



Immigration from the Middle East Textual Excerpts

Issue: **The United States should significantly restrict immigration from the Middle Eastern due to the possibility of terrorism.**

Source 1

Abigail Abrams, “Terrorism Attacks Since 9/11 Have Involved U.S. Citizens, Not Immigrants, Despite GOP Debate Claim,” *International Business Times*, December 16, 2015

But, as you might be able to guess, (Republican Sen. Rand) Paul’s claim that every terrorist attack over the past 15 years has been carried out by someone who legally immigrated to the U.S. is not true. The most obvious example should have been familiar to Paul, as Republicans frequently referred to the recent shootings in San Bernardino, California, throughout the debate.

While Tashfeen Malik, the woman involved in the shooting, did come to the U.S. from Saudi Arabia on a fiancée visa, the man she was coming to meet, Syed Farook — the other shooter — was born in Illinois. Farook was a Muslim, but that did not make him any less an American citizen.

San Bernardino is not the only example of a terrorist attack carried out by someone born in the U.S. Another notable incident is the shooting that took place in 2009 at Fort Hood in Texas. Nidal Hasan, an army major born in Virginia, killed 13 people after becoming radicalized during his time in the military.



Furthermore, there have been studies that show most terrorists are U.S.-born citizens. Data from the New America Foundation show 80 percent of terrorists attacks since 9/11 have been committed by U.S. citizens, and 64 percent were born in the U.S

Source 2

Ian Tuttle, “The Troubling Math of Muslim Migration,” *National Review*, January 13, 2015

A major Islamist terror attack in France was only a matter of time. For several decades, the country has invited immigrants from the Middle East and North Africa en masse – first to bolster the labor force in the rebuilding years that followed World War II, then out of multicultural impulses that prevailed over prudential considerations. That radical Islam was transplanted to France, grew in strength and extent, and bore this week’s hideous fruit was not difficult to predict. The same is not unlikely in Sweden, Belgium, Germany, and elsewhere. Demographics may not be the whole of destiny, but they are certainly a good part, and across the Atlantic, the United States seems increasingly to be turning toward Western Europe’s most undesirable demographic trends.

Suggesting a correlation between the number of Muslims in the country and the incidence of radicalism is, of course, considered insensitive, if not downright “Islamophobic.” But the only point here is a mathematical one: Whatever the percentage of Muslims who support or would ever consider supporting jihadism, the raw number obviously increases along with the total number of Muslims. One percent of 10 million is much larger than 1 percent of 1 million. The question is, at what point does the radical population achieve a kind of critical mass? This need not be inevitable. America’s immigration policy can be tailored to address this challenge.

Source 3

James Antle, “Don’t Let Donald Trump’s Wild Anti-Muslim Rhetoric Obscure the Real Threat of Islamic Extremism,” *The Week*, June 15, 2016

Jihadism exists, even if it's the exception rather than the rule. And the combination of active jihadist networks and alienated young men with an internet connection living in the Europe or the U.S. can be dangerous. It takes exceedingly small numbers of people to perpetrate atrocities like those in Orlando, San Bernardino, Paris, or even 9/11.

Addressing these issues is tremendously difficult, even if led by a careful and sensitive public leader. Trump is neither careful nor sensitive. . . . A candidate who refers to people born in the United States as if they are actually residents of their ancestral homeland might not be the best person to rethink our immigration policies. Unfortunately, he is the only one offering to fill the job. . . . And despite Trump's clumsy, sweeping proclamations, his blustery rhetoric should not obscure what is a very real problem that demands solutions.



Source 4

David Ignatius, "Trump's Reckless, Dangerous Islamophobia Helps the Islamic State," *Washington Post*, June 13, 2016

Trump's polarizing rhetoric on [terrorism] may be the best thing the Islamic State has going for it, according to some leading U.S. and foreign counter-terrorism experts. The group's self-declared caliphate [religious government] in Syria and Iraq is imploding. Its Syrian capital of Raqqa is surrounded and besieged; the gap in the Turkish-Syrian border that allowed free flow of foreign fighters is finally being closed; Sunni tribal sheiks who until recently had cooperated with the Islamic State are switching sides. The group's narrative is collapsing — with one exception.

The strongest remaining force that propels the Islamic State is the Islamophobia of Trump and his European counterparts, argue senior intelligence strategists for the U.S.-led coalition. Inflammatory, xenophobic statements about Muslims reinforce the jihadists' claims that they are Muslim knights fighting against an intolerant West. Trump unwittingly gives them precisely the role they dream about.

Trump doesn't seem to understand that the real danger for the West is not the isolated acts of terror by disaffected youths, such as Mateen's massacre in Orlando. That's a threat to Americans, but one that can at least be mitigated some with better security and intelligence. The bigger nightmare happens if Muslims, as a whole, conclude that their community is under threat and respond as a group.

Source 5

Melanie Hunter, "FBI Director Admits U.S. Will Have No Basis to Vet Some Syrian Refugees," *CNS News*, October 21, 2015

FBI Director James Comey, flanked by the nation's top intelligence officials, admitted to the House Homeland Security Committee Wednesday that for some of the 10,000 Syrian refugees the administration has agreed to allow into the U.S., there will be no basis to vet them through the databases it uses to determine if they have ties to terrorism.

