

IMMIGRATION AND SURVEILLANCE

=> *When governments use technology to control migration, who controls the government?*

A voir/lire au sujet l'immigration et de la surveillance:

The Circle — Dave Eggers (novel, 2013) *A young woman joins the world's most powerful tech company and slowly loses all privacy. The company's motto — "Secrets are lies. Sharing is caring. Privacy is theft" — is a perfect discussion trigger. Key themes : data collection, corporate power, consent, digital identity.*

No Friend but the Mountains — Behrouz Boochani (memoir, 2018) *Available on Amazon / short extracts free on The Guardian website (search "Boochani extract") Written entirely by WhatsApp from Manus Island detention centre, Australia. Winner of the Victorian Prize for Literature 2019. Key themes : offshore detention, dehumanisation, surveillance inside camps, resistance through writing.*

Living Undocumented — Netflix documentary series (2019) *Netflix / 6 episodes ~45 min search the trailer on YouTube for a free preview Follows 8 undocumented families in the US during the Trump administration. Produced by Selena Gomez. Key themes : ICE raids, deportation, family separation, daily life under surveillance.*

iHuman — Arte documentary (2019) *Free on YouTube — search "iHuman documentary English" / 1h30 Covers Palantir, facial recognition and the global data economy. One of the rare documentaries that names Palantir explicitly. Key themes : AI ethics, state surveillance, private companies and power, loss of anonymity.*

Citizenfour — Laura Poitras (documentary, 2014) *Free on YouTube — search "Citizenfour full documentary" / Oscar for Best Documentary 2015 Real-time footage of Edward Snowden revealing NSA mass surveillance. Key themes : whistleblowing, state surveillance, privacy rights, the cost of speaking out.*

Years and Years — BBC series (2019) *near-future British drama Imagines the UK in 2024-2034 : detention camps for migrants, facial recognition everywhere, a far-right politician rising to power. Key themes : normalisation of surveillance, UK immigration policy, technology and authoritarianism.*



People participate in a protest in solidarity with Minneapolis and against US President Donald Trump and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in New York City on January 23, 2026. (Photo by Deccio Serrano/NurPhoto via AP)

PART I - From individuals....

DOCUMENT A - Who's watching who?



ICE SURVEILLANCE BY THE NUMBERS

- GEOLOCATION
- FACIAL RECOGNITION
- DNA TESTING
- EYESCANS
- LICENSE PLATE CAMS

BY THE NUMBERS

NEWS NATION TRACKING ICE'S NEW SURVEILLANCE STATE



★ **What You Need To Know**

41 Million

There are 41 million immigrants in the United States.

83%

In 2013, 83 percent of people deported from the United States were not given a hearing before a judge.

\$1.84 Billion

The United States spends \$1.84 billion detaining immigrants.

ACLU website February 2026

- 1) Brainstorming: have a look at the pictures and write words related to the topic.

2) Watch the video and take notes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ui3k0DpZS4s&t=129s>

3) Is facial recognition a boon or a bane? (write 150 words)

Tool box

A boon = Une aubaine / un bienfait

A bane = un fléau

Intrusive = intrusif

Data breach = fuite de données

To profile = établir un profil / cibler

Consent = consentement

To track/to monitor = surveiller

Privacy = Vie privée

Chilling effect = effet dissuasif

Dragnet surveillance = surveillance de masse

To misidentify = Identifier à tort

Civil liberties = liberté civiles

To safeguard = protéger

Racial profiling = profilage racial

Algorithmic bias = biais algorithmique

Efficiency = efficacité

To streamline = simplifier / fluidifier

To enhance = améliorer

To deter = dissuader

Breakthrough = avancée majeure

Crime prevention = prévention de la
criminalité

Public safety = sécurité publique

DOCUMENT B : ATD, Smartlink or digital detention?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ySF1bZmQSAY>

Ssemanda felt free, for a moment.

It was August 2020, and the young political asylum seeker from Uganda was about to walk out of the Imperial Regional Detention Facility in California, just north of the U.S.-Mexico border. Ssemanda eagerly took a shower and changed into a fresh set of clothes. He felt “joy and happiness” – a sensation that he was, at long last, “finally moving out.”

But then he saw the device: a black GPS-enabled electronic ankle monitor. Before Ssemanda was released, an employee at the detention center fastened the electronic bracelet around his leg, handed him a charger, and barked a few instructions at him about the device, a common tool used by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to monitor migrants awaiting their immigration hearings. “If anything goes wrong, you’re coming back to the detention center,” Ssemanda recalled him saying. With the bulky monitor newly wrapped around his ankle, Ssemanda felt his mood lurch back to distress.

“That is where my happiness stopped. That is the moment I regretted. I didn’t get that happiness of someone being free.”

The monitor gave Ssemanda his first scare a few days later when he flew to his new home on the East Coast. A few hours into the flight, his bracelet began beeping loudly, indicating that it was low on batteries. But Ssemanda had placed the charger in a checked bag. Mortified, he ran to the plane’s bathroom and hid there every time the device blared. “I was so uncomfortable, I didn’t want to attract people’s attention,” he recalled. When the plane landed, he couldn’t shake the worry that he had done something wrong, and immigration agents were on their way to scoop him up and put him back in detention.

“You feel like at any time, someone can come and grab you,” he told me. “You feel you cannot move freely. Like you are carrying a burden you can’t expose. I felt like I was a prisoner, inside another prison.”

Across the U.S., a surveillance system tracking the movements of tens of thousands of people seeking refuge or permanent residency in the U.S. is quietly but quickly expanding. The ankle monitor attached to Ssemanda’s leg is one piece of a program run by federal immigration officials known as “Alternatives to Detention,” (ATD) which places people in deportation proceedings and awaiting court hearings under electronic surveillance while their cases are pending.

Authorities monitor ATD enrollees through three primary methods: the GPS ankle device; a telephonic reporting system that facilitates participant check-ins using voice-recognition

technology; and an increasingly common mobile check-in app that uses facial recognition software. Although the program launched in 2004, the number of migrants placed under ATD has skyrocketed under the Biden administration. When President Joe Biden took office in January 2021, less than 90,000 people were in the program. Now, more than a quarter million people, including asylum seekers like Ssemanda, are enrolled in the digital surveillance system. This is due almost exclusively to the adoption of the mobile facial recognition app, SmartLINK. Just a year ago, one-third of all immigrants under digital surveillance were on the app; now, it accounts for 75% of enrollees. It's unclear how many of these people are asylum seekers. What we do know is that anyone on ATD — asylum seeker or not — can expect to spend more than a year under the government's digital eye. The average person is enrolled in the program for 421 days. This trend shows no sign of slowing down. The Biden administration has requested \$527 million in funding for ATD in the 2023 fiscal year, an \$87 million — or 20% — increase from its 2022 budget. The company overseeing the program in partnership with ICE has the ability to monitor up to 400,000 people in its current contract, according to Axios.

