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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2015

SundayReview

The New York Times



KATIE ORLINSKY FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Refugees at Our Door

OPINION
BY SONIA NAZARIO

The author of "Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite With His Mother."

In the past 15 months, at the request of President Obama, Mexico has carried out a ferocious crackdown on refugees fleeing violence in Central America. The United States has given Mexico tens of millions of dollars for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 to stop these migrants from reaching the United States border to claim asylum.

Essentially the United States has outsourced a refugee problem to Mexico that is similar to the refugee crisis now roiling Europe.

"The U.S. government is sponsoring the hunting of migrants in Mexico to prevent them from reaching the U.S.," says Christopher Galeano,

We are paying Mexico to keep people from reaching our border.

who spent last summer researching what's happening in Mexico for human rights groups there. "It is forcing them to go back to El Salvador, Honduras, to their deaths."

I went to Mexico last month to see the effects of the crackdown against migrants, who are being hunted down on a scale never seen before and sent back to countries where gangs and drug traffickers have taken control of whole sections of ter-

ritory. More than a decade ago, I rode on top of seven freight trains up the length of Mexico with child migrants to chronicle hellish experiences at the hands of gangs, bandits and corrupt cops who preyed on youngsters as they journeyed north. Compared with today, that trip was child's play.

In a migrant shelter in Ixtepec, Mexico, I met July Elizabeth Pérez, 32, who was clutching her 3-year-old daughter, Kimberly Juliet Medina, tight in her arms, and keeping a careful eye on her two other children, 6-year-old Luis Danny Pérez and 12-year-old Naamá Pérez. She arrived at this

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July Elizabeth Pérez, 32, with her daughter Kimberly and her surviving son, Luis, at a shelter in Ixtepec, Mexico.

NICHOLAS KRISTOF

The Asian Advantage

THIS is an awkward question, but here goes: Why are Asian-Americans so successful in America?

It's no secret that Asian-Americans are disproportionately stars in American schools, and even in American society as a whole. Census data show that Americans of Asian heritage earn more than other groups, including whites. Asian-Americans also have higher educational

attainment than any other group.

I wrote a series of columns last year, "When Whites Just Don't Get It," about racial inequality, and one of the most common responses from angry whites was along these lines: *This stuff about white privilege is nonsense, and if blacks lag, the reason lies in the black community itself. Just look at Asian-Americans. Those Koreans and Chinese make it in America because they work hard. All people can*

Why one group succeeds as other minorities lag.

succeed here if they just stop whining and start working.

Let's confront the argument head-on. Does the success of Asian-Americans suggest that the age of discrimination is behind us?

A new scholarly book, "The Asian American Achievement Paradox," by Jennifer Lee and Min Zhou, notes that Asian-American immigrants in recent decades have started with one advantage: They are highly educated, more so even than the average American. These immigrants are disproportionately doctors, research scientists and other highly

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