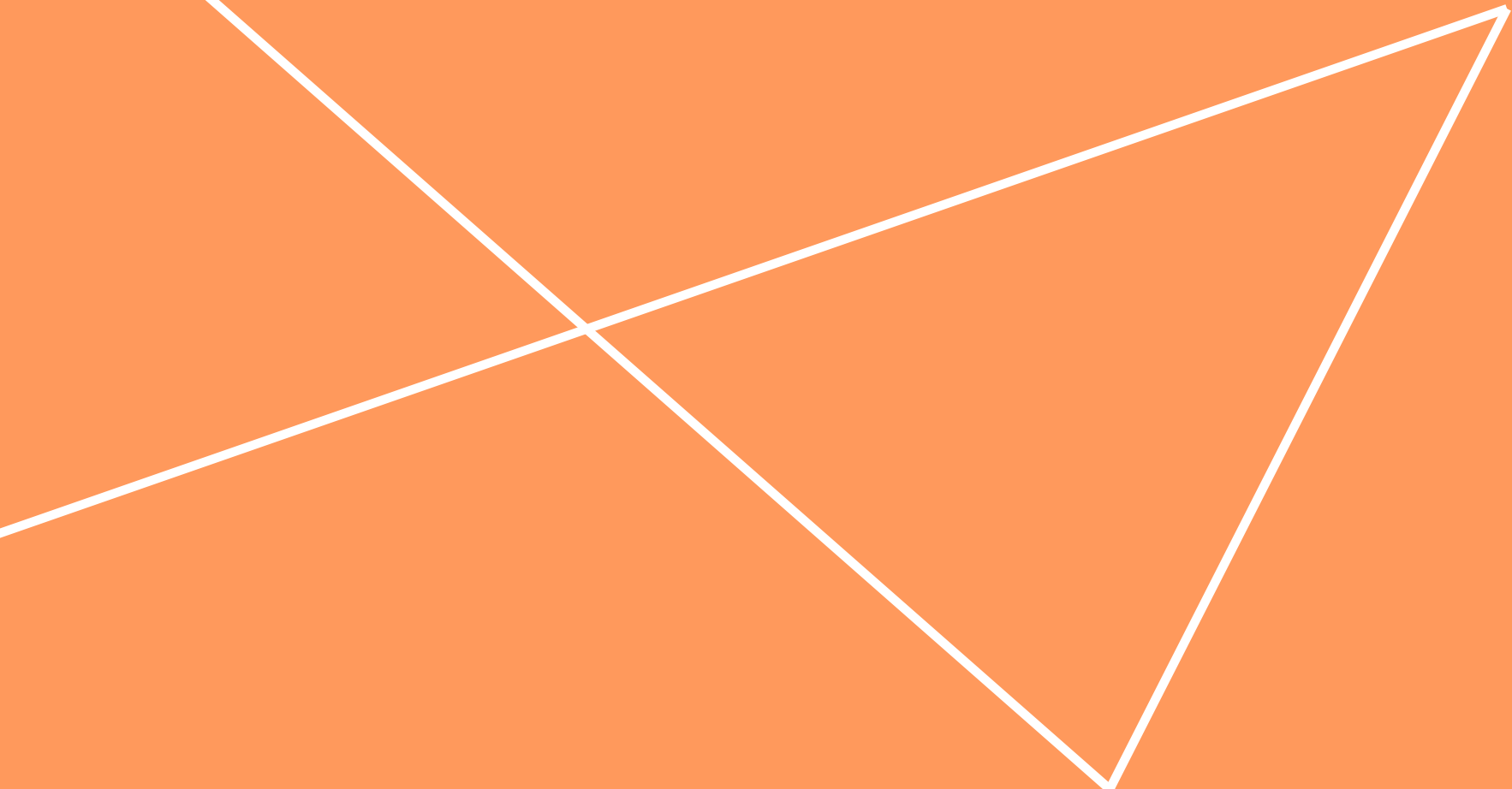


*Transcending  
Borders & Boundaries*



# Transcending Borders & Boundaries

Who gets to live where?

