



Thomas
Jefferson
University

American Dream

The Story of An Immigrant

Javad Parvizi MD, FRCS

Professor of Orthopedic Surgery

■ Gratitude

- COA

- Podium

Alexandra Page





Nader Nassif







Immigrant



SINCE 1828

[JOIN MWU](#)

[GAMES](#)

[BROWSE THESAURUS](#)

[WORD OF THE DAY](#)

[VIDEO](#)

[WORDS](#)

immigrant

DICTIONARY

THESAURUS

immigrant **noun**

im·mi·grant | \ˈi-mə-grənt  \

Definition of *immigrant*

: one that immigrates: such as

a : a person who comes to a country to take up permanent residence

- Born in Zanzan, Azerbaijan (Northern Iran)– 1965
- Second youngest of six siblings



- Comfortable
- Loving



- Comfortable
- Serene



■ Why

- Marriage
- Better (financial) life
- Seeking opportunities (education, job, etc)
- Escape danger (death)

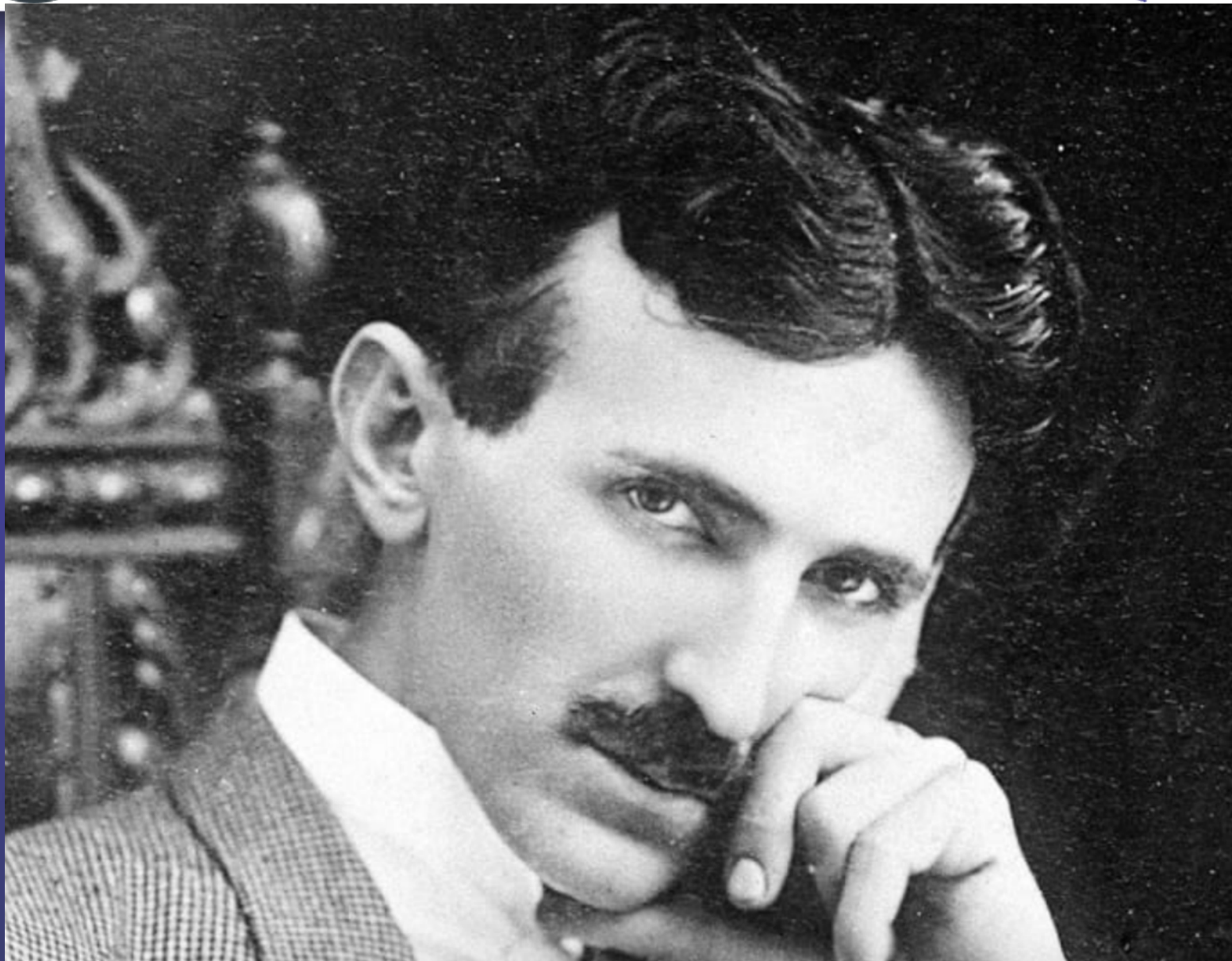
Oscar de la Renta



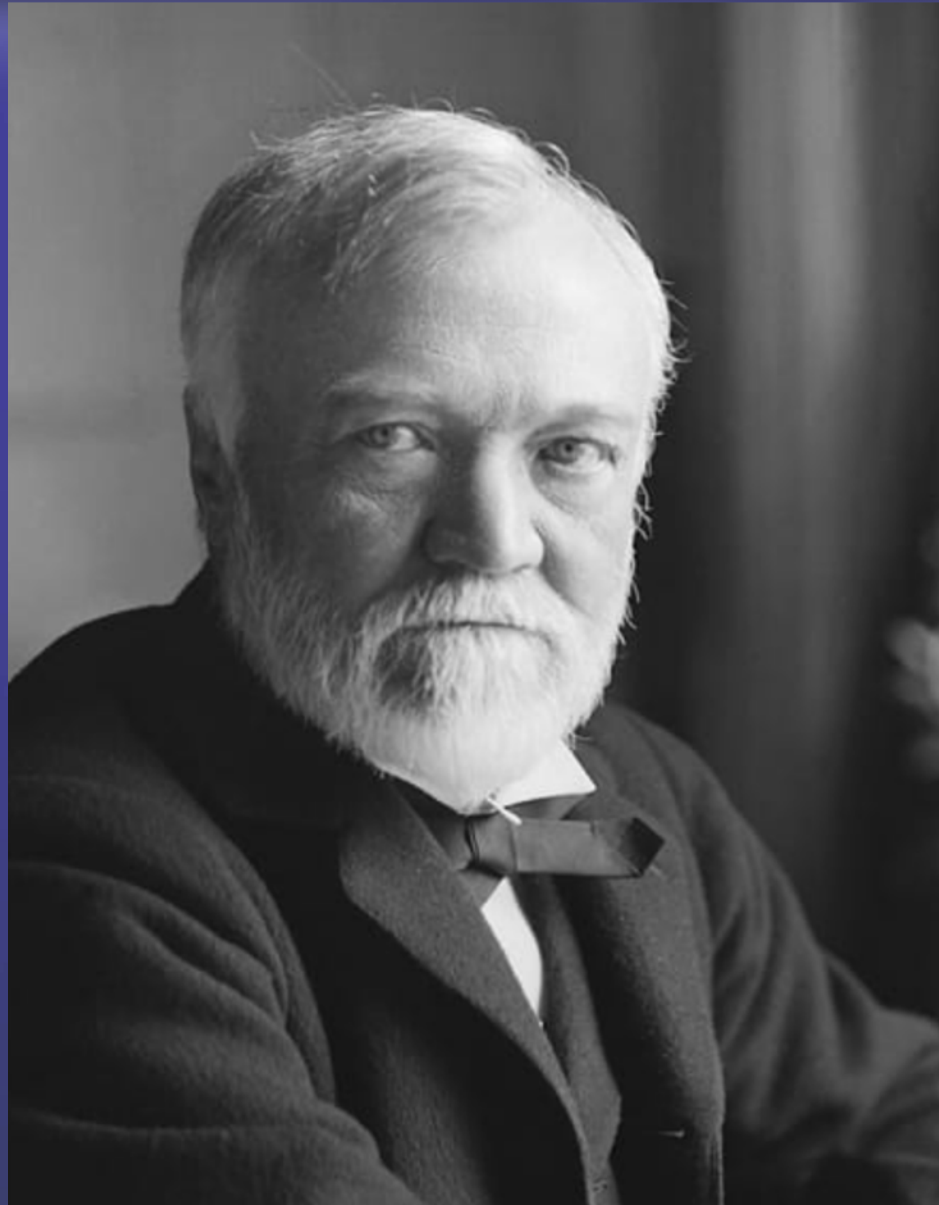
- Marriage
- Better (financial) life
- Seeking opportunities (education, job, etc)
- Escape danger (death)



