

migra a history of the u s border patrol

****Migra: A History of the U.S. Border Patrol****

migra a history of the u s border patrol is a fascinating journey into the complexities of American immigration enforcement and border security. The term “migra” is a colloquial nickname often used to refer to the U.S. Border Patrol, and understanding its history sheds light on how immigration policies and border control have evolved over the decades. From its modest beginnings to its present-day role, the U.S. Border Patrol has played a critical part in shaping the nation’s approach to immigration, law enforcement, and national security.

The Early Origins of the U.S. Border Patrol

The roots of what we now call the U.S. Border Patrol date back to the early 20th century. Officially established in 1924 under the Department of Labor, the Border Patrol was created in response to increasing concerns about illegal immigration and smuggling along the U.S.-Mexico border. Prior to its formation, immigration enforcement was largely handled by the Immigration Bureau, but as cross-border movement intensified, the need for a specialized agency became clear.

Why 1924 Marked a Turning Point

The year 1924 was significant not just for the Border Patrol's creation but also because of the Immigration Act passed that year, which imposed strict quotas on immigrants from certain countries. These new regulations heightened the need for a dedicated force to prevent illegal entry, particularly along the southern border. Early agents, often called “mounted guards” or “border agents,” patrolled vast stretches of desert and rugged terrain with minimal resources.

Evolution Through the Mid-20th Century

As decades passed, the responsibilities and challenges of the Border Patrol grew. World events, domestic policies, and shifting migration patterns influenced its operations.

The Impact of World War II and Post-War Migration

During World War II, the Border Patrol's role expanded to include national security concerns, such as preventing espionage and safeguarding critical infrastructure. After the war, the U.S. saw increased migration, especially from Mexico, fueled by labor programs and economic factors.

One notable program was the Bracero Program (1942-1964), which allowed millions of Mexican laborers to work temporarily in the United States. While this program was legal and regulated, it also underscored the need for effective border enforcement to manage unauthorized crossings.

Changes in Enforcement and Technology

By the 1950s and 1960s, the Border Patrol started adopting new technologies and strategies. Vehicles replaced horses, and agents began using radios and early surveillance equipment. Despite these advancements, the vastness of the border and the ingenuity of those attempting to cross illegally presented ongoing challenges.

“Migra” in Popular Culture and Public Perception

The term “migra” is deeply embedded in the cultural fabric of border communities and immigrant populations. Often used in a colloquial or even fearful context, “migra” reflects both the authority of the Border Patrol and the tension surrounding immigration enforcement.

How “Migra” Became a Symbol

Throughout the late 20th century, as immigration debates intensified, the Border Patrol—and by extension the “migra”—became symbolic of enforcement policies that some viewed as necessary for sovereignty, while others saw as harsh or unjust. This dual perception influenced public discourse, media portrayals, and even art and literature.

The Modern Era: Expansion and Controversy

The events of the early 21st century, especially post-9/11, dramatically altered the trajectory of the U.S. Border Patrol.

Post-9/11 Security and the Creation of DHS

After the September 11 attacks in 2001, border security became a cornerstone of national defense strategy. The Border Patrol was transferred from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to the newly formed Department of Homeland Security (DHS) under U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

This transition brought increased funding, personnel, and technological investment. Surveillance drones, biometric systems, and enhanced fencing were introduced to better secure the border.

Contemporary Challenges and Public Debate

Today, the Border Patrol faces a complex environment of humanitarian concerns, legal challenges, and political scrutiny. Issues such as family separations, asylum seekers, drug trafficking, and human smuggling dominate headlines and policy discussions.

The “migra” remains a contentious figure—viewed by some as protectors of the nation’s borders and by others as enforcers of controversial immigration policies.

Understanding the Role of the U.S. Border Patrol Today

The modern U.S. Border Patrol is a multifaceted agency responsible not only for preventing illegal crossings but also for protecting the country from diverse threats.

