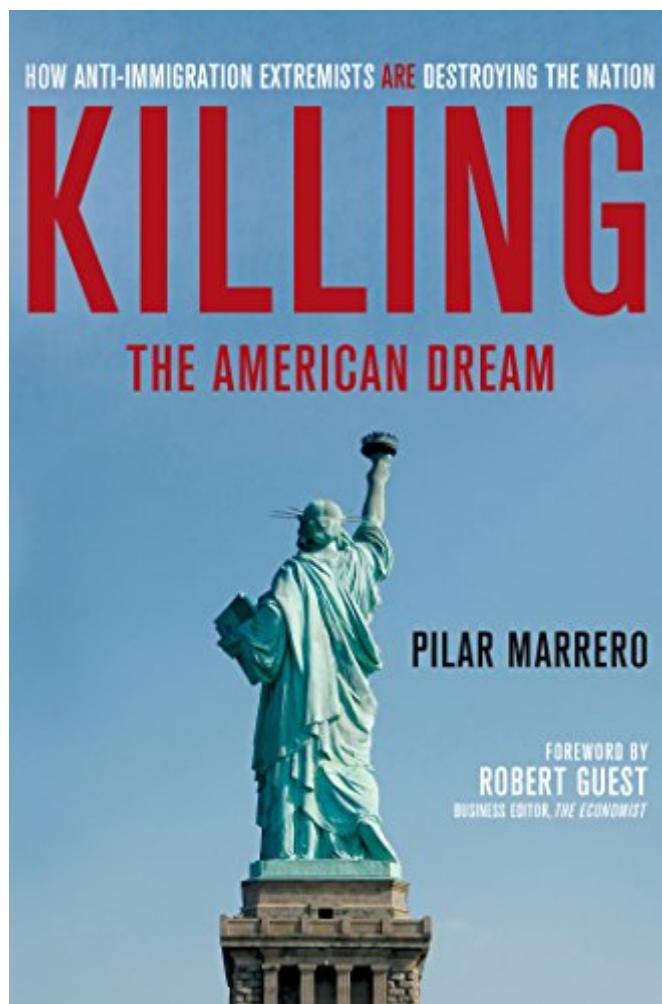


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Killing The American Dream: How Anti-Immigration Extremists Are Destroying The Nation



Synopsis

As the US deports record numbers of illegal immigrants and local and state governments scramble to pass laws resembling dystopian police states where anyone can be questioned and neighbors are encouraged to report on one another, violent anti-immigration rhetoric is growing across the nation. Against this tide of hysteria, Pilar Marrero reveals how damaging this rise in malice toward immigrants is not only to the individuals, but to our country as a whole. Marrero explores the rise in hate groups and violence targeting the foreign-born from the 1986 Immigration Act to the increasing legislative madness of laws like Arizona's SB1070 which allows law officers to demand documentation from any individual with "reasonable suspicion" of citizenship, essentially encouraging states and municipalities to form their own self-contained nation-states devoid of immigrants. Assessing the current status quo of immigration, Marrero reveals the economic drain these ardent anti-immigration policies have as they deplete the nation of an educated work force, undermine efforts to stabilize tax bases and social security, and turn the American Dream from a time honored hallmark of the nation into an unattainable fantasy for all immigrants of the present and future.

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Customer Reviews

For anyone who wants to understand the current debate over immigration in the U.S., this book is a must read. Marrero's insightful book looks at the anti-immigrant movement over the past several decades, putting the current competition among the Republican candidates to be the most bellicose into an historical context. And sadly, the book explains, immigrants have been used by both political parties as a scapegoat for all the country's ills, especially during election season. It was the first book I have read in ages that I was actually sad when I came to the end.

A must read book for the general public, revealing a critical assessment of US immigration and immigrants. Extremely well written. A fabulous journalistic piece which is great for the general reader, but I wish it was better cited throughout so that it could be used in an academic setting (many many sources do in fact back up everything she is saying).

Ms. Marrero has done an impressive job of capturing the immigration issues that impact our country today. She covers the immigration political policies put in place over the last 25 years, the current status of how states are addressing this problem, the impacts on people's lives for both the immigrant and the U.S. citizen, and she provides a thought process to getting a plan in place that works for the betterment of all. It is obvious that Ms. Marrero has done her due diligence in researching her material - a testament to her fantastic journalist skills and keeping a balance of the issues at hand. This book is so good that every politician, and citizen for that matter, should read it to logically approach a solution to this complicated immigration problem that is at the forefront of our nation. It is a must read and should be part of the curriculum at every University and college across the United States. If I could I would give it more than 5 stars. It's probably one of the best and most informative books that I've read in a long time - and I read a lot of books.

Reading Marrero's book my hope was to understand the perspective and through it better grasp the fervor over immigration. The writing is lucid. The research is exhausting. I think I get why the GOP is freaked out. They share Marrero's view that the American Dream is basically economic. They see immigrants as economic allies or enemies. My view of the American Dream was born one night on a troop ship somewhere in the Pacific. Walking around the galley in the dim light I read the Bill of

Rights hanging in picture frames on the wall. The idea that people can govern themselves is to me the American Dream. That folks can make the rules and change the rules was a far cry from the Catholic dogma that strangled my families' spirit. So I see the American Dream very much alive in the GOP and the DEMs, the Tea Party, and Occupy Wall Street. To me the killing of the American Dream is being done by Corporations and individuals who pay folks to surrender their rights for wages. I have roamed this country for fifty years and refuse to accept why someone gives up freedom for a pay check. I have always found jobs where participation was expected and appreciated. I very much admire Marrero's spirit and am very much impressed by the quality of this work.

Great writer digging into a topic that is not well understood in this nation. Who better to give readers an inside look but an insider herself. Not only does Marrero cover immigration in one the largest cities in the USA but she is an immigrant practicing her trade in this country. This is a must read for anyone interested in the real story about this nation built on the backs of immigrants from all walks of life.

This is a nuanced, well-argued book on a very controversial but urgent topic, our broken immigration system, written by one of the most perceptive and respected political journalists in the U.S. Spanish-language press. It has an excellent historical overview of how we got into such a mess step by step since the 1970s, placing the blame on both parties for the failure to face up and address this evolving major problem, albeit the Republican party's stubborn obstructionism and persistent fanning of nativism at all levels of politics, from the local & state to the national, is exposed as by far the worse of the two. Highly recommended to the broad public.

It is clear that Pilar Marrero has done the hard work and intellectual effort of researching the issue of immigration in the historical context of today and the long term economic implications. The voice of all sides are in this book: past heads of the Immigration Services, Legislators and Politicians, Economists, Professors and the local people. Like few, this book helps you see immigration and the economic future of this country under a new light. This is not the book about Ellis Island and the European immigrants we see in the movies. This is a book about the hard decisions that the descendants of those families have to make, but how the decisions have been hijacked by other powers. It is a book about how the spirit of Ellis Island that made this country the Greatest Nation in the World is being betrayed by politicians that do not care about our economic future. I am happy

that someone recommended it to me and I am buying it for my children and some of my friends for Christmas.

We've all heard the arguments on both sides about what to do with undocumented immigrants. Sometimes lost in the debate is the stories of how this came about and what's happening to the people. How was it that every one of the 50 states of the union all had hundreds of thousands, even millions, of people without papers living there? What motivated the acceptance? Answer: Because the states benefitted from it. What have these immigrants built? The entire economy. Seen in that light, what anti-immigrant extremists are doing now is nothing less than what the title of the book points out: They're destroying our nation. Written by a top journalist, this book gives us a fuller understanding of the immigration debate.

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