"We can only query against that which we have collected, and so if someone has never made a ripple in the pond in Syria in a way that would get their identity or their interests reflected in our database, we can query our database til the cows come home, but ... there'll be nothing show up, because we have no record on that person," said Comey.



Source 6

Mike Pearl, “We Asked Immigration experts how Trump’s Muslim Ban Would Actually Work,” *Vice Magazine*, June 15, 2016

Let's assume Trump's plan moves forward. Can it really be implemented?

David Martin, Professor of International Law, University of Virginia: The actual implementation would be no more immigration from countries "A through T" until we get this figured out. Then that's really easy—just close down our immigration offices in those countries. What would be really hard for the US secretary of state is that there would be incredible diplomatic blowback on so many fronts. They would impose travel bans in retaliation against us.

What would they be so mad about?

Martin: There would be American business leaders and people who travel [in those countries], people who have family there, cross-national marriages. There would be enormous pushback from several constituencies in the US, as long as you are not picking just on countries that we have no ties to, like North Korea or Yemen. And he's talking about going much further than that.

Which country would you expect to make the most noise?

Martin: Saudi Arabia—the energy situation. It boggles the mind to think of the diplomatic complications that would follow. Put yourself in the shoes of the [Saudi] king. Would it be like, "Oh, of course. We understand, Donald"? No! One of their first moves would be great limits on immigration by Americans. Then limits on business affiliations and any kind of commercial deals.

There was an immigration provision in the 2002 Homeland Security Act that Congress passed after the September 11 attacks. How did that work out?

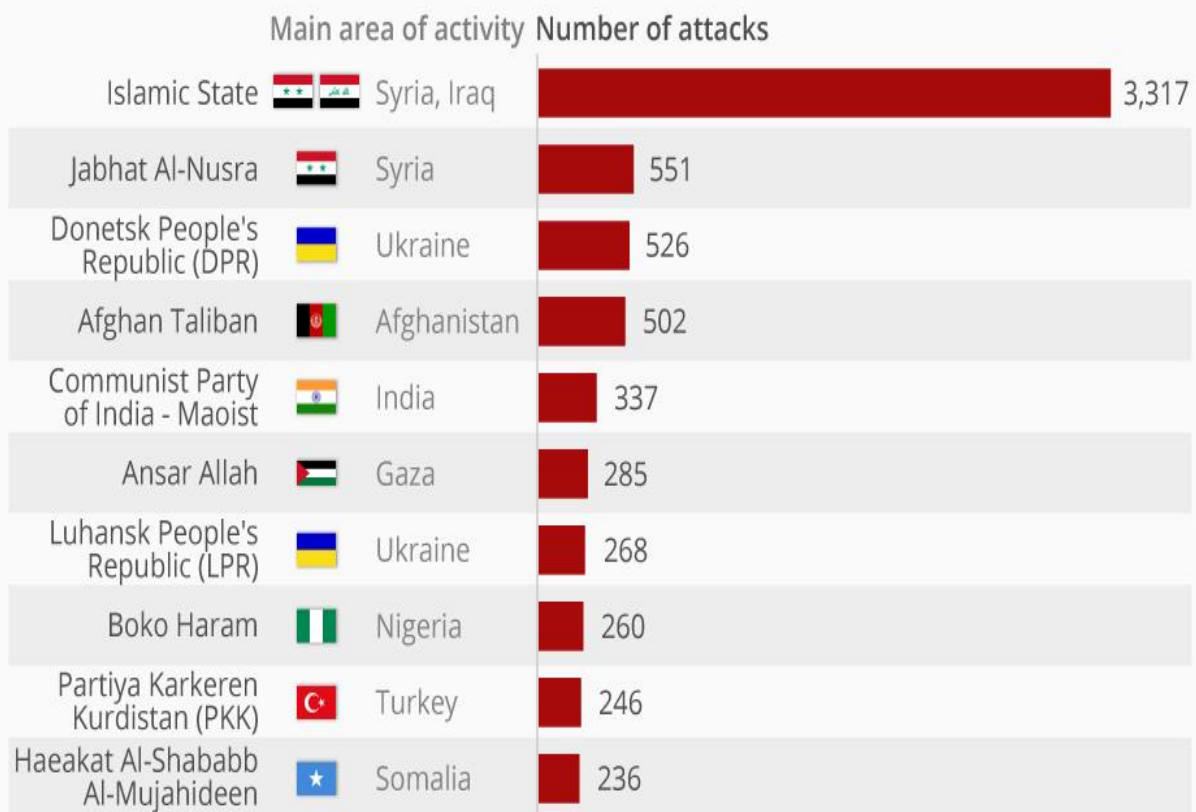
Martin: We had established that al Qaeda was the entity that attacked us on 9/11, so that was the rationale for it. We picked twenty-five countries [and made people register]—twenty-four of them happened to be what we call predominantly Muslim countries. [But] the basic conclusion was that it did not add any element to our national security. It did not flag any people that were seen as directly related to terrorist threats. About four people were apprehended and investigated as a result of national security. Charges against all of those were dropped, to my memory. So that was the most recent example, and it was widely seen as a failure.

Source 7

Statista: The Statistics Portal, June, 2016

Most Violent Non-State Actors Worldwide

Groups responsible for the highest number of attacks worldwide in 2015



@StatistaCharts Source: IHS

Source 8

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2014

How do refugees compare to other types of immigrants?

2013 Admissions by Immigration Type