ICE spokespeople and officials at the Department of Homeland Security espouse the technology-driven approach to immigration enforcement as a kinder, gentler alternative to physical detention. But for people like Ssemanda, there was nothing humane or gentle about the ankle monitor. It merely shifted the boundaries of incarceration from cell to self.

“You feel you're in prison again,” he said, likening the bracelet to an electronic cage that hovered overhead as he tried to carve out a new life in the U.S. It was an unwieldy symbol of his tenuous place in America, a subtle threat.

The monitor also brought up the sensation of being tracked in the country he fled, Uganda, where he was kidnapped, beaten, and tortured for his advocacy against the government, mobilizing youth in support of democracy efforts. “I left my country because of certain kinds of problems I had, and then when I came here, I couldn't believe that I'm the one having that bracelet. That I was facing this kind of situation in the U.S.”

- 1) Pick out information about Ssemanda.
- 2) Pick out the names of the technology used. Describe them briefly.
- 3) According to the DHS what is the reason for these technologies?
- 4) Pick out the words used by Ssemanda to talk about his experience. Recap.
- 5) Compare Ssemanda's statement “I left my country because of certain kinds of problems I had, and then when I came here, I couldn't believe that I'm the one having that

bracelet. That I was facing this kind of situation in the U.S.” to this extract from the poem by Emma Lazarus which is inscribed on the plaque in the Statue of Liberty :

The New Colossus
By Emma Lazarus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”



- 6) From 'give me your tired, your poor' to SmartLINK : what happened to the American Dream?

Tool box

To welcome = accueillir	Illusory = illusoire
The pursuit of happiness = la quête du bonheur	(Once) Cherished = (autrefois) précieux
To flee oppression = fuir l'oppression	A broken promise = une promesse brisée
To seek asylum = demander l'asile	Enshrined = consacré/inscrit
Disillusionment = désillusion	Ingrained = profondément ancré
To strip of rights = priver de droits	Disenchantment = Désenchantement
Deportation = expulsion	Hardship = épreuve / difficulté
To comply with = se conformer à	Fraught with = chargé de / semé de
Digital leash = laisse numérique	
To restrict movement = restreindre les déplacements	
To argue that = soutenir que / affirmer que	
To embody = incarner	To be at odds with = être en contradiction avec
To stand for = représenter, défendre	Far from fulfilling its promise..... =
To call into question = remettre en question	Loin de tenir sa promesse...
To betray = trahir	
A gap between ideal and reality = un écart entre l'idéal et la réalité	

🐱 Curiosity didn't kill the cat - The American Dream

The American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of their origins, can achieve success and prosperity through hard work. This ideal, rooted in the Declaration of Independence's promise of *"life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"*, drew millions of immigrants to the United States in search of a better life. The Statue of Liberty, bearing Emma Lazarus's words *"Give me your tired, your poor"*, became its most powerful symbol. Yet for many, this promise has remained out of reach.

DOCUMENT C - PCC suggests tagging asylum seekers - BBC January 29, 2025

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c70r05vl219o>

A police and crime commissioner (PCC) has urged the government to look into making asylum seekers wear electronic tags.

Sussex's Katy Bourne, who suggested that any initiative should start with males, said tags would give asylum seekers "greater freedom" to travel further from holding centres and to help them get temporary jobs.

The call comes **amid** concerns about government plans to temporarily **house** 540 asylum seekers at Crowborough army training camp, with a decision being made in 2026.

The Home Office said the Immigration Act 2016 required electronic monitoring to be applied to people facing deportation, but without that circumstance it would **breach** human rights or be impractical.

A spokesperson added that electronic monitoring could also be used for **non-foreign** national offenders, where it was justified.

"This government will close every asylum hotel, and we are working to move asylum seekers into more suitable **accommodation** such as military bases, to ease pressure on communities across the country," the Home Office said.

The government added that all asylum **claimants** were subject to mandatory security checks to confirm their identity and to link it to their biometric details for the purpose of immigration, security and criminality checks.

Bourne said: "With thousands of people awaiting asylum processing, the potential for them to become involved in crime - as a perpetrator or victim - is inevitable, meaning police will be looking for people with very little official ID or existing digital footprint in the UK."

Earlier in 2025, Sussex Police launched an electronic tagging pilot for persistent **shoplifters** and Bourne said the results were "promising".

"The police monitoring the tags can tell exactly where the offenders are and, so far, the shoplifters are changing their behaviours," the PCC added.

Bourne said if people refused to wear a tag "it would be an indication that they are intending to **abscond** or are involved in unlawful activity".

The Conservative PCC added: "I have a New Year's resolution for the Home Secretary - why not be bold and pilot tagging of the men due to arrive soon at Crowborough?"

"You might end up being thanked by taxpayers, the police and the migrants themselves."

Migrant charity Ramfel says tagging people seeking asylum when they are not accused of a crime is "cruel, punitive and will simply **funnel** yet more public money into the hands of private companies".

"If the government is serious about saving public funds and reducing crime, they should **grant** people seeking asylum the right to work whilst their claims are being processed," they added.

"This would allow them to enter the formal labour market, support themselves and in turn reduce the need to house people in hotels, army barracks and other **makeshift** facilities."

The Home Office said public safety remained its first priority.

- 1) Find the words in the text corresponding to the definitions:
 - a. acting as an interim and temporary measure
 - b. agree to give or allow (something requested) to
 - c. to not obey a law or to not do what was promised or agreed
 - d. a person who asks for something that they believe belongs to them or that they have a right to
 - e. a person who takes goods illegally from a shop without paying for them
 - f. to go away suddenly and secretly in order to escape from somewhere
 - g. a room, group of rooms, or building in which someone may live or stay
 - h. provide with shelter or accommodation
 - i. native
 - j. to send something directly and intentionally
 - k. in the middle of

- 2) Pick out information about Katy Bourne.
- 3) Pick out information about Ramfel.
- 4) How do their opinions conflict?
- 5) Sum up the situation in a few words.
- 6) How does this document relate to document B?
- 7) Comment on this sentence: "You might end up being thanked by taxpayers, the police and the migrants themselves."

