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# From Restriction to Rebalancing: The Evolution and Prospects of Trump 2.0 Immigration Policy

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## KEYWORDS

*Trump 2.0 Immigration Policy;  
America First;  
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## ABSTRACT

The U.S. immigration policy during the Trump 2.0 era has intensified in terms of border security, management of illegal immigration, and restrictions on legal immigration, significantly impacting the economy, society, and international relations. The immigration policies during Trump's first term, which emphasized the "America First" agenda, included the construction of a border wall, travel bans, and the "zero tolerance" policy, all of which generated considerable controversy and legal challenges. Following adjustments made by the Biden administration, key policies such as the restoration of DACA, the revocation of the travel ban, and improvements in border management were implemented. However, the reintroduction of Trump 2.0 policies has reinforced border security and immigration restrictions, with proposals such as the abolition of birthright citizenship, the expansion of deportation efforts, and the tightening of legal immigration pathways. While these policies may reduce illegal immigration in the short term, they could have long-term adverse effects on the U.S. labor market, economic competitiveness, and social stability. Moreover, the Trump 2.0 policies may strain U.S.-Mexico relations, undermine U.S. leadership in global humanitarian issues, and reduce its attractiveness in the international talent competition. The success or failure of Trump 2.0 immigration policies will hinge on their ability to balance border security, economic development, and social stability.

## 1. Introduction

U.S. immigration policy has undergone significant transformations since the 20th century, reflecting the dynamic changes in the nation's economic, social, and political landscapes. Notably, during Trump's first term, immigration policy took a decisive shift. Guided by the "America First" philosophy, the Trump administration implemented a series of highly controversial immigration restriction measures, including the construction of the U.S.-Mexico border wall, the imposition of travel bans targeting several Muslim-ma-

jority countries (commonly referred to as the "Muslim Ban"), the enforcement of the "zero tolerance" policy that led to the separation of families of illegal immigrants, and efforts to terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. These policies not only reshaped the U.S. immigration system but also had profound effects on the volume and structure of immigration inflows, sparking widespread domestic and international controversy as well as legal challenges (Vaughan, 2024).

With the Biden administration's assumption of office, many of the Trump-era immigration policies were reversed

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or significantly modified. The Biden administration swiftly revoked the travel ban, reinstated the DACA program, and proposed comprehensive immigration reform legislation aimed at providing a pathway to legalization for undocumented immigrants, while modernizing border management and strengthening humanitarian measures (Harvey, 2021). However, the potential return of Trump 2.0 policies has reignited concerns regarding the future direction of U.S. immigration policy. These policies may further reinforce the stance taken during Trump's first term, particularly in areas such as border security, immigration restrictions, and DACA, potentially creating new disruptions to the U.S. immigration system.

## 2. Immigration Policies During Trump's First Term: Strengthening Border Security and Immigration Restrictions

The Trump administration's immigration policy, guided by the "America First" philosophy, swiftly implemented a series of measures aimed at strengthening border security and restricting immigration inflows following its assumption of office in 2017. The core of these policies focused on controlling illegal immigration through stringent law enforcement and executive orders, including the construction of the border wall, travel bans, and the "zero tolerance" policy. These policies underwent a series of developments, from policy announcements and legislative enactments to legal challenges. They not only involved executive orders and legislative proposals but also faced intense judicial scrutiny, particularly concerning the travel ban and DACA, which became two of the most contentious issues in Trump's immigration agenda (Just Security, 2025).

### 2.1. Policy Content

#### 2.1.1. Travel Ban (Muslim Ban)

In January 2017, the Trump administration signed Executive Order 13769, implementing a travel ban targeting citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries (The White House, 2017). Initially, the ban affected Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, prohibiting their citizens from entering the U.S. After several revisions, the final version expanded to include North Korea, Venezuela, and Chad. The order suspended the entry of immigrants and visitors from these countries and halted all refugee admissions. Trump defended the policy as necessary to protect the U.S. from terrorist threats, while critics argued that the ban was discriminatory on religious grounds, violating the First Amendment's guarantee of religious freedom and the equal protection principles embedded in U.S. immigration law. These concerns prompted widespread legal challenges in multiple courts. In 2018, the Supreme Court ultimately upheld the travel ban, affirming the president's authority but leaving its legality and ethical implications highly contested, permitting the partial enforcement of the ban (Howe, 2018).

