



Trump's Anti-Latino Racism is a Major Liability for Democracy

Efrén Pérez, University of California-Los Angeles

Donald Trump's second administration has fully clarified Latinos' racial position in America: our ethnic group's labor, culture, and aspirations are too much for his supporters to stomach. The Latino presence in America triggers too many uneasy questions (are they *White?*), too many doubts (are they *really* American?), and too much resentment (why are they doing better than *me?*).

Trump's targeted **deportations of undocumented Latinos**, unwarranted **arrests of Latino citizens**, and heightened **ICE presence in Latino neighborhoods** address these worries by lumping Latinos with Black people. Simply put, we have become yet another visible population that America socially stigmatizes, economically exploits, and politically terrorizes because **aggrieved White adults want to preserve their rank as our nation's premier racial group**. The cumulative impacts are serious: just yesterday, an international panel of investigators on human rights and racism, backed by the U.N., found that such actions have resulted in "**grave human rights violations**."