# Transcending Borders & Boundaries

*What separates this space*

*Who gets to live where?*

# Transcending Borders & Boundaries

*What separates this space*

*From this?*

*Who gets to live where?*

# Becoming Illegal: Relations on the Southern Border



# How Does a Human Become Illegal?



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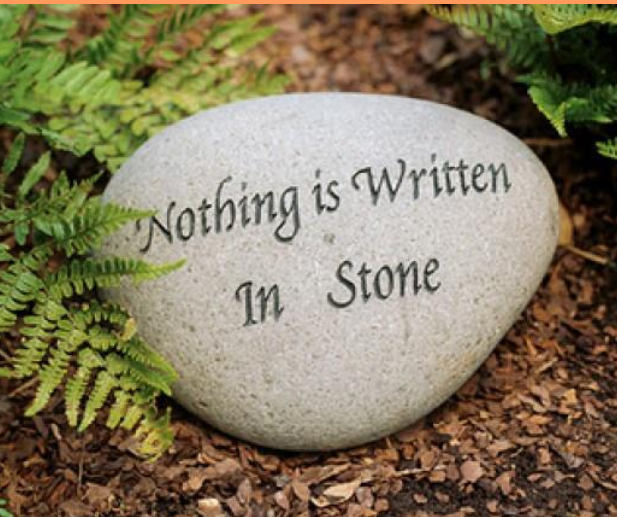
# How Does a Human Become Illegal?

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It's an oxymoron.



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“Illegal Alien” is the term you may be looking for.

What kind of creature is an Illegal Alien?



# How Does a Human Become Illegal?



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# How Does a Human Become Illegal?



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Wow, that’s a plot twist!

What can we learn from exploring the origins of our concepts? Is there power in etymologies & genealogies?

# Maybe There's a Better Word Than Illegal?



Maybe There's a Better  
Word Than Illegal?

Undocumented!

# Maybe There's a Better Word Than Illegal?

## Undocumented!

Well, according to the “law” this doesn't really mean anything either.

Are Undocumented & Illegal interchangeable?  
Synonyms?

They seem to be referring to the same person – one who is in the U.S. without written authorization.

# Maybe There's a Better Word Than Illegal?

## Undocumented!

Is it possible to be here illegally and be documented?

Is it possible to be here legally and not have any documentation?

**YES!**

# Maybe There's a Better Word Than Illegal?

Undocumented!

Most often used by those  
seeking to restrain immigration.

Most often used by those  
sympathetic to immigrant hardships.

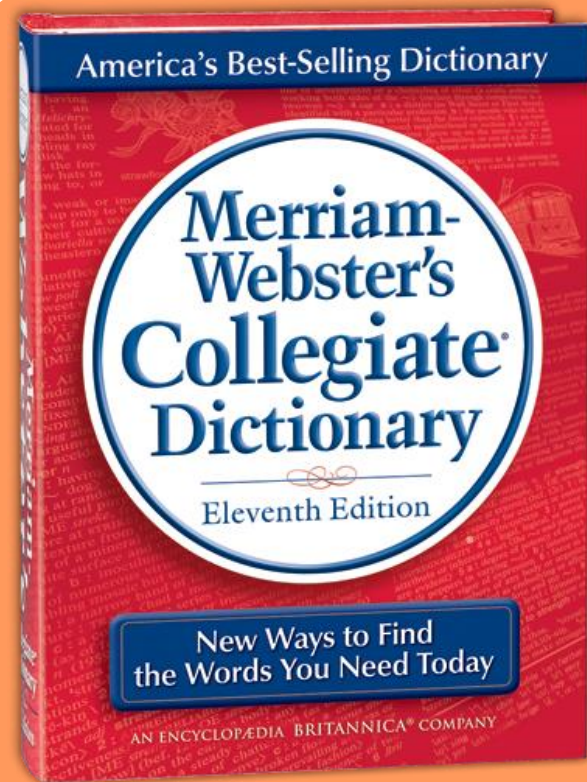
Maybe There's a Better  
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Undocumented!

