

Proposition 187: The Nativist Campaign, the Impact on the Latino Community, and the Future

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ABSTRACT

This research report focuses on the impact Proposition 187 would have on Latinos in California. Johnson examines Proposition 187 through three facets, those being: (1) racialized component of the campaign, (2) the impact it was supposed to have on immigrant communities, and (3) the legal challenges to Proposition 187. He argues that the political implications of Prop. 187 soon became ignored by political institutions and evolved into a debate of illegal immigration. Specifically, he claims that Prop. 187 became a debate about illegal immigration due to the historical past of CA with regards to illegal immigration. From his analysis he states that if Prop. 187 had been passed CA would have lost money and immigrant groups (Latinos and Asians) would have been gravely affected. Once Prop. 187 passed in CA, soon came the litigation from several organizations on the grounds of its racial undertones. Hall concludes that the campaign in support of Prop. 187 had an anti-immigration, anti-Latino and anti-Mexican message and if passed would have a negative impact on the Latino community.