

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background**

The term "immigration" comes from the Latin word "imigratio" and means the movement of people from one country to another (Wijayanti, 2011). The process of migration is often driven by a person's desire to improve living and working conditions or to escape poverty, lack of opportunities, human rights violations, violence, civil war, persecution, discrimination, or environmental disasters in their home country (International Organization for Migration, 2003). However, not all migration takes place through legal routes, and the difficulties of receiving formal immigration procedures force many to use illegal routes to cross borders. In the United States, illegal migration is a complex issue, with many migrants facing great difficulties in meeting legal immigration requirements and being forced to look for alternative routes to achieve their goals.

Illegal immigration has existed in the United States since the introduction of immigration laws. This phenomenon arises from the contradiction between the criteria set by the U.S. government for accepting immigrants and the desire of certain foreign citizens to live and work in the so-called "land of opportunity" despite not meeting the requirements set by law (Chiswick, 1988). In recent years,

the number of illegal immigrants has increased, making this issue a central theme in U.S. politics and sparking an intense national debate about the associated social, economic, and political consequences (Kim et al., 2011). Some Americans believe that illegal immigrants should not receive welfare benefits because they do not pay federal taxes and are a burden on public services and the economy (Marietta, 2006).

Migration from Latin American countries to the United States has become a political, economic, and social issue that has attracted attention in both the United States and Latin America. The majority of immigrants from Latin America come from countries in the Latin American region, and Mexico is one of the countries of origin for the majority of immigrants coming to the United States (Garni, 2010). More importantly, the U.S.-Mexico border plays a central role in the migration process as a major point of entry. The U.S.-Mexico border stretches for approximately 2,000 miles and plays a key role in shaping the dynamics of border diplomacy between the two countries. Most of this border, approximately 1,200 miles, runs along the Rio Grande River, which serves as a natural border between Mexico in the south and the United States in the north. This border is not only a geographical boundary, but also one of the busiest borders in the world, both in terms of the number of people crossing the border (over 1 million per day) and the volume of daily trade (Contreras, 2016). This phenomenon makes the U.S.-Mexico border one of the most dynamic and complex border regions in the world. For

clarity, a geographical map of the U.S.-Mexico border is shown below in Figure 1.1.

**Figure 1.1: The Geographical Map of the United States-Mexico Border**



**Source : Encyclopedia Britannica, 2018**

The problem of illegal immigration between the United States and Mexico has been a major issue in U.S. immigration policy since 1965 when the United States ended its temporary worker program for Mexican nationals and began implementing a policy that prioritized skilled workers and those with families. In the United States, there are still about 800,000 illegal immigrants from Mexico

who cross the border each year, even though the U.S. federal government has strengthened border security measures. Illegal immigrants enter the United States using a variety of methods. These include crossing the border through human traffickers, crossing undiscovered parts of the border by walking or swimming, digging tunnels under the border to avoid controls, forging travel documents, and overstaying their legal U.S. visas (Merolla et al., 2013).

In 2004, there were 10.5 million Mexican immigrants living in the United States, representing 31 percent of the total foreign citizens population in the country. This figure is also equivalent to approximately 10 percent of Mexico's total population, highlighting the significant contribution of Mexican immigrants to the demographic composition of the United States population. In addition to their large numbers, a key characteristic of Mexican immigration is the fact that the majority of new arrivals enter the United States illegally (Hanson, 2006). In 2004, it was estimated that 5.9 million unauthorized Mexican immigrants were living in the United States, which accounts for a large portion of the total unauthorized immigrant population in the country, which reached around 10.3 million (Passel, 2005). This figure shows that more than half of all unauthorized immigrants in the United States come from Mexico.

Cross-border migration is now one of the central issues in the debate on international security. Policymakers in the United States and elsewhere are increasingly recognizing the close connection between immigration policy and threats to national security. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001,

immigration control has become a top priority in U.S. national security policy. Growing concerns about immigration have led to a major reorganization within the U.S. government, the largest since the passage of the National Security Act of 1947 (Adamson, 2006).

Some experts argue that current cross-border migration flows exceed the capacity of countries to maintain sovereignty in different regions and may threaten national security (Sassen, 1998). The increasing number of people crossing borders, the diversification of populations, and the emergence of informal cross-border migration networks that circulate capital, goods, and ideas may change the traditional view of the state as a clearly defined, sovereign entity. Moreover, this phenomenon poses a challenge to the traditional national security model, which assumes the existence of a single national identity on which national interests are based (Sassen, 1996).

