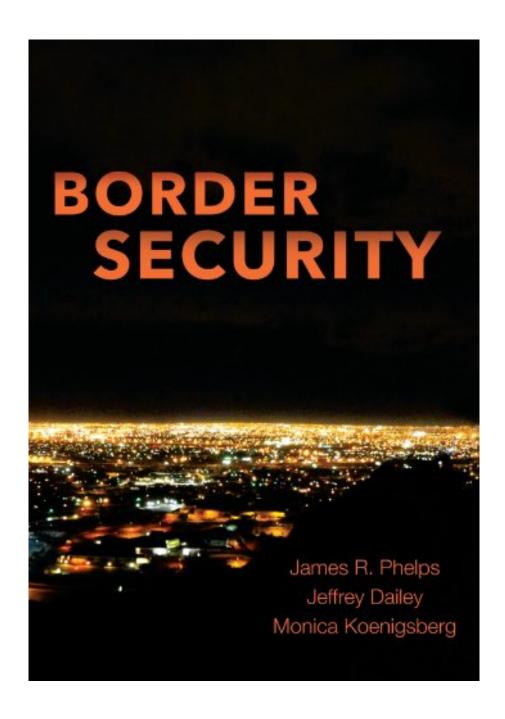


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Review

"I believe this is the most comprehensive work on border protection yet published by anyone to include the Federal government. It is the most comprehensive document for understanding the global history and contemporary context for every form of domestic and international border transgression from land, air, sea and cyber. Everyone seeking to understand the long term consequences of this problem must read it." -- Robert Scales, MG (U.S. Army, Ret.), retired Major General, formerly commanded the Army War College

"This book is a definitive work on the concept of 'borders' and how governments over time view, employ and enforce them. The authors demonstrate extensive research and vast scholarship; the book is suitable for reference or general reading. It should be read by all members of Congress and border security public policy experts for a broader and deeper understanding of how borders function. The section that covers the different definitions of borders is excellent and thought-provoking." --Diana Washington Valdez, border journalist, author and political science professor based in El Paso, Texas

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Much has been written recently concerning the relationship between illegal immigration and border security (or the lack thereof). The concept of border security affects all of us, directly or indirectly. It seems that the closer we get physically to the border (any border), the more we are affected (by border security), and the more we consider it a real and valid concern.

Filled with relevant information, this holistic approach provides a timely foundation for anyone interested in the topic. Descriptive and analytical, the text is designed to offer undergraduates in Homeland Security and Criminal Justice a balanced and up-to-date overview of what border security is, as well as the constant revisions to it that have occurred over the past 109 years.

In this book, authors Phelps, Dailey and Koenigsberg describe and discuss: various definitions of "borders," including geographical, political, and economic; what "border security" actually is, in relation to different types of borders and how the concept developed historically; the classical concepts of border security, including the Walled City, Hadrian's Wall, the Maginot and Seigfried Lines, and the Great Walls of China; Border Patrol Operations, from 1904 to present day; present-day physical border security, including the various Border Fences, Operation Gatekeeper, and the effects of illegal immigration; maritime border security; the relationship between border security and transnational crime; transportation security as impacted by borders; and "solutions" to security along both the southern and northern borders of the United States.

Sales Rank: #405576 in Books
Published on: 2014-02-24
Original language: English

• Dimensions: 9.75" h x 7.00" w x 1.25" l,

• Binding: Paperback

• 420 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Very impressive and highly informative

By Amil Imani

The Border Security is an impressive, highly informative, and stimulating textbook of factual information and collection of comprehensive essays on border studies and border security, accomplished by some of the best academics and researchers working in the field. In their new book, Border Security, James R. Phelps, Jeff Dailey, and Monica Koenigsberg team up and cover the core themes and issues related to border studies.

The authors explore the historical context of ancient boundaries, walled cities including the Great Wall of China and the ever-changing international borders that transform nations and cultural characteristics. They offer an array of views on Border Security Operations, Border Patrol (past and present), U.S. Customs, Immigration Services and Ports of Entry, Trafficking and Population Migrations, Smuggling, Economic Interdependence and Internet Crime, among others.