Nicolai Tesla 1884



Andrew Carnegie, 1848

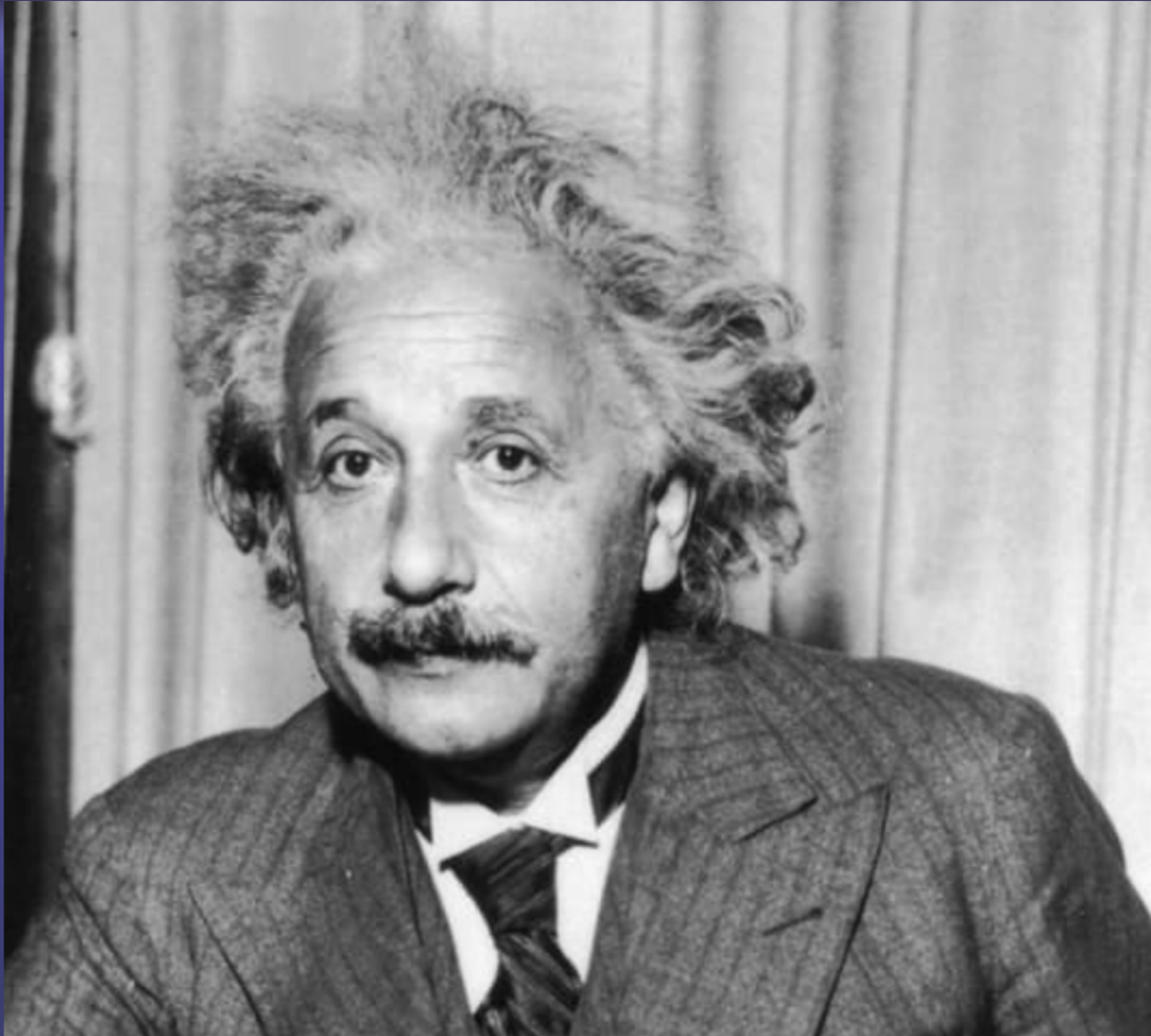


Selma Hayek Jimenez, 1991



- Marriage
- Better (financial) life
- Seeking opportunities
(education, job, etc)
- Escape danger (death)

