

SENIOR CENMUN 2021



THE US SENATE

AGENDA: REVIEWING THE IMMIGRATION POLICY IN
THE USA

PRESIDENT: VIKRAM ADVANI

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Letter from the executive board

Dear Senators,

We, as the Executive Board of The US Senate, are delighted to welcome you to CENMUN 2022. This guide exists solely to give you some fundamental background on the agenda at hand and is not to be considered your only source of information and research. The agenda discussing the US immigration policy is complex and has behind it years of partisan divide and struggle in the USA, and thus, all delegates of this committee are expected to be thoroughly researched on various aspects related to the agenda and have a holistic understanding of the U.S Senate, its mandate and the immigration policy and conflicts of the United States of America. Setting that aside, we would still recommend you read this guide as a starting point of your research, thus understanding the expectations from this committee in the conference ahead.

We believe that, although the given agenda is complicated and controversial,

given

proper research and time, it is not necessarily hard to understand. For this, needs to focus on what, why, and how of the agenda, which is, firstly, understanding what the problems are, then secondly, finding the causes for these problems, and thirdly, to come up with legitimate and applicable solutions.

This

research should aptly represent the political and ideological interests and stances of the party you have been allotted, and thus should consider both sides of the argument for the debate at hand.

The U.S Senate is a great committee to start with, since it is one of the

few

committees where you represent individuals, and thus will have your own individual identity. This is also a committee that is easy for first-timers to get

President Vikram Advani

the debate and talk about issues that they can understand. But, both for Vice President Abhishek Kadiyala and experienced delegates in this committee, we would like to assure you

the best

of MUNning experiences here, given that you are thorough with your research and

are actively contributing to the committee and giving the committee a

directly

throughout these two days.

All The

Introduction to the United States Senate

United States Senate is the Upper House of the Bicameral Legislature of the United States of America's Legislative branch, with the lower house being the House of Representatives. U.S Senate, being the upper house is unique in its term limits, constituencies, powers, and responsibilities.

Each senator in the U.S Senate is elected and represents an individual state of the country, with the strength at 100 seats and a term of 6 years, as guaranteed by Article 1 of the U.S constitution. As being the upper house, with relatively larger representation by each individual senator in terms of the population represented by each senator, the Senate has a set of unique powers and roles in policy formation and governance of the country.

Firstly, for any bill to become a law, the bill first needs to pass through both the houses of the legislature, that is the US Senate and the House of Representatives, and thus leads to a series of back and forth movements of the bills, with recommendations, additions, and deletions. Secondly, both the Senate and the House have the power to initiate bills, but the Senate cannot initiate bills in relation to Revenue. Finally, the Senate has the power of advice and consent in Presidential appointments of mainly the ambassadors, cabinet positions, and judges, and conducts the impeachment trial of the President. The most important power of the Senate with respect to this committee's agenda is that the Senate must give its consent for the United States of America to join any international treaties with foreign countries.

This Senate has had a rich past of bi-partisan bills and is known for comparatively less partisan debates focusing more on solutions and negotiations. But in the last few decades, this legislative body has become more polarized than ever, given many demographical, ideological, and socio-economic shifts in the country, with the most contested and controversial bills passed in the areas of Immigration and health

care. Despite all this, the Senate has given a platform for many great leaders of America, like Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Mitch McConnell, John McCane not to mention the present President and Vice President of USA, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.

Introduction to the Agenda:

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest- toast to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door.” ~ Emma Lazarus, Statue of Liberty, New York City.

America, as mentioned on the Statue of Liberty, has traditionally been a home for immigrants and refugees throughout its history.

Oxford dictionary defined an Immigrant as *a person who has come to live permanently in a country that is not their own.*

The first immigrants arrived in America over 20,000 years ago, at the end of the ice

age, through Bering Straits, an ice bridge connecting Siberia and Alaska.

Following this, these early humans spread and occupied the plains of present-day

America,

occupying the region between the great lakes to the north and the Mexican desert to the south, territory, that became the present-day United States.

Following the discovery of this ‘New world’ by European explorers like Cortez and

Columbus, various communities from all over Europe began to immigrate into these

new lands, away from the social structures, cultural and religious restrictions

of

mainland medieval Europe.

In the present-day USA, unlike in the central and south American colonies,

there were

like the Protestants, Quakers, and Mennonites, settled to practice their own belief systems, away from the taxation, crown, and the socio-cultural norms of the European state structures and societies, seeking freedom in this 'new world', thus making it the 'land of the free'.

