

U.S. News Media Representation of Immigration

Name

Institutional Affiliation

U.S. News Media Representation of Immigration

The United States has been founded by the values and ideals of a multiracial democracy leveraging on diversity for economic and political success. These modest values entrenched in the tradition of our great nation are what make America exceptional. The United States society has been shaped by demographic changes that have happened over the last years. Immigration is the key driver behind the demographic change and it is poised to impact racial orientation in the U.S. over the next years a great deal (Chavez, 2016). However, the continued immigration of foreigners in the United States has sparked mixed reactions and controversy regarding its policy on foreigners. A growing attitude of resentment towards immigrants and immigration as a policy in the United States threatens our old modest values of multiracial democracy and open society. Although the United States receives immigrants from over the world, there seems to be a change of heart when most of these foreigners are Latinos. While not all, some Americans have negative attitudes towards Latinos hailing from Mexico. The resentment has been largely shaped by negative stereotypes, essentialism, othering and culturism. This paper will analyze an article on the media role in anti-Latino sentiment in the United States.

The Media role in the United States is pervasive with negative stereotypes about immigrants and Latinos in general. This concept has been demonstrated in the article by Reny and Manzano (2016) who explore data from public surveys. In the United States, it is common for the Media to stereotype Latinos to tones that are often sensational. By leveraging the data from independent consulting firms, the article cites that the majority of non-Latino who agreed to having stereotypes about Latinos were influenced by the Media (Reny & Manzano, 2016). The data showed that the Media represented Latinos as refusing to learn English, taking American jobs, less educated and those who do not meet family obligations (Reny & Manzano, 2016).

Additionally, the data from surveys revealed that most non-Latinos had not interacted with Latinos at a personal level but read or heard from the media and believed that a large percentage of the latter are criminals (Reny & Manzano, 2016). The article shows that media stereotyping of Latinos in a negative manner reinforces the resentment towards them.

Moreover, from the data, otherism as a sociological concept has largely been influenced by the media. The data showed that most non-whites believed that Latinos were not part of the American society and were mostly illegal immigrants from Mexico. Data reviewed from surveys revealed that a majority of the non-Latino respondents believed that most Latinos in America were not documented (Reny & Manzano, 2016). This reveals an open rejection of Latinos as part of the American society which is defined as otherism. The majority of respondents from the data believed that Latinos posed a threat to them since they engaged in gang activities and were illegal (Reny & Manzano, 2016). Again the concept was largely shaped by mainstream media especially cable TV from conservative and liberal channels as the article states.

A keen analysis of the article reveals essentialism from non-Latino in the United States. The article explains that most non-Latinos believed that Latinos are illegal aliens with a culture of gang activities and violence as well as family roles negligence. They were influenced by the media especially television regarding such sentiments. It is the common belief that Latino as a race is associated with criminal activities and highly irresponsible. Additionally, the article reveals an aspect of culturism. It reported that surveys indicated that non-Latinos believed that Latinos do not like to learn English and have many children (Reny & Manzano, 2016). These language and family aspects of Latino culture were portrayed in a negative manner by U.S. media forming a basis for discrimination.

Conclusion

To sum up, anti-immigrant sentiment is growing against some races in the United States. When it comes to Latinos, negative stereotyping, othering and essentialism are attitudes towards Latinos influenced by media. An analysis of the article by Reny and Manzano portrayed most non-whites having non-Latino sentiments. The majority of the non-Latinos despite having not interacted with Latinos at a personal level admitted to reading, watching and hearing things about the latter from the media especially TV.

References

Chavez, D. (2016). *An Analysis of American Attitudes Toward Immigration*. Retrieved from

<http://home.uchicago.edu/~danielchavez/paper..pdf>

Reny, T., & Manzano, S. (2016). The negative effects of mass media stereotypes of Latinos and immigrants. *Media and Minorities: Questions on Representation from an International Perspective*, 195-212.