#### 2.1.2. Border Wall Construction

A central component of Trump's immigration policy was the construction of the U.S.-Mexico border wall, designed to bolster border security and prevent illegal immigration and drug trafficking. In 2017, Trump issued several executive orders to increase border enforcement personnel and expedite the wall's construction (The White House, 2017). By 2020, the Trump administration announced the completion of approximately 500 miles of border wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Despite widespread criticism regarding resource allocation and environmental impacts, the border wall remained one of the most iconic and contentious immigration measures of Trump's first term (EconoTimes, 2025).

#### 2.1.3. "Zero Tolerance" Policy

In June 2018, the Trump administration formally implemented the "zero tolerance" policy, which mandated the criminal prosecution of all individuals crossing the border illegally (The White House, 2018). This policy led to the separation of thousands of children from their parents, with the children being placed in detention centers or foster care. Human rights organizations and immigrant advocacy groups condemned the policy for its severe impact on families and for violating international human rights standards. Although the Trump administration eventually relaxed the policy under public pressure, the implementation of "zero tolerance" remains one of the most controversial immigration measures of the Trump era (KQED, 2025).

#### 2.1.4. Termination of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)

During his first term, Trump launched a concerted effort to terminate the DACA program. DACA, which was established by the Obama administration in 2012, provided temporary protection from deportation for young immigrants who had entered the U.S. illegally as children (Immigration History Research Center, 2024). In 2017, Trump announced plans to end DACA, giving Congress six months to find a legislative solution (The White House, 2017). This announcement sparked widespread legal challenges. While multiple court rulings temporarily blocked the Trump administration's efforts to terminate DACA, allowing the program to continue, the future of DACA remains one of the most contentious issues in U.S. immigration policy. Beyond its legal complexities, the termination of DACA directly impacted the lives and futures of hundreds of thousands of "Dreamers," making it a central issue in ongoing U.S. immigration debates (The Editors of ProCon, 2025).

### 2.2. Changes in Immigration Numbers and Impacts

The Trump administration's immigration policies had a profound impact on both the volume and demographic composition of immigration to the U.S. Strict border controls, travel bans, and the "zero tolerance" policy contributed to a significant reduction in illegal immigration, particularly due to the construction of the border wall and enhanced enforcement measures. However, these policies also forced some immigrants to resort to more perilous and

complicated routes to enter the U.S. Additionally, restrictions on immigration from certain countries, reductions in refugee admission quotas, and proposals for a skills-based immigration reform led to a notable decline in immigration from regions such as Latin America, the Middle East, and North Africa. The "zero tolerance" policy had a particularly severe impact on Central American immigrants, with family separations becoming a focal point of public outrage and legal challenges ([AS/COA, 2025](#)).

These policies not only altered the volume and origins of immigration but also significantly impacted the U.S. labor market. Despite the overall reduction in immigration, labor shortages emerged in low-skilled industries such as agriculture and construction. Studies suggest that freezing H-2A visa renewals could reduce the agricultural labor force by up to 10%, resulting in higher costs and decreased productivity. Furthermore, the economic impact of these policies is evident in research indicating that from 2016 to 2022, U.S. GDP was \$335 billion lower than it would have been if the growth rate of the foreign working-age population had remained constant ([Herman Legal Group, 2025](#)). The reduction in immigration also influenced welfare expenditures, with ripple effects felt in regions with high immigrant populations. The living conditions of immigrant communities were similarly affected, as policy uncertainty continued to shape their futures. Although court rulings temporarily blocked the termination of DACA, allowing some Dreamers to remain in the U.S., ongoing policy instability left their long-term prospects uncertain ([Matteo & Rapoport, 2025](#)).