As the centuries passed by, the United States of America emerged as an

independent

nation and the turmoil in Europe increased, first with the Anglo-French wars, followed by the Napoleonic wars, German and Italian Unifications, and finally the two

world

wars. Through this time, immigration skyrocketed into the USA, as Italians, Greeks, Chinese, Hispanics, Irish, French, and German communities became

widespread in the

country. With the large territories, natural resources, and communities advocating for

freedom in the US, these communities could easily immigrate and settle

down in the

US, despite a few racist or xenophobic incidents time and again in very remote and rural areas of the country.

On the southern border, immigration was an unnoticed issue in the initial years.

Mexico lacked connectivity or efficient government machinery in its northern desert-

prone territories, and thus the native Hispanic population often got their seasonal

employment in the American states of California and Texas and often traveled regularly under labor contracts. In the States of SouthEastern coastline, especially in

the state of Florida, the majority of the immigrants arrived following the commencement of the cold war when many nations in South America faced civil wars

and economic strife as parties supported by the Communist and Capitalist blocs fought

on for power, killing the local means of survival and development.

Immigration became rampant also from many of the post-colonial, Asian and

African

nations, looking for employment and a better lifestyle.

At this point, for many hundreds of years, the USA had developed an image

as the

menial conditions. Whereas those immigrants coming from Asia or Europe firstly could not come in illegally in as many numbers as the Hispanics could due to geographical proximity, and secondly also were generally better educated and skilled, thus working in better-paying jobs of the service and innovation sector.

The 1990s saw a huge tech- boom, which led to massive automation in

various

industries, causing high employment in industry-related jobs. Hispanics were

blamed for this, stating them as the reason for the reduction of jobs, as politicians

blame

companies for hiring these Mexican immigrants for low wages or directly

shifting their companies to Mexico for cheaper labor. The parties blamed the parties of the

existing

presidents for siding with the large companies and allowing them to shift their manufacturing units or hiring immigrants, and thus this issue started becoming

highly

political by the mid-1990s.

2000s saw another major development on this issue, as the biggest

tragedy of US

history, the 9/11 attacks, gave a new, non-economic direction to this

problem. The September 11 attacks of 2001 firstly fueled widespread xenophobia against

Middle

Easterns, and South Asians in the US, and secondly, led to two massive

international interventions by the US and its NATO allies into Iraq and Afghanistan, which destabilized the Middle East completely in the decades that follow.

This destabilization of the Middle East was coupled with another phenomenon

of the

time called 'the Arab Spring' which further destabilized many authoritarian

regimes of North Africa and the Middle East, and this spiraled into a large scare

worldwide

immigration crisis starting in 2011, causing a massive refugee crisis in Europe,

South Asia, and North America.

The US also saw a massive demographic shift in this period, with high

amounts of

Conclusion:

There are multiple highly advocated theories in macroeconomics that prove that immigrant populations actually help the economic growth in multiple ways, but the real impact of the immigrant crisis is the deep-rooted fears among the population and xenophobia, that is encouraged by the majority parties of the country directly or indirectly.

The social impact, the resulting socio-political distress, and the fundamental change to the meaning of being 'American' caused by this immigration crisis as advocated by the Republican party and the political Right has their merits and is in many ways true in terms of the identity and fast-paced socio-cultural changes for many mainly in semi-urban, and rural areas America. The socio-economic progress and the overall responsibility of America to cater and include these immigrants as proposed by the Democratic party and other Progressive parties has its own merits and facts, and thus delegates of this committee are expected to be thorough and understand their party's stance well before the committee begins. The delegates are also to make sure they focus their research on understanding the causes of voting for the Senators they represent in this conference, to make the conference as realistic as possible.

Guiding questions

1. What can be the major economic drawbacks caused by the immigration situation in the US?
2. What can be the Socio- cultural advantages of mass immigration into the US?
3. Is the USA still the 'land of dreams' for immigrants which it claims to be?
4. Which existing policies and laws are contributing to the various socio, economic and cultural causes for the xenophobia seen in American society?
5. What is the role of misinformation and social media in spreading xenophobia?
6. How has the Bush era, Obama era, Trump era, and the Biden era contributed to policy formulation in relation to their immigration stance?
7. What are the possible areas where the political Right gain from a more lenient immigration policy?
8. What are the possible areas where the political Left gain from a more stringent immigration policy?
9. Who are and What are various social, political, and economic advantages and disadvantages of, (a) Migrants (b) Illegal immigrants (c) Refugees?

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