American discernments of Mexico, especially after the section of Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRAIRA) in 1996 and the usage of other arrangements pointed at tending to Mexican migration issues, reflect the fact that key political performing artists within the Joined together States consider Mexican transients a danger to the national interface of the nation. This viewpoint is based on financial concerns and social uncertainty (Herrera-Lasso, 1998). In differentiation to Porter's (2005), which states that illegal workers have been demonstrated to pay different charges, their commitments to social security are much more noteworthy. The commitments of illicit migrants accounted for

10% of the overflow in 2004, and this number has proceeded to rise with the expanding number of illegal immigration for a long time. Even though numerous illicit migrants pay social security and other taxes using fake recognizable proof numbers, they are not entitled to get retirement benefits and are not qualified for Medicare at the age of 65, as Joined together States citizens are entitled to (Porter, 2005). There are different points of view on illegal migrant from Mexico, reflecting a pressure between those who see them as a risk to the national interface and those who recognize their critical commitment to the Joined together States' economy.

The administration of cross-border movement streams could be a vital issue that must be considered comprehensively by policymakers, taking into consideration different dimensions, such as costs, benefits, and its effect on worldwide soundness and security. Besides, movement arrangements have to be analyzed in connection to other arrangements, such as social welfare and national financial development. In this setting, to survey the effect of movement arrangements on national security, it is significant to understand how relocation streams can either bolster or pose a threat to the security interests of a nation. Illicit movement within the Joined together States, especially including the border with Mexico, could be a basic national issue closely connected to national security concerns. Hence, focused and suitable approaches are required to address this issue.

Based on this foundation, the creator is inquisitive about looking at, analyzing, and comparing the authoritative arrangements and border discretion executed by

the Trump and Biden administrations in taking care of illegal immigration movement, as sketched out within the title “**Comparison of Border Diplomacy between the Trump-Biden Administrations in Handling Illegal Immigration from Mexico.**”

## **B. Scope and Problem Formulation**

This consideration is restricted to an examination of the authoritative approaches and border strategy executed by the Trump and Biden administrations intending to illegal migration including the Joined together States-Mexico border. The center of this inquiry about is an examination of the contrasts in arrangements ordered by the two organizations, particularly in terms of border requirements, migration law authorization, and two-sided Joined together States-Mexico strategy related to illicit movement issues. This consideration will investigate the effect of these approaches on the respective relationship between the Joined together States and Mexico, as well as their suggestions for national security, social soundness, and the joined-together States's economy.

Based on the problem scope limitations above, the author formulates the research questions as follows:

1. How does the comparison of administrative policies between the Trump and Biden administrations in addressing illegal immigration?
2. How is the implementation of border diplomacy between the United States and Mexico in handling immigration issues during the Trump and Biden administrations?

### **C. Objectives and Benefits of the Research**

Based on the research questions above, the objectives of this study can be outlined as follows:

1. A Comparison of Immigration Policy Arbitration Between Trump and Biden Administrations.
2. United States-Mexico Border Diplomacy in Addressing Immigration Issues During the Trump and Biden Administrations.

The benefits or uses of this research are as follows:

