
Bier is an immigration policy analyst at the Cato Institute’s Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity. The Cato Institute is a public policy research organization. Most people agree that the organization presents a libertarian perspective on issues.

“President Trump signed an executive order on Friday that purports to bar for at least 90 days almost all permanent immigration from seven majority-Muslim countries, including Syria and Iraq, and asserts the power to extend the ban inventively.

But the order is illegal. More than 50 years ago, Congress outlawed such discrimination against immigrants based on national origin.

That decision came after a long and shameful history in this country of barring immigrants based on where they came from. Starting in the late 19th century, laws excluded all Chinese, almost all Japanese, then all Asians in the so-called Asiatic Barred Zone. Finally, in 1924, Congress created a comprehensive ‘national-origins system,’ skewing immigration quotas to benefit Western Europeans and to exclude most Eastern Europeans, almost all Asians, and Africans.

Mr. Trump appears to want to reinstate a new type of Asiatic Barred Zone by executive order, but there is just one problem: The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 banned all discrimination against immigrants on the basis of national origin....

Nonetheless, Mr. Trump asserts that he still has the power to discriminate, pointing to a 1952 law that allows the president the ability to ‘suspend the entry’ of ‘any class of aliens’ that he finds are detrimental to the interest of the United States....

Mr. Trump may want to revive discrimination based on national origin by asserting a distinction between ‘the issuance of a visa’ and the ‘entry’ of the immigrant. But this is nonsense. Immigrants cannot legally be issued a visa if they are barred from entry. Thus, all orders under the 1952 law apply equally to entry and visa issuance, as his executive order acknowledges.

Note that the discrimination ban applies only to immigrants. Legally speaking, immigrants are those who are given permanent United States residency. By contrast, temporary visitors like guest workers, students and tourists, as well as refugees, could still be barred. The 1965 law does not ban discrimination based on religion — which was Mr. Trump’s original proposal.

While presidents have used their power dozens of times to keep out certain groups of foreigners under the 1952 law, no president has ever barred an entire nationality of immigrants without exception. In the most commonly cited case, President Jimmy Carter barred certain Iranians during the 1980 hostage crisis....

Even then, the policy had many humanitarian exceptions. Immigrants continued to be admitted in 1980....”

Doc 2: “President Trump’s executive order will keep America safe” - Brian Babin, Washington Examiner.

Babin is a Republican from Texas.

“As elected officials, our sworn duty is to the safety and security of the American people. To put politics above one’s duty is a dereliction of this oath of office, particularly when the lives of Americans are at stake.

It is important to understand that this is not a Muslim ban. The executive order only pertains to seven failed states identified by President Obama less than eleven months ago.

The authority of President Trump to make these orders is well established in law. In fact, President Obama cut off travel for Iraq in 2011 for these same exact reasons. The United States is under no obligation to accept anyone into the U.S. from foreign countries.
Since September 10, 2001, we have seen several thousand Americans murdered and hundreds more injured by terrorists who have exploited our visa and refugee programs. In spite of his own FBI director and DHS secretary telling him they could not properly vet these refugees, President Obama continued to double down on his plan of bringing in thousands of refugees from terrorist hotspots like Syria.

Sixteen years after the 9/11 attacks, many of the safeguards recommended by the 9/11 Commission have still not been implemented. The American people should applaud the fact that we have a president who has made one of these recommendations a priority.

As a compassionate nation, we can and should help refugees. In fact, we can help twelve refugees in safe zones near their home countries for the price of bringing just one refugee to the United States.

It is shameful – but not surprising – that liberal politicians and the media are spreading misinformation about the president’s actions. I believe the majority of Americans understand the president is working to keep them safe. Most Americans agree that we can longer afford to put political correctness ahead of security.

President Trump’s executive orders are a breath of fresh air for millions of Americans. His commitment to putting the American people first provides a glimmer of hope for those who have lost faith in their government. President Trump was elected on the exact same agenda he is carrying out – and his actions will ultimately save many American lives.”

Doc 3: “Six other times the US has banned immigrants,” - Hiba Morgan, Al Jazeera English

“[T]his is not the first time that the US has banned immigrants from its shores. Over the past 200 years, successive American presidents have placed restrictions on the immigration of certain groups....

