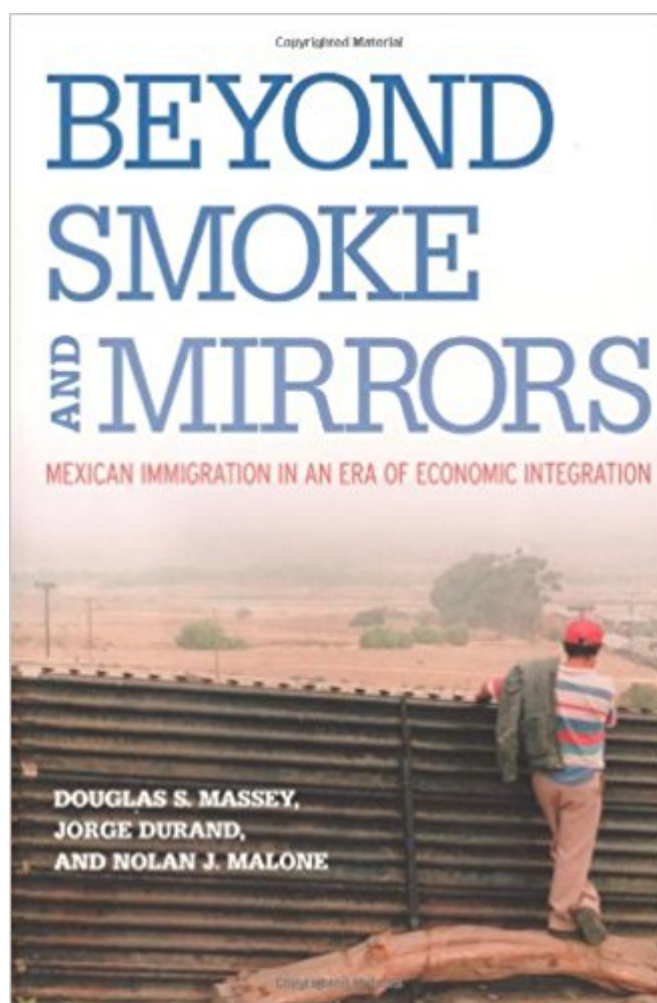


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# Beyond Smoke And Mirrors: Mexican Immigration In An Era Of Economic Integration



## Synopsis

Migration between Mexico and the United States is part of a historical process of increasing North American integration. This process acquired new momentum with the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1994, which lowered barriers to the movement of goods, capital, services, and information. But rather than include labor in this new regime, the United States continues to resist the integration of the labor markets of the two countries. Instead of easing restrictions on Mexican labor, the United States has militarized its border and adopted restrictive new policies of immigrant disenfranchisement. *Beyond Smoke and Mirrors* examines the devastating impact of these immigration policies on the social and economic fabric of the Mexico and the United States, and calls for a sweeping reform of the current system. *Beyond Smoke and Mirrors* shows how U.S. immigration policies enacted between 1986 and 1996 largely for symbolic domestic political purposes harm the interests of Mexico, the United States, and the people who migrate between them. The costs have been high. The book documents how the massive expansion of border enforcement has wasted billions of dollars and hundreds of lives, yet has not deterred increasing numbers of undocumented immigrants from heading north. The authors also show how the new policies unleashed a host of unintended consequences: a shift away from seasonal, circular migration toward permanent settlement; the creation of a black market for Mexican labor; the transformation of Mexican immigration from a regional phenomenon into a broad social movement touching every region of the country; and even the lowering of wages for legal U.S. residents. What had been a relatively open and benign labor process before 1986 was transformed into an exploitative underground system of labor coercion, one that lowered wages and working conditions of undocumented migrants, legal immigrants, and American citizens alike. *Beyond Smoke and Mirrors* offers specific proposals for repairing the damage. Rather than denying the reality of labor migration, the authors recommend regularizing it and working to manage it so as to promote economic development in Mexico, minimize costs and disruptions for the United States, and maximize benefits for all concerned. This book provides an essential "user's manual" for readers seeking a historical, theoretical, and substantive understanding of how U.S. policy on Mexican immigration evolved to its current dysfunctional state, as well as how it might be fixed.

## Book Information

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attention ... An important contribution to the field of U.S.-Mexico relations. -- Urban Studies, Vol.  
40:3This book raises important questions and forces serious thought. -- Industrial & Labor Relations  
Review, January 2003

DOUGLAS S. MASSEY is the Dorothy Swaine Thomas Professor of Sociology at the University of  
Pennsylvania.JORGE DURAND is professor and investigator in the Department for the Study of  
Social Movements at the Universidad de Guadalajara.NOLAN J. MALONE is a doctoral candidate  
in demography at the University of Pennsylvania.

Doug Massey is a leading scholars on Mexico-U.S. migration, and this book is a culmination of his  
and his colleagues' empirical research for close to two decades. Grounded in well-established  
principles in international immigration research, this book adopts objective lens to examine the  
complex forces underlying the migration between Mexico and the United States. The authors  
reviews a history shaped by competition between economic motives, nativist sentiments, and  
shifting regulatory regimes. The book presents a compelling case to demonstrate the politicized  
nation of policies enacted since the 1980s, which have not only been costly, ineffective in deterring  
border crossing, but also inadvertently encouraged more unauthorized migrants to stay in the United  
States. The same issues have become even more pronounced with the greater integration between

the two countries since the passage of NAFTA. At an era when the United States is doubling down on a border control regime that has in many ways been counter-productive, the alternative system of rational management presented by these authors in 2002 deserves more consideration.

If we assume the data is correct, I think these authors have made a compelling argument for a more rational, kind immigration system with Mexico. While I would be in favour of a North American borderless zone, I understand that would not be acceptable to many. This is a clearly written, methodical discussion of immigration on the southern border, and would highly recommend.

I had to read this book for a class and it was very enlightening. Easy to read. I never read books assigned in class, but this one was an exception.

product as expected.

This is apparently out of print, so I was happy to find a copy

To understand the US Mexico border, one needs a long view and a deep view. Massey offers both.

Great condition!

Comprehensive and clearly written. It helped me conceptualize immigration issues in a holistic manner, providing me a base of theory to better understand the multiple facets of immigration trends and policy. It has allowed me to better understand subsequent immigration studies as I've used this work as a point of reference. I thoroughly enjoyed reading the book. It's a writing that riled up my passions with facts and research, not bigotry. It has a bias towards greater immigration rights, but this bias is strongly supported with research and fact, not rhetoric. The language is objective, but the overall argument suggests advocacy for immigrants. This has been my favorite read on immigration!

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