthorized immigrants in the USA, with California being home to the highest number of illegal immigrants in the USA. The most illegal immigrants returned in the USA are from the Philippines, followed by India. Canada, China, and Russia.

CHAPTER 1

THE WILSON FAMILY

The Wilson family lives off the land near the Southern Texas/Mexican Border. They have a chicken farm with 100 chickens.

The Wilson's have lived on this property for twenty years. Bill, the Father, has worked the land all twenty years in addition to being a high school math teacher the first ten years until his retirement from teaching. He has trained his two children, Billy, and Sally Ann, how to work the land as well. Nancy, his wife, maintains the home and finances.

They were all sitting around the dinner table talking about the events of the day. Bill, the father, now retired, after a rough day with the chickens, was looking for a nice restful night with no interruptions after dinner. "Why does our country have a border," young Billy, fourteen, asked his dad after dinner. "Is it to allow people in, to keep people out, to keep our own people safe or all of the above?"

Bill answered Billy simply. "Billy, it's no different than keeping your front and back doors locked at home. Think about it. We keep our doors locked so no one except our family can come in the house. If we want to allow them in, we need to open the door for them, give them a key or decide to let them in with our permission. Does that make sense so far?"

Billy thought for a moment. "That's logical dad, but what is taking place in our country is not logical," he said. "Just last week, over

10,000 migrants crossed into Texas wading through a river at one crossing point, to get there. One of them drowned. The news indicates, while they are crossing from Mexico, most of them are from other countries. Why doesn't Mexico keep them? Why don't they just stay where they are from?"

Bill answered Billy, "have you ever taken time to think about this? Some say that keeping migrants out is good. Some say migrants are vital to our agricultural world, necessary to pick fruit, vegetables, etc."

Billy responded, "What if they are not healthy? How do we correct that? What if they are not legal? How do we fix that? What do we call them? They need to be educated in faith, writing, math, and English."

Billy was loaded with other questions. "Are they. . .

Immigrants

Illegal immigrants

Illegal aliens

Illegal migrants

Border jumpers

Border-hoppers

Clandestine immigrants

Criminal aliens

Illegal refugees

Irregular immigrants

Irregular migrants

Criminal refugees

Illegal residents

Asylum seekers

Smuggling Victims

Bill was impressed that Billy had done research on this topic. Billy said, “the list goes on. This is not necessarily a complete list. What documentation do we require for them to remain here? What if they are undocumented? This would mean they have no legal documentation to entitle them to be in our country, right?”

Sally Ann, Billy’s older sister, home on break from college, was listening to the discussion. She broke into the conversation. “Billy, I am writing a history paper on this very subject. Would you like to see some of my notes?” Billy said, “yes,” he would.

Sally Ann said, “as you will see, there are several questions that need to be answered. There are obviously several terms used to refer to the migrants. Some of them you mentioned. Think about this Billy, what if they are refugees? A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee their home country due to war, violence, or persecution, often without warning. They are unable to return home unless and until conditions in their native land are safe for them again. Possibly never. Many leave family behind never to see them again.”

Sally Ann continued, “refugees are granted protections under international laws and conventions and receive lifesaving support from aid agencies. In contrast, an illegal migrant is someone who enters a country without proper authorization or documentation. The term “illegal” refers to violation of immigration laws. It is important to note that the term “illegal migrant” can be subjective and may vary depending on the context and perspective of those in charge. When an individual is determined to be an illegal alien and wants to enter, let’s say, the USA, the consequences can vary depending on the country’s laws and regulations. In the USA, if an individual is caught trying to enter the country illegally, they may be detained by the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Agency. If It Is determined that the person Is deportable, they may be deported back to their own

country. However, if the person fears persecution in their country of citizenship, they can tell the CBP officer they want to apply for asylum. Hence, the term, asylum seeker.”

Sally Ann finished by saying, “entering a country illegally is a crime and can result in penalties such as fines, detention, or corporal punishment depending on the country.” Sally Ann suggested that Billy do some more research on the topic of Asylum.

Dad chimed in with the fact that the chicken farm is taking too much time and work. He needs to get a couple workers, preferably a husband and wife to do the cleaning up in the chicken barn. He is taking a ride to Dallas where he knows the drop-off location of the most recent border crossing migrants. Sometimes there are married couples on the truck.

Sally Ann asked, “dad, do we really need someone else to do this work?” Bill responded, “Sally Ann, chickens are quite prolific when it comes to manure production. Assuming an average of 14 droppings a day, that’s 45 pounds of chicken manure per chicken a year. Our farm has 1000 chickens, You do the math, that’s 45,000 pounds of chicken manure annually. We will use some of that but we will sell the remainder. Many farmers use it as a natural fertilizer to improve soil health and plant growth.”

With Sally Ann returning to college and Billy getting older and having homework it is necessary to bring on some permanent help. The plan is to bring two migrants on, and have them apply for Asylum through the Affirmative process, submitting a form I-589. Bill has friends in the I-589 office and thinks he can expedite the process.

The Wilson’s will provide housing and food for them along with a reasonable stipend that will be given them each month for needs they

have. A bonus would be to have a married couple that speak Spanish, since Sally Ann is bi-lingual in English and Spanish.

Jim and Sharon Chilton have a cattle farm several miles away from the Wilson's. Bill has seen Jim in town recently and both of them mentioned looking for a couple to assist them on their property. They both knew a truck full of illegals was due in this afternoon and both planned to meet the truck, not knowing if what they were looking for was available on the truck. Both wanted a married couple and both had room for them on their properties.