

# Immigrants Have No Plans to Assimilate

by Sam Francis

One reason there's not much of a debate about the mass immigration that has swept into the country during the last 30 years is that most of the eggheads who expound on immigration harbor the fond illusion that the immigrants will assimilate — that is, learn the English language, adopt Western and American values and live, work and conduct themselves like everybody else in the country. That, of course, is pretty much what earlier generations of immigrants did, and the result has been satisfactory for everyone.

But that's not what present-day immigrants are doing, which means that they're not behaving the way the eggheads — and the lawmakers who listened to them — anticipated. Not only does the United States now sport such quaint Third World customs as child marriage, female genital mutilation and alien religions that are little more than voodoo and black magic, but also we enjoy

---

*Samuel Francis, Ph.D. is a nationally-syndicated columnist. © 2000, Creators Syndicate, reprinted by permission.*

the rising babble of more than 300 different languages.

Language is one of the major bonds that holds a nation together and distinguishes it from other nations, and it's also one of the easiest things for immigrants to adopt in the process of assimilation. And if immigrants don't adopt the language of their new country it's very likely they haven't assimilated and don't intend to assimilate. In the case of recent immigrants to this country, it's now pretty clear they're not assimilating and have no plans to get on with it.

This week, the *Washington Times* published a story about the language enclaves developing in the United States precisely because of unassimilated immigrants. It turns out that there are some 300 different languages now spoken in this country, and as of 1990, some 31.6 million people who speak them. That's one-seventh of the entire population, and that was 10 years ago. Today, there are a lot more.

"The changes," the story tells us, "are reducing the prevalence and primacy of English in American life and culture. More than ever, modern America is multilingual." You don't really need newspapers to tell you that. Go to the bank in most metropolitan areas, and the teller

machine asks you which language you want to do business in. Churches, shopping centers, and many stores and restaurants sport signs and ads in languages other than the mother tongue.

Immigration is the overwhelming reason for the sprouting of the linguistic jungle in America, but there are also other forces at work. For one thing, as the article also notes, "Immigrant communities in some states have become so large and insular that greater numbers of people find no need to learn English." Little Havana in Miami is the example the story offers, but it's not alone.

Indeed, this points to the whole problem with mass immigration that brings in too many people too fast. When immigrants can have their own languages — and their customs and values — reinforced by large numbers of people like themselves from the same places, they don't need to assimilate. Instead, they form their own communities and enclaves, and the surrounding society has to assimilate to them.

Add to that the general weakening of the social disciplines in American culture over the last 30 years, and what you have is not the assimilation of immigrants but what may be the impending disintegration of the

cultural — and maybe eventually the political — bonds of the nation. Affirmative action, laws that outlaw discrimination, bilingual education and similar pea-brained notions have made it almost impossible for native or assimilated Americans to enforce their culture and language on newcomers.

The *Times* article also points out that the immigrants themselves often don't much care about adapting to their new homeland and its language and folkways. "There has been a widely reported surge in the growth of special ethnic language

schools teaching Persian, Hindi, Mandarin, Korean, Farsi, Czech and other languages to immigrant youth. ...They offer a way for immigrant parents to instill in their youngsters the parents' native culture and traditions while keeping their offspring from total assimilation into U.S. culture."

That's swell, of course. Everyone should grow up learning the traditions and culture their parents teach them. An even better way to learn it would be for the immigrants to go back to their own countries and teach their kids there.

But what the linguistic anarchy

now descending on the local schools, governments, economies and culture of the nation means is that there is less and less pressure on new immigrants to assimilate at all, and more and more pressure on Americans already here to adapt themselves to what the immigrants prefer. And, as that occurs, there are fewer and fewer American leaders — eggheads or lawmakers — interested in trying to halt the flow of immigration or the massive injection of alien tongues and folkways the immigrants inject into the disintegrating American civilization. ■

## Union Cards for Illegals?

by **Georgie Anne Geyer**

A most unusual meeting was held recently in Chicago that bodes serious changes for American society.

The national leadership of organized labor — those same AFL-CIO officials who had always regarded illegal or "undocumented" laborers as a prime enemy — are now calling for: (1) new laws to grant amnesty and permanent residency to illegal

aliens, and (2) new laws that would criminalize "employer exploitation of such undocumented workers."

The unions had undergone an epiphany ever since an initial meeting in February when their executive council declared that, in these changes, "we are on the side of working people everywhere" — whether they came to the United States on slave ships, through Ellis Island or, today, across the Mexican border.

This was designed to be a humanitarian decision, one that would set the stage for granting the same protections and, indeed, the special rights and privileges of American labor to illegal aliens.

There were no apologies about supporting a blanket amnesty to

men and women who have deliberately broken U.S. laws by entering the country and working here illegally. Indeed, at least so far as I could see, there was no discussion at all of the historic importance of citizenship, which uniquely links Americans together.

What is really happening is that, as they lose members across the country, and as they see their power threatened by globalization and by the breakup of national industries, the unions are moving to import a new proletariat, and they are not alone. Both the big "globalized" corporations, which look upon defenders of the nation-state as quaint antiquarians and the American administration, are allied with the unions.

---

*Georgie Anne Geyer is a nationally-syndicated columnist. © 2000. Reprinted by permission of Universal Press Syndicate.*