Language:

- 1) Observez les mots soulignés dans le texte. Qu'ont-ils en commun ?
- 2) Ont-ils la même fonction dans la phrase ?

 La forme en **-ing** en anglais peut jouer plusieurs rôles dans une phrase.

Pour identifier sa fonction, il suffit de se poser une question simple : quel travail fait ce mot dans la phrase ?

- S'il est accompagné d'un auxiliaire comme *is* ou *was*, il fait partie d'un temps continu. C'est un **verbe**.
- S'il fonctionne comme un nom, on peut le remplacer par "something" ou "it". C'est un **gérondif** (gerund in English). Et s'il apparaît après une préposition, c'est obligatoirement un gérondif.
- S'il décrit un nom, et qu'on peut le remplacer par "big" par exemple, c'est un **adjectif**.

3) Faites le test avec les mots en -ING soulignés dans le texte et placez-les dans le tableau:

Verbe	Gérondif	Adjectif

**DOCUMENT D - Is the government meeting its pledges on illegal immigration and asylum?
- BBC February 27, 2026**

The prime minister has made tackling illegal immigration and "restoring order" to the asylum system a priority for the government.

Sir Keir Starmer has promised to "smash the gangs". It follows predecessor Rishi Sunak's pledge to "stop the boats".

BBC Verify looks at key government pledges - including tackling small-boat crossings, ending the use of asylum hotels and returning more people with no right to be in the country.

Labour promised to "end asylum hotels, saving the taxpayer billions of pounds" in its general election manifesto.

The government wants to fulfil this pledge by 2029.

However, recent figures show there were slightly more asylum seekers staying in hotels in December 2025 compared with just before the last general election.

At the end of December 2025, there were 30,657 people in hotels.

The government does not regularly publish figures on the number of actual hotels in use, but government sources have suggested there are "fewer than 200" asylum hotels. This was down from a peak of more than 400 in the summer of 2023.

The asylum process determines whether a person can remain in the UK because they have a "well-founded fear of persecution" in their home country.

Once someone applies for asylum, they gain legal protections while awaiting a decision - including accommodation if they cannot support themselves financially.

Almost everyone who arrives by small boat claims asylum - they made up 41% of all asylum applications in 2025. Another large group of claimants were people already in the UK who previously entered legally on a student, work or visitor's visa.

Since 2020, the government has been increasingly reliant on hotels, partly because the supply of other types of asylum accommodation has not kept up with the numbers arriving in small boats.

But using asylum hotels is expensive - costing £5.7m per day in 2024-25. The government has started to save money by adding beds to rooms in hotels to maximise the number of people in each site.

'Smash the gangs'

As of 25 February, 2,209 people had arrived in the UK in small boats in 2026 - up by about 7% compared with the same period in 2025.

To reduce the number of crossings, the government has pledged to disrupt the people-smuggling gangs behind them.

But it is unclear how the government plans to measure its progress, or when this goal will be met.

The Home Office has begun publishing data on how often agencies such as Border Force and the National Crime Agency take action against gangs involved in organised immigration crime. Each intervention is recorded as a "disruption".

According to the latest figures, there were 3,625 disruptions in 2025.

This was a 37% increase on the previous year. The actions recorded range from major disruptions, such as imprisoning key members of people-smuggling gangs, to measures like seizing criminal assets.

There is also some information on efforts to prevent small boat crossings by French authorities - who, under a 2023 deal, are receiving £476m from the UK over three years.

They say about 21,677 people were prevented from crossing between 17 February 2025 and 15 February 2026. We do not know what happened to them or whether they tried to cross again.

There have been high-profile cases of UK-based smugglers being sentenced, including a man who helped smuggle more than 3,000 people.

In July, the UK and France agreed to a "one in, one out" pilot. Under the scheme, for each migrant the UK returns to France, another migrant with a strong case for asylum in Britain will come the other way.

As of 4 February, 305 people have been returned through this arrangement.

The vast majority of UK immigration, however, is legal - this includes people who have been granted permission to come to work, study, claim asylum or for other authorised purposes.

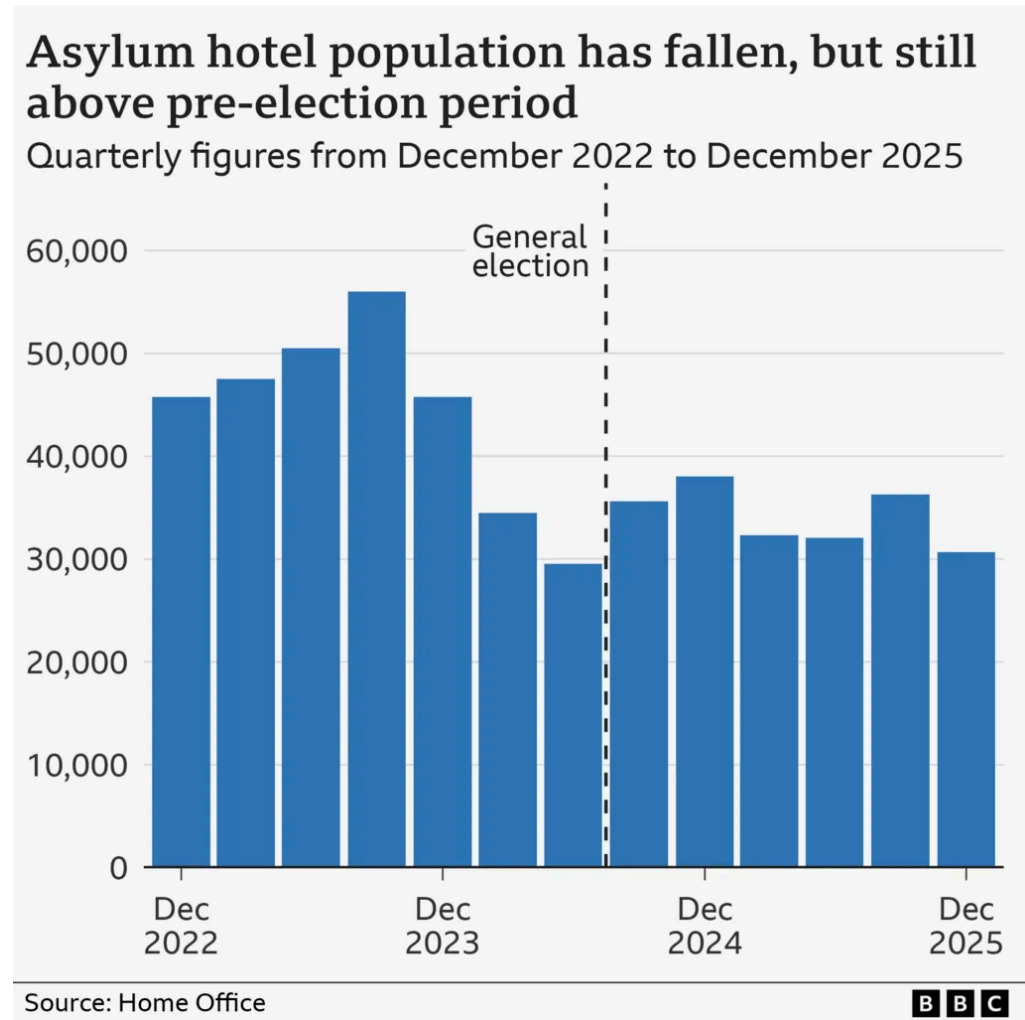
The government has also promised to "increase returns" of people with no legal right to be in the UK. It said it would set up a new returns and enforcement unit with 1,000 extra staff.