**Well who gets to decide  
what words mean anyway?!**

# Maybe There's a Better Word Than Illegal?

In order for a human to be “illegal” a judge must adjudicate as much.

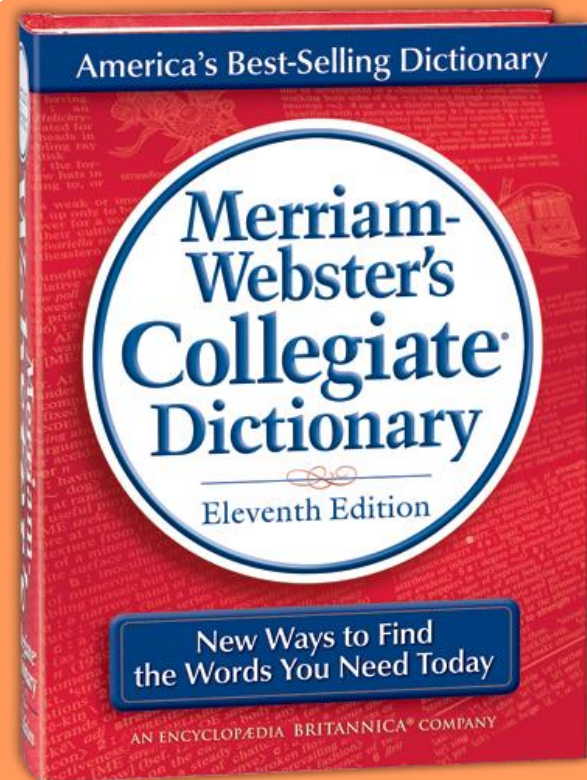




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Presence alone does not make a human illegal.

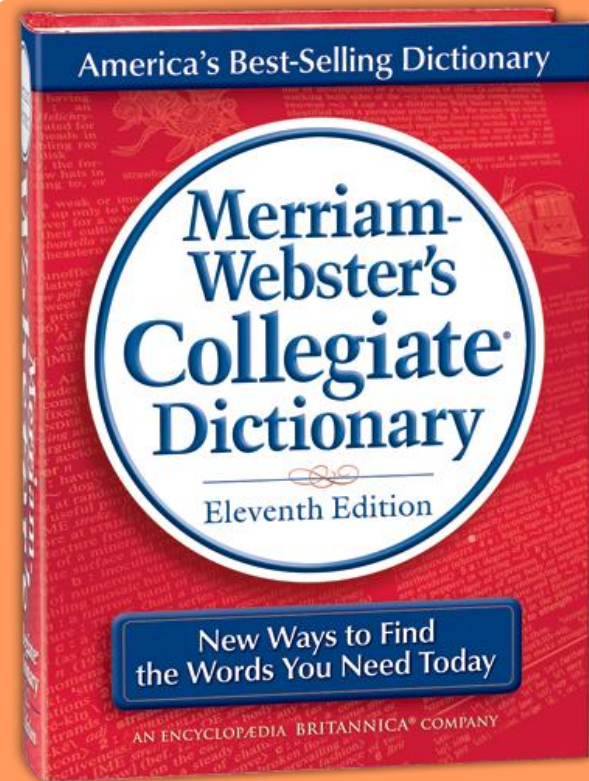


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Is it demeaning? Dehumanizing?

How do slurs operate to reinforce borders and boundaries?

# How Does a Human Become Illegal?

So, what is (immigration) law, anyway?



GLOBAL  
IMMIGRATION

YOUR WORLD.  
OUR EXPERIENCE.