Key Responsibilities

- Monitoring and securing nearly 7,000 miles of U.S. land borders with Canada and Mexico
- Patrolling coastal waters and ports of entry
- Detecting and apprehending individuals attempting to enter illegally
- Combating drug trafficking organizations and human smuggling rings
- Collaborating with other federal, state, local, and international law enforcement agencies

Technology and Innovation in Border Security

The agency employs a range of advanced tools including ground sensors, motion detectors, thermal imaging, and aerial surveillance. These technologies help agents cover remote and difficult terrain more effectively, complementing boots-on-the-ground patrols.

Lessons from the Past and Looking Ahead

Understanding the history of the U.S. border patrol provides valuable insight into the ongoing challenges of border security and immigration policy. The agency’s story is one of adaptation to changing political climates, migration trends, and security threats.

As debates around immigration reform continue, the Border Patrol’s role will likely evolve. Balancing security with humanitarian considerations remains a critical challenge, requiring nuanced approaches and informed public dialogue.

Whether you view the “migra” as guardians of the border or as an emblem of a complex immigration system, their history is undeniably intertwined with the broader story of America’s identity and its relationship with its neighbors.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the book 'Migra: A History of the U.S. Border Patrol' about?

The book 'Migra: A History of the U.S. Border Patrol' provides a comprehensive history of the U.S. Border Patrol, detailing its origins, development, and role in immigration enforcement along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Who is the author of 'Migra: A History of the U.S. Border Patrol'?

The author of 'Migra: A History of the U.S. Border Patrol' is Kelly Lytle Hernández, a historian specializing in immigration and border issues.

When was 'Migra: A History of the U.S. Border Patrol' published?

'Migra: A History of the U.S. Border Patrol' was published in 2010.

What time period does 'Migra' cover in the history of the U.S. Border Patrol?

The book covers the history of the U.S. Border Patrol from its establishment in the 1920s through the early 21st century.

How does 'Migra' address the impact of the U.S. Border Patrol on Latino communities?

'Migra' explores how the U.S. Border Patrol's enforcement policies and practices have affected Latino communities, including issues of racial profiling, discrimination, and social consequences.

Does 'Migra' discuss the political context surrounding the U.S. Border Patrol?

Yes, the book situates the U.S. Border Patrol within broader political and social contexts, including immigration policy, labor demands, and national security concerns.

What sources does Kelly Lytle Hernández use in 'Migra' to tell the history of the Border Patrol?

Hernández utilizes a variety of sources including government documents, Border Patrol records, personal testimonies, and archival materials to provide a detailed historical account.

Why is 'Migra: A History of the U.S. Border Patrol' considered an important work?

The book is considered important because it sheds light on the often overlooked history of the Border Patrol, challenges prevailing narratives about immigration enforcement, and highlights the social and political ramifications of border policing.

Additional Resources

****Migra: A History of the U.S. Border Patrol****

migra a history of the u s border patrol reveals a complex and evolving narrative intertwined with immigration policy, national security, and socio-political dynamics. Established nearly a century ago, the U.S. Border Patrol has been at the forefront of America's efforts to regulate and secure its borders, particularly along the southern frontier shared with Mexico. Understanding its origins, transformations, and ongoing challenges provides crucial insight into the broader debates surrounding immigration and border control in the United States today.

Origins and Early Development of the U.S. Border Patrol

The U.S. Border Patrol was officially created in 1924 as a response to growing concerns about illegal immigration and smuggling activities along the U.S.-Mexico border. Prior to its establishment, border enforcement was fragmented, with various customs and immigration officials operating without centralized coordination. The agency's inception under the Department of Labor marked the beginning of a more structured approach to monitoring and controlling cross-border movements.

The early years of the Border Patrol were characterized by limited manpower and resources, with agents primarily tasked with patrolling remote desert areas and railroad lines. The term "migra," often used colloquially to refer to immigration enforcement agents, began to emerge during this period, reflecting both the agency's focus and its perception among border communities.