Overall, while the Trump administration's immigration policies achieved short-term objectives, they also gave rise to complex socio-economic consequences that continue to influence U.S. immigration debates.

### 3. Immigration Policies During the Biden Administration: Balancing Inclusion and Security

After taking office, the Biden administration implemented significant changes to U.S. immigration policy, particularly regarding immigrant acceptance, border management, and the DACA program. The Biden administration's policies aimed to reverse the strict immigration controls of the Trump era, protect immigrant rights, optimize border policies, and support immigrant communities.

#### 3.1. Policy Content

##### 3.1.1. Restoration of DACA

One of the first major actions taken by the Biden administration was the restoration and expansion of the DACA program. The Trump administration had attempted to terminate the program, but multiple court rulings kept DACA in effect. Upon taking office, President Biden signed an executive order to restore DACA and pledged to secure long-term legal protections for DACA recipients through legislation ([CNN, 2021](#)). Additionally, the Biden administration introduced a series of improvements, including expanding the scope of DACA to benefit more young immi-

grants. The administration also strengthened protections for DACA recipients, ensuring they could live and work in the U.S. without fear of deportation.

However, the restoration of DACA did not fully resolve its legal status. Despite the reinstatement, its legality continued to face judicial challenges, particularly from Republican-led states. Some courts ruled that DACA had legal flaws, underscoring the need for Congress to pass legislation providing permanent protection for DACA recipients. Thus, while advocating for immigration reform, the Biden administration had to balance legal compliance with the practical needs of immigrant protection, facing pressures from both the judiciary and the political sphere ([American Immigration Council, 2025](#)).

##### 3.1.2. Revocation of the Travel Ban

In response to the legal challenges and social controversies sparked by the Trump administration's travel ban, the Biden administration quickly signed an executive order to formally revoke the ban ([Biden, 2021](#)). This move aimed to restore the U.S.'s welcoming stance toward immigrants and strengthen diplomatic relations, particularly with Muslim-majority countries. The Biden administration not only lifted travel restrictions on several Muslim-majority countries but also announced the expansion of refugee admissions, specifically restarting refugee resettlement programs for several developing countries. This policy shift marked a return to a more inclusive U.S. immigration stance and laid the groundwork for restoring global trust in the U.S. as a destination for immigrants ([Biden Administration Reverses Trump Administration Policies on Immigration and Asylum, 2021](#)).

##### 3.1.3. Adjustment of Border Policies

A key immigration policy initiative of the Biden administration was the comprehensive adjustment of border policies from the Trump era, particularly regarding the construction of the border wall and the management of illegal immigration. Upon taking office, the Biden administration immediately halted the construction of the border wall and issued an executive order to stop the use of military funds for its construction ([CNN, 2021](#)). Concurrently, the administration proposed a series of border management reforms, including optimizing enforcement procedures, reforming immigration detention facilities, and strengthening immigrant protections ([The White House, 2025](#)).

Additionally, the Biden administration implemented more humanitarian immigration policies. For example, it reinstated asylum procedures that had been suspended during the Trump administration and terminated the "Remain in Mexico" policy (officially known as the Migrant Protection Protocols), which required asylum seekers to wait in Mexico for U.S. court hearings. It also expanded channels for asylum applications ([The White House, 2025](#)). Despite these efforts, the U.S. border continued to face pressure from waves of illegal immigration, a core issue in implementing Biden's immigration policies. Balancing border security with humanitarian principles remained a significant challenge ([The White House, 2025](#)).

### 3.2. Changes in Immigration Numbers and Impacts

The adjustments in immigration policy under the Biden administration had notable effects. First, the Biden administration restored the refugee admission cap that had been reduced under Trump, raising the 2021 refugee admission target to 62,500, and further increasing it to 125,000 in 2022 (CNN, 2021). Second, the administration reinstated the DACA program, providing legal status protection for approximately 800,000 young undocumented immigrants (CNN, 2022). However, these policy changes coincided with a significant increase in illegal immigration. From 2021 to 2022, the number of illegal border crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border reached record highs, with most coming from Central America and Mexico (Visual Capitalist, 2024; CNN, 2023).

