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Introduction: Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies Immigration Project

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The Indiana Journal Of Global Legal Studies Immigration Project

I. INTRODUCTION

The *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies* is pleased to announce the publication of the first annual Immigration Project. Every Fall, the *Journal* will publish a series of papers documenting important developments and trends in international immigration law. Most of the papers in the Immigration Project are only intended to create a point of reference for further research and scholarship. Each Immigration Project, however, will also provide an in-depth analysis for one or two topics which we believe merit special consideration.¹

II. IN THIS ISSUE

In this issue, *Immigration and the Crisis in Federalism* examines how immigration issues in both the United States and Canada present unique challenges for their federalist systems. Drawing on the Canadian experience of consultation between the provinces and the federal government in Ottawa on immigration issues, the author advocates establishing a similar system of consultation in the United States between the federal government and the states most affected by immigration. Such a system could alleviate some of the stress that immigration exacts on federalism in the United States.

Three papers examine the emerging developments in immigration law in countries in the midst of difficult transitions. Compelled by the collapse of the Soviet Union to develop its own independent immigration laws, Russia has recently adopted significant legislation addressing illegal immigration, forced migration, and refugees. *Immigration Law in the Russian Federation* examines these new developments. South Africa has also been confronted with new immigration challenges prompted by the demise of apartheid and the election of Nelson Mandela's coalition government. *The Challenge of Immigration Policy in the New South Africa* examines South Africa's response to these challenges and the implications for the broader issue of regional integration in Southern Africa. *International Reaction to Hong Kong's*

1. Since the Immigration Project is a new addition to the *Journal*, we encourage readers to share their comments and criticism regarding the Immigration Project with us. Send your comments to "immprjct@indiana.edu".

Countdown to 1997 addresses the wave of emigration from Hong Kong by residents fearing the looming Chinese takeover of Hong Kong in 1997. The article also examines the response of various immigrant-receiving countries that have tailored their immigration laws to attract these often highly-skilled immigrants from Hong Kong.

The New Slave Trade examines the worldwide crisis in immigrant smuggling. Since restrictive immigration policies in the West often exacerbate smuggling problems, the need for a strong response from the international community is also addressed. The current trend towards tighter restrictions on immigration in the West also illustrates the growing importance of immigration as a political issue. *The Politics of Western Immigration* examines immigration as a powerful political issue in the context of this trend. The article focuses especially on the role that political rhetoric, critical of immigration and immigrants, is playing in recent elections in the West.