There were 37,918 returns recorded by the Home Office in 2025. This is up 9% compared with the same period 12 months ago.

So the government is meeting this pledge so far, but it is worth noting that just under 10,000 people were forcibly removed - which could involve being escorted on a plane by an immigration official.

The figures also show 11,631 former asylum seekers were returned in this period, 70% of them voluntarily.

The majority of people who were returned from the UK left voluntarily, and many did so independently without government assistance or even its knowledge at the time, as BBC Verify has previously pointed out.



DOCUMENT E - Why do Channel migrants want to come to the UK?

BBC - June 2025

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron have agreed that "new and innovative solutions" are needed to tackle small boat crossings.

The UK is paying France hundreds of millions of pounds to stop the boats leaving the French coast but, so far this year, the numbers of migrants arriving in the UK this way - most of whom go on to claim asylum - have reached record levels.

France has claimed that one factor attracting them is the ability to "work without papers" in the UK economy.

BBC Verify looks at the evidence for this and other "pull factors" cited as reasons for asylum seekers to choose the UK as a destination.

The French government has argued that asylum seekers come to the UK because they believe they will be able to work in its informal economy - where tax is not paid and people are employed without legal status and proper documentation.

By its nature the UK's informal economy provides potential opportunities for asylum seekers - and other irregular migrants - to work illegally - and the UK government has accepted the need for more enforcement in this area.

Home Secretary Yvette Cooper described this as a potential "pull factor" earlier this week. The Home Office has increased the number of visits to employers suspected of hiring unauthorised workers.

There were 10,031 visits and 7,130 arrests in the year since the July election, compared with 6,797 visits and 4,734 arrests in the same period last year.

The volume and value of fines issued has also increased.

There is no data on the type of businesses targeted but recent Home Office press releases have mentioned restaurants, nail bars and construction sites.

Former Prime Minister Tony Blair - and a number of Labour MPs - have called for the introduction of UK-wide digital identification to help the government tackle "illegal 'off-the-books' employment".

Digital ID, which exists in many EU countries, could be used as a tool to check an individual's right to work and to clamp down on illegal working.

But given some of these countries also appear to have sizeable informal economies, it is unclear about how much impact digital IDs have in this area.

Madeleine Sumption from Oxford University's Migration Observatory think tank said: "I'm a bit sceptical of the narrative you often hear from French politicians about the UK being a soft touch on right-to-work issues because we have broadly the same set of policies as they do and some of the same challenges on unauthorised workers."

She added that research suggests that the ability of asylum seekers to speak English over other European languages and existing family links with the UK are significant pull factors.

Another factor cited is the "general impression that the UK is a good place to live" - a message promoted by people smugglers trying to sell Channel crossings.

The majority of asylum seekers cannot access welfare benefits in the UK, but they do gain legal protections while awaiting a decision - including accommodation if they cannot support themselves financially.

Asylum seekers are generally entitled to free access to the NHS and can get some free childcare.

Children of asylum seekers are also entitled to state education and in some circumstances can qualify for free school meals.

This is in contrast to many of the migrants in Calais - hoping to cross into the UK - who have not applied for asylum in France and are not entitled to state support there, but do get limited help from charities.

Research suggests that benefits are not a significant pull factor for asylum seekers.

A 2021 paper by Aalborg University in Denmark, found that other factors, such as which countries are most likely to recognise refugee status as well as the ability to reunite with family are more influential.

Another paper, written by University of Essex professor Timothy Hatton in 2020, said border controls and processing policies have significant deterrent effects while welfare policies do not.

When it comes to the overall numbers of asylum seekers, researchers also stress the importance of "push factors", such as conflict and repression in their home countries.

Some relevant context is that asylum applications have risen sharply in recent years not just in the UK, but across Europe.

1) Translate into French the passages in boldface from documents D and E.

2) According to documents D and E, what are the issues related to immigration in the UK?

Curiosity didn't kill the cat - Skilled Worker Visa

The UK Skilled Worker visa lets people from outside the UK come to work for a UK-based employer. To apply, you need a confirmed job offer from an approved employer, and the role must meet a minimum salary and skill level. It covers a wide range of industries, and after five years, you may be able to apply for permanent residency.

One point of controversy is the minimum salary threshold — critics argue that setting it at £38,700 effectively shuts out many vital but lower-paid workers, such as care workers and hospitality staff, making it harder for key industries to fill essential roles.

DOCUMENT F - Immigration and the US

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/515279426250434>

1) Watch the video and take notes.

Curiosity didn't kill the cat - ICE

ICE was created in 2003 as part of a major government reorganization following the September 11 attacks. It was established under the newly formed Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which merged several existing agencies with the goal of better coordinating the country's security and immigration enforcement. Before ICE existed, these responsibilities were split between different bodies, so the idea was to bring immigration enforcement, customs, and border investigations under one roof. It has the power to detain and deport undocumented immigrants, and carries out operations to identify and remove people who are in the US illegally. One major controversy surrounds its use of large-scale raids and deportations, with critics arguing that its tactics can be heavy-handed and tear apart families and communities, while supporters maintain that strict enforcement is necessary to uphold the rule of law.

DOCUMENT G - Palantir, a case study?