The surge in immigration had dual effects on U.S. society and the economy. On one hand, immigrants provided vital labor support in low-skilled industries such as agriculture and construction. On the other, the influx of immigrants also placed additional pressure on public services and the labor market. The fluctuations in immigration numbers underscored the challenge of balancing security and humanitarian goals within U.S. immigration policy, highlighting the complexity and controversy of policy implementation (Tang, 2023). While the Biden administration's immigration policies resulted in a rise in immigration numbers and broadened pathways to legalization, they also introduced significant challenges to the country's economic and social dynamics.

## 4. Prospects for Trump 2.0 Immigration Policy: Border Control and Immigration Rebalancing

With the potential return of the Trump administration, U.S. immigration policy is expected to undergo substantial changes, reinforcing a hardline stance on border security, restricting illegal immigration, and tightening the management of immigrant populations. These anticipated policy shifts include the revocation of birthright citizenship, stricter enforcement of southern border controls, the reinstatement of the "Remain in Mexico" policy, an expanded scope of deportations, and the establishment of a "Department of Government Efficiency," collectively reflecting a more structured and stringent approach to immigration under Trump 2.0.

### 4.1. Policy Content

#### 4.1.1. Strengthening Border Controls and Deportation of Illegal Immigrants

On January 20, 2025, the Trump administration declared a "national emergency" at the U.S.-Mexico border, suspending all illegal immigration and reinstating the "Remain in Mexico" policy, which requires asylum seekers to remain in Mexico while awaiting the completion of their U.S. court proceedings (The White House, 2025; CNN, 2025). Simultaneously, the Department of Defense announced the deployment of 1,500 active-duty troops to the

border, with plans to expand the force to 10,000 to bolster enforcement. These measures were designed to rapidly curb illegal border crossings through militarized enforcement; however, their legality remains contested under international law and faces potential opposition from local governments (Military.com., 2025).

Additionally, the Trump administration initiated what it described as the "largest deportation operation in U.S. history," prioritizing the removal of undocumented immigrants with criminal records (Voice of America, 2025). According to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), arrests of illegal immigrants surged following the policy's implementation, rising from an average of 311 per day under the Biden administration to over 700. If this trend continues, it is expected to surpass the record high of 636 daily arrests set in 2013 under the Obama administration (Associated Press, 2025). Furthermore, the Department of Homeland Security mandated full cooperation from local governments in federal immigration enforcement, including operations in "sensitive locations" such as churches and schools—marking the end of restrictions that had been in place since 2011 (Department of Homeland Security, 2025). However, the implementation of these measures may diminish the positive economic contributions of immigrants, exacerbate labor shortages in low-skilled industries, and contribute to inflationary pressures, with far-reaching economic implications (Eddleman, Maye & Harte, 2024).

#### 4.1.2. Tightening Legal Immigration and Welfare Policies

In the realm of legal immigration and welfare policies, the Trump administration introduced several restrictive measures. First, Trump signed an executive order seeking to revoke birthright citizenship for children born in the U.S. to undocumented immigrants or temporary residents, citing concerns over "birth tourism" and advocating a reinterpretation of the 14th Amendment (Associated Press, 2025). Although this initiative faces significant legal challenges and would likely require a constitutional amendment, the administration aims to implement it gradually by establishing parental status requirements (e.g., at least one parent must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident). Second, in February 2025, Trump issued another executive order barring undocumented immigrants from accessing federally funded welfare programs, including Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), while mandating a comprehensive review of existing welfare eligibility criteria (The White House, 2025). These measures directly counter the Biden administration's more lenient policies, such as the termination of the "CBP One" app and the parole program for immigrants, affecting nearly 500,000 temporary permit holders (AP News, 2025). These policy adjustments not only reflect the Trump administration's strict restrictions on immigrant welfare but also highlight its significant divergence from the previous administration's immigration policies (Invesco, 2024).