Albert Einstein



Anousheh Ansari

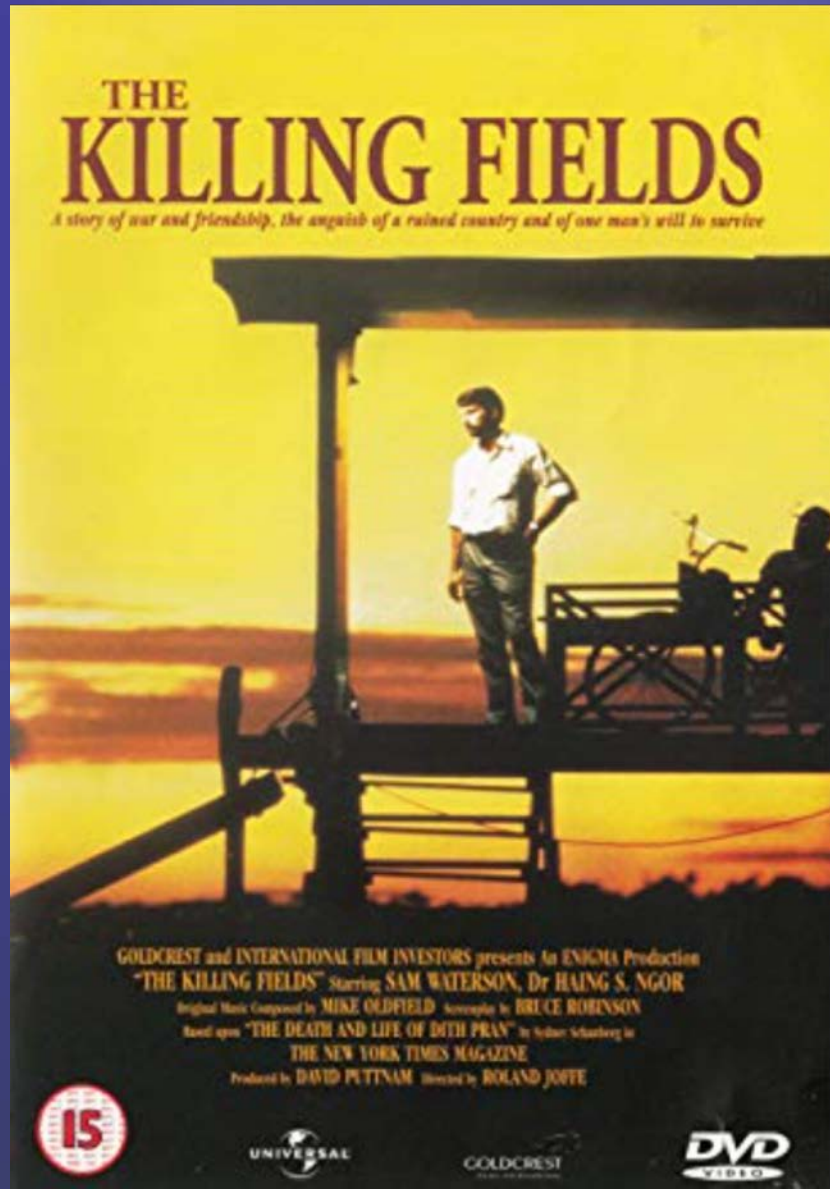


Melania Trump, 1996



- Marriage
- Better (financial) life
- Seeking opportunities (education, job, etc)
- Escape danger (death)

Flee Birthplace

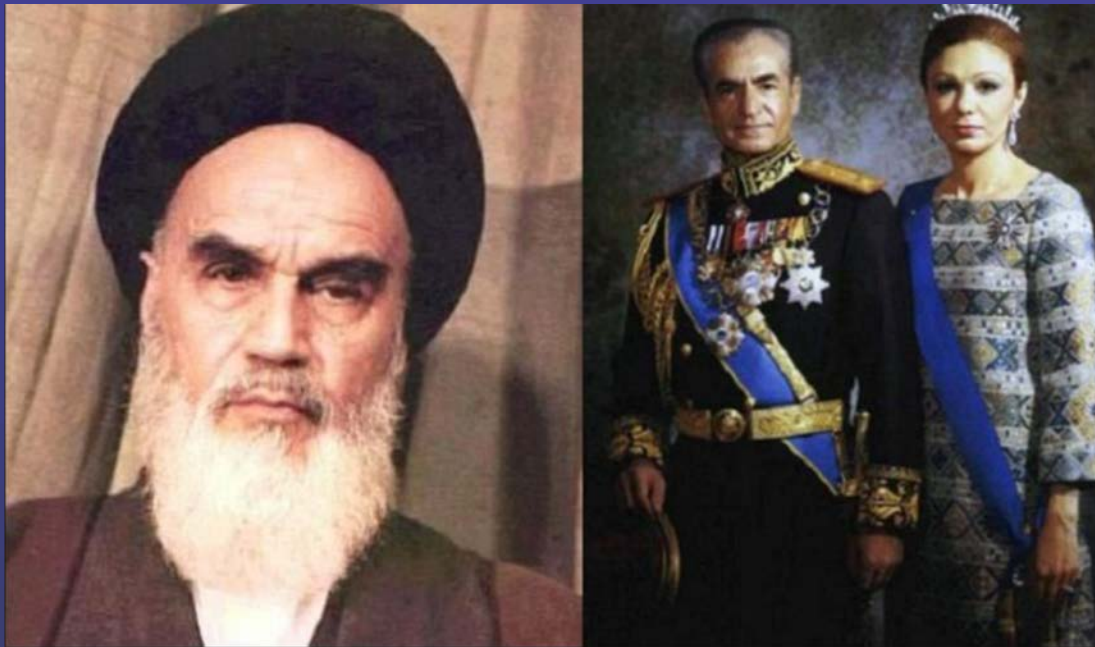


- 1976- Age 11
- Unrest begins
- ALL get involved
- Objective— Oust Shah and bring democracy

