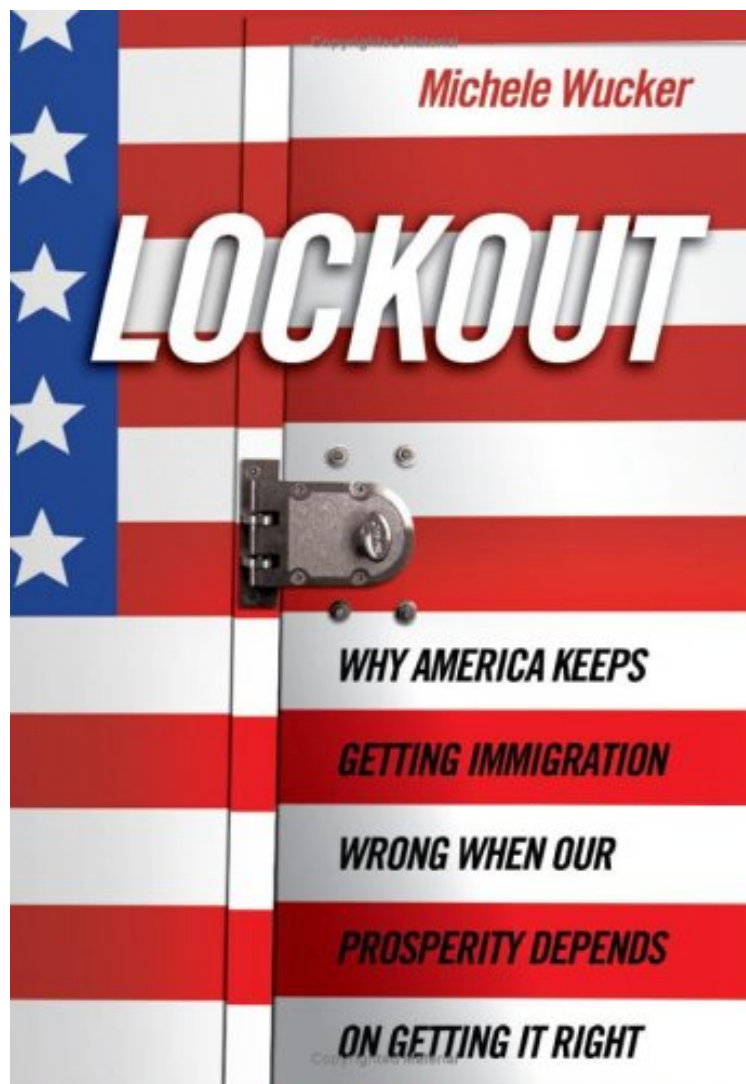


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Lockout: Why America Keeps Getting Immigration Wrong When Our Prosperity Depends on Getting It Right

Michele Wucker

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Michele Wucker : Lockout: Why America Keeps Getting Immigration Wrong When Our Prosperity Depends on Getting It Right before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lockout: Why America Keeps Getting Immigration Wrong When Our Prosperity Depends on Getting It Right:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Today--this is as important as ever.By Jim SergerThis book needs to be read TODAY--more than ever. Her insight is fascinating and excellent too say the least. Michele has terrific