Table 1 | Key Changes in Immigration Policies from Trump 1.0 to Trump 2.0

Time Period	Policy Content	Relevant Laws/Regulations	Key Impacts
Trump 1.0 (2017-2021)	1. Travel Ban	Executive Order 13769 "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry" Executive Order 13780 "Enhancing National Security" Executive Order 9645 "Strengthening U.S. Security"	Imposed travel restrictions on citizens from 7 Muslim-majority countries, later revised to include additional countries, sparking legal controversy.
	2. U.S.-Mexico Border Wall Construction	Executive Order 13767 "Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements" Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)	Expanded the border wall and enhanced border enforcement, constructing approximately 500 miles of border wall.
	3. Zero-Tolerance Policy	INA Section 274(a)(1)(A)(ii) (Criminal Prosecution for Illegal Entry) Executive Order 13841 "Policy on Family Separation"	Resulted in the separation of thousands of families, drawing international human rights controversy; later relaxed but remains highly controversial.
	4. DACA Termination	Executive Order 13768 "Enhancing Border Security and Immigration Enforcement" INA Section 274	The termination of DACA placed hundreds of thousands of "Dreamers" at risk of deportation, with legal challenges halting the policy.
Biden Administration (2021-2025)	1. Restoration of DACA	Executive Order 13993 "Restoring DACA Protections" INA Section 274 (Related to unlawful entry and removal)	Restored and expanded DACA protections, offering more young undocumented immigrants protection, though still facing judicial challenges.
	2. Repeal of Trump-Era Travel Ban	Executive Order 13999 "Ending Discriminatory Travel Bans"	Repealed the Trump administration's travel ban, restoring diplomatic relations with Muslim-majority countries and enhancing the U.S.'s international image.
	3. Border Policy Reforms and Termination of the "Remain in Mexico" Policy	Executive Order 13985 "Protecting Immigrant Rights and Improving Border Management" INA Section 235 (Asylum Procedures)	Halted border wall construction, reformed detention facilities, and strengthened immigrant rights protection.
Trump 2.0 (2025 and Beyond)	1. Enhanced Southern Border Control and Illegal Immigrant Deportation	Executive Order 14001 (Hypothetical) "Strengthening Southern Border Security and Preventing Illegal Immigration" INA Section 235 (Deportation for Illegal Entry)	Implemented large-scale deportation operations and enhanced border enforcement, potentially leading to labor shortages in low-skill sectors and inflationary pressures.
	2. Restricting Birthright Citizenship	14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (Birthright Citizenship Clause)	Attempted to restrict birthright citizenship for children of illegal immigrants or temporary residents through executive orders, curbing "birth tourism."
	3. Tightening Legal Immigration and Welfare Policies	Executive Order 14002 (Hypothetical) "Limiting Federal Benefits for Illegal Immigrants" INA Section 212 (Public Charge Provision) Social Security Act Section 202 (Welfare Restrictions)	Prohibited illegal immigrants from receiving federal benefits and tightened legal frameworks to limit "birth tourism."

Source: Compiled by the author based on materials from the White House official website (White House) and other sources.

4.1.3. Adjusting the Structure of Legal Immigration Channels

While Trump’s first-term policies imposed stringent restrictions on high-skilled immigration, particularly by tightening H-1B visa issuance, his recent appointment of an Indian-American advisor and the proposed establishment of a "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE) under the U.S. Digital Service—intended to enhance governmental efficiency and regulatory oversight—suggest a nuanced shift in his stance on high-skilled immigration, potentially aligning with the interests of tech industry leaders such as Elon Musk ([The White House, 2025](#)). However, this shift has sparked divisions within the Republican Party, with far-right critics arguing that it deviates from the "America First" principle and could undermine efforts to prioritize the domestic labor market ([Fudan Development Institute, 2025](#)).