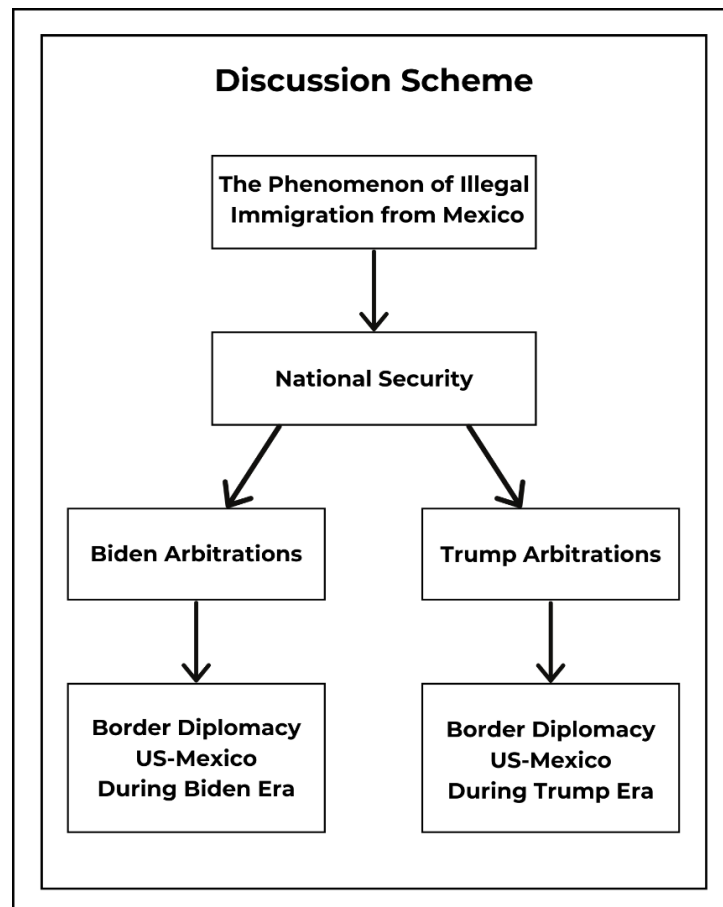
1. Providing insights on immigration policy comparison. This study will provide an in-depth analysis of the comparison between the immigration policies implemented by the Trump and Biden administrations, which can offer a better understanding of the strategic choices made by both administrations in addressing illegal immigration from Mexico.
2. Enhancing understanding of border diplomacy. This study will help understand the role of United States-Mexico border diplomacy in addressing illegal immigration during the Trump and Biden administrations. It will provide an overview of how the two countries diplomatically interact in facing shared challenges related to illegal migration.
3. Contributing to the writing on worldwide migration thinks about. This ponder will enhance the writing on the flow of worldwide migration, especially within the setting of the Joined together States and Mexico. It may serve as a reference for advanced thinking about migration



arrangement and border discretion, as well as the challenges confronted by other nations managing comparative issues.

#### **D. Conceptual Framework**

**Figure 1.2: Discussion Scheme**



**Source : processed by the researcher**

The scheme above, from Figure 1.2, serves to illustrate the application of the concepts used in this study. Based on the diagram, the researcher employs two main concepts: national security and border diplomacy. The concept of national

security is utilized to analyze how the phenomenon of illegal immigration from Mexico influences the solidness and sway of the joined-together takes, highlighting the security dangers emerging from cross-border relocation and how this issue is an essential concern for the government in keeping up arrange and national security. Meanwhile, the concept of border diplomacy is utilized to examine the policies and approaches implemented by two different administrations, namely the Biden administration and the Trump administration. This analysis includes U.S.-Mexico border diplomacy during the Biden era, which reflects the policies and diplomatic strategies carried out during Joe Biden's leadership, as well as U.S.-Mexico border diplomacy during the Trump era, which demonstrates the Trump administration's approach to addressing border issues through stricter policies focused on controlling immigration. Thus, these two concepts are used to understand and compare immigration policies and border diplomacy under the two different administrations.

## **1. National Security**

For decades, the term 'national security' was commonly understood to mean security in terms of the military dimension. However, this understanding was increasingly challenged after the end of the Cold War, followed by an increasing focus on non-military threats that could affect national security, particularly in the United States. These threats include terrorism, cyber-attacks, climate change, and global health crises, all of which can have significant impacts on a

nation's stability and well-being, even in the absence of direct military conflict (Romm, 1993).

National security policy encompasses a range of decisions and actions deemed necessary to protect a nation's fundamental values, such as sovereignty, social stability, and the well-being of its people, against various threats from 'foreigners' (Bock and Berkowitz, 1966). National security can be understood in two ways: as a condition and as a function. In this function, national security plays a role in creating a broader sense of security, which includes not only protection from physical threats but also a sense of comfort, peace, tranquility, and order in society. Such a state becomes a basic human need, just like the need to achieve happiness. However, understanding of the concept of national security may vary depending on factors such as value systems, perceptions, and interests (Darmono, 2010).

