Patria Grande: The Case for an Open-Door Homeland in Argentina

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About this Presentation

1. Why Argentina?
2. Demographics
3. Regional Migration
4. Patria Grande History and Law

Why Argentina?

Regularization over Enforcement

The conception and solution to the presence of "irregular" immigrants in Argentina, contrast diametrically with the most recent approach of both the European Union and the United States.

The "Patria Grande" program

Migrations Law 25871 21/Jan/2004

CHAPTER I
ABOUT THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF FOREIGNERS
ARTICLE 4 — The right to migrate is essential and inalienable (cannot be taken away) to the individual, and the Argentine Republic warrants it based on the principles of equality and universality.

Migrations Law 25871 21/Jan/2004

CAPITULO I
DE LOS DERECHOS Y LIBERTADES DE LOS EXTRANJEROS
ARTICULO 4° — El derecho a la migración es esencial e inalienable de la persona y la República Argentina lo garantiza sobre la base de los principios de igualdad y universalidad.

Some cases of regional migrations

U.S.A. Brazil Argentina Chile

Large impact No natural legislation Varied local responses (state law, municipal ordinances)
Low impact in most areas No special legislation Some local response (support)
Significant impact Decisive national legislation Important local involvement
Limited impact Temporary national solution Limited local responses

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Argentina Facts

- Large Country: 1.07M sq. mi. (8th)
- Population: 40M
- 86% European, 8% Mestizo 2% Nat.
- 30th GDP, 23rd Purchasing Power
- Buenos Aires 3M city, 13M Metro

Population Pyramids - Aging

Foreign Population (2001)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,531,940</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMERICA</td>
<td>1,041,117</td>
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<tr>
<td>País limítrofe</td>
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<td>Brasil</td>
<td>232,856</td>
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<td>88,260</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resto</td>
<td>29,642</td>
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Pause: Two-Way Road

Policy Trigger: Argentina


Neighbors and government are ashamed of something like that happening in Argentina. “Slave” and children labor are denounced and rejected.

Policy Response: Argentina

Migrant Regularization (already in development since 2005) is given top priority and starts in earnest in April 14, 2006, 2 weeks after the fire.

In one year (March 2007), over 367,000 get a two-year residencia precaria (basically, a work permit), perhaps 50% of all unauthorized immigrants. Government reports: 217,800 from Paraguay, 88,773 from Bolivia, 42,682 from Peru.

Stage two is to get a two-year temporary residence (national ID) and then permanent residence.
Impact of Regularization Thrust

What Drives What?

This area needs to grow.

Solid immigration policy

Healthy immigrant settlement communities

Problem: Different Issues, Little Knowledge

Looking (Way) Forward...

Community development: balancing real
Changing Communities