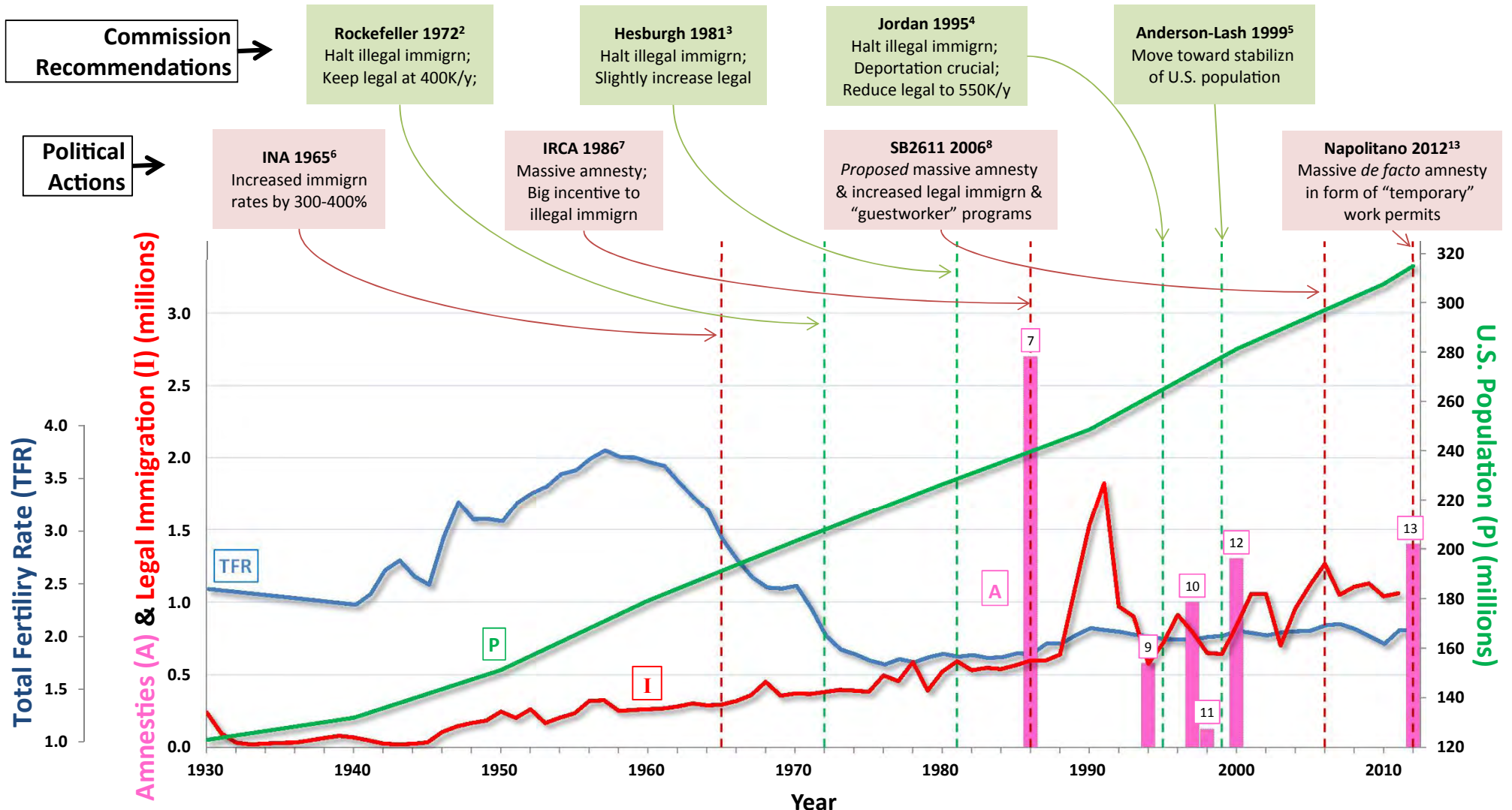


Historical Trajectory of U.S. Population (1930-2012)