According to Arnold Wolfers in his book written many years ago, national security is a vague concept because it includes many goals, making it impossible to have a unified or universal understanding of the concept (Wolfers, 1952). British scholar Barry Buzan argues that a reason the concept of national security remains vague and undefined is due to the political advantages given to those involved in shaping state policy. According to Buzan, for policymakers, especially political and military elites, maintaining the ambiguity of the concept offers significant advantages. A concept of national security that has no clear definition allows policymakers to use it flexibly, depending on their needs and

goals (Buzan, 1983). Accordingly, the questions that are of interest are: How do policymakers perceive and assess threats to national security? How do public office holders, executive officials, legislative committees, political parties, government agencies, economic interest groups, and ethnic communities define the core values of national security? (Leffrey, 1990)

The United State Department of Justice (DOJ) states that protecting national security is a top priority for the country. National security itself encompasses various important aspects. One of these is national defense, which focuses on the physical protection of the country from external threats such as military attacks or invasions. Additionally, there is foreign intelligence and counterintelligence, aimed at identifying and preventing espionage activities or spying efforts that could harm the country. National security also includes both international and internal security. International security is concerned with maintaining relationships and stability with other countries, while internal security focuses on protecting the country from threats that arise within its borders, such as terrorism or other security disturbances. Furthermore, foreign relations are an integral part of national security, as interactions with other countries can influence the country's stability and interests (DOJ, 2022).

The issue of illegal immigration is directly related to national security because it poses challenges to the United States, both internally and externally. The handling of illegal immigration from Mexico under the Trump and Biden administrations demonstrates the difference in approaches to securing the

country's borders and maintaining national stability and security. Both administrations recognize the importance of protecting national security, even if the methods used are different.

## **2. Border Diplomacy**

Border diplomacy is one of the oldest fields of diplomacy but it has often received little attention in academic studies. However, elements of border diplomacy have been widely studied in the context of international relations and international law (Ndirangu, 2020). Border diplomacy plays an important role in maintaining a country's national security. This is because a country's territorial borders define its sovereign territory, which is one of the fundamental elements of its existence. According to the Treaty of Westphalia adopted in the 17th century, as well as the Montevideo Convention of 1933, the existence of a state is largely based on three main elements: territory, population, and a legitimate government (Ndirangu, 2020). Therefore, maintaining and regulating a country's borders is essential, as borders not only separate one country's territory from another but also protect its resources, sovereignty, and internal stability.

Border diplomacy refers to the conduct of top international negotiations on borders between countries, where diplomats communicate with each other to establish and reaffirm national boundaries. Border diplomacy uses various aspects of diplomacy to address issues related to national borders. In the context of international relations, border diplomacy focuses on the borders that separate

countries, whether on land or at sea (Ndirangu, 2020). Border diplomacy is practiced alongside many other types of diplomacy such as economic diplomacy, public diplomacy, and conflict management diplomacy, supporting each other to achieve national goals. Border diplomacy can be conducted bilaterally, involving two countries directly involved, or multilaterally, involving more than two countries or international organizations, depending on the complexity of the issues at stake and the dynamics of relations between the countries involved (United Nations, 2005).

Border diplomacy encompasses various aspects related to border areas, such as resolving territorial disputes, regulating cross-border trade routes, and protecting the rights of immigrants and refugees across international borders. This concept can be linked to a comparative study of the approaches taken by the Trump and Biden administrations to address illegal immigration from Mexico, including the diplomatic policies and strategies implemented to address these issues.

## **E. Research Metodology**

### **1. Type of Research**

In this thesis, the author uses a qualitative research method. The qualitative research method is a method that focuses on describing the state, characteristics, or nature of a particular phenomenon or the values contained in the research object. The main essence of this approach is to explore the meaning hidden in the phenomenon in its natural context and situation. Qualitative research

focuses more on discovering new concepts, knowledge, and developing new theories (Djamal, 2015). In short, the qualitative method is a research procedure that generates descriptive data in the form of words or text obtained from individuals or observable behaviors (Moeloeng, 2006). Therefore, qualitative research is a type of research that produces results that cannot be obtained through statistical procedures or other quantitative methods (Murdiyanto, 2020).

Qualitative research is a research method that aims to describe the entire data or conditions of the object or subject being studied, and then analyze and compare them with the current actual conditions. Furthermore, this research also seeks to provide solutions to current problems and provide relevant information that can be beneficial to the development of knowledge and is more easily applied to various problems. This study compares the border diplomacy between the Trump and Biden administrations in managing illegal immigration from Mexico, using a qualitative approach to describe and analyze the policies of the two administrations. By examining data from a variety of sources, this study aims to provide insights into immigration policy strategies, outcomes, and impacts, as well as the factors that influence diplomatic decisions. The results of this study will serve as a valuable academic reference for knowledge development and as a guide in the development of policy solutions regarding illegal immigration, in the context of Mexico and similar cases in other countries.