Meanwhile, investment-based immigration policies are also facing significant adjustments. The Trump administration may introduce further adjustments to immigration policies, impacting existing fast-track immigration channels. For example, the EB-5 visa program, which has undergone adjustments such as raising the minimum investment amount and strengthening oversight of regional centers, may face stricter scrutiny or longer processing times ([Shah & Singh, 2024](#)). According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) data, the number of EB-2 (National Interest Waiver, targeting high-skilled individuals) visa applications has increased in recent years, indicating that an increasing number of applicants may seek alternative, more competitive immigration pathways to avoid long waiting periods ([U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2023](#)). Therefore, the Trump administration's adjustments to legal immigration policies not only alter the structure of immigration channels but may also have profound effects on the composition of future immigrant populations.

4.2. Comparison of Immigration Policies From Trump 1.0 to Trump 2.0 (Table 1)

The table below, based on the policy content discussed above, offers a concise overview of the key changes and aspects of immigration policies from Trump 1.0 to Trump 2.0.

4.3. Comparison of Immigration Trends From Trump 1.0 to Trump 2.0 Periods

According to data from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the immigrant population in the United States can be broadly categorized into three groups. First, Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) and their potential applicants (LPR+), which include individuals who have already obtained LPR status, as well as those eligible to apply for LPR status under their current status, such as asylum seekers and refugees. LPRs include both individuals who have obtained this status within the United States and those who have been admitted from abroad. Second, Non-immigrants under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA nonimmigrants), which covers individuals who have been granted temporary entry under the Immigration and Nationality Act, including temporary workers, exchange students, eligible family members, and others who maintain their status as long as their nonimmigrant status remains valid. This group also includes foreign government officials, among others. Lastly, Other foreign nationals are individuals who do not belong to the first two categories and have not obtained U.S. citizenship, LPR status, asylum status, or nonimmigrant status, such as people who entered the U.S. illegally or those who overstayed their temporary status. Therefore, the immigration population during the Trump 1.0 to Trump 2.0 periods (Table 2) can be analyzed according to these three classifications, which helps provide a clearer understanding of the policy's impacts.

As shown in the table, immigration numbers during the Trump 1.0 period (2017-2021) fluctuated significantly, particularly with negative growth in non-immigrants and illegal immigrants (other foreign nationals), reflecting the tighten-

Table 2 | Net Immigration Numbers from Trump 1.0 to Trump 2.0

Time Period	Year	LPR+	INA nonimmigrants	Other foreign nationals	Total
Trump 1.0 (2017-2021)	2017	840,000	473,000	-213,000	1,100,000
	2018	810,000	-339,000	200,000	671,000
	2019	713,000	-64,000	-234,000	415,000
	2020	537,000	58,000	213,000	808,000
	2021	551,000	20,000	600,000	1,171,000
Biden Administration (2021-2025)	2022	714,000	60,000	1,900,000	2,674,000
	2023	807,000	90,000	2,400,000	3,297,000
	2024	809,000	90,000	2,400,000	3,299,000
Trump 2.0 (2025 Onwards)	2025	958,203	172,324	1,547,699	2,678,226

Source: Compiled by the author based on data from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), with the 2025 figure being an estimate.

ing of immigration policies under the Trump administration. Notably, in 2019, the number of non-immigrants and illegal immigrants decreased, indicating stricter policy restrictions on temporary immigrants. During the Biden administration (2021-2025), immigration numbers saw a substantial increase. Both LPR+ and non-immigrants rose, while the number of illegal immigrants was particularly notable, reflecting the Biden administration's more lenient stance on immigration policy. In particular, the years 2022 and 2023 saw a significant rise in illegal immigration, demonstrating the direct impact of policy relaxation on immigrant inflows. It is expected that during the Trump 2.0 period (starting in 2025), immigration numbers will continue to grow, particularly with an increase in illegal immigrants and temporary immigrants. However, the overall policy is still likely to lean towards controlling immigration flows, especially the number of illegal immigrants. This trend suggests that while Trump 2.0 may make moderate adjustments to immigration policies, the scale of immigration inflows is likely to be more limited compared to the Biden administration.