Key Milestones in the Early 20th Century

- ****1924:**** U.S. Border Patrol officially established.
- ****1930s:**** Expansion of personnel and increased focus on immigration enforcement during the Great Depression.
- ****1940s:**** World War II heightened concerns about national security, prompting enhancements in border surveillance.

This foundational era set the stage for the agency's expanding role in the decades to come, as the U.S. grappled with shifting immigration patterns and geopolitical pressures.

The Post-War Expansion and Institutional Changes

Following World War II, the U.S. Border Patrol underwent significant institutional growth, reflecting broader national priorities. The 1950s and 1960s saw increased migration from Mexico and Latin America, prompting the federal government to bolster border enforcement capabilities. The Border Patrol became part of the newly created Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in 1940, consolidating immigration functions under one umbrella.

In the 1960s, Operation Wetback, a controversial and aggressive deportation campaign, exemplified the agency's intensified focus on apprehending undocumented immigrants. While the operation resulted in the removal of hundreds of thousands of individuals, it also drew criticism for its heavy-handed tactics and human rights concerns.

Shifts in Policy and Agency Structure

- **1965:** Immigration and Nationality Act amended immigration quotas, influencing migration flows.
- **1970s:** Increased drug trafficking along the border added new enforcement priorities.
- **1986:** Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) introduced employer sanctions and amnesty provisions, complicating border enforcement dynamics.

These decades highlighted the dual role of the Border Patrol as both an immigration control entity and a component of national security efforts, a balance that continues to challenge policymakers.

Modernization and Challenges in the 21st Century

The post-9/11 era marked a profound transformation for the U.S. Border Patrol. The creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in 2003 absorbed the Border Patrol into U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), reflecting an increased emphasis on counterterrorism alongside immigration enforcement.

The agency expanded its technological capabilities, deploying surveillance systems such as drones, sensors, and enhanced radar to monitor border activity. Additionally, the Border Patrol's workforce grew substantially, with agent numbers surpassing 20,000 by the 2010s.

Contemporary Issues and Debates

- **Border Security:** Investments in physical barriers and surveillance technologies aimed to reduce illegal crossings.
- **Humanitarian Concerns:** The treatment of migrants, including unaccompanied minors and asylum seekers, has sparked widespread debate.
- **Policy Fluctuations:** Changes in administration policies have led to shifts in enforcement priorities, from strict zero-tolerance approaches to more humanitarian-focused strategies.

These challenges underscore the complexity of border enforcement in a landscape shaped by migration pressures, international diplomacy, and domestic political considerations.

Understanding the Role of “Migra” in Public Perception

The colloquial term “migra,” derived from the Spanish word for immigration authorities, encapsulates the often fraught relationship between border communities and enforcement agents. Public perception of the Border Patrol varies widely, influenced by personal experiences, media portrayals, and political rhetoric.

For some, the Border Patrol represents a necessary line of defense against illegal immigration and crime; for others, it symbolizes an intrusive and sometimes oppressive presence. This duality reflects broader tensions within American society regarding immigration policy and border sovereignty.

Community Impact and Cultural Dimensions

- **Border Towns:** Local economies and social structures are deeply affected by Border Patrol operations.
- **Cross-Border Families:** Enforcement can disrupt familial ties and complicate daily life for binational communities.
- **Advocacy and Activism:** Numerous organizations have emerged to challenge enforcement practices and advocate for migrant rights.

These cultural and social dimensions emphasize that the history of the Border Patrol is not only about enforcement but also about human stories and community resilience.

Technological Innovations and Future Directions

As migration patterns continue to evolve, the U.S. Border Patrol is increasingly reliant on technology to meet operational demands. Innovations include biometric identification tools, artificial intelligence for predictive analytics, and integrated surveillance networks designed to improve situational awareness.

