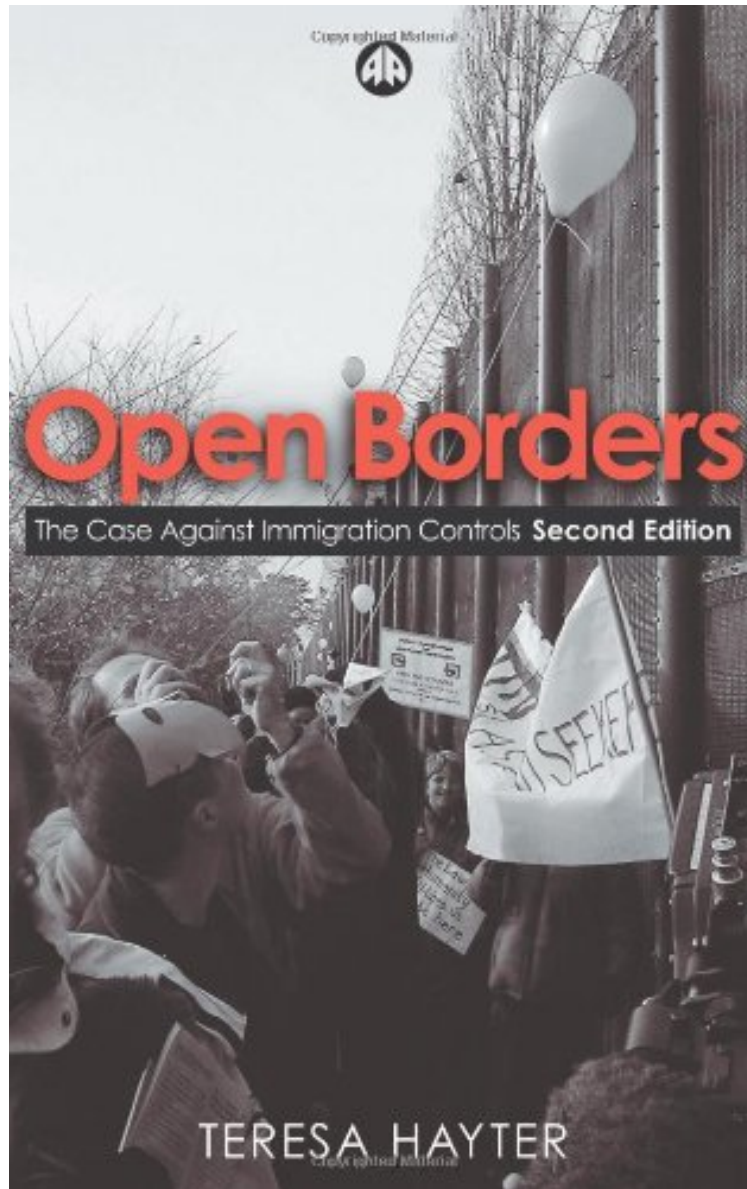


Open Borders - Second Edition: The Case Against Immigration Controls

Teresa Hayter

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#2993261 in Books Pluto Press 2004-07-27 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .70 x 5.251, .78 #File Name: 0745322441240 pages | File size: 76.Mb

Teresa Hayter : Open Borders - Second Edition: The Case Against Immigration Controls before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Open Borders - Second Edition: The Case Against Immigration Controls:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A very important contribution to the field of border studies