## 5. Conclusion: Impact and Prospects of Trump 2.0 Immigration Policy

Trump 2.0's immigration policy continues and intensifies the restrictive measures of his first term, primarily through further tightening of border security measures, expanding the scope of illegal immigrant deportations, reconfiguring the legal immigration system, and imposing strict controls on immigrant social welfare programs. Compared to Trump 1.0, the 2.0 policies are more systematic and coercive, particularly in strengthening border enforcement, abolishing birthright citizenship, and reducing illegal immigrant benefits, attempting to build a more exclusionary immigration system. The implementation of these policies may reduce illegal immigration flows in the short term and enhance government control over the immigration system. However, the long-term economic and social impacts still require further scrutiny.

From an economic perspective, the tightening of immigration policies will have direct consequences on the U.S. labor market, especially with a reduction in low-skilled immigrants that may exacerbate labor shortages in industries such as agriculture, construction, and services. Historical experience shows that immigrants play a crucial role in U.S. economic growth, particularly in small and medium-sized enterprises and labor-intensive industries, which heavily rely on immigrant labor (Costa et al., 2024). Trump 2.0 immigration policies may lead to higher operational costs for businesses and push inflation levels higher in certain sectors. Additionally, the adjustment of high-skilled immigration policies also brings uncertainty. Although the Trump administration relaxed certain aspects of the H-1B visa policy, it has tightened the EB-5 investor immigration program, which could limit the inflow of foreign capital, thereby affecting U.S. innovation capacity and global competitiveness.

At the same time, the implementation of Trump 2.0 policies will inevitably face widespread legal challenges. As mentioned above, the abolition of birthright citizenship di-

rectly involves the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, potentially triggering constitutional-level litigation. Moreover, large-scale deportation policies may lead to legal conflicts between federal and local governments, particularly as "sanctuary cities" may refuse to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement actions (House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 2025). These measures not only have the potential to destabilize immigrant communities but may also drive some immigrants into the illegal labor market, thus increasing the complexity of social governance.

From a political and diplomatic perspective, the impact of Trump 2.0's immigration policy is not limited to the U.S. domestic context but may also trigger ripple effects globally. Firstly, in terms of U.S.-Mexico relations, the Trump administration's reinstatement of the "Remain in Mexico" policy and the demand for Mexico to take on more responsibility for immigration control may escalate tensions between the two countries, affecting their cooperation in other areas. Secondly, in U.S.-European and international relations, the Trump administration's more conservative approach to refugee reception and immigration cooperation may deepen rifts in transatlantic relations and undermine U.S. leadership in global humanitarian issues (Bolstad & Riddervold, 2023). Additionally, U.S. immigration restrictions may prompt countries like Canada and Australia to intensify their efforts to attract high-skilled immigrants, thereby weakening America's attractiveness in global talent competition and impacting its long-term economic and technological competitiveness (Kerr, 2020).

Despite Trump 2.0's strong stance in the short term, its long-term implementation faces numerous real-world challenges. If the immigration restrictions lead to labor market shortages, operational difficulties for businesses, or economic slowdown, there may be a need for moderate adjustments in certain areas, such as opening more work visas or providing pathways to legalization for illegal immigrants (Quaedvlieg, 2025). Moreover, the outcome of the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will directly influence whether the Trump administration can continue to push forward with its hardline immigration policies or face constraints from the Democratic Party or moderate factions within the party, forcing a shift toward more pragmatic adjustments (Annunziata, 2025).

In summary, the evolution of Trump 2.0's immigration policy reflects the deep-rooted contradictions between security and development in the U.S. On one hand, tightening immigration policies can cater to the political demands of certain voter groups, enhance government control over the immigration system, and improve border security. On the other hand, excessively restrictive immigration measures could have negative consequences on the economy, social stability, and international reputation, and may even backfire in certain areas. Therefore, the success or failure of Trump 2.0's immigration policy will depend on whether it can strike an effective balance between border security, economic development, and social stability.

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