However, reliance on technological solutions raises questions about privacy, civil liberties, and the efficacy of deterrence strategies. The balance between effective border management and respect for individual rights remains a pivotal concern.

- Deployment of drones and unmanned aerial vehicles for remote monitoring
- Use of advanced sensors and ground radar systems
- Integration of data analytics for resource allocation and threat assessment

These advancements reflect a broader trend toward modernizing border security infrastructure while grappling with ethical and practical limitations.

A Historical Lens on Contemporary Border Issues

Reflecting on **migra a history of the u s border patrol** highlights the enduring complexity of border enforcement in the United States. The agency's evolution from a small patrol force to a sprawling federal entity mirrors changing national priorities and societal attitudes toward immigration.

Historical episodes—from the establishment of the Border Patrol to operations like Wetback, and from the post-9/11 security ramp-up to current humanitarian challenges—provide context for ongoing debates. They underscore that border enforcement is not a static endeavor but one shaped by shifting political, economic, and social forces.

As the United States continues to navigate immigration reform and border security policy, understanding the legacy and trajectory of the Border Patrol remains essential for informed discourse and effective governance.

[Migra A History Of The U S Border Patrol](#)

migra a history of the u s border patrol: *Migra!* Kelly Lytle Hernandez, 2010 *Migra!* is the first and only substantive history of the U.S. Border Patrol. Hernandez breaks new ground in this deeply researched account of its formation and development.--George Sanchez, author of *Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945*

migra a history of the u s border patrol: *Migra!* Kelly Lytle Hernandez, 2010-05-03 Political awareness of the tensions in U.S.-Mexico relations is rising in the twenty-first century; the American history of its treatment of illegal immigrants represents a massive failure of the promises of the American dream. This is the untold history of the United States Border Patrol from its beginnings in 1924 as a small peripheral outfit to its emergence as a large professional police force that continuously draws intense scrutiny and denunciations from political activism groups. To tell this story, MacArthur Genius Fellow Kelly Lytle Hernández dug through a gold mine of lost and unseen records and bits of biography stored in garages, closets, an abandoned factory, and in U.S. and Mexican archives. Focusing on the daily challenges of policing the Mexican border and bringing to light unexpected partners and forgotten dynamics, *Migra!* reveals how the U.S. Border Patrol translated the mandate for comprehensive migration control into a project of policing immigrants and undocumented “aliens” in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.

migra a history of the u s border patrol: *Migra!* Kelly Lytle Hernandez, 2010-05-03 This is the untold history of the United States Border Patrol from its beginnings in 1924 as a small peripheral outfit to its emergence as a large professional police force. To tell this story, Kelly Lytle Hernández dug through a gold mine of lost and unseen records stored in garages, closets, an abandoned factory, and in U.S. and Mexican archives. Focusing on the daily challenges of policing the borderlands and bringing to light unexpected partners and forgotten dynamics, *Migra!* reveals how the U.S. Border Patrol translated the mandate for comprehensive migration control into a project of policing Mexicans in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.

migra a history of the u s border patrol: Immigration, the Borderlands, and the

Resilient Homeland Yoku Shaw-Taylor, 2023-05-30 This title combines original research, case studies, and synoptic analysis to cover highly charged topics in America today. Each chapter in this edited volume offers conditional responses to three essential questions about the disciplinary status of homeland security: What are the domain's central problems? What research methods are best able to address those problems? What has research contributed to addressing homeland security's core problems? The volume is divided into two main sections. Part I: Immigration and Management covers topics such as: Immigration enforcement Illegal crossing Border security Gaps in securing the borderland Part II: The Resilient Homeland addresses issues such as Lessons learned from the pandemic Disaster recovery and preparedness Public health Cybersecurity This publication bridges knowledge from various topics related to homeland security into one volume.

