

THE FACTS: THERE IS NO CRISIS AND NO EMERGENCY, JUST TRUMP'S CAMPAIGN

[NB: Check the byline. /~Rayne]

After mixing it up with a old conservative over spring break – someone who doesn't watch Fox News but spends too much time with people who do – it's clear Trump's and Fox's lies have deeply infected right-wing minds.

They believe Trump's falsehoods about a crisis at the border, that there was reason for Trump to declare an emergency.

They're also incapable of fact checking. They're authoritarians and believe whatever current authority figure tells them; the motivation to validate authority doesn't exist.

They appear unable to analyze what they do see to make an independent assessment of their own. It doesn't occur to them to ask, *What would be so bad a family with toddlers and infants would flee their home, walking over a thousand miles for more than a month and through a desert to escape?*

They're sheep – our country is regressing under the leadership of fascist sheep.

I wanted to cram a bunch of facts in this conservative's head but I honestly don't know if they'd bother to read anything I gave them because I'm not a Fox talking head.

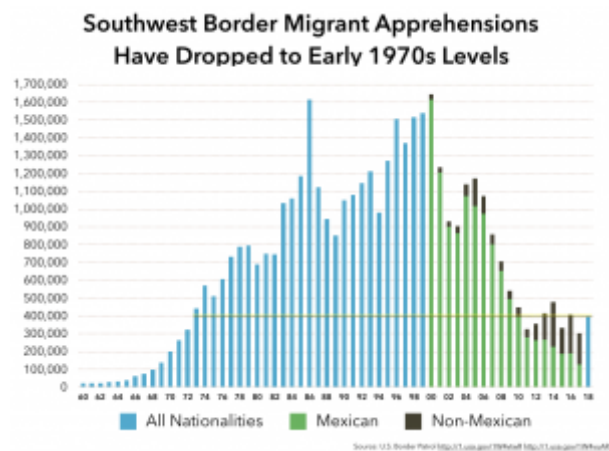
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Fact: Trend data from DHS' Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) about so-called illegal immigrants border crossings indicates it has trended lower over the last 15 years:

1985	1,262,435
1986	1,692,544
1987	1,158,030
1988	869,214
1989	891,147
1990	1,193,353
1991	1,132,833
1992	1,199,560
1993	1,283,480
1994	1,031,668
1995	1,324,202
1996	1,549,876
1997	1,412,953
1998	1,555,776
1999	1,579,810
2000	1,676,438
2001	1,266,214
2002	955,318
2003	931,657
2004	1,160,395
2005	1,189,875
2006	1,089,892
2007	876,794
2008	723,825
2009	556,041
2010	463,382
2011	340,292
2012	364,788
2013	420,788
2014	406,651
2015	337,117
2016	415,816
2017	310,831
2018	404,142

(source: U.S. Customs and Border Patrol
Nationwide Illegal Alien Apprehensions Fiscal
Years 1925-2018 pdf)

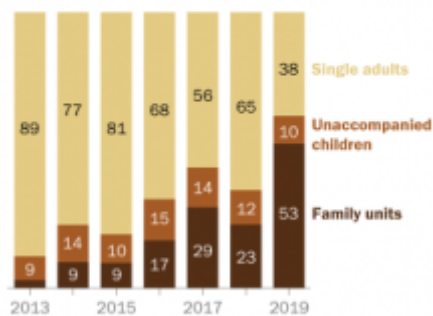
From another perspective there is no migrant
crisis, shows Washington Office on Latin America
(WOLA) in this graph using CBP's own data:



Fact: Trend data graphed by Pew Research drawn
from DHS' Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) about
the so-called wave of asylum seekers Trump has
called animals in his eliminationist rants
reveals a wave of family units migrating from
Central America, not Mexico:

Family units account for a majority of apprehensions at southwest border through first half of fiscal 2019

% of apprehensions at southwest border through first six months of fiscal year, by type



