

# THE CENTER FOR IMMIGRATION STUDIES

## A guide to CIS's racist agenda—and how to expose it

*From the Center for New Community*

**The Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) is an extremist think tank with roots in white nationalism that manufactures disingenuous research to support bigoted, anti-immigrant policies.**

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### What is CIS?

The Center for Immigration Studies is an extremist think tank with roots in white nationalism. It promotes anti-immigrant policies, frequently using bigoted and inflammatory rhetoric and disingenuous representations of facts to accomplish its goals.

CIS positions itself as a non-partisan research institute, but it is actually an integral component of the largest anti-immigrant alliance in the country, founded by a white nationalist and supporter of eugenics.

### What does CIS do?

CIS functions as the research and policy arm of the organized anti-immigrant movement. The organization has a long record of misrepresenting numbers and skewing statistics to fit its agenda.

- ◆ Several CIS reports have been exposed as making demonstrably false claims, while others rely on unreleased data that cannot be verified.

CIS created the doctrine of “self-deportation,” which argues that laws should be enacted to make life so difficult for migrants that they are forced to return to their countries of origin.

- ◆ CIS has been so successful in promoting this doctrine that it has appeared in the policy platforms of Senators and GOP presidential candidates. Policies to encourage self-deportation have been found to be unconstitutional and to violate individuals' civil rights.

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CIS staff members often make racist and bigoted statements in their professional capacities.

- ◆ Stephen Steinlight, a Senior Policy Analyst at CIS, publicly said that he believed President Obama should be “hung, drawn, and quartered.” Steinlight still works for CIS and is a frequent spokesperson for the organization. (Additional quotes below).
- ◆ Beginning in January 2016, CIS began publishing reports and blogs authored by discredited policy analyst Jason Richwine. In 2013, Richwine resigned from The Heritage Foundation following revelations that his Harvard dissertation included racist appeals to limit immigration based on IQ.

### **Why is CIS important?**

CIS advocates for extreme ideas, but it is not a fringe organization. CIS has significant influence over national immigration policy and its spokespersons appear regularly in mainstream media, driving the public conversation farther toward their anti-immigrant goals.

**CIS trades in bigotry and extremism, and its opinions do not belong in mainstream media or the halls of Congress.**

# Direct Quotes from Center for Immigration Studies Staff

## Mark Krikorian, CIS Executive Director

- ◆ Mexico's "weakness and backwardness has been deeply harmful to the United States.
- ◆ "Gay marriage makes legalized polygamy inevitable. Incest, too."
- ◆ "We have a border fence, better than we've ever had, albeit still not an adequate one. Should there be more of it? Yes. Should more of it be a real, double-layered, Israeli-style obstacle rather than just a low vehicle barrier, as most of it is now? Certainly. Would that help reduce illegal immigration? You bet."
- ◆ On Jorge Ramos: "And this isn't just some white-Hispanic ethnic hustler, though Ramos is that — he's practically the Walter Cronkite of Spanish-language media in the U.S..."
- ◆ "Now, I happen to believe that we shouldn't be taking temporary workers, because that reshapes our society along the lines of a Gulf sheikhdom..."
- ◆ Statement citing white nationalist blogger Steve Sailer: "But I think the most important point is this, from Sailer's response: 'Why don't we wait five years and see what happens with immigration before passing some massive immigration "reform" law based on suppositions about how Fortunately, It Can't Happen Again?'"
- ◆ On twitter: "How many rapists & drug-dealers are the anti-deportation radicals protecting?" ([Source for all quotes](#))

## Stephen Steinlight, CIS Senior Policy Analyst

- ◆ On President Obama: "We all know, if there ever was a president that deserved to be impeached, it's this guy. Alright? I mean, I wouldn't stop. I would think being hung, drawn, and quartered is probably too good for him." ([Source](#))
- ◆ "I don't know what on earth we can do about Muslim immigration, I really don't. I mean, if I had my druthers, we would bring back something like the McCarran act in the 50s, which barred communists and fascists on the grounds that they believe in things that are subversive to the Constitution. Well, Muslims believe in things that are subversive to the Constitution. [...] It's a great danger. I think Islam is not so much a religion as a hideous totalitarian political creed looking for world supremacy." ([Source](#))

- ◆ On Mexican immigrants: “You don’t know how long it will be here before the political activists get engaged in that community and foment something that will look like the civil rights movement for African Americans, but I can promise you it will be a lot bloodier.” ([Source](#))

### **Jessica Vaughan, CIS Director of Policy Studies**

- ◆ “The administration already approves of the admission of gang members as asylees and criminals in the DACA program,” Vaughan told *The Daily Caller*, “so I don’t expect them to be troubled by the admission of terrorists and garden variety fraudsters in our refugee program.” ([Source](#))
- ◆ Vaughan argued that Temporary Protection Status for refugees has contributed to “the burgeoning street gang problem in the United States.” ([Source](#))
- ◆ “SB 1070 and 287(g) laws are not precisely comparable... 287(g) agreements put officers through a four-week training and they get the authority to arrest people for immigration violations. SB 1070 simply has the officers ask people about their immigration status.” ([Source](#))