migra a history of the u s border patrol: Immigration, Assimilation, and Border Security Yoku Shaw-Taylor, Lorraine McCall, 2020-02-28 This second edition is an update of the intersection of border security, immigration, and assimilation in the U.S.A. In addition to the history of immigration and custom services and shifts in attitudes about immigration, this edition provides new information about the operations of the Department of Homeland Security to secure the border. A new chapter examines developments in immigration policy relating to the border wall, family separation, unaccompanied immigrant minors and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA. The book includes real-life stories of difficult incidents that arise due to the complicated relationship between immigration and border security. The authors review prospects for comprehensive immigration policy and border security policy.

migra a history of the u s border patrol: Border Patrol Nation Todd Miller, 2014-04-08 Fast-paced frontline reporting and analysis on the militaristic spread of US Border Patrol and the long-term consequences for free society.

migra a history of the u s border patrol: Just Immigration in the Americas Allison B. Wolf, 2020-09-22 This book proposes a pioneering, interdisciplinary, feminist approach to immigration justice, which defines immigration justice as being about identifying and resisting global oppression in immigration structures, policies, practices, and norms. In contrast to most philosophical work on immigration (which begins with abstract ideas and philosophical debates and then makes claims based on them), this book begins with concrete cases and immigration policies from throughout the United States, Mexico, Central America, and Colombia to assess the nature of immigration injustice and set us up to address it. Every chapter of the book begins with specific immigration policies, practices or sets of immigrant experiences in the U.S. and Latin America and then explores them through the lens of global oppression to better identify what makes it unjust and to put us in a better position to respond to that injustice and improve immigrants' lives. It is one of the first sustained studies of immigration justice that focuses on Central and South America in addition to the U.S. and Mexico.

migra a history of the u s border patrol: Blood Oranges Timothy P. Bowman, 2016-05-20 *Blood Oranges* traces the origins and legacy of racial differences between Anglo Americans and ethnic Mexicans (Mexican nationals and Mexican Americans) in the South Texas borderlands in the twentieth century. Author Tim Bowman uncovers a complex web of historical circumstances that caused ethnic Mexicans in the region to rank among the poorest, least educated, and unhealthiest demographic in the country. The key to this development, Bowman finds, was a "modern colonization movement," a process that had its roots in the Mexican-American war of the nineteenth century but reached its culmination in the twentieth century. South Texas, in Bowman's words, became an "internal economy just inside of the US-Mexico border." Beginning in the twentieth century, Anglo Americans consciously transformed the region from that of a culturally "Mexican" space, with an economy based on cattle, into one dominated by commercial agriculture focused on citrus and winter vegetables. As Anglos gained political and economic control in the region, they also consolidated their power along racial lines with laws and customs not unlike the "Jim Crow" system of southern segregation. Bowman argues that the Mexican labor class was thus transformed into a marginalized racial caste, the legacy of which remained in place even as large-scale

agribusiness cemented its hold on the regional economy later in the century. Blood Oranges stands to be a major contribution to the history of South Texas and borderland studies alike.

migra a history of the u s border patrol: *Affective Labour* James M. Thomas, Jennifer G. Correa, 2015-12-11 *Affective Labour* explores four distinct landscapes in order to demonstrate how collective feelings are organized by social actors in order to both reproduce and contest hegemony. Utilizing a variety of methods, including participant observation, in-depth interviews across field sites, and content analysis of mass media, Correa and Thomas demonstrate the centrality of affective labor in enabling and constraining prevailing norms and practices of race, citizenship, class, gender, and sexuality across multiple spatial contexts: the U.S.- Mexico border, urban nightlife districts, American college campuses, and emergent social movements against the police state. The book demonstrates how the power of affective labour might be harnessed for progressively oriented world-building projects, including what the authors term an 'affective labour from below.' By tying an analysis of affective labour into movements for social justice, the authors aim to produce a critical theory of the world that can be practically applied.