Iranian Revolution



- 1979- Age 14
- Khomeini arrives
- Good (initial) rhetoric



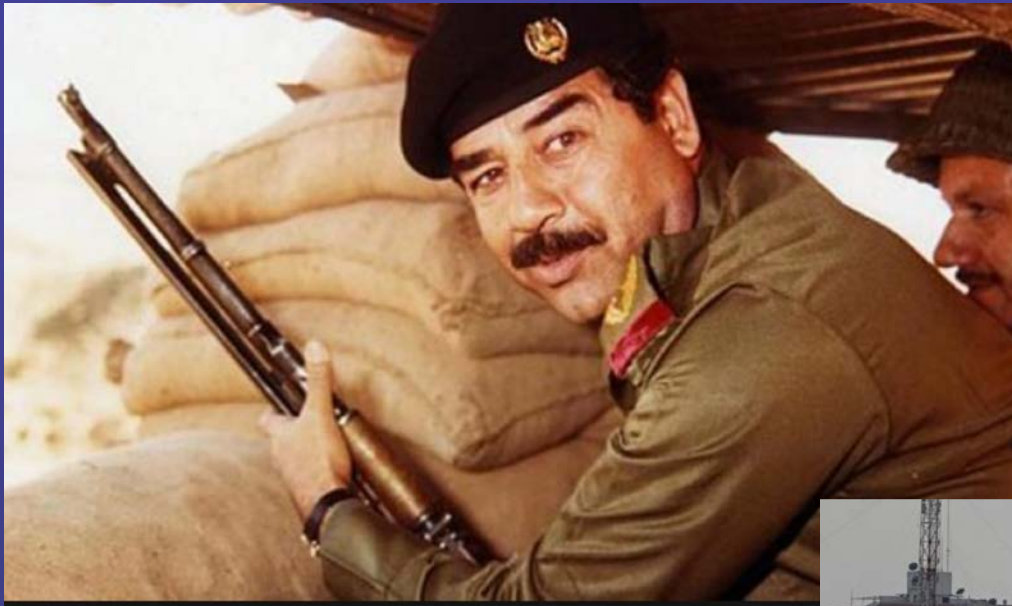
- 1982- Age 17
- Situation is dire



- 1982- Age 17
- Prisons filled with political activists
- Younger brother arrested
- Execution order given



■ 1982- Age 17



- January 26, 1982
- Woken up one morning and hidden in back of a car
- My journey in **second life** begins

“Leaving” Iran



Arrival in the UK





Immigrants Challenges





Immigrants Challenges

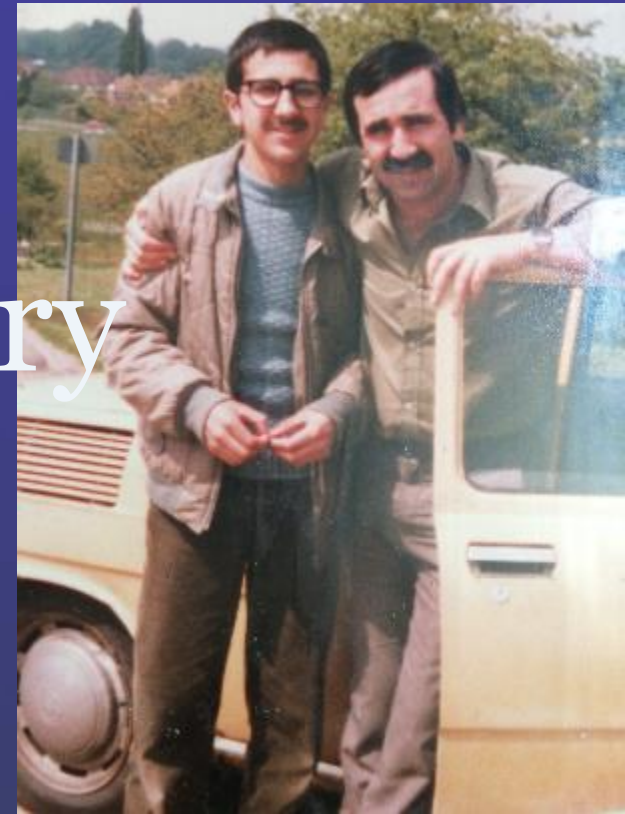


Uncertainty



- Fear
- Language
- Financial hardship
- Social (accommodation, etc.)
- Cultural (religious)

- Had \$250
- Did not speak English
- Had no passport
- Needed eye surgery
- Future uncertain



- \$250
- Sought a job



- Janitor
- Shelf-filler



- Cleaning
- Waiter
- Brick layer
- Taxi driver



- Rented a room (\$7)
- Cleaning



■ Independence



■ (Pre Med) College



■ Medical School in Sheffield (1985-91)





Immigrants Challenges



■ How?