The Chinese Exclusion Act, which banned ‘skilled and unskilled laborers and Chinese employed in mining’ from entering the US for 10 years, was the first significant law restricting immigration to the country. It came at a time when the US was struggling with high unemployment and, although Chinese made up a very small segment of the country’s workforce, they were nevertheless scapegoated for its social and economic woes....

The act expired in 1892 but was extended for a further 10 years in the form of another - the Geary Act.... This changed in 1943 with the Magnuson Act.... This came at a time when China was a US ally during World War II....

As millions of people became refugees during World War II, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt argued that refugees posed a serious threat to the country’s national security. Drawing on fears that Nazi spies could be hiding among them, the country limited the number of German Jews who could be admitted to 26,000 annually.

In one of the most notorious cases, the US turned away the St Louis ocean liner, which was carrying 937 passengers, almost all of whom are thought to have been Jewish, in June 1939. The ship was forced to return to Europe, where more than a quarter of its passengers are thought to have been killed in the Holocaust....

In 1903, the Anarchist Exclusion Act banned anarchists and others deemed to be political extremists from entering the US.... The act - which was also known as the Immigration Act of 1903 - codified previous immigration law and, in addition to anarchists, added three other new classes of people who would be banned from entry: those with epilepsy, beggars and importers of prostitutes. The act marked the rst time that individuals were banned for their political beliefs....

The Internal Security Act of 1950 - also known as the Subversive Activities Control Act of 1950 or the McCarran Act - made it possible to deport any immigrants believed to be members of the Communist Party. Members of communist organizations, which were required to register, were also not allowed to become citizens. Truman opposed the law, stating that it ‘would make a mockery of our Bill of Rights.’ The Supreme Court ruled sections of the act unconstitutional in 1993. But some parts of the act still stand.
Following the 1979 Iranian hostage crisis, during which the US embassy in Tehran was stormed and 52 Americans were held hostage for 444 days, American President Jimmy Carter cut diplomatic relations with and imposed sanctions on Iran. He also banned Iranians from entering the country....

In 1987, the US banned HIV positive persons from arriving in the US. The laws were influenced by homophobic and xenophobic sentiment towards Africans and minorities at the time, as well as a false belief that the HIV virus could be spread by physical or respiratory contact....

French is a writer for the National Review and an attorney who focuses on constitutional law. The National Review describes itself as a conservative news outlet.

“To read the online commentary, one would think that President Trump just fundamentally corrupted the American character. You would think that the executive order on refugees he signed yesterday betrayed America’s Founding ideals. You might even think he banned people from an entire faith from American shores....

So, what did Trump do? Did he implement his promised Muslim ban? No, far from it. He backed down dramatically from his campaign promises and instead signed an executive order dominated mainly by moderate refugee restrictions and temporary provisions aimed directly at limiting immigration from jihadist conflict zones....

First, the order temporarily halts refugee admissions for 120 days to improve the vetting process, then caps refugee admissions at 50,000 per year.... The bottom line is that Trump is improving security screening and intends to admit refugees at close to the average rate of the 15 years before Obama’s dramatic expansion in 2016. Obama’s expansion was a departure from recent norms, not Trump’s contraction.

Second, the order imposes a temporary, 90-day ban on people entering the U.S. from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. These are countries either torn apart by jihadist violence or under the control of hostile, jihadist governments....

Indeed, given the terrible recent track record of completed and attempted terror attacks by Muslim immigrants, it’s clear that our current approach is inadequate to control the threat. Unless we want to simply accept Muslim immigrant terror as a fact of American life, a short-term ban on entry from problematic countries combined with a systematic review of our security procedures is both reasonable and prudent.

However, there are reports that the ban is being applied even to green-card holders. This is madness. The plain language of the order doesn’t apply to legal permanent residents of the U.S., and green-card holders have been through round after round of vetting and security checks. The administration should intervene, immediately, to stop misapplication. If, however, the Trump administration continues to apply the order to legal permanent residents, it should indeed be condemned.”