By Robert Barsky

Once in a long while a reviewer comes across a text from which s/he would like to draw representative passages for (say) those backs of cereal boxes which are read and re-read by millions of hungry and curious children each morning before heading off to school. If I were to have my dithers, I'd draw rather heavily from Teresa Hayter's new book for the next batch of Cheerios. She argues for a thesis which I take to be so simple and unproblematic as to barely deserve discussion, but a thesis which, as it turns out, is so seldom mentioned, even in passing, that it ought to be widely disseminated: borders between countries are hurtful, visa restrictions serve nobody other than pandering politicians, immigration controls are racist, encouraging restrictions of flows of persons from the Third to the First World encourages xenophobia, and controls upon free movement only hurt those persons who most require assistance. Hayter makes this case with reference to historical documentation, carefully-assembled data from contemporary cases of racist horrors committed against refugees in England, legal documents, and some clearly-articulated statements of fact, beginning with the obvious conclusion of her careful work: the state powers to which government representatives so desperately and tenaciously cling include the power to regulate the flow of persons to and from a territory, with the express aim, not always achieved, to exclude poor people, and especially black people (1). Against the commonsensical idea that people (like other living beings that occupy this planet) have the intrinsic and unalienable right to move around as they please, comes the fact that no declaration or treaty enshrines the idea of unfettered movement of persons (although some international instruments do come close, including articles 13 and 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights). The denial of this absolute right, as Hayter so clearly shows, gives rise to some of the worst and most vicious abuses of human rights, and provides perhaps the most fertile terrain for the agitation of the far right (1). Utterances of this sort, tingling with clarity and decency, pervade this text and give it a kind of moral force so often lacking in texts which contribute, in otherwise powerful ways, to this domain. Equally striking in this text is the indictment Hayter mounts against the uses made of immigrants and refugees historically, notably the abuse of persons deemed other (generally on account of the color of their skin) through their importation and then exploitation for cheap, dangerous or otherwise undesirable labor, and then a second level of abuse through scapegoating, when circumstances within the host country became less favorable. To read this book traversing, skimming its paragraphs, offers a reading of how powerful individuals and institutions use immigration for the legitimation of regimes, including those running our own countries today, which can and do sometimes turn savage and ruthless. The documentation is assembled in such a way as to emphasize the horror of current, and past, immigration practices, and a short series of excerpts gives a sense of the narrative: The first major migration was the forced transportation of between 10 and 20 million people as slaves from Africa to America. After European colonizers had decimated local populations in the Americas and needed new labor for their mines and plantations. The second major migration was of indentured or bonded labour, or temporary slaves, from India and China, again to remedy the lack of cheap or available labour in the places of destination (9). Closer to the present day, we find colonial labour recruited to work in Britain, for instance, and then a postwar immigration boom, comprised of persons displaced by the war who, having lost their rights in their own countries, were then treated to being treated as foreigners without voting rights or even the certainty of being able to remain in the host country after the contract of employment ran out. Examples of this sort can be repeated ad nauseum, but it's the flip side of this that brings home the truly manipulative nature of the immigration system, for when things turn sour in the host countries, these same persons who have been recruited find themselves other on account of their non-assimilability, their inferior stock (21). In the early part of this century the Jews and gypsies were notable victims of such murderous slander, but, as Hayter shows, from the 1950s onwards black people became overwhelmingly the main targets of anti-immigrant prejudice (26), partly on account of the legacy of colonialism, partly because of the new waves of immigration from the Third World, and partly through the ironic point that racism against visible minorities was fuelled by the fact that the new immigrants were forced to live in poor conditions and to work in the worst jobs (28). Further, with economic downturns, these were (are) the first people to be sacked, and with upturns in violence or social dissension, often aimed at a system of open inequality and disparity of wealth, immigrants, notably blacks, come to be blamed for crime, violence and riots when in fact they are more likely to be victims than perpetrators, scapegoats for peoples anger (29). These points are the principle contributions of this excellent book, and it's when she sets them out in this fashion that she's strongest (there are areas where she argues for the virtues of diverse societies, for instance, which beside these larger points seem to me unnecessary to the argument). There's much as well in the way of historical documentation and legal data, pertaining to some of the pernicious, but well-documented efforts at creating fortress Europe (57ff.), general efforts at debasing refugee rights (64ff.), and a useful summary of the tricks of the exclusion trade, like visa restrictions, heavy fines against those who assist potential claimants, airline fines, arbitrary handling of cases by immigration officials, poor reporting, lousy interpreting, and so forth. Much of the information in this book, historical, sociological, political, relates directly to the British Isles, however the general conclusions Hayter draws, particularly the more radical ideas at the outset, pertain to the refugee situation worldwide. There are, however, discussions of events particular to Britain which can be read as signposts for what is beginning to occur in countries like Canada, such as the growing will on the part of the government to criminalize refugees, in evidence in the newly-proposed Bill C-31. Hayter also draws from

her particular experience studying (and deploring) the detention process in Britain, with all of its (often exploited) potential for abuse, such as when detention centers are privatized or when, as we see in the criminal justice system, people outside of our system are simply locked up, or hidden away, at a huge cost to tax payers, and an incalculable cost in terms of continued human suffering of those the refugee system is supposed to assist. This is the activist angle of this book, a welcome conclusion to such engaged material, and an indication of how decent ethical thinking, historical data, legal knowledge and clarity of prose can sometimes combine to form a text worthy of large-scale diffusion at the breakfast table, and beyond.³ of 14 people found the following review helpful. Good Book, Stupid Message. By Book Music Lover Let this author tell it because we want to pay for only our own citizens, have a stable healthcare system, a functional educational system, and have an idea of just who is in our nation is some how immoral. The telling fact is we cannot take in and care for the world. Every good thing has its limits. On its face there is nothing wrong with immigration, it is the clowns running things that make me squimish. There have to be limits, our asylum hearings are years behind, and no good system for conducting background checks is yet to be put in place. So what is this author's answer to it all let us allow even more people in. No thank you.

In this new edition of *Open Borders*, Teresa Hayter assesses the impact of the increasing severity of border controls since they were first introduced and makes the controversial case for their abolition. Hayter focuses on postwar immigration controls, especially the use of such controls against the peoples of former European colonies and East Europeans, and their effects on asylum seekers. She examines the recent history of European coordination of border controls and the notion of Fortress Europe. Hayter argues that the existence of controls leads to great suffering and abuse of human rights, and that immigration controls are racist and help legitimate racism. She demonstrates that immigration controls have actually had a limited impact on controlling numbers. To illustrate her arguments, she draws on empirical material, especially from Britain in the 1980s and 1990s, relating in particular to the use of detention, arbitrary decision-making and the denial of benefits. She compares British government policies with policies elsewhere in Europe and calls for the free movement of people and the abolition of border controls. The new edition brings this seminal work up to date with a lengthy preface exploring how the practices of the British government over the past few years has continued the process Hayter outlines in the main text of abusive and irrational border controls and the criminalisation of entire communities. This second edition also updates the bibliography and list of campaigning groups, and ends with a new manifesto for a world without borders, declaring 'no one is illegal!'

'A very impressive achievement.' --Ann Dummett, founder, Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants