



---

## Report Information from ProQuest

February 14 2013 15:26

---

# Table of Contents

1. A Close Look at the Newest Newcomers.....	1
--	---

## A Close Look at the Newest Newcomers

**Author:** By Jagdish Bhagwati

**Publication info:** Wall Street Journal [New York, N.Y.] 28 Sep 1999: A24.

[ProQuest document link](#)

**Abstract:** The U.S., George Borjas observes, is "heaven's door," through which much of the world's humanity wishes to pass. Mr. Borjas would like to man that door, waving through the most virtuous petitioners and, no less important to him, minding heaven's capacity at the same time. But frankly, he lacks the qualifications for the job. For one thing, he does not appreciate fully one characteristic of American exceptionalism: that we are a nation of immigrants. However shopworn the phrase may be, it is also a defining principle of American identity. Even when we are inclined to surrender in times of distress to mean impulses, moving to close "heaven's door" or to serve our own economic ends in narrow (and often counterproductive) ways, Americans never seem to lose their innate empathy for the immigrants who seek to join them. Luckily, Mr. Borjas's alarmist analysis, presented at length in "Heaven's Door," is less than persuasive. Take the crucial question of skills. In earlier writings, Mr. Borjas had virtually asserted that the absolute skill levels of legal immigrants had declined since the 1965 act; he was promptly refuted, convincingly in my view, by the late Julian Simon, who showed, in a co-authored paper, that the immigrant education levels at entry had in fact risen from the 1960s through the early 1990s.

**Links:** [Check Columbia Libraries for fulltext](#)

**Subject:** Books-titles; Nonfiction; Immigration

**People:** Borjas, George J

**Publication title:** Wall Street Journal

**Pages:** A24

**Number of pages:** 0

**Publication year:** 1999

**Publication date:** Sep 28, 1999

**Year:** 1999

**Column:** Bookshelf

**Section:** LEISURE&ARTS

**Publisher:** Dow Jones&Company Inc

**Place of publication:** New York, N.Y.

**Country of publication:** United States

**Journal subject:** Business And Economics--Banking And Finance

**ISSN:** 00999660

**Source type:** Newspapers

**Language of publication:** English

**Document type:** Book Review-Unfavorable

**Accession number:** 05717621

**ProQuest document ID:** 398675543

**Document URL:**

<http://ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/398675543?accountid=10226>

**Copyright:** Copyright Dow Jones&Company Inc Sep 28, 1999

**Last updated:** 2010-06-26

**Database:** ProQuest Central,National Newspapers Premier,The Wall Street Journal,ABI/INFORM Complete

---

**Contact ProQuest**

Copyright © 2012 ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved. - [Terms and Conditions](#)