FRAGOMEN

# **D A C A**

## **Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals**

- **Plan offering minors that were brought to the country temporary renewable legal status, and ability to get work permits.**
- **Initiated June 2012.**
- **It is an Executive Order. NOT a law (meaning a new executive can revoke it).**
- **800,000 people currently enrolled**

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# DACA

## Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals

- Eligibility must be renewed every two years.
- Recipients must undergo extensive background checks (no felonies or misdemeanors)
- It costs \$495 to apply and renew.
- Initiated while DREAM act remains under negotiation (which it has since 2001)—  
**Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors**

# DACA

## Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals

### Positive Outcomes:

- Hourly wages increased by 69 percent after receiving DACA protections, with average wages jumping to \$17.46 an hour from \$10.29 an hour.
- DACA recipients could push back against employers who treated them poorly—forced overtime, harassment, unhealthy conditions—something not common for people without papers.
- Also put people on economic grid—could finally get driver's licenses, qualify for health insurance, and legally buy cars and homes.

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Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals

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**\$280 billion added to  
economy over 10 years**

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# Some New Words!

## Formally Authorized Person

Someone who has the explicit (written) consent of Mexico, the U.S. and labor market to be here.

## Informally Authorized Person

Someone who has tacit, unofficial consent of Mexico, the U.S. and labor market to be here.

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changes the focus from illegality to **why & how** they are here.

# ...And Why & How Are *They*?

## Why?

Economic incentives. Their labor is worth more in the U.S.

## Why?

Free trade agreements allow multinational corporations to open maquiladoras, and to export surpluses to Mexican consumers for lower prices than local businesses.

# ...And Why & How Are *They*?

## How?

Laws to deter employers from hiring *them* are not strictly enforced.

## How?

They contribute to the economy without getting much in return. They pay sales tax, increase production, but often don't have access to many social benefits (healthcare, schools).