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/cc0ccEP6m2w>

Food for thought:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/lsSzwqXGL9Q>

<https://theconversation.com/tech-giant-palantir-helps-the-us-government-monitor-its-citizens-its-ceo-wants-silicon-valley-to-find-its-moral-compass-260824>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kX9LEFVr9GY>

<https://containermagazine.co.uk/the-promise-of-salvation-from-smart-borders/>

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-tech-powers-immigration-enforcement/>

<https://www.aclum.org/publications/ai-powered-surveillance-is-turning-the-united-states-into-a-digital-police-state-now-is-the-time-to-stop-it/>

<https://www.npr.org/2025/05/05/nx-s1-5387514/palantir-workers-letter-trump>

Essays:

- a. Is it legitimate to say that the United States is now an oligarchy?
- b. To what extent does the system of checks and balances (poids et contre-poids) still protect democracy in the United States today?
- c. In your opinion, how is the collaboration between tech companies and governments on surveillance impacting civil liberties and personal privacy?
- d. Do you agree that we are living in a surveillance society?
- e. To what extent do the UK and US share the same political values?
- f. To what extent do the UK and US have different approaches to immigration control?
- g. To what extent is war ever justified?
- h. To what extent are individuals responsible for solving the climate crisis?
- i. To what extent is Donald Trump's return to power a threat to democracy?
- j. To what extent is the cost of living crisis making the UK an unequal society?
- k. To what extent has Brexit been a failure for the UK?
- l. To what extent is social media responsible for the rise of political extremism?
- m. Is the NHS worth saving?

- n. Should the UK introduce the death penalty?
- o. Should university education be free?
- p. Should the voting age be lowered to 16?
- q. Are women truly equal in modern Britain?
- r. Is feminism still necessary in the 21st century?

Versions type ECRICOME (200-220 mots)

Version 1 - **Iran Has Friends, but Where Are They Now?**

Despite long being treated as a pariah by the West and isolated by U.S. sanctions, Iran's revolutionary Islamic government maintained diplomatic, commercial and military ties with a range of countries.

Turkey and India engaged with it on trade and security. China looked to it for cheap oil. North Korea, Venezuela and Russia considered it an ally in their struggle against the West and conspired with it to develop military technology and subvert sanctions.

Now that Iran finds itself under attack by the United States and Israel, those friends, neighbors and partners have little more than words to offer the Islamic Republic. They, in turn, could become targets. Turkey on Wednesday said NATO shot down a ballistic missile fired from Iran that was headed for Turkish airspace. On Thursday, Iran denied it had targeted Turkey.

Without true allies, it is a lonely war for Iran.

That is a product, experts say, of Iran's foreign policy, which has shied away from commitments to other countries while investing in militias that share its religiously-fueled hatred of the United States and Israel. Those militias can't help Iran now. The most formidable of them, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, have been ground down by wars with Israel.

The New York Times, March 5, 2026

Version 2 - **'Our consciousness is under siege': Michael Pollan on chatbots, social media and mental freedom**

Each day when you wake up, you come back to yourself. You see the room around you, feel your body brush against your clothes and think about your plans, worries and hopes for the day. This daily internal experience is miraculous and mysterious, and the subject of Michael Pollan's new book, *A World Appears*.

It also may be under siege, Pollan said. He recently suggested that people need a “consciousness hygiene” to defend our internal world against invaders that are trying to move in. Our ability to sit with our thoughts and perceive the world, he argues, is increasingly disrupted by algorithms engineered to tickle our dopamine receptors and capture our attention. Meanwhile, people are forming attachments to non-human chatbots, projecting consciousness on to entities that do not possess it.

I spoke with Pollan over the phone about what consciousness hygiene looks like in practice. Our conversation has been edited for length and clarity.

“You have said that consciousness is a “precious realm” and that we should adopt a ‘consciousness hygiene’. That idea is intriguing – can you first tell me what we’re developing a hygiene around?”

“In this case, I’m referring specifically to human consciousness – this private space of interiority where we enjoy a very high degree of mental freedom.”

The Guardian, March 5, 2025

Version 3 - **Tracking Air Pollution by Neighborhood in New York City**

In New York City, air pollution is unevenly distributed among the city’s neighborhoods, often in surprising ways, according to data from the New York City Department of Health, which tracks several air pollutants across time and geography.

The city’s air is a diffuse soup of suspended particles, the byproducts of everyday activities like cooking food, driving cars and buses, and the construction and heating of buildings. Tire and road wear contribute too, so electric vehicles are not off the hook.

The most common measure of air pollution is fine particulate matter (PM2.5), the concentration of particles smaller than 2.5 micrometers, small enough to be easily inhaled and make their way into the human body.

High levels of PM2.5 and its smoggy sibling, ozone – formed when emissions interact with sunlight – are linked to many deleterious health outcomes, according to the department. “Exposure to particulate matter has been linked to breathing problems, reduced lung function, heart disease and premature death,” the department states, while ozone “causes irritation and inflammation of the lungs and worsening of asthma.”

Social and economic interaction are also constrained by high levels of air pollution when sensitive people stay indoors to avoid it.

Given New York’s density and the migratory nature of pollution, there isn’t a neat relationship between wealthy neighborhoods, cleaner air and health.

The New York Times, January 22, 2025

Version 4 - **EU agree to chop meaty names from vegetarian and vegan food products**

EU lawmakers have agreed to ban meaty names such as steak and bacon for vegetarian and vegan foods, but “veggie burgers” and meat-free sausages will remain on the table.

Negotiators from the European parliament and EU council of ministers found a recipe for compromise on rules for food names on Thursday, although critics said they were creating needless complexity.

The lawmakers agreed to ban the use of 31 meat-related names to describe vegetarian and vegan products, including beef, chicken, drumstick, steak, bacon, ribs, wing, t-bone and loin, according to a statement published on the EU council website. But an earlier proposal to prohibit names such as burgers and sausages was abandoned.

The naming rules are part of a broader regulation aimed at strengthening the position of farmers in food supply markets. The agreement has to clear further procedural hurdles, which are usually formalities, although leave open the possibility of last-minute haggles.

Céline Imart, the French centre-right MEP, who devised the amendment to ban meaty names, hailed the outcome as “an undeniable success of our livestock farmers”. Imart, also a cereal farmer, said the agreement reached on Thursday “recognises the value of livestock farmers’ work and protects their products, fruits of unique know-how, against a form of unfair competition”.