## **2. Data Collection Technique**

Research is a systematic activity undertaken to find answers to clearly defined problems. The data source for the first problem is collected by direct observation in the field, which is called field research. On the contrary, the data source for the second problem is collected through reviewing documents available in the library, which is called library research. Therefore, in this study, the author focuses on data collection through library research.

According to Zed, library research can be defined as a series of activities related to data collection methods, reading and taking notes of the library, as well as processing research documents (Zed, 2003). This research is called library research because the data or materials needed to conduct the research are obtained from the library, including books, dictionaries, documents, magazines, encyclopedias, journals, and other sources. (Sutrisno Hadi, 1990). Therefore, library research is an important step in this research, relying on written sources as the main materials to collect and process information to solve the research problem

## **3. Type of Data**

In this study, the researcher used secondary data. According to Sugiyono, secondary data refers to data that is not obtained directly from the data collector but rather through reading, studying, and understanding information from other sources (Sugiyono, 2017). Therefore, this study relies on secondary data as the



primary source of information obtained through literature review and other media.

#### **4. Data Analysis Technique**

The data analysis technique used by the researcher is a qualitative technique with the comparative method. Comparative qualitative analysis identifies and compares similarities and differences in the phenomena under study (Arikunto, 1989). According to Nazir, comparative research is descriptive research that aims to find basic answers about cause and effect by analyzing the factors that make a particular phenomenon occur or appear (Nazir, 2005). Therefore, comparative research compares two or more groups concerning a particular variable. In this study, the researcher compares the border diplomacy policies that President Joe Biden and Donald Trump implemented.

#### **5. Writing Metodology**

Deductive reasoning is the process of starting with generalities and proceeding to more specific details to arrive at specific conclusions based on general principles or facts (Prihandini, 2023). This research applies the deductive writing method, which aligns with the concept of deductive reasoning. The deductive writing method begins with certain general principles or paradigms and then connects them with empirical data to form the basis for drawing conclusions. Using this method, the research will begin with a theoretical framework or general principles regarding border diplomacy and immigration policies implemented by the Trump and Biden administrations

(Kasiram, 2010). Based on this theoretical framework, the researcher will analyze the policies implemented by both administrations and the resulting impacts, then draw conclusions from the analysis.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **A. National Security**

The history of national security in international relations dates back to the 17th century, especially to the time of the Thirty Years War in Europe and the English Civil War, which laid the foundation for the development of modern thinking on national security in the field of international relations. The Peace of Westphalia in 1648 established the principle that nation-states have full sovereignty in both internal affairs, such as religion, and in external security matters. Previously, the concept of the state was more strongly influenced by the principles of the Holy Roman Empire. However, as new thinking about nation-states emerged, the approach to international security also changed. Today's international system emphasizes national sovereignty and the right to self-defense and emphasizes a balance between nation-states (Holmes, 2015).

National security is a central concept in international relations, as it concerns how a country protects itself from external and internal threats that could undermine its stability, sovereignty, and the safety of its citizens. Since the attacks of September 11, 2001, protecting the country from terrorist threats and other dangers, known as homeland security, has become one of the main focuses of maintaining national security. National security is not limited to military defense

but also includes the protection of other aspects that support the continuity of the state, such as the economy, politics, and social structure (Holmes, 2015). In the field of international relations, the concept of national security is often linked to various theories that explain how states engage and respond to external threats, one of which is the securitization theory.

In his scientific research, Barry Buzan found that the security dimension is often overlooked in many studies. This is because realistic scientists tend to focus on power, while idealistic scientists tend to argue for peace. Indeed, security issues are often invisible in American foreign policy, because the focus tends to be on morality, law, or territorial expansion and economic power (Buzan, 1983).

In the book *National Security of the United States*, national security is said to be the effort to protect a country's people, territory, and way of life. This security includes protection against physical attacks, also known as defense. However, national security also includes protecting interests and values that are vital to the nation. One definition of national security is the protection of the territory and people from threats to ensure the survival of the nation with its existing values and fundamental systems and to support the further development of these values and economic well-being (Jordan et al., 2009).