# ...And Why & How Are *They*?



**NAFTA**



# ...And Why & How Are *They*?

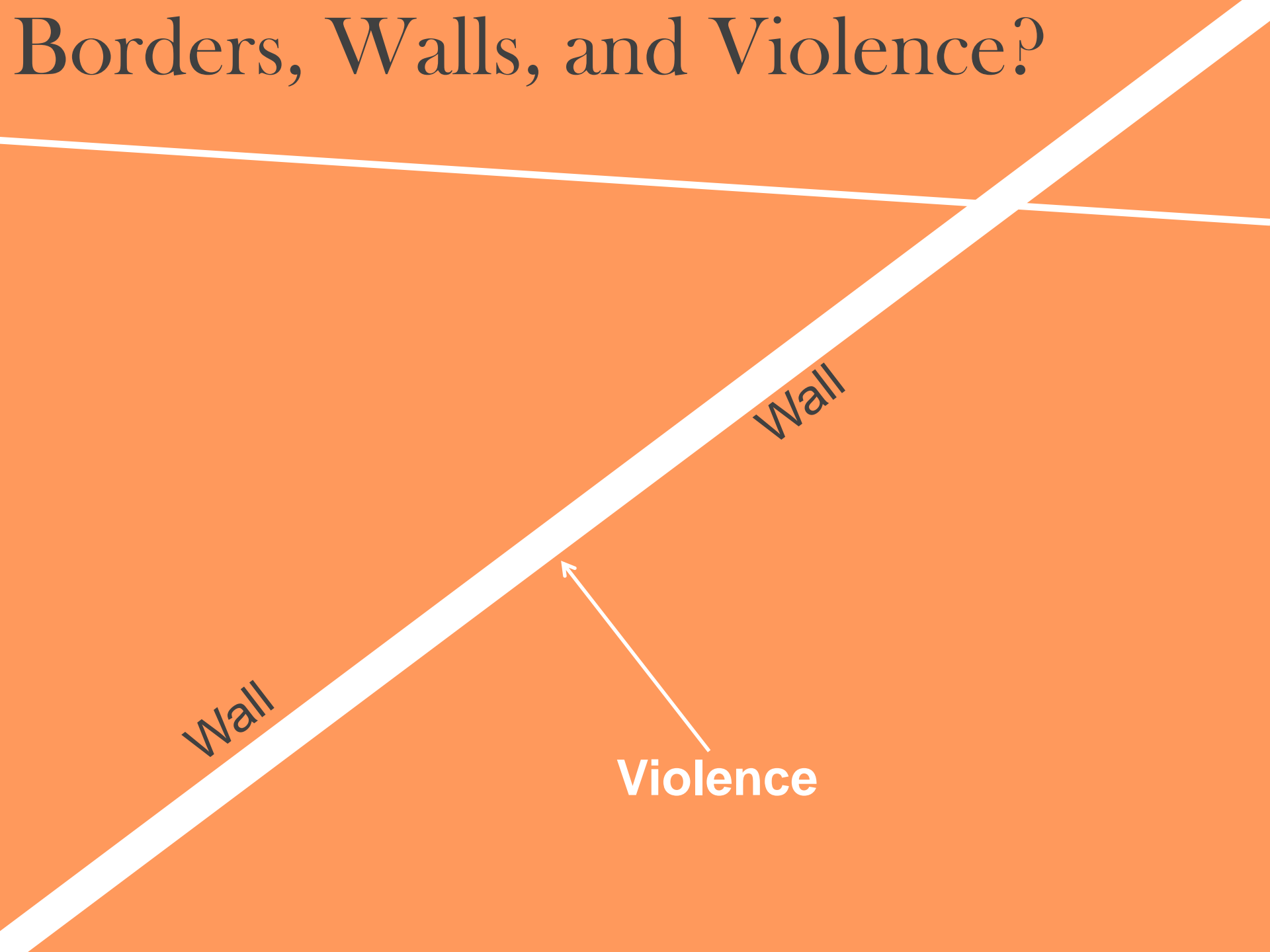


**NAFTA**

# ...And Why & How Are *They*?



**NAFTA**



# Borders, Walls, and Violence?

Wall

Wall

Violence

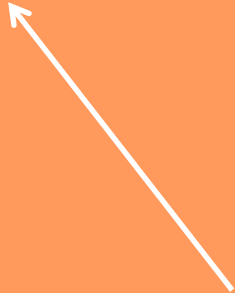
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**EXCLUSIONARY!**