migra a history of the u s border patrol: *You Are Not American* Amanda Frost, 2021-01-26 Shortlisted for the Mark Lynton History Prize *Citizenship is invaluable, yet our status as citizens is always at risk—even for those born on US soil. Over the last two centuries, the US government has revoked citizenship to cast out its unwanted, suppress dissent, and deny civil rights to all considered “un-American”—whether due to their race, ethnicity, marriage partner, or beliefs. Drawing on the narratives of those who have struggled to be treated as full members of “We the People,” law professor Amanda Frost exposes a hidden history of discrimination and xenophobia that continues to this day. The Supreme Court’s rejection of Black citizenship in Dred Scott was among the first and most notorious examples of citizenship stripping, but the phenomenon did not end there. Women who married noncitizens, persecuted racial groups, labor leaders, and political activists were all denied their citizenship, and sometimes deported, by a government that wanted to redefine the meaning of “American.” Today, US citizens living near the southern border are regularly denied passports, thousands are detained and deported by mistake, and the Trump administration is investigating the citizenship of 700,000 naturalized citizens. Even elected leaders such as Barack Obama and Kamala Harris are not immune from false claims that they are not citizens eligible to hold office. You Are Not American grapples with what it means to be American and the issues surrounding membership, identity, belonging, and exclusion that still occupy and divide the nation in the twenty-first century.*

migra a history of the u s border patrol: *Justice Required* Robert J. Durán, Oralia Loza, 2025-10-07 Police have remarkably broad discretion to use deadly force. Evidence shows that more than 1,000 shooting deaths occur each year at the hands of the police in the United States, disproportionately in minority communities and often under questionable circumstances. Despite public outrage, there continue to be obstacles to assessing the extent of bias and addressing the harms of police violence, including a lack of transparency and limitations on access to data. *Justice Required* is a groundbreaking quantitative and qualitative investigation of police violence. Robert J. Durán and Oralia Loza provide a comprehensive data analysis of all police shootings in Denver, Colorado, over nearly forty years, highlighting persistent patterns of racial and ethnic inequality. They examine the institutional and political dynamics that thwart efforts to hold police officers accountable after controversial incidents. Durán and Loza contextualize the data with regional comparisons and enliven the analysis with vivid storytelling. *Justice Required* argues that while police shootings are typically treated as a criminal justice issue, they should be understood as a public health problem. Rigorous and urgent, this book provides evidence-based, data-driven solutions to prevent further loss of life and promote accountability.

migra a history of the u s border patrol: *Workers Across the Americas* Leon Fink, 2011-04-13 The first major volume to place U.S.-centered labor history in a transnational focus, *Workers Across the Americas* collects the newest scholarship of Canadianist, Caribbeanist, and Latin American specialists as well as U.S. historians. These essays highlight both the supra- and sub-national aspect

of selected topics without neglecting nation-states themselves as historical forces. Indeed, the transnational focus opens new avenues for understanding changes in the concepts, policies, and practice of states, their interactions with each other and their populations, and the ways in which the popular classes resist, react, and advance their interests. What does this transnational turn encompass? And what are its likely perils as well as promise as a framework for research and analysis? To address these questions John French, Julie Greene, Neville Kirk, Aviva Chomsky, Dirk Hoerder, and Vic Satzewich lead off the volume with critical commentaries on the project of transnational labor history. Their responses offer a tour of explanations, tensions, and cautions in the evolution of a new arena of research and writing. Thereafter, *Workers Across the Americas* groups fifteen research essays around themes of labor and empire, indigenous peoples and labor systems, international feminism and reproductive labor, labor recruitment and immigration control, transnational labor politics, and labor internationalism. Topics range from military labor in the British Empire to coffee workers on the Guatemalan/Mexican border to the role of the International Labor Organization in attempting to set common labor standards. Leading scholars introduce each section and recommend further reading.