There are several important elements to understanding national security. The following are factors that influence the concept of national security:

- a. Power refers to a country's ability to govern itself and protect itself from external threats. There are two types of power: hard power, which uses

military force, and soft power, which is based on influence without the use of force. Instruments of power include the military, police, intelligence agencies, and diplomatic instruments such as negotiations, development aid, and international economic policy.

- b. Military power refers to the capabilities and performance of a country's armed forces. Although military power is often thought of as a fixed measure, it is influenced by factors such as the strength of the enemy, the effectiveness of the use of military force, and whether military force is actually used.
- c. Violence refers to the use of military force or law enforcement to achieve a specific goal. It is not just about having power, but how you use that power that matters. Effective use of force can strengthen a nation's position and influence, while misuse or inaction can weaken it.
- d. National defense refers to a nation's ability to protect its sovereignty and the security of its people against physical and non-physical threats, primarily through its armed forces. Since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the concept of defense has been expanded to include not only military power but also domestic measures to deal with threats such as terrorism, natural disasters, and other potential dangers both at home and abroad (Holmes, 2015).

The Latvian Ministry of Defence defines national security as a concept that identifies threats to the country and establishes principles and priorities for

preventing those threats. The concept of national security is the basis for formulating policies, regulations and action plans to maintain national security (Ministry of Defence of Latvia, n.d.). The concept of national security is used to formulate policies, regulations and action plans to protect national security and forms the basis of the study entitled **“Comparison of Border Diplomacy between the Trump-Biden Administrations in Handling Illegal Immigration from Mexico.”**

The United States established the National Security Council in 1947 to "advise the President with respect to the integration of domestic, foreign, and military policies relating to the national security..." (U.S. Department of State, n.d.). After an era of large-scale wars and the beginning of the nuclear age, it became clear that a definition of national security that focuses only on large-scale battles between military forces is no longer appropriate. New definitions such as political security, economic security, energy and raw materials security, domestic security, cybersecurity, human security, and environmental security have become the main perspectives of the concept of non-military national security (Holmes, 2015).

The correlation between the concept of international security with international relations theory and security theory in particular lies in the understanding that national security policies do not arise naturally but are conscious choices of politicians and policymakers. Security theory posits that a political issue that was not initially considered a threat can turn into an urgent security issue that must be addressed immediately. This occurs after the issue is classified by authorities (the

so-called "security officials") as "dangerous," "threatening," or "frightening." These actors have the social and institutional power to prioritize this issue over ordinary political issues (Eroukhmanoff, 2018). The study, **“Comparison of Border Diplomacy between the Trump-Biden Administrations in Handling Illegal Immigration from Mexico,”** argues that both Biden and Trump act as security agents and portray the issue of illegal immigration from Mexico as a threat to national security.

## **B. Border Diplomacy**

Diplomacy comes from the Latin "diploma," meaning an official document, and originally from the Greek "δίπλωμα" (diploma), meaning a folded document (Constantinou, 1996). In the context of modern international relations, diplomacy is understood as a negotiation process between representatives of states or groups. In a broader sense, diplomacy as an instrument of foreign policy refers to the conduct of peacekeeping, conflict, culture, economy, trade, alliances, agreements, the enforcement of international treaties, and other foreign policy practices (Melissen, 2005).

Grand theories in international relations, such as realism, liberalism, and Marxism, tend to pay little attention to and debate the concept of diplomacy. However, this is different in the English School, which considers diplomacy an integral part of social and political life. This theory of international relations sees diplomacy as a means of acquiring power and asserts that there is an international society that is distinct from states and their interactions. Diplomacy consists of the

norms and practice (Craig & George, 1995; Melissen, 1999; Murray, 2012). Academician Neuman stated that the concept of diplomacy presented by the British School is the best starting point for understanding (Neuman, 2003).

Expert opinions on the concept of diplomacy cited by Der Derian indicate that diplomacy is closely related and integrated with the whole of social life (Der Derian, 1987). Another view, Hadley Bull, considers diplomacy as one of the five major elements of international society along with war, great powers, balance of power, and international law (Bull, 1977). Martin Wight explains that diplomacy is the "central element" of international relations (Wight, 2002). Sharp also defines the term "diplomacy" and describes it as foreign policy, international relations, statesmanship, and foreign policy making by political decision-makers (Sharp, 2003).