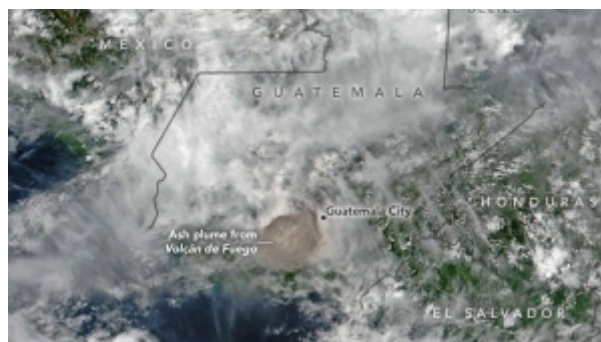
Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

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Fact: Instead of performing a root cause analysis to determine why families and unaccompanied minors are so desperate to enter the U.S. to seek asylum, Trump wants to cut funding to Central American countries, which will exacerbate the underlying problems internal to the affected countries.

Fact: The largest number of families and children reaching the border came from Guatemala, fleeing crime and drought.

Fact: Guatemala's volatility may have been exacerbated by multiple volcanic eruptions in 2018, affecting at least two million Guatemalans. The plume from a June eruption was visible from space:



Fact: Many Hondurans fleeing to the U.S. are also fleeing crime and violence; women in particular are fleeing because femicide has been a growing epidemic during the last six years, 95% of which has gone unpunished.

Fact: The U.S. ratified the U.N. protocol to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees in 1968. This expressed the country's intent to acknowledge and recognize the rights of asylum seekers. The U.S. has not retracted its ratification.

Fact: Asylum seekers can request asylum under Title 8 U.S. Code § 1158, on either side of the border:

(a) Authority to apply for asylum

(1) In general

Any alien who is physically present in the United States or who arrives in the United States (whether or not at a designated port of arrival and including an alien who is brought to the United States after having been interdicted in international or United States waters), irrespective of such alien's status, may apply for asylum in accordance with this section or, where applicable, section 1225(b) of this title.

Fact: Trump said "the system is full, can't take you any more," which is in opposition to U.S. law on asylum.

Fact: Until it became legal problem for the Trump organization, Trump's golf courses hired undocumented workers from Central America, some of them for years. This illegal hiring practice, out of compliance with decades-long rules about screening hires, didn't become an issue until Trump wanted to use DACA and Temporary Protected Status as a bargaining chit to obtain funding for his "fucken wall" during the government shutdown.

Fact: El Paso, Texas, isn't in a state of crisis; its mayor attests to this, and asked Trump to stop lying about it. But Trump wanted to shut down the border at El Paso altogether because of his lie that the border is in crisis.

Fact: When told that closing the border as he requested would cause serious damage to the U.S.

economy by throttling free trade, Trump said, “I don’t care.”

Fact: Trump has insisted that families be separated at the border because he believes it will discourage them from seeking asylum in the U.S.

Fact: Trump, “ranting and raving” at White House and DHS staff, stressed the “border is my issue” while issuing unlawful orders to separate families at the border. He isn’t following through on carefully considered policy but on a campaign issue – one from 2016, and now one for the 2020 race.

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The bottom line: Trump both as president and as a business owner has violated federal law.

He has done so, deliberately employing cruelty and at cost of human lives, in order to fulfill a campaign promise in 2016, as a campaign theme in 2018 to assist the GOP in mid-terms, and as a campaign stunt for re-election in 2020. As he said, the “border is my issue.”

He has issued unlawful orders as part of his ongoing campaigning under influence of former adviser anarchist Steve Bannon and white nationalist Stephen Miller, a current White House adviser.

The Republican Party aids and abets this – endorses this – as political practice as long as it fails to check the de facto leader of their party. Cruelty and indifference to non-white, non-English-speaking people including infants and families is now their brand along with disregard for treaties and laws.

In doing so, the Republican Party destroys any pretensions to legitimacy if it supports systematic unlawful behavior.

We need to ask if it is now fact that there is no Republican Party.