- Industrious
- Content
- Motivated (fire in the belly)
- Visionary
- Ambition
- Humble yet proud
- Benevolent



Hard Work Is What Immigrants Do



Barbara Dafoe Whitehead directs the John Templeton Center for Thrift and Generosity at the Institute for American Values and is the co-editor of "Franklin's Thrift: The Lost History of an American Virtue."

UPDATED OCTOBER 9, 2013, 11:07 AM

America's work ethic has not changed for the worse. We still work longer hours, with less time off for vacations, sick days or family leave than workers in other advanced nations.

- Bought a dilapidated house (\$15,000)
- Renewed
- Rented to friends



Jan Koum (\$13b)



- Industrious
- Content
- Motivated (fire in the belly)
- Visionary
- Ambition
- Humble yet proud
- Benevolent

Noble Prize



United
States of
America



Sweden



Switzerland



Russia



Denmark



Norway



South Africa

Nobel Prize Winners By Country

Rank	Country	Nobel Prizes
1	United States	368
2	United Kingdom	132
3	Germany	107
4	France	62

15,183 views | Oct 8, 2017, 11:32am

Immigrants Keep Winning Nobel Prizes



Stuart Anderson Contributor ⓘ

I write about globalization, business, technology and immigration.

Table 1: Immigrant Nobel Prize Winners in Chemistry, Medicine and Physics

Immigrant Nobel Winners Since 2000	33 of 85 American winners have been immigrants
Percentage of Immigrant Winners Since 2000	39%



Sergey Brin

Co-Founder of Google (30 billion)



- Industrious
- Content
- Motivated (fire in the belly)
- Visionary
- Ambition
- Humble yet proud
- Benevolent

Hamid Ulukaya





Steve Chen and Jawed Karim



- Industrious
- Content
- Motivated (fire in the belly)
- Visionary
- Ambition
- Humble yet proud
- Benevolent