background to be writing on this subject, I'd say she had written this from an expert's side of view. Here stories on visas were awesome. I really gathered a slew of new information on this very sensitive subject. Read this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five stars aren't enough to rate this book! By Gerald Korngold A stunning book that clearly demonstrates the vital role of immigrants in ensuring that America will continue to lead the world in innovation and economic prosperity. Reading *Lockout* reminds us of the varied experiences of our families when they arrived here, their struggles and achievements, and most of all, the essential and highly varied contributions they made to building America. In *Lockout*, Michele Wucker makes a compelling case for America to embrace the worlds immigrants providing them with the education, job training, health and child care that they need to become valuable and valued contributors and members of this great country. A must, must read!! 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Balanced Look at Immigration By Simon Burrow If you only read one book about immigration this year read *Lockout*. It does have a bias towards allowing immigration but both sides of the argument are explored. She quotes John F. Kennedy saying: "Immigration policy should be generous; it should be fair; it should be flexible." *Lockout* is filled with very good historical data about how we got into the immigration mess that we are in today. It is not primarily about the low skilled Mexican illegal immigrants. It is focused much more on the difficulties encountered by skilled, highly educated people who would like to work in the United States. Michelle Wucker makes a very good argument that the labyrinth of immigration law that we have created is hurting our competitiveness in the world. Her argument that encouraging "Americanization" of immigrants during the first half of the 20th century set the stage for the immigrant battle of this era is interesting and definitely worth considering. With regard to undocumented immigrants she argues that we must "Accept responsibility for the wink-wink-nod-nod policies that created a large, marginalized population." "The only fair thing to do" she concludes "is to provide a way for them to apply for legal status" with some sort of penalty. Although I didn't agree with all of Wucker's arguments or policy proposals I felt that she supported them with good data and reason. People on both sides of this debate will disagree with her but they should all read her book.

We are essentially a nation of people who once belonged elsewhere, yet have long been deeply ambivalent about this part of our history. After World War I, the fear of the stranger overwhelmed America's confidence in our ability to create one nation out of many peoples. We slammed the door shut, only to realize our error and re-open it four decades later. Today, a record-high foreign-born population, global instability, and economic uncertainty have once again pushed America to a tipping point in our attitudes not only toward immigration but toward our role in the world and the stakes have risen dramatically. Our economy depends more than ever on immigrants, not only for stereotypical low-skilled jobs, but much more so for maintaining our technological edge and promoting American products and services abroad. So far, America has reaped the lion's share of the gains of globalization. Yet for the first time ever, the world's best and brightest no longer see this country as the only destination of choice. In *Lock Out*, Michele Wucker documents the mistakes that led to our predicament today, and clarifies why it would be a catastrophic error of judgment, as well as a demonstration of a colossal lack of self-knowledge, if America attempted to turn its back on rest of the world and in so doing on the best of itself.

From Publishers Weekly Wucker makes an impassioned case for immigration as an almost unalloyed boon. She pays homage to America as the land of freedom and opportunity while surveying its many failures to safeguard these blessings for immigrants but her main argument is economic. Bringing in "the world's best and brightest" is critical to the economy, she contends, providing the high-skilled workers—scientists, engineers, doctors, nurses—and links to foreign markets that America needs to grow and maintain its global competitiveness. Wucker's business-oriented perspective is cogent if one-sided, and sometimes unconvincing; she considers the restrictive immigration regimen from the 1920s through the 1960s a disaster, for example, but after the Great Depression, much of this era was a golden age for the American economy. Wucker (*Why the Cocks Fight: Dominicans, Haitians, and the Struggle for Hispaniola*) floats a grab bag of mainly useful reforms, from rationalizing policies implemented to prevent terrorism to opening legitimate channels for immigrants to come here and work legally while cracking down on businesses that employ and exploit the undocumented. But her emphasis on the immigrant as cosmopolitan technology whiz and avatar of global competitiveness doesn't quite address, and may inflame, the gnawing economic insecurities behind American isolationism. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "...a welcome contribution at a critical time" -- *New York Post*, 7/9/2006 "...persuasively refutes some of the core concerns behind the current backlash against low-skilled and undocumented immigrants" -- *Christian Science Monitor*, 8/1/2006 "A forcefully argued and informative book...both correct and important" -- *Washington Post Book World*, 5/28/06 "Wucker adds...historical perspective to the sound and fury of the current debate over immigration." -- Daniel Kurtz-Phelan, senior editor at *Foreign Affairs* "Wucker's impressive book could not be more timely." -- *Miami Herald*, 5/21/06 About the Author Michele Wucker is a senior fellow at the World Policy Institute at The New School in New York City. She lectures frequently about immigration, international economics and business, and has written for and been interviewed by many of the world's leading media. She is the author of *Why the Cocks Fight: Dominicans,*

Haitians, and the Struggle for Hispaniola.