This book also tells us a great deal about the US-Mexico border, its history, the past, present and what the future holds. It explains the NFTA and cross-border freight movement and maquiladoras (a manufacturing operation in a free trade zone) as well as security concerns along checkpoints and highways. It offers an analysis of border patrol checkpoints, narcotraffickers and issues related to green cards, the Dream Act, guest workers, undocumented immigration and border crossing cards, along with Mexican-American and other related issues and concerns.

In short, Border Security is an extensive, detailed and powerful guide for lecturers, students, and researchers who pursue a career in Security Studies (Homeland, National and Border Security), as well as those who may consider a future teaching profession or just those who are interested in border security issue. I highly recommend this book.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Great starter for the history of border security applied to current issues

By Nathan

Border Security is an outstanding initial book for those who are either studying or wanting to know about border security and national security issues. The book lays a clear foundation from the start, laying out key differences between borders, barriers, and boundaries, but continues that on through a close inspection of border security between the US, Canada, and Mexico. The text provides a plethora of examples within a historic frame, citing hundreds, if not thousands of cases of border security practices and case studies. The authors of the book wrote this while still being able to remain apolitical and not succumbing to political bias. Because of this, I believe this book is a great starter for individuals wanting to understand the history and current practices of border security.

Regardless of this book's overarching explanation of border security, there are also some flaws. My biggest complaint is that the book was written by three authors. While I am certain that this aided to the amount of research and time that was able to be put into this book's publication, I believe it did make it somewhat more difficult to read. The books tone constantly changed as it was evident that each writer's style was different from the other. While this is a minor complaint at best, I do believe that the book could have been better if it was written by a single author.

As mentioned before, I would recommend this book to anyone that wants to gain a wider knowledge of the history and current practices of border security.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Border Security by James R. Phelps, Jeffrey Dailey, and Monica Koenigsberg (4/5 Stars)

By S. Garrison

First and foremost, Border Security is a textbook. It's a good textbook, but it's not digestible enough for a larger audience. That's unfortunate, because inside this textbook is the material for a very readable \$20 (or less) book that would be very informative for laypeople and even law enforcement, academics, and policymakers looking to be more informed on this important subject.

There is some good history in this book. On pages 4-6 there is a brief overview of the Berlin Wall and lingering socioeconomic problems that persist 25 years after the wall fell. For those interested in geopolitics, the book is also cognizant of the role geography has played in shaping historical borders (pages 23, 30).

There is a section on comparative border security (pages 99-104) that I wish had been larger. Israel and Cyprus come to mind as additional subjects, but there are also some porous borders such as the Durand Line between Afghanistan and Pakistan and the nationalist sentiment in many nations of the European Union that could provide a comprehensive global perspective. The authors also acknowledge the progressive forces that may one day relegate borders to the past (page 52).

Sections on maritime security and special operations floored me with both breadth and depth of coverage. Part Two of the book, especially chapters six and seven, could by themselves be worked into an entire book for popular consumption. Part Three comprehensively covers the economic, legal, political, and logistical realities of the U.S.-Mexican border and one chapter even covers the often neglected Canadian border. The authors are also fair, giving the details of abuses that have opened U.S. Border Patrol agents to criticism (pages 90-91).

Richard Posner, the most widely cited federal jurist, questions whether the 14th Amendment should be read to permit so-called birth tourism. That's on page 352. George Patton denouncing fixed fortifications is on page 23. If it has to do with border security, it's probably in Border Security somewhere. I recommend this as a textbook for introductory courses to border security. It would also be good to see this material presented for a popular audience, in much the same way Peter Andreas has done in his books Border Games, Policing the Globe, and Smuggler Nation and Ted Galen Carpenter has done with Bad Neighbor Policy, The Fire Next Door, and Smart Power.

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