“Why migration is a human right” Objective Summary

By Hunter Johnson.

“Why migration is a human right” is an article written for the guardian by Mohsin Hamid. Hamid is a Migrant born in Pakistan, spending his life between his home country, The United States, and The United Kingdom. Hamid talks about his education being primarily America focused, learning about migration through the lens of manifest destiny and the idea that Mohsin described as, “the melting pot, uniting people of all races, ethnicities and creeds into one nation; about a country of immigrants,” Despite these ideas the American education system teaches, Hamid talks about how they have failed in their execution. Hamid discusses the oxymoronic nature of the term, “illegal immigrant” asking himself in the article, “how was such a thing possible?” as by design, America is a land of immigrants.

Hamid follows this up by describing and comparing these sentiments to his time in the UK, during which he experienced varying levels of anti-immigrant sentiment. In the article Hamid talks about how when he first lived in the UK, anti-immigration sentiment seemed to be dying down, but at the present, British nativism seems to be the current trend He goes on to talk about how The UK was, and still is a land built on migration, and how the British Empire was created using colonies like- what is now- the Commonwealth countries, and the even the English language couldn’t have progressed as it has without this history. Hamid closes out the article by talking about how anti-migrant sentiment is going to be detriment to the future of human society, and that all humans are by nature, migrants. We all originated in Africa and have never stopped moving as a species, and that only by recognizing this, can we begin to promote the values we falsely present in our first world countries.