The concept of diplomacy is relevant to the study of the thesis "**Comparison of Border Diplomacy between the Trump-Biden Administrations in Handling Illegal Immigration from Mexico,**" which aims to compare the diplomacy of policymakers toward illegal immigration from Mexico at the U.S.-Mexico border. The study analyzes how the Biden and Trump administrations use diplomacy as a tool of foreign policy and how they deal with international relations and domestic politics related to the issue of illegal immigration from Mexico by adopting the more profound diplomatic concept of the border approach. Diplomacy.

Diplomacy serves as a negotiating tool to find consensual solutions to existing problems in a cooperative and respectful manner (Shrestha, 2021). Due to their



geographical proximity, borders provide opportunities for exchanges between bordering countries and regulate the scope of relations. However, this proximity can also increase exchanges that carry risks. Borders between nation-states exhibit different forms of separation. After the establishment of nation-states, these borders began to establish diverse relationships and interactions (Ullah & Kumpoh, 2018). Common borders encourage cooperation among nation-states, leading to interdependence. However, this dependency is often lost due to the emergence of internal security issues (Shrestha, 2021).

A country's borders define its territorial boundaries and form the basis of a country's sovereignty. However, borders also affect relations between states and may therefore affect or threaten the sovereignty of the states involved. Borders may give rise to internal disputes or be a source of conflict between states. Given the complexities and potential conflicts associated with borders, conducting border diplomacy through negotiation mechanisms is an important strategy to reduce tensions arising from border issues (Heinrich Böll Foundation, 2004).

Border diplomacy is the practice of negotiating borders between states, where diplomats from both countries communicate and work together to establish, confirm, and resolve border-related issues. This diplomacy aims to maintain stability and peace between nations by ensuring that existing borders are recognized and accepted as legitimate by all parties. Through border diplomacy, nations can avoid conflicts and disputes arising from ambiguity and disagreements over territorial boundaries (Ndirangu, 2020). Border diplomacy refers to the

diplomatic approach used to peacefully define, regulate, and resolve border disputes (Shrestha, 2021). The main objective of border diplomacy is to maintain stability and peace between nations. Unclear or disputed borders increase the likelihood of conflicts and tensions. Border diplomacy covers various aspects related to border regions, such as resolving territorial disputes, regulating cross-border trade routes, and protecting the rights of migrants and migrants across borders.

The study “**Comparison of Border Diplomacy between the Trump-Biden Administrations in Handling Illegal Immigration from Mexico,**” aims to compare the border diplomacy approaches implemented by the Biden and Trump administrations in dealing with the problem of illegal immigration from Mexico. Border diplomacy plays an important role in shaping the relations between border countries. Both the Biden and Trump administrations, although with different policy frameworks, have utilized border diplomacy as a central tool of foreign policy to address challenges on the U.S.-Mexico border.

### **C. Previous Research**

After reviewing several relevant studies, the researcher found previous research that closely relates to the topic being studied. These studies provide important insights that support and enrich the researcher’s understanding of the topic. Several previous studies referenced in this research cover various aspects related to border diplomacy, foreign policy, and the management of immigration issues, particularly in the context of the United States-Mexico border. Below are the previous studies

related to the research titled **"Comparison of Border Diplomacy between the Trump-Biden Administrations in Handling Illegal Immigration from Mexico"**:

1. One of the references in the literature review of this research is a paper by Lora Ries titled "President Trump and Joe Biden: Comparing Immigration Policies." This paper was published by Lora Ries in 2020 on The Heritage Foundation's website.

The paper examines various immigration policies implemented by President Donald Trump and during the campaign of President Joe Biden, including border wall policies, general amnesty, travel restrictions, asylum jurisdiction, ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), asylum seekers, refugees, public charge rules, temporary protected status, merit/family-based immigration, diversity visas, "high-skilled" visas, and employment-based permanent visas.

The thesis titled **"Comparison of Border Diplomacy between the Trump-Biden Administrations in Handling Illegal Immigration from Mexico"** shares similarities with the paper "President Trump and Joe Biden: Comparing Immigration Policies" in that both compare the immigration policies of Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden. However, this thesis focuses more on comparing the immigration policies between the Biden and Trump administrations, particularly regarding the handling of illegal immigration from Mexico and border diplomacy. In contrast, the paper

discusses the immigration policies implemented by President Donald Trump and those proposed by President Biden during his campaign without focusing specifically on illegal immigration from Mexico.

