


I was initially wary of reviewing this book. Immigration has always been a subject of the greatest interest to me, mainly as a deserving cause for advocacy. But from the title of the book and the little I had heard of its author, I did not foresee us sharing much common ground. I must now admit that, while the book has not



In the past, economic assimilation has been strong in the United States, meaning it was not a significant problem if immigrants entered the country without money or skills, because they could quickly gain the skills needed to make a higher wage in the US. However, Borjas finds that economic assimilation has slowed over time, with newer immigrants seeing smaller wage increases over time. He hypothesizes this is the result of the growth of ethnic enclaves. Because the US's immigrant population is so dominated by one group (Mexican born) and certain cities have enclaves of immigrants of other ethnicities (for example, Cuban-born Miamians), many immigrants are now able to live successful lives without assimilating to the demands of the American economy. To demonstrate this further, Borjas finds that immigrants who move to areas with low populations of their ethnic group economically assimilate faster, suggesting that ethnic encl