The Guardian, March 5, 2026

Version 5 - **Nike, Accused of Bias Against White Workers, Is Under Federal Investigation**

The federal agency that safeguards hiring practices said on Wednesday that it was investigating Nike, the sportswear giant, for diversity efforts that it said amounted to discrimination against white workers.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, born of the Civil Rights Act, said it was investigating “systemic allegations of D.E.I.-related intentional race discrimination” against white employees and job applicants at Nike.

It appears to be the first time that the commission has said diversity, equity and inclusion practices in workplaces can amount to discrimination against white people, and Nike is a high-profile target. The company has sponsorship partnerships with world-famous athletes including LeBron James and Caitlin Clark. It also drew criticism from President Trump during his first term for running advertisements featuring Colin Kaepernick, the football star who knelt during the national anthem to protest racism and police brutality.

Mr. Trump won re-election in 2024 in part by harnessing backlash to such practices, and in office he has given voice to claims of “reverse racism” against white people. The investigation is the most significant legal action that the commission has announced under Andrea Lucas, its chair, who has made diversity, equity and inclusion programs a target since taking the role last year. In a recent interview, she said: “It’s clear that I have priorities to deal with race and sex discrimination coming out of D.E.I.”

The New York Times, February 4, 2026

Thèmes type ECRICOME (160-180 mots)

Thème 1

Une nuit, quelqu'un, un homme, bien sûr un homme, un homme lui avait dit que si elle continuait à boire autant, à se perdre dans la fête et dans l'alcool et dans la cigarette, que si elle continuait à tourbillonner pour oublier le malheur de l'âme coincée, elle finirait comme ce mur. Il avait pointé le mur tout gris, un mur de béton brut, un mur laid et banal, et il avait dit qu'elle finirait comme ce mur. « Tu finiras comme ce mur. » Il n'avait rien dit d'autre. Non, il avait dit qu'elle finirait comme ce mur. Et elle, elle avait regardé le mur gris et laid et brut de béton et s'était dit qu'une fois de plus, un homme, bien sûr un homme, l'avait définie. Elle serait donc un mur.

Il n'avait pas tort. La destruction de l'âme menait au mur brut et laid de béton et elle n'y couperait pas, même si la destruction était mineure, même si le monde était détruit, même si la vie était violence, que sa destruction à elle, que son âme qui s'agitait dans les mollets la transformerait en mur, en bloc de béton, qu'elle serait coincée dans ce mur de béton et qu'elle pourrait toujours hurler, personne ne viendrait la chercher, ni la délivrer, ni rien. Personne ne délivrerait jamais personne.

Carole Boinet, L'Enthousiasme, janvier 2026

Thème 2

M. me disait « tu m'épuises, tu es épuisant comme ton père », une phrase que d'autres m'ont répétée depuis. Le mariage qui devait la sauver et l'exalter fut son calvaire, la pompe aspirante de sa vitalité par un époux plus fort. Il aurait dû être un abri, un soutien comme s'en portent deux personnes ayant librement décidé de s'unir. Un contrat de tendresse, d'intelligence et de sensualité. Il fut une prison où ils se torturèrent près de cinquante ans. Dès la première année, ma mère eut des crises d'épilepsie qui la jetaient par terre dans les convulsions, sous mes yeux épouvantés. Une mousse blanche sortait de ses lèvres. Après elle s'excusait auprès de nous et promettait de ne pas recommencer. Cette pathologie nouvelle, apparue après ses noces, l'accompagna jusqu'à la fin de sa vie. Mon père soutenait que ce fut la conséquence de ma naissance difficile. Elle n'allait nulle part sans sa boîte de Gardenal qui était aussi un barbiturique générateur de somnolence.

De mère inconnue, Pascal Bruckner, février 2023

Thème 3

Du bas de la rue Lamarck, Jean s'arrêta et, levant la tête, regarda avec anxiété les deux volées du redoutable escalier qui monte en pente raide jusqu'à la rue Caulaincourt.

Pour l'éviter, il lui faudrait faire un long détour. Bien qu'il soit déjà légèrement en retard, il hésita un moment parce que la rondeur qui autrefois lui avait valu le surnom de Bouboule s'était, avec l'âge, transformée en embonpoint. Geneviève, son épouse, soutenait qu'il avait trente kilos de trop ; le médecin, plus modeste, parlait de quinze. Peu importe, il s'essoufflait vite.

Qu'il choisisse de creuser son retard ou qu'il affronte résolument la montée par les marches, la décision semblait purement technique.

Jean était loin d'imaginer qu'en réalité ce choix en apparence anodin pouvait modifier le cours de son existence.

Il renonça à grimper et préféra remonter paisiblement en direction de la rue des Saules.

« On m'attendra, voilà tout », se dit-il.

Les jeux étaient faits.

Les belles promesses, Pierre Lemaitre, janvier 2026

Thème 4

Cela devait forcément arriver. Trop de gens se sentaient diminués par la simple présence de voisins qu'ils ne supportaient plus. Quelques habiles avaient surgi au bon moment, et réussi à transformer cette exaspération atmosphérique en doctrine politique.

En 2022, l'un d'eux se présenta à l'élection présidentielle française. Il monte sur scène les bras en l'air, le corps voûté mais avec la démarche énergique de l'outsider sûr de ses forces. Depuis plusieurs semaines, ses discours dégomment la hiérarchie du dicible, et à chaque provocation succèdent les sondages et les ralliements, comme si la France était enfin mûre pour écouter ce qu'il avait à dire sur « l'ensauvagement » du pays. Son allocution est retransmise sur les chaînes d'information en continu. Le thème du jour : la Justice, dont il décline sa vision en anaphore. « Vous attendez la justice ! Parce que vous n'en pouvez plus du laxisme judiciaire avec la racaille subventionnée. » Les tirades provoquent un orage d'applaudissements.

La Collision, Paul Gasnier, Aout 2025

Thème 5

Ils se croient grands les fils à Rita. Après son repas, elle va voir la chambre dérangée de Loïc et Christian. Lits superposés défaits, feuilles volantes dispersées et raturées de rouge, chaussettes ou slips qui traînent, des cadavres de sucreries, et un haltère qui a roulé. Des cahiers et des manuels scolaires ont aussi été abandonnés par terre. Rita se précipite sur la fenêtre fermée depuis au moins vingt-quatre heures, l'ouvre, et respire un bon coup.

Au milieu du désordre, son regard s'attarde sur la PlayStation 4 posée sur le meuble. Elle s'assoit en face, sur le lit du bas, celui de Christian. Où est posée une manette noire qu'elle caresse. Le plastique froid flotte dans sa paume moite. Avant cette console, il y en avait eu une autre, et avant une autre encore. Malgré sa bourse trouée, c'est l'un des sacrifices que Rita est prête à consentir. Elle se renseignait toujours sur la sortie de la prochaine console de Sony.

