Name: Grant Zoch

Student ID #: xxx-xxx-072

Class: GEOG 300, W18

TA: Grant Zoch

CT1; Due: January 8, 2018

Q #: 1-6; Total Word Count: 539 words (Not including citations)

**Insecurity about Security: Immigration and False Associations of Crime and Terrorism**

**Interpretation (58 words)**

Considering the future, many people claim to be afraid of mass human migration resulting from overpopulation. People fear these migrants coming to the developed world, leading to dramatic state security issues relating to crime and terrorism against the host population. However, it is agreed amongst scholars that migrants actually reduce levels of crime and do not propagate terrorism (Castles et al. 2014, p. 213; Saux 2007, p.63 ; Zatz and Smith 2012, p. 147).

**Analysis (409 words)**

In the media and politics in the West, there is much emphasis placed on the immigrant as a source of the many ills facing society: as insurgent, job-thief, deviant, criminal, and subversive (Castles et al. 2014, p. 205; Saux 2007, p. 62). This linking of the immigrant with degeneracy is often exaggerated, fabricated, and constructed to portray the immigrant as the “Other” and as a scapegoat for societal problems (Saux 2007, p. 63, 64). This is the case of immigrants and terrorism in Spain, whose official immigration policy has served to falsely demonize North African migrants into serving as scapegoats by equating them with terrorism, which is further reinforced by media portrayal (Saux 2007, p. 63). For this reason, much of the interpretation of the immigrant as terrorist is fallacious.

Further, many people in the West view immigrants as inveterate criminals, as threats to social order and peace; however, much research has gone towards showing that this view, much like the view of the immigrant as terrorist, is false (Zatz and Smith 2012, p. 141). Time and again, a dearth of research finds that immigration will more often than not have no or even lessening effects on incidences of serious crimes, including violent ones (Zatz and Smith 2012, p. 143). Indeed, migrants tend to make communities safer through many mechanisms, from the “less violent character of recent immigrants” to the revitalization of immigrant communities and strong family ties amongst immigrants (Zatz and Smith 2012, p. 145). In contrast, much research has born out the conclusion that the measures taken to control migration actually reduce immigrant community safety: “… it appears that the laws and policies enacted in response to the faulty fears that immigrants are dangerous contribute to their victimization by making immigrants … afraid to call on the police or otherwise draw attention to themselves” (Zatz and Smith 2012, p. 147). Migrants, through marginalization and demonization, are thus more susceptible to abuse, attack, and harassment, and are ultimately the true victims of security fears.

Finally, though it is a relatively new area of preliminary study, research into the future of human migration has shown that it is a complex endeavor, and that it rarely occurs as the result of one factor alone, be it overpopulation, climate change, etc., but rather is a complicated decision (Castles et al. 2014, p. 209). Migration is costly, disruptive, and is often a last resort for populations considering it (Adger et al. 2014, p. 767). The clear majority of migration (nearly 80%) is internal to begin with; that is, migrants stay within their origin country’s boundaries (Adger et al. 2014, p. 767) Additionally, the percentage of the world’s population considered as migratory has remained stable for decades, at about 3% (Castles et al. 2014, p. 9). This all suggests that the idea of a catastrophic wave of future human migration has no precedent or basis in fact.

**Evaluation (27 words)**

Saux (2007) focuses only on the constructed linking of immigration and terrorism in Spain. Zatz and Smith (2012) is a condensation of law literature, rather than its own study.

**Inference (23 words)**

Global human migration produces positive benefits at the local level. Time after time, studies show that immigration will typically decrease neighborhood crime rates (Zatz and Smith 2012, p. 153).

**Explanation (25 words)**

The specious future wave of migration will not lead to security issues, as migrants typically reduce crime, are not terrorists, and will seldom migrate internationally.

**Bibliography**

Adger, W.N., Pulhin, J.M., Barnett, J., Dabelko, G.D., Hovelsrud, G.K., Levy, M., Oswald Spring, U., and Vogel, C.H. (2014). *Human security*. In: *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.* New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Castles, S., de Haas, H., and Miller, M.J. (2014). *The age of migration: International population movements in the modern world.* New York, NY: The Guildford Press.

Saux, M. (2007). Immigration and Terrorism: A Constructed Connection. *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research*, 13(1), 57-72.

Zatz, M., & Smith, H. (2012). Immigration, Crime, and Victimization: Rhetoric and Reality. *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, 8, 141-159.