migra a history of the u s border patrol: Crossing the Line Sarah B. Towle, 2024-06-18 It was family separation and “kids in cages” that drove Sarah Towle to the U.S. southern border. On discovering the many-headed hydra that is the U.S. immigration system—and the heroic determination of those caught under its knee—she could never look away again. *Crossing the Line: Finding America in the Borderlands* charts Sarah’s journey from outrage to activism to abolition as she exposes, layer by “broken” layer, the global deterrence to detention to deportation complex that is failing everyone—save the profiteers and demagogues who benefit from it. Deftly weaving together oral storytelling, history, and memoir, Sarah illustrates how the U.S. has led the retreat from post-WWII commitments to protecting human rights. Yet within the web of normalized cruelty, she finds hope and inspiration in the extraordinary acts of ordinary people who prove, every day, there is a better way. By amplifying their voices and celebrating their efforts, Sarah reveals that we can welcome with dignity those most in need of safety and compassion. In unmasking the real root causes of the so-called “crisis” in human migration, she urges us to act before we travel much farther down our current course—one which history will not soon forgive, or forget.

migra a history of the u s border patrol: The Chicano Movement Mario T. Garcia, 2014-03-26 The largest social movement by people of Mexican descent in the U.S. to date, the Chicano Movement of the 1960s and 70s linked civil rights activism with a new, assertive ethnic identity: Chicano Power! Beginning with the farmworkers' struggle led by César Chávez and Dolores Huerta, the Movement expanded to urban areas throughout the Southwest, Midwest and Pacific Northwest, as a generation of self-proclaimed Chicanos fought to empower their communities. Recently, a new generation of historians has produced an explosion of interesting work on the Movement. *The Chicano Movement: Perspectives from the Twenty-First Century* collects the various strands of this research into one readable collection, exploring the contours of the Movement while disputing the idea of it being one monolithic group. Bringing the story up through the 1980s, *The Chicano Movement* introduces students to the impact of the Movement, and enables them to expand their understanding of what it means to be an activist, a Chicano, and an American.

migra a history of the u s border patrol: Uncle Sam's Policemen Katherine Unterman, 2015-10-19 Extraordinary rendition—abducting criminal suspects around the world—has been criticized as an unprecedented expansion of U.S. policing. But America’s pursuit of fugitives beyond its borders predates the Global War on Terror. Katherine Unterman shows that the extension of manhunts into foreign lands formed an important chapter in American empire.

migra a history of the u s border patrol: Against the Deportation Terror Rachel Buff, 2018 Despite being characterized as a “nation of immigrants,” the United States has seen a long history of immigrant rights struggles. In her timely book *Against the Deportation Terror*, Rachel Ida Buff uncovers this multiracial history. She traces the story of the American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born (ACFPB) from its origins in the 1930s through repression during the

early Cold War, to engagement with “new” Latinx and Caribbean immigrants in the 1970s and early 1980s. Functioning as a hub connecting diverse foreign-born communities and racial justice advocates, the ACPFB responded to various, ongoing crises of what they called “the deportation terror.” Advocates worked against repression, discrimination, detention, and expulsion in migrant communities across the nation at the same time as they supported reform of federal immigration policy. Prevailing in some cases and suffering defeats in others, the story of the ACPFB is characterized by persistence in multiracial organizing even during periods of protracted repression. By tracing the work of the ACPFB and its allies over half a century, *Against the Deportation Terror* provides important historical precedent for contemporary immigrant rights organizing. Its lessons continue to resonate today.