Les gréveuses, Romuald Gadegbeku, Octobre 2025

Thème type BCE (150 mots)

Thème 1

Pendant que Mark Zuckerberg (Meta), Tim Cook (Apple), Sam Altman (OpenAI) et même Bill Gates, le fondateur de Microsoft, se pressaient, début septembre 2025, à dîner à la Maison Blanche pour faire allégeance au président des Etats-Unis, Dario Amodei était resté chez lui, à San Francisco. A la différence de ses pairs, le fondateur d'Anthropic, qui avait traité pendant la campagne électorale Donald Trump de « seigneur de la guerre féodal » dans un post entre-temps effacé, n'a pas courbé l'échine lorsque celui-ci fut réélu.

Aujourd'hui, M. Amodei est le seul à avoir osé dire non à Donald Trump. Vendredi 27 février, le scientifique de 43 ans a refusé de donner au Pentagone le libre accès à son modèle d'intelligence artificielle (IA) Claude dans deux cas, la surveillance de masse de la population américaine et l'usage autonome d'armes létales sur le champ de bataille. Tant pis pour le contrat de 200 millions de dollars (172 millions d'euros) signé en juillet 2025 avec le Pentagone et la désignation infamante de l'entreprise comme étant un « risque pour la sécurité nationale ».

Dario Amodei, l'ambivalent patron d'Anthropic qui se dresse contre Donald Trump, Le Monde, 5 mars 2026.

Thème 2

Alors que la santé mentale a été érigée en priorité nationale pour 2025 et 2026, cette question ne peut rester cantonnée aux élèves ou aux discours. Il n'y aura pas de politique crédible de santé mentale à l'école tant que la souffrance au travail des adultes sera minimisée, fragmentée ou renvoyée à des dispositifs illisibles et inopérants.

Comment former et protéger les élèves si l'institution tolère, voire produit, des pratiques délétères dans ses propres rangs ? Les élèves observent. Les personnels transmettent, parfois malgré eux, ce qu'ils vivent. Une école qui ne protège pas ses adultes fragilise durablement sa mission éducative. Des leviers existent pourtant : objectiver les faits par des données nationales publiques, garantir des dispositifs de signalement indépendants et traçables, sécuriser les registres de santé et de sécurité au travail. Ces outils ne relèvent ni de l'idéologie ni de l'utopie, mais d'une responsabilité administrative élémentaire.

« Il n'y aura pas de politique crédible de santé mentale à l'école tant que la souffrance au travail des adultes sera minimisée », Le Monde, 13 janvier 2026

Thème 3

La promesse était considérable : changer l'Etat de l'intérieur pour l'adapter à l'ère des crises écologiques. En formant massivement ses hauts fonctionnaires et agents publics à la transition écologique d'ici à la fin de 2027, le gouvernement voulait faire de l'administration un moteur de la transition. Une réforme silencieuse mais structurelle, capable d'infuser dans l'ensemble des politiques publiques.

Le chantier est aujourd'hui à mi-parcours, et le constat apparaît plus nuancé. Des milliers de cadres ont été sensibilisés, les connaissances scientifiques ont pénétré des sphères administratives qui en étaient parfois éloignées. Mais la formation, aussi ambitieuse soit-elle, peine à se traduire en décisions concrètes, notamment en raison d'un manque de soutien politique. Le programme avait été lancé en grande pompe à l'été 2022 par la première ministre de l'époque, Elisabeth Borne. Le gouvernement, qui en avait fait l'une de ses politiques prioritaires, prévoyait la formation obligatoire de 25 000 cadres supérieurs de la fonction publique d'Etat.

L'Etat se forme à la transition écologique, mais ne se transforme pas, Le Monde, 5 février 2026

Thème 4

Aujourd'hui, les Etats-Unis ne sont plus un Etat de droit. On tue des manifestants pacifiques, on déporte des citoyens détenteurs de permis de séjour légaux et des enfants de 5 ans, on arrête des journalistes en train de faire leur travail, on ligote l'université en lui coupant les vivres et en imposant un enseignement officiel où, comme au Texas, Le Banquet de Platon est banni du programme pour promouvoir « l'idéologie de la race et du genre ». Vous pouvez partager un article en cliquant sur les icônes de partage en haut à droite de celui-ci.

Depuis des semaines, la population de Minneapolis, bravant un froid polaire, proteste contre la présence et les agissements de l'ICE , ayant déjà causé la mort de deux habitants innocents de 37 ans, Renee Good et Alex Pretti. Munis de sifflets pour signaler la présence d'agents prêts à intervenir, organisant des concerts la nuit à proximité de leur lieu de repos pour les empêcher de dormir, armés de téléphone pour enregistrer leurs exactions, les citoyens ont montré une détermination exemplaire et donné une leçon : une leçon de démocratie - précisément. C'est un tournant considérable à peine un an après l'élection de Trump, qui doit être pris pour exemple et pour modèle d'avenir.

« Non seulement Trump n'est pas fou, mais il est dangereux » : Laure Murat, historienne, salue la leçon de démocratie donnée par les citoyens de Minneapolis, Le Monde, 5 février 2026

Thème 5

Les préjugés empruntent parfois des chemins surprenants. Lorsqu'un agent immobilier a raconté pour la première fois cette anecdote à Etienne Allais, dirigeant de la société Entre-Autres, qui dispense des formations à la non-discrimination dans les entreprises, il a cru à une blague : « Un propriétaire qui cherchait à louer son bien avait formulé la demande suivante : "Pas de blonde, ça attire les Noirs." Je me suis dit que cet agent était tombé sur le champion olympique des a priori absurdes, mais non. Au cours de mes formations suivantes, plusieurs agents ont témoigné de demandes similaires en avançant les mêmes arguments. » Le tout, sans aucune précaution de langage.

Fin janvier, SOS Racisme a tiré une nouvelle fois le signal d'alarme en dévoilant les résultats d'une opération de testing auprès de 198 agences immobilières dispersées dans toute la France. Une agence sur deux a accepté soit de discriminer en sélectionnant elle-même les locataires sur la base d'un critère racial soit d'être complices de discrimination.