Elizabeth Claiborne



Rupert Murdoch

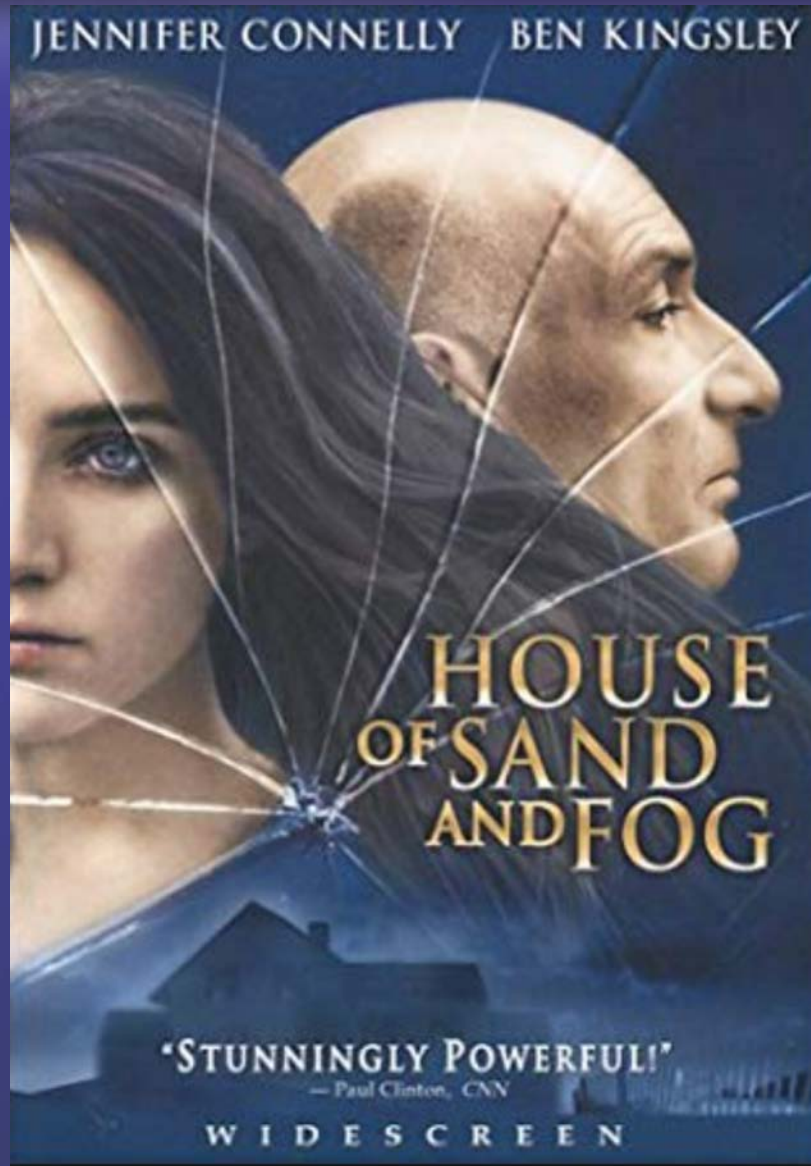


- Industrious
- Content
- Motivated (fire in the belly)
- Visionary
- Ambition
- Humble yet proud
- Benevolent

Madeline Albright



Humility and Pride



- Industrious
- Content
- Motivated (fire in the belly)
- Visionary
- Ambition
- Humble yet proud
- Benevolent

- Co-founder of eBay
- \$290 million in 2018
- HopeLab— technology that creates better health
- Humanity United- Address issue of human trafficking



6

LAWS OF SURVIVAL

Strategies For Beating the Worst Case Scenario

- No silver medal
- Second place means death!!

■ Tell friends from Foe!!!





