

A Letter to Potential Immigrants

RICHARD TRZUPEK

There is so much nonsense— most of it emotional nonsense— spewed about the subject of immigration to the United States that one can't help but wonder what potential immigrants think.

To many, we mustn't appear as the land of opportunity so much as the land of derangement, populated by an apparently evenly distributed mixture of rabid racists and crazed anarchists.

We are, of course, neither of those things. White supremacists and Antifa thugs gobble up attention and elicit outrage, but we call each of them extremists for a reason. They operate at the fringes of U.S. society, representative of nothing more than that we're a nation that believes freedom doesn't count unless it includes the freedom to be rude, self-absorbed, and behave like fools.

With that in mind, wouldn't it be helpful to have a letter we could send to every potential immigrant applying—legally applying— to take up residence in the United States? Such a document is long overdue.

Here's what I believe it should say: Dear Applicant, Thank you for your application to establish residence in the United States of America. We appreciated your perseverance as you filled out the voluminous paperwork required and waited patiently throughout our long review process.

Our purpose, we hope you understand, is not to prevent immigration into our country, but is rather to ensure that immigration is conducted in an orderly manner so that you have the best chance of achieving success in this Land of Opportunity. We do not want you to live in the shadows, nor to feel that you have to live in the shadows.

Knowing that you have entered the United States legally relieves you of that burden.

To the extent possible, we also try to prevent undesirable people from crossing the border. Now, you may have heard it said that there are a great many Americans who define "undesirable" as anyone who isn't Caucasian, doesn't speak English, and doesn't possess independent means of subsistence. While one can hardly deny that a few such characters inevitably exist in a nation of 350 million that prides itself on its commitment to peaceful freedom of expression, this

insubstantial minority is hardly representative of the ordinary Americans with whom you will routinely interact on a daily basis.

Undesirable immigrants describe the same people you would find undesirable as neighbors: hard-core criminals, drug dealers, sexual predators, etc. We don't care if you've had a few traffic tickets or got busted for petty theft when you were in high school. We know that good people make mistakes. Our goal is to keep out the truly bad people who are both unreformed and unreformable.

The wall, of which you have no doubt heard much, is one way we believe we can achieve this goal. The wall, as we conceive it and believe it should be used, isn't a tool to keep people out, but rather to ensure that we know who's coming in. For only by knowing who is coming in can we prevent those who would do you, me, and the rest of society harm from infiltrating our nation.

Despite much talk about racism among politicians and some in the media, you will be pleased to find remarkably little of it in your day-to-day lives. That's not to say that racism has been eliminated in 21st century America, but rather to say that the number of ordinary working men and women who think about race—much less obsess about it as so many politicians and pundits do—is minuscule. Good people working hard to improve themselves and their lives don't see race when they look at their neighbors and co-workers.

They see fellow travelers on life's journey with whom they share trials and tribulations, wonder, and joy.

This isn't the case among many of our elected representatives, an unfortunate fact that we who elected them find deeply embarrassing. There are exceptions, of course, but the primary goal of most of the men and women populating the U.S. Congress and state legislatures isn't to serve the public, but to ensure their reelection.

They are prone to say the most outrageous things and adopt ridiculous policy positions if they believe it will further that personal agenda. Most of the time it's best to ignore them. Should you become a naturalized citizen in the future, you should know that most times, you will not be able to vote for the best candidate, but must instead settle for the least worst.

Regardless of the challenges with which our leaders present us, we believe you will enjoy living in the United States. We hope that you, like so many other immigrants who have settled in our nation, will prosper and live a long, fulfilling life. You are, and always will be, most welcome.

Sincerely, America

Richard Trzupsek is a chemist and environmental consultant as well as an analyst at The Heartland Institute. He is also the author of “Regulators Gone Wild: How the EPA Is Ruining American Industry.”

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of [The Epoch Times](#).



SAMIRA BOUAOU/THE EPOCH TIMES

New citizens celebrate during a naturalization ceremony on Independence Day at President George Washington’s historic home in Mount Vernon, Va., on July 4, 2018.



SAMIRA BOUAOU/THE EPOCH TIMES

People in Manhattan, New York, on Feb. 27, 2017.



PAUL J. RICHARDS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

International travelers leave the Customs and Immigration area of Dulles International Airport (IAD) in Dulles, Va., on June 29, 2017.