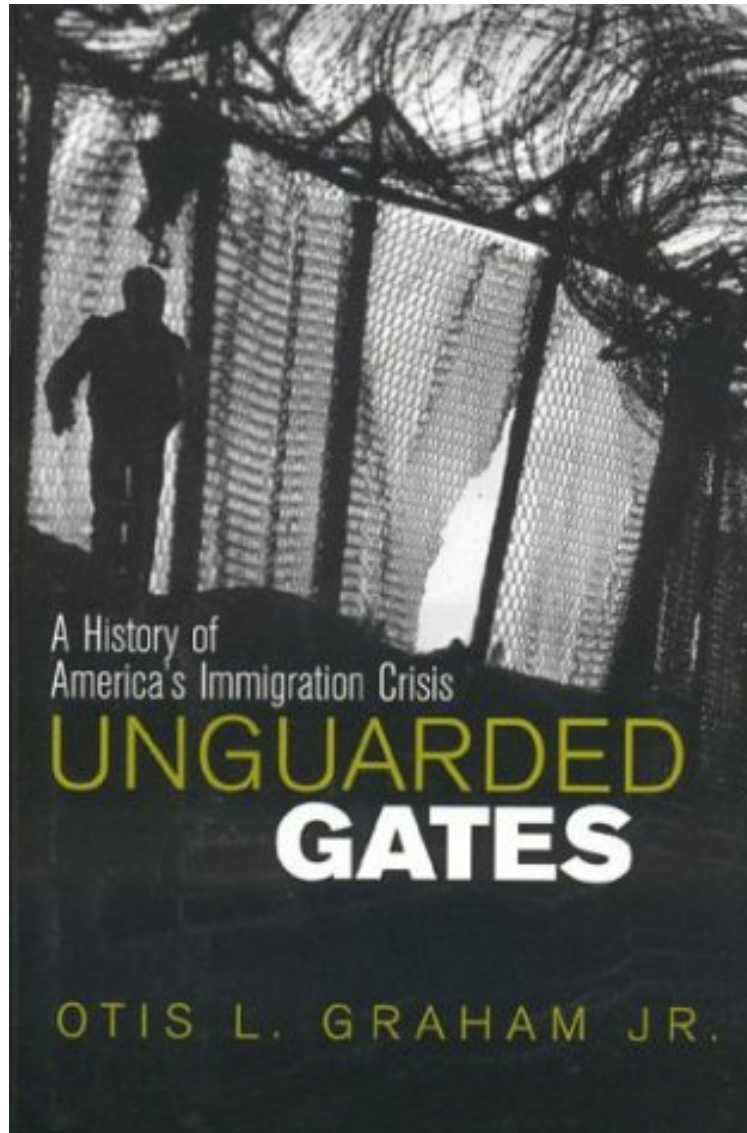


(Download free pdf) Unguarded Gates: A History of America's Immigration Crisis

Unguarded Gates: A History of America's Immigration Crisis

Otis L. Graham Jr.

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#2171212 in Books Rowman n Littlefield Publishers 2003-12-24Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.28 x 1.00 x 6.40l, 1.13 #File Name: 0742522288240 pages | File size: 47.Mb

Otis L. Graham Jr. : Unguarded Gates: A History of America's Immigration Crisis before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unguarded Gates: A History of America's Immigration Crisis:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A clear-sighted view on the question of immigrationBy John F. RebelloRemember the saying that history repeats itself? What is currently happening with immigration in this country echoes the immigration issues around the turn of the 20th century. Though, many of the concerns are similar, the times

