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<center>A Humanitarian Crisis Deserves a Humane Response</center>

Should immigration policies in the U.S. prioritize humanitarian, cultural, economic, or security concerns? How might prioritizing this value lead to a reform of immigration policy? Immigration is one of the most contentious policy reforms on the current political table. During the 2016 elections, I remember the violent and fear-mongering rhetoric Donald Trump used to stir up his base. Though we are a nation of immigrants, it seemed that we were done welcoming others in as the immigrants coming in now were from Latin America and not the *good ones*, only rapists and criminals who were stealing jobs and feeding off tax-paid programs. Even as a first-generation immigrant myself it is difficult to toe the line between upholding basic human rights and creating realistic laws at the border. However, it is our duty as Americans and quite simply human beings, to ensure that we are treating immigrants (illegal or otherwise) humanely and with basic respect and decency. While it is important and realistic to maintain a strong border, there must be drastic overhauls in the qualifications and pathways to becoming a citizen.

A key in defining the problems the U.S. has with illegal immigration is to look at the history of the legality of immigration, as well as the rhetoric surrounding it. In AP World History, we learned about the mass immigration of Asians (particularly Chinese) to California to build the railroads, followed by the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act which was in place for the next two decades. Ewing describes the history of immigration policies in the United States and the "exclusionary" laws enacted to keep out the undesirable immigrants once trends shifted away