

# Don't blame immigration for Boston bombings

By **Edward Alden**, Special to CNN  
April 19, 2013

(CNN) — It took only hours after the identities of the two suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing were revealed for some politicians and commentators to suggest that the tragedy was somehow the fault of a broken immigration system.

Ever since September 11, there has been a strong and understandable desire for a perfect screening system for would-be immigrants. If only the United States could put that system into place, bad people would never be admitted to the country. But such perfection is unachievable, and would not have prevented the Boston attacks.

A country that opens itself to immigrants, as the United States has for many decades, invites in both the goods and ills of the world. Boston, for instance, is a city teeming with bright foreign students, many of whom will go on to make great contributions to the United States. Indeed, one of the victims of Monday's bombing was Lingzi Lu, a Boston University math and statistics graduate student from Shenyang, China, who often told her friends how much she loved Boston.

But immigration also brings with it the disputes of other cultures.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada — a city that abounds with Asian immigrants — an Air India flight from Montreal to Delhi was blown up over the Atlantic Ocean, killing 268 Canadians, 27 Britons and 24 Indians.

The architects were Sikh extremists who had emigrated from India to Canada and were fighting for causes of which few Canadians had ever heard. The two-

decade long investigation that followed was traumatic for Canadians and for the many Indian immigrants with no ties to or cause with the radicals. However, Canada moved on and remains a vibrant society that is largely welcoming of immigrants.

What is certain is that the United States cannot shield itself by closing its doors to immigrants. This country needs and deserves a far better immigration system, which is the goal of the immigration effort under way.

But we should be realistic about what it can and cannot do to protect us.

## Questions :

1. Why do people immigrate to other countries?
2. Would you ever think of emigrating?
3. Do you think that immigrants are treated well in most countries?
4. Is local culture threatened by immigration?
5. Should immigrants have the same rights as native citizens?
6. Do immigrants have a good or bad reputation in your part of the country?
7. Do you think there is a relation between immigration and crime?
8. Do you think immigrants are treated with more suspicion now than they were before?
9. How does immigration affect the safety in your community?
10. What would be the issues that would let you concern about emigrating?