are different. America is different. One big difference is that, as someone environmentally sensitive might say: America is no longer the "empty" place seemingly able to absorb a countless stream of people. Graham explores the question do we, as a nation, know what we are trying to achieve with our immigration policy. Is it an "aimless and irrational" policy or more an "undeclared and government-engineered project" of demographic transformation and ever increasing population?The issue of immigration is boarder than the question of legal or illegal. I urge all of us to reexamine our assumptions about immigration, to move beyond the fear of political correctness and critically examine the benefits as well as the downside of having such a porous immigration system. We must find the courage and intellectual honesty to question what we have been taught is sacrosanct and beyond reproach, such as the "hackneyed" phrase that "America is a nation of immigrants." As Graham says, except "for the first few decades in the first half of the seventeenth century" we are a nation of native born, though "the immigration stamp is upon us."24 of 30 people found the following review helpful. A must-read on immigrationBy LutherIf you don't think 400 million people living in the US by the year 2050 are too many, then I guess you don't have to read this book. But if, like me, you are tired of gridlock, crowded everything, degraded schools, unpaid hospital bills, crime, etc., to say nothing of the loss of civic duty and responsibility, then Graham's book explains how we got here.The last part of the book is expecially good at explaining how elites and vested interests keep the discussion of immigration control out of the public forum. Every poll says Americans want less immigration, but it never happens. Why?Graham explains why.Surprisingly, he also explains why 9/11 hasn't made that much difference in the immigration flow.. What is it going to take for the public's voice to be heard?He discusses the entire issue very convincingly. This is a great book. If you read only one book on immigration, this should be it.30 of 32 people found the following review helpful. A CorrectiveBy A CustomerIn Unguarded Gates Professor Graham provides a much needed corrective to what passes as the history of immigration restrictions from the 1880s to the present. Any suggestion in the current debate that perhaps the lifeboat of immigration is nearing capacity is sure to be greeted by a reminder that the Statue of Liberty stands as a permanent testament to our historic invitation to the world's "huddled masses yearning to be free."In truth, in the view of the generation which placed the statue in New York harbor it was seen "as a symbol of America as a model to inspire other lovers of freedom," rather than some sort of illuminated welcome mat. It was not until the 1930s, Professor Graham informs us, that journalists and history text book writers began to link the statue not with liberty but with immigration. Such distinctions are particularly relevant as the nation again comes to come to grip with the consequences of virtually unchecked immigration amidst emotionally laden charges that any suggestion to moderate the flow is akin to racist exclusion policies of the past. Indeed, the book shows that there was much more than racist exclusion to account for immigration limitations in the past and that the authors of the 1960s immigration reforms got much more than they bargained for on this account.The book is a must read for anyone interested in where we came from, and, more importantly perhaps, where we are going as a nation of immigrants if the discussion is not properly addressed.

Throughout America's history immigration policy has always been a controversial and complex topic, going to the heart of what it means to be American. Now, with terrorism as a new concern, Americans have begun to look closer at the effects of rising immigration and porous borders.In this cogently-argued work, immigration scholar Otis L. Graham, Jr. examines the history of immigration pressures and American policy debates and choices. He begins with the first "Great Wave" of the 1880s and traces the effects of the system of national origins, enforced from the 1920s through 1965. The reforms of the 1960s ushered in an era of large-scale legal and illegal immigration, resulting in a vast social experiment in demographic transformation. In assessing the past, present, and future of immigration, Graham shows that the failure to control the influx of foreigners is leading America toward further security risks, unsustainable population growth, imported worker competition with American labor, and, ultimately, social fragmentation.

Otis Graham brings new eyes and new scholarship to the agonizing question of immigration, a subject that usually engenders too much emotion and too little objective analysis. Unguarded Gates: A History of America's Immigration Crisis is a clear-eyed look at both the pluses and minuses of our new immigration patterns. Readable and compelling. (Richard D. Lamm, Governor of Colorado, 1975-1987, Co-Director of the Institute for Public Policy Studies, University of Denver)Otis Graham's Unguarded Gates is a vivid reminder that our contemporary debates over immigration have a long history. Graham shows powerfully how immigration has proven a continual challenge to the ability of America to realize its highest ideals and, as such, is must reading for understanding one of the pivotal issue of our times. (John Bodnar, Indiana University)A much-needed guide to an unknown history: America's constant effort to control immigration in the national interest, culminating in the legislation that ended out-of-control immigration in the 1920s. Graham performs a great service in calmly stripping away the self-serving myths that grew up around this cut-off, caused its abandonment in the 1960s, and still poison debate today, as immigration once again reaches crisis proportions. (Peter Brimelow, editor of VDARE.com and author of Alien Nation)Otis Graham has been reflecting on the consequences of large-scale immigration in the U.S. for many years. Unguarded Gates distills many

of those insights in a coherent and informative fashion. Regardless of one's perspective on the immigration debate, Graham's analysis shows that the making of an informed policy requires that we all become aware of how immigration is changing the country. (George Borjas, Harvard University)Graham performs a valuable service in refuting modern-day charges that racist motivations and eugenicist theories underlay the Progressives' move to restrict immigration. Unguarded Gates is especially enlightening in its analysis of the vast cultural rift between the elites, who benefit economically from cheap immigrant labor, and average Americans, who bear the costs and consequences of the present mass immigration. (National)Ethnic activistsalong, unfortunately, with most liberals and historians of immigrationrefuse to grant that efforts to restrict immigration can be inspired by anything but nativism, racism, and fear of 'the Other.' This book shows how ungroundedand unfairthat assumption is. Graham's evidence and argumentation should go far toward making reasonable discussion of the issue possible. (Philip Gleason, University of Notre Dame)This is a clear and rational little bookno small accomplishment when the subject is immigration.Unguarded Gates: A History of America's Immigration Crisis is less a policy tome or a polemic than a fine exercise in simply telling it like it was. (Sunday Washington Times)Unguarded Gates provides an intriguing historical survey of America's immigration crisis. . . . This should be a part of any college-level collection on immigrant social issues. (The Bookwatch)About the AuthorOtis L. Graham, Jr. is professor of history, emeritus, at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is the author or editor of over 15 books, including Debating American Immigration, 1882Present (with Roger Daniels) and Environmental Politics and Policy, 1960s to 1990s. He lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.