Les agences immobilières confrontées à un racisme devenu sans fard : « La gêne a changé de camp », Le Monde, 5 mars 2026

Thèmes croisés

1. Traduisez le texte qui vous a été donné en anglais = 30 minutes
2. Traduisez le texte donné par votre camarade en français. = 30 minutes
3. Comparez le texte donné par votre camarade avec le texte original. Considérez les différences et modifications de sens. = 15 minutes

Versions croisées

4. Traduisez le texte qui vous a été donné en français = 30 minutes
5. Traduisez le texte donné par votre camarade en anglais. = 30 minutes
6. Comparez le texte donné par votre camarade avec le texte original. Considérez les différences et modifications de sens. = 15 minutes

Speed Essaying

- Vous avez 30 minutes pour répondre à la question posée en anglais avec un PLAN en 3 parties.
- Présentez votre plan et son contenu à vos camarades en 5 minutes et ils vous attribueront une note sur 5 sur la logique, la capacité à convaincre, la cohérence, la présence et pertinence des arguments, la clarté de la position

Speed introducing

- Vous avez 20 minutes pour rédiger une introduction à la question donnée
- Votre camarade va lire votre introduction et vous attribuer une note sur 5 pour le respect de la structure, la langue, l'originalité, la cohérence, la prise de position

IMMIGRATION & SURVEILLANCE

IMMIGRATION & STATUS

1. undocumented migrant → migrant sans-papiers
 2. asylum seeker → demandeur d'asile
 3. refugee → réfugié(e)
 4. deportation → expulsion
 5. detention centre → centre de rétention
 6. border control → contrôle aux frontières
 7. residency permit → titre de séjour
 8. irregular entry → entrée irrégulière
 9. naturalisation → naturalisation
 10. quota system → système de quotas
 11. people smuggling → trafic de migrants
 12. overstay a visa → rester au-delà de la durée du visa
 13. stateless person → apatride
 14. safe country of origin → pays d'origine sûr
 15. family reunification → regroupement familial
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SURVEILLANCE & TECHNOLOGY

16. facial recognition → reconnaissance faciale
17. biometric data → données biométriques
18. mass surveillance → surveillance de masse
19. CCTV → vidéosurveillance
20. data retention → conservation des données
21. algorithmic profiling → profilage algorithmique
22. dragnet surveillance → surveillance indiscriminée
23. surveillance capitalism → capitalisme de surveillance
24. geolocation tracking → géolocalisation
25. watchlist → liste de surveillance
26. wiretapping → mise sur écoute
27. metadata → métadonnées
28. encryption → chiffrement
29. data breach → violation de données
30. predictive policing → La prévision policière (développé aux États-Unis sous le nom de Predpol ou predictive policing) fait référence à l'application des techniques de prévision et d'analyse, notamment des données, à la prévention de la criminalité.

POLICY & LAW

31. due process → droit à un procès équitable / garanties procédurales
32. right to privacy → droit à la vie privée
33. data protection → protection des données
34. proportionality principle → principe de proportionnalité
35. non-refoulement → non-refoulement
36. habeas corpus → Disposition de la loi anglaise de 1679, nommée *Habeas Corpus Act*, qui garantit le respect de la liberté individuelle du citoyen en le préservant d'une arrestation arbitraire. *En vertu de l'habeas corpus, toute personne emprisonnée a le droit d'exiger qu'un juge statue immédiatement sur la validité de l'arrestation.*
37. surveillance warrant → mandat de surveillance
38. whistleblower → lanceur d'alerte
39. right to be forgotten → droit à l'oubli
40. state of emergency → état d'urgence

SOCIAL & POLITICAL DEBATE

41. securitisation → sécuritisation
42. deterrence policy → politique de dissuasion
43. scapegoating → désignation d'un bouc émissaire
44. xenophobia → xénophobie
45. integration → intégration
46. multiculturalism → multiculturalisme
47. chilling effect → effet dissuasif (sur les libertés)
48. civil liberties → libertés civiles
49. discriminatory profiling → profilage discriminatoire
50. open-door policy → politique d'ouverture des frontières

Introduction

1. The tension between state security imperatives and individual civil liberties **lies at the heart of contemporary debates** on immigration and surveillance.
 2. **In an era defined by** unprecedented population movements and technological innovation, **the question of** how democracies balance openness with control **has never been more pressing.**
 3. **Far from being** a purely administrative concern, immigration policy **is a revealing lens through which** to examine a society's deepest values regarding freedom, identity, and the rule of law.
 4. The proliferation of surveillance technologies **raises a fundamental question:** to what extent can security justify the erosion of privacy rights?
 5. **One might be tempted to view** the expansion of surveillance as an unambiguous threat to democracy; yet a closer examination reveals a far more nuanced picture.
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Developing an argument

6. **A compelling case can be made that** robust border management serves not only national interests but also the very migrants it seeks to regulate, by deterring dangerous irregular crossings.
 7. **Proponents of** enhanced surveillance **argue that** the state has a primary duty to protect its citizens, and that the proportionate use of monitoring technologies is a legitimate exercise of that duty.
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Concession & contrast

11. **While it would be naïve to deny** the genuine security challenges posed by unregulated migration, **one must guard against conflating** migration with criminality.
12. **Admittedly,** states have a legitimate interest in knowing who crosses their borders; this does not, however, justify the wholesale suspension of civil liberties. *Certes, les États ont un intérêt*

légitime à savoir qui franchit leurs frontières ; cela ne justifie pas pour autant la suspension globale des libertés civiles.

13. The argument that surveillance enhances security is not without merit; its weakness lies in the assumption that greater data collection automatically translates into greater safety.

L'argument selon lequel la surveillance renforce la sécurité n'est pas sans fondement ; sa faiblesse réside dans l'hypothèse que davantage de collecte de données se traduit automatiquement par davantage de sécurité.

14. Opponents of stricter immigration controls raise valid humanitarian concerns; yet one cannot ignore the political and social pressures faced by elected governments.

17. One should be cautious about drawing sweeping conclusions from individual cases, however striking they may be. *Il convient d'être prudent avant de tirer des conclusions générales de cas individuels, aussi frappants soient-ils.*

Conclusion

19. Ultimately, the challenge for liberal democracies is not whether to regulate migration and monitor threats, but how to do so without betraying the values that make such societies worth defending.

20. The debate over immigration and surveillance will not be resolved by technology alone; it demands a renewed commitment to democratic deliberation, legal accountability, and human dignity.

21. If there is one lesson to be drawn from this analysis, it is that the **trade-off** between security and liberty is never a given — it is always a choice, and therefore a responsibility.