migra a history of the u s border patrol: *After They Closed the Gates* Libby Garland, 2014-03-28 In 1921 and 1924, the United States passed laws to sharply reduce the influx of immigrants into the country. By allocating only small quotas to the nations of southern and eastern Europe, and banning almost all immigration from Asia, the new laws were supposed to stem the tide of foreigners considered especially inferior and dangerous. However, immigrants continued to come, sailing into the port of New York with fake passports, or from Cuba to Florida, hidden in the holds of boats loaded with contraband liquor. Jews, one of the main targets of the quota laws, figured prominently in the new international underworld of illegal immigration. However, they ultimately managed to escape permanent association with the identity of the “illegal alien” in a way that other groups, such as Mexicans, thus far, have not. In *After They Closed the Gates*, Libby Garland tells the untold stories of the Jewish migrants and smugglers involved in that underworld, showing how such stories contributed to growing national anxieties about illegal immigration. Garland also helps us understand how Jews were linked to, and then unlinked from, the specter of illegal immigration. By tracing this complex history, Garland offers compelling insights into the contingent nature of citizenship, belonging, and Americanness.

migra a history of the u s border patrol: *El Norte* Carrie Gibson, 2022-03-30 A sweeping saga of the Spanish history and influence in North America over five centuries, from the acclaimed author of *Empire's Crossroads*. Because of our shared English language, as well as the celebrated origin tales of the Mayflower and the rebellion of the British colonies, the United States has prized its Anglo heritage above all others. However, as Carrie Gibson explains with great depth and clarity in *El Norte*, the nation has much older Spanish roots—ones that have long been unacknowledged or marginalized. The Hispanic past of the United States predates the arrival of the Pilgrims by a century, and has been every bit as important in shaping the nation as it exists today. *El Norte* chronicles the dramatic history of Hispanic North America from the arrival of the Spanish in the early 16th century to the present—from Ponce de Leon's initial landing in Florida in 1513 to Spanish control of the vast Louisiana territory in 1762 to the Mexican-American War in 1846 and up to the more recent tragedy of post-hurricane Puerto Rico and the ongoing border acrimony with Mexico. Interwoven in this narrative of events and people are cultural issues that have been there from the start but which are unresolved to this day: language, belonging, community, race, and nationality. Seeing them play out over centuries provides vital perspective at a time when it is urgently needed. In 1883, Walt Whitman meditated on his country's Spanish past: We Americans have yet to really learn our own antecedents, and sort them, to unify them, predicting that to that composite American identity of the future, Spanish character will supply some of the most needed parts. That future is here, and *El Norte*, a stirring and eventful history in its own right, will make a powerful impact on our national understanding. This history debunks the myth of American exceptionalism by revisiting a past that is not British and Protestant but Hispanic and Catholic. Gibson begins with the arrival of Spaniards in La Florida, in 1513, discusses Mexico's ceding of territory to the U.S., in 1848, and concludes with Trump's nativist fixations. Along the way, she explains how California came to be named after a fictional island in a book by a Castilian Renaissance writer and asks why we ignore a chapter of our history that began long before the Pilgrims arrived. At a time when the building of walls occupies so much attention, Gibson makes a case for the blurring of boundaries. — New Yorker

A sweeping and accessible survey of the Hispanic history of the U.S. that illuminates the integral impact of the Spanish and their descendants on the U.S.'s social and cultural development. . . . This unusual and insightful work provides a welcome and thought-provoking angle on the country's history, and should be widely appreciated. — Publishers Weekly, starred review, PW Pick

migra a history of the u s border patrol: *Migrant God* Isaac Samuel Villegas, 2025-03-13 *Migrant God* takes readers to the front lines of immigrant justice activism where Christians are putting hope into action. From Tijuana, Mexico, to Douglas, Arizona, across North Carolina and beyond, Isaac Villegas cuts a new path through worn-out talking points and bears witness to loving solidarity among Christians—both with and without US citizenship. Along the way, he offers a theologically astute and politically rich vision of beloved community. Centering the stories of people who have been transformed through their dedication to the work of collective wholeness, Villegas begins each chapter “on the ground”—with protests in the streets, hospitality in migrant shelters, and shared meals in home kitchens. He then engages in biblical, theological, and political reflection to explore the significance—for our faith and our world—of these sites of collective work. *Migrant God* is a stirring read for anyone who wants to shift conversations about immigration toward a more holistic Christian vision of life lived in solidarity with migrants.

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