

## Spaces and Exchanges

I'm going to talk about the theme "Spaces & Exchanges". To explain this notion, I will talk about immigration to the USA.

First, I will talk about Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty which are the first things that migrants see when they arrive in the USA. Afterwards, I will talk about the US-Mexico border and the exchanges between the USA and Mexico.

The first people who arrived in the USA were the Pilgrim fathers, the WASP. They founded America and they began to accept every people who wanted to be safe. So lot of migrants from Europe came to escape from poverty, wars. When the migrants arrived in the New York harbor, they saw first the Statue of Liberty. Indeed, this statue is tall and represent a woman who wear a 7 spikes crown. This spikes stand for the 7 oceans or 7 continents. We can think that this statue is here to tell "welcome" to the migrants who search a better place than Europe. From the 19<sup>th</sup> century till the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the USA has been the symbol of a land that welcomed for all people escaping misery or dictatorships. Then it's why migrants were disembarked on Ellis Island. But they were selected, if they were sick, they were turned away. Indeed, authorities were afraid that they would contaminate the population or that they would become jobless or a burden for the state.

This legal exchanges between the migrants and the USA give benefits to each other. The USA keep them from poverty and insecurity and the migrants will build a part of the nation. They will bring an economy.

The US-Mexico border is one of the longest borders in the world. It stretches over several states and It goes from San Diego to Brownsville. This border is going through various Landscapes. It's very busy, debated, controversial, risky and it's linked to job opportunities. Indeed, many Mexicans who are destitute cross the border to find better prospects as the USA is wealthiest Country in the world. Not only is the border very busy but it's also very dangerous. Indeed, legal and illegal business are thriving. Commercial exchanges and drug dealing make fortunes. Millions of dollars of goods are exchanged above and below ground.

In the first place we can think that the USA is a land of exchanges because it receives people who want a better life and it gives them a job and a chance to be rich. The Puritan's Ethic where everyone can be rich if you work hard and pray every day also It means that god selected you. The USA received migrants from the whole world during the 19th century immigrations because people escaped dictatorships and misery. But now the US-Mexico immigrations is an immigration of Mexicans poverty. As they suffer from poverty they decided to cross the border illegally. It's an exchange because the illegals are attracted to the USA because the US offers many jobs. The American bosses need a cheap labor force and illegal workers are off the books. Mexicans look for better living conditions. They come to the US to live the American dream, to start from scratch and hope to work their way to the top.

Then the US government need workers and Mexicans need jobs. So the Americans keep them from dying and Mexicans work for them.