Wall

Wall

Violence



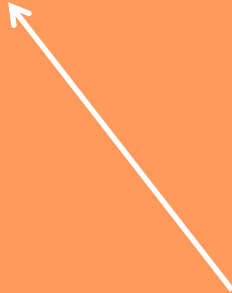
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Why the focus on  
borders/boundaries  
&  
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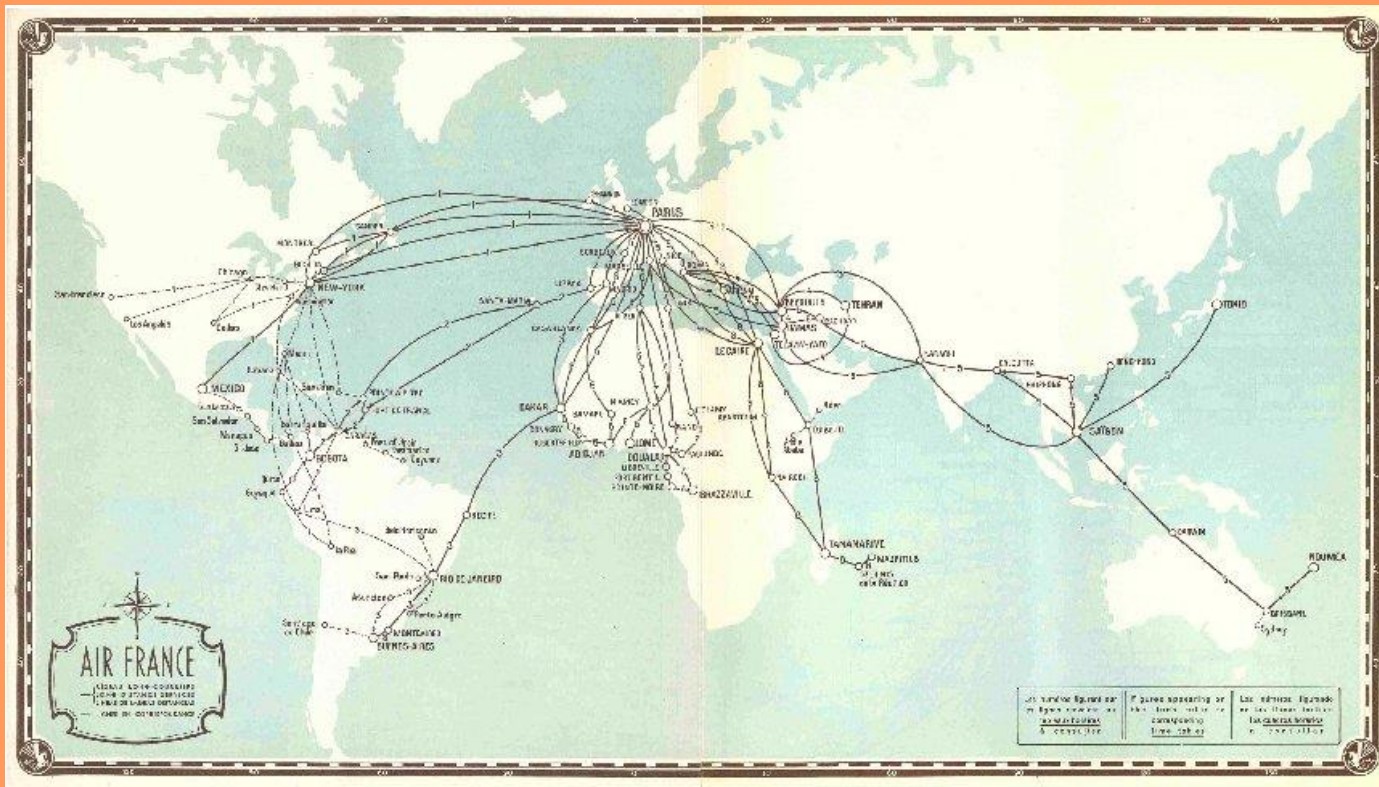
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# Transnationalism



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The process by which immigrants build social fields that link together their country of origin and their country of settlement.



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Transmigrants are connected to two or more societies.

Greater fluidity & mobility than earlier conceptions of migration.

# Transnationalism

## Why is it?

Innovations in travel and communication and globalization of economy.

Fewer (unionized) working class jobs than earlier immigration waves when populations more readily assimilated.

Service economy jobs require less assimilation?

Different skin color makes assimilation more difficult?

# Transnationalism

## Melting Pot?



# Transnationalism

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“Melting pot assimilationist model has been shown to be a myth promoting social mobility – a universal promise of mobility and success based on individual motivation and effort in a society in which there are no class barriers.”

# Transnationalism

## Melting Pot?

“Melting pot assimilationist model has been shown to be a myth promoting social mobility – a universal promise of mobility and success based on individual motivation and effort in a society in which there are no class barriers.”

**Is this true?**

# Transnationalism

## Melting Pot?

### Pros

- Cohesion
- Stability
- Conforms to expectations
- Egalitarian
- Traditional

### Cons

- Lacks Diversity
- It's **hegemonic** & oppressive
- Offers more voices
- Delusional

# Transnationalism

## Melting Pot?

**Pros**

**Cons**

“It is not disagreement, resistance, and agitation that destroy a community. It is the repression of difference and disagreement in the name of unity which destroys engagement and interrelation of community.” – Donna Haraway



# Transnationalism

## Melting Pot?

Does the *illegalization* of movement between nations suppress voices?