2. Another previous study referenced in the literature review of this research is a thesis by Muh. Alif Akbar titled "Kerjasama Amerika Serikat dan Meksiko Dalam Penanganan Krisis Migrasi di Perbatasan Tahun 2018 – 2020." This thesis was published by Muh. Alif Akbar at the University of West Sulawesi in 2024.

The thesis "Kerjasama Amerika Serikat dan Meksiko Dalam Penanganan Krisis Migrasi di Perbatasan Tahun 2018 – 2020" examines the collaboration between the United States and Mexico in addressing the migration crisis at the border during the period from 2018 to 2020. The research focuses on the changes in immigration policies during President Donald Trump's leadership, which had a significant impact on formulating policies related to migration. The main objective of this research is to describe the dynamics of the migration crisis at the United States-Mexico border between 2018 and 2020 and identify the forms of cooperation between the two countries in managing the migration crisis at the border.

The thesis "**Comparison of Border Diplomacy between the Trump-Biden Administrations in Handling Illegal Immigration from Mexico**" shares similarities with the thesis "Kerjasama Amerika Serikat dan Meksiko Dalam Penanganan Krisis Migrasi di Perbatasan Tahun 2018 – 2020" in that

both focus on the cooperation between the United States and Mexico in addressing migration issues at the border. Both studies discuss the dynamics of immigration policies implemented by the United States and the contributions of cooperation between the two countries in managing the migration crisis. However, the previous thesis only discusses the policies of the Trump administration from 2018 to 2020, whereas this thesis compares immigration policies between the Trump and Biden administrations.

3. Another previous study referenced in this research's literature review is an article by Zoe Martens titled "Confronting the US Immigration Detention System in the Biden Era." This article was published by Zoe Martens at the *Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration* in 2021.

The article titled "Confronting the US Immigration Detention System in the Biden Era" discusses three main pillars that support the immigration detention system in the United States and how President Biden's policies could bring change. First, it examines the criminalization of immigrants as a strategy to control national identity and its relationship to detention. Second, it addresses the immigration detention policies implemented in the United States. Third, it explains the role and interests of companies that profit financially and politically from immigrant detention. The article also discusses the immigration policies introduced by President Biden, including the 2021 U.S. Citizenship Act and Executive Order 14006.

The thesis titled "**Comparison of Border Diplomacy between the Trump-Biden Administrations in Handling Illegal Immigration from Mexico**" shares similarities with the previous article "Confronting the US Immigration Detention System in the Biden Era" in that both focus on examining immigration policies implemented by the U.S. government, particularly under President Biden's leadership. However, there is a significant difference in the focus of the two. This thesis places more emphasis on comparing immigration policies between the Trump and Biden administrations, particularly regarding illegal immigration from Mexico, while highlighting the border diplomacy approaches used by both administrations. In contrast, the article focuses more on the policies implemented during President Biden's administration regarding the U.S. immigration detention system.

4. Another previous study referenced in this research's literature review is an article by Taufik and Sundari Ayu Pratiwi titled "American First: Donald Trump's Policy on Restricting Immigrants to the United States." This article was published by Taufik and Sundari Ayu Pratiwi in 2021 in *Intermestic: Journal of International Studies*.

The article titled "American First: Donald Trump's Policy on Restricting Immigrants to the United States" examines various policies implemented by President Donald Trump related to immigration, including the isolationist policies of the Trump era, the "American First" doctrine, and nationalist and

anti-immigrant policies that developed during his presidency. The research focuses on Trump's immigration policies, including those aimed at restricting immigration and targeting specific immigrant groups. The main objective of this research is to explain the dynamics of the policies adopted by the Trump administration in addressing immigration issues and their impact on the United States' relations with other countries and immigrant groups.

The thesis titled "**Comparison of Border Diplomacy between the Trump-Biden Administrations in Handling Illegal Immigration from Mexico**" shares similarities with the article "American First: Donald Trump's Policy on Restricting Immigrants to the United States" in that both focus on the immigration policies implemented by President Donald Trump's administration. Both studies examine the dynamics of immigration policies implemented by the United States to address illegal immigration and their impact on relations between the United States and other countries. The difference is that the article exclusively discusses Trump's immigration policies, focusing on restricting immigration and the "American First" doctrine. In contrast, this thesis compares the immigration policies of the Trump and Biden administrations in addressing the issue of illegal immigration, particularly from Mexico.