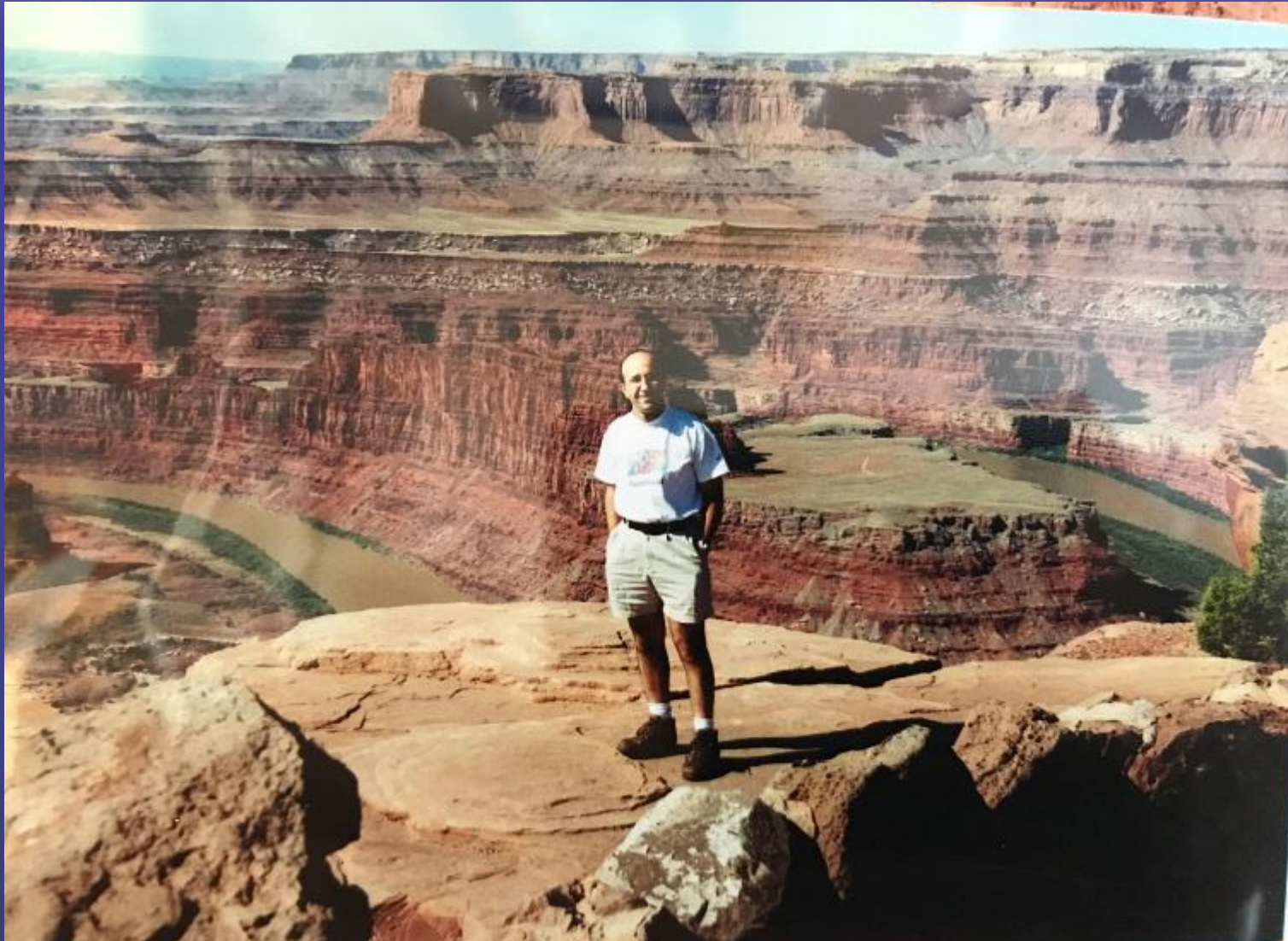
Laws of Survival



- Keep a healthy body/mind!!!

- Istanbul to London
- Length of UK (x4) including one in 32 hours (1000 miles)







Strange Interests!!

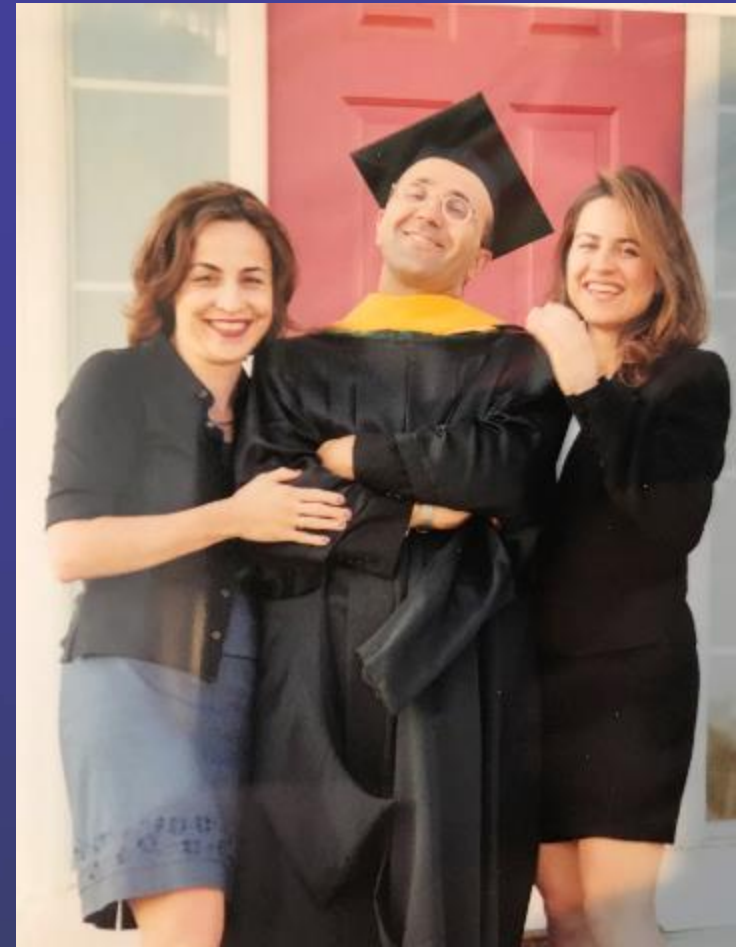
Travel



■ > 100 Countries



■ Do not sway from straight path!



- Have principles
- (time changes approach)

- Arrived Jan 2003 (Rothman Institute)



■ Inspired by Che Guerra

- Travelled South America following his route!!



Capitalism





Laws of Survival



■ Learn from others

Learn From Others



Mentors



- Develop a social circle
- (family, friends and mentors)

■ Marrying My Wife





Most Influential In My Life



- My brother Josef
 - Tougher journey in life than I





Milestones in My Carrier

ABC Traveling Fellowship



Milestones in My Carrier

Meeting Thorsten Gehrke



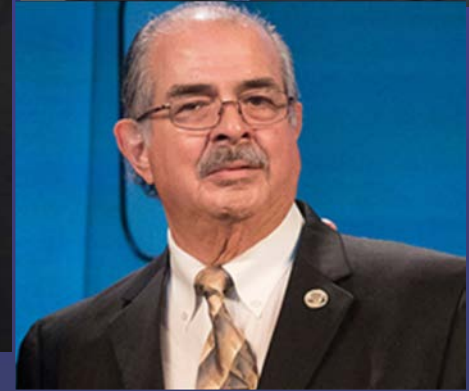


Fortunate to Have Friends!



■ Hopefully more than enemies





■ Responsible Immigration laws

- Let USA provide the opportunities to those who will ultimately serve this country

Immigrant



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-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the **golden door**!