And Its Key Determinants¹



¹ Data from: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Census Bureau ²J.D. Rockefeller III, chairman (1972) Population and the American Future: The Report of The Commission on Population Growth and the American Future. Washington, DC. ³T.M. Hesburgh, chairman (1981) U.S. Immigration Policy and the National Interest: Final Report of the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy, Washington DC. ⁴B. Jordan, chairman (1997) Report of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform. Washington, DC. ⁵R.C. Anderson & J. Lash, co-chairmen (1999) Towards a Sustainable America: Report of the President's Council on Sustainable Development. Washington DC. ⁶ Immigration and Nationality Act, 1965. ⁷ Immigration and Reform Control Act, 1986. ⁸Senate Bill 2611: Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006. ⁹ Section 245(i) Amnesty, 1994. ¹⁰ Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) Amnesty, 1997. ¹¹ Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act (HRIFA), 1998. ¹² Late Amnesty, 2000: An amnesty for some illegal aliens who claimed they should have been amnestied under the 1986 IRCA amnesty; and LIFE Act Amnesty, 2000: A reinstatement of the rolling Section 245(i) amnesty. ¹³ Deferred Action Process for Young People Who Are Low Enforcement Priorities: Directive from J. Napolitano, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, June 2012.

Historical Trajectory of U.S. Population (1930-2012)

Exposition of a Chart

Stuart H. Hurlbert and Gretchen Pfaff, Californians for Population Stabilization, June 2012

- Over the period shown (1930-2012) the U.S. population grew from 213 million to 315 million, reflecting an average growth rate of 1.01% per year.
- Annual population growth rate in recent decades has been 0.9 to 1.1 %. That represents about 30 million people, nearly the current population of Canada (34 million), being added to the U.S. population per decade.
- Population growth over recent decades has been driven primarily by high immigration rates and frequent mass amnesties for illegal aliens. Legal immigration has increased more than 14-fold from an average of 78 thousand per year during 1930-1950 to an average of 1.1 million during 2000-2010.
- Those numbers do not include additional tens of millions persons who have entered the U.S. illegally or overstayed their visas and, in millions of cases, been given de facto amnesties by one mechanism or another.
- From a demographic perspective, amnesty occurs when an illegal alien is allowed to become a permanent resident of the U.S., regardless of what fees or fines they are required to pay or whatever other hoops they are required to jump through.
- Over the last 40 years various presidential and congressional commissions have examined population and immigration policies and have generally recommended greatly reduced immigration levels.
- However, virtually all political actions taken during this period of time by Congress and the White House have been to increase immigration levels and make routine the issuance of mass amnesties to illegal aliens.
- Out of timidity, ideological bias, censoriousness and/or just plain inaction, most mainline scientific and environmental organizations have generally opposed the recommendations of the commissions and supported the pro-mass immigration politicians.
- Average U.S. family size (TFR) increased to 3.8 children during the post-World War II baby boom and then dropped to 1.7 by the mid 1970s. That would have led to U.S. population stabilization in a few decades if immigration had been reduced to moderate levels, e.g. 100-300,000 per year.
- The post-1970s rise of the U.S. TFR from 1.7 to its recent value of 2.0-2.1 was a consequence of immigration of large numbers of persons with little education from cultures favoring large families.
- Since this chart was prepared, the number of illegal aliens estimated to be eligible for two-year “temporary” work permits under DHS Secretary Napolitano’s 2012 directive has increased from 1.4 to 1.8 million. Additionally, the Obama administration has indicated that the parents of these illegal aliens, who almost all are illegal aliens themselves, will not be bothered. And then there’s the brothers and sisters. The total size of this de facto amnesty thus may end up roughly equal to the population of Los Angeles (3.9 million).
- The U.S. Census Bureau medium population projection is for immigration rates to the U.S. in 2050 to be 53 % higher than in 2010. Neither the U.S. Census Bureau nor the United Nations is projecting that the U.S. population will stabilize.
- The U.S. has no population policy, and neither of the two major political parties evince any more understanding of the negative social, economic and environmental consequences of continued U.S. population growth than they have in the past.