Illegalization = Invisibility?

The fight for equality is often a fight to become visible, to make the minority's plight visible to the larger population.

However, 'illegal immigrants' are forced to seek out invisibility.

# Transnationalism

## (Countering) Hegemony

Dominance by one social group over others.

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## (Countering) Hegemony

Dominance by one social group over others.

Is the “melting pot” full of lots of distinct voices, or is all the diversity “melted” into the dominant narrative?

**A constant negotiation!**

# Transnationalism

## (Countering) Hegemony

Transmigrants maintain several identities, less assimilation into one homogenous culture?

Transnationalism is a form of resistance to hegemonic global forces that engulf us?

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## (Countering) Hegemony

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Transnationalism is a form of resistance to hegemonic global forces that engulf us?

**Is occupying & claiming many identities a form of liberation?**

# ASSIMILATION

- Playing with identities can be productive and fun
- The capacity to flow between groups leads to success
- Occupying many identities encourages empathetic capacity
- The more roles we occupy, the easier it is to see from others shoes)

# Transnationalism

## (Countering) Hegemony

“Transmigrants express resistance in small everyday ways that usually do not directly challenge or even recognize that basic premises of the systems that surround them and dictate the terms of their existence.”



# Transnationalism

## (Countering) Hegemony

“Transmigrants actively manipulate their identities and thus both accommodate and resist their subordination within a global capitalist system.”

**2 (deux)**

# Transnationalism

## (Countering) Hegemony

“States attempt to control their populations by elaborating systems of domination based on hegemonic constructions and practices in a process that is closely related to nation-building.”

**3 (trois)**

# The Future of the State

**So...**

**If the economy is international**

**& Populations are transnational...**

?

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**Is the nation-state necessary?**

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**as the pre-eminent political unit**

# The Future of the State



State



**Is the nation-state necessary?  
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# The Future of the

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# The Future of the State



?

**Is the nation-state necessary?  
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- Before President Trump suspended it last week, DACA had been protecting roughly 800,000 people who had been living in the U.S. since at least 2007, were younger than 16 when they arrived, and were younger than 31 when DACA was created
- DACA recipients were assured by the federal government that they could pursue employment and that they wouldn't be deported—an assurance that lasted two years, after which recipients could apply to renew their protections.
- A separate survey of 452 DACA recipients from UCLA found that 79 percent of recipients got what they considered to be a “better job” after DACA, and 64 percent earned a higher salary. “DACA allowed people to build a career—that was a game-changer,”
- workers went from jobs that paid \$5 to \$7 an hour to jobs that paid \$14 to \$16 an hour, Gonzales told me. “Because they could work legally, they felt empowered to pursue these kinds of investments in human capital,”

- If border patrol shoots teenager across border on Mexican soil does the constitution apply? Does the father have recourse?
  - When law officer acts inside the US in way that deprives foreigner of life, and gov doesn't object to US court jurisdiction, survivors have cause of action
  - Cross border laws
  - Eminent domain and laws
- 
- DEVELOPMENT, RELIEF, AND EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MINORS (“DREAM”)
  - just another way of othering noncitizens, of treating their lives as if they are not, in and of themselves, valuable and worthy of our respect and protection. <<< dramatizing success stories
  - Tales of meritocratic excellence should never come at the expense of the dignity and humanity of the Perfectly Okay Immigrants. As it happens, the DREAMers deserve our nation's respect not because there might be a future Nobel laureate or startup billionaire or Olympic gold medalist among them, but because immigrants are—often somewhat inconveniently—people.
  - DREAM most recently died in the Senate in 2011, just as the Republican Presidential primaries were coming into view. On June 15, 2012, Obama took to the Rose Garden to announce that his administration would be opening a safe harbor for DREAMers: A two-year grant of “deferred action” (later formalized as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA), a guaranteed protection against deportation which included the right to employment authorization. It was the most that the president could possibly do on his own without the assistance of Congress.