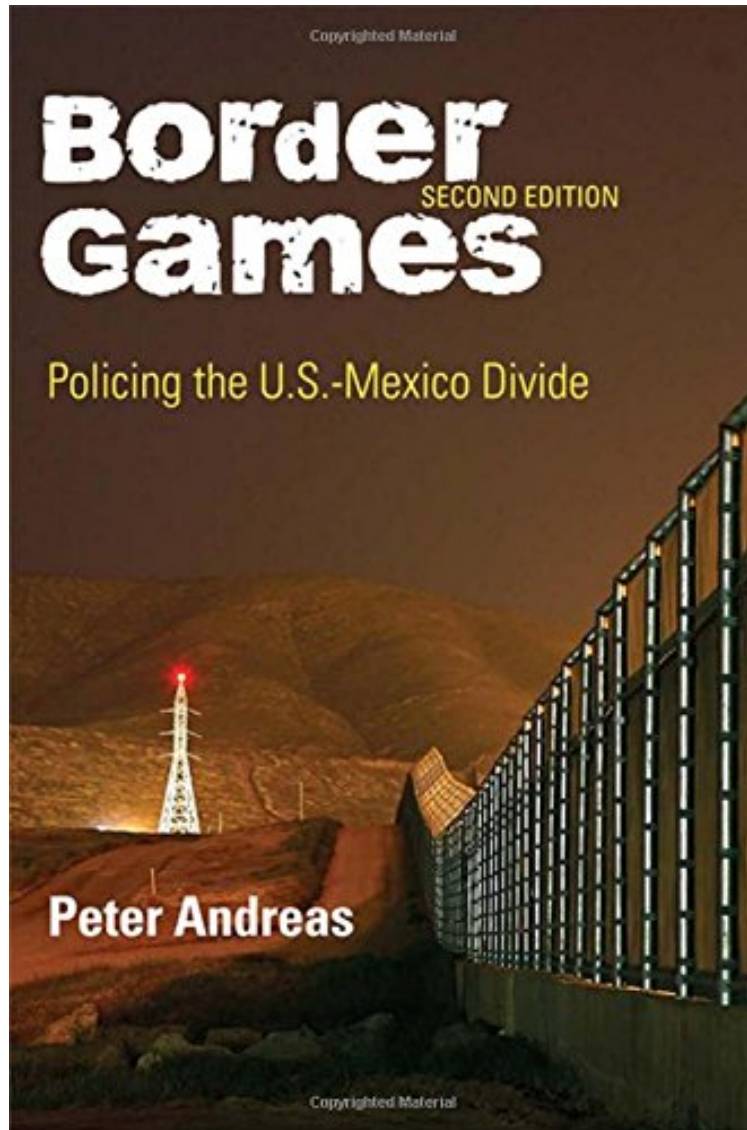


(Ebook pdf) Border Games: Policing the U.S.-Mexico Divide (Cornell Studies in Political Economy)

Border Games: Policing the U.S.-Mexico Divide (Cornell Studies in Political Economy)

Peter Andreas

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The U.S.-Mexico border is the busiest in the world, the longest and most dramatic meeting point of a rich and poor country, and the site of intense confrontation between law enforcement and law evasion. Border control has changed in recent years from a low-maintenance and politically marginal activity to an intensive campaign focusing on drugs and migrant labor. Yet the unprecedented buildup of border policing has taken place in an era otherwise defined by the opening of the border, most notably through NAFTA. This contrast creates a borderless economy with a barricaded border. In the updated and expanded second edition of his essential book on policing the U.S.-Mexico border, Peter Andreas places the continued sharp escalation of border policing in the context of a transformed post-September 11 security environment. As Andreas demonstrates, in some ways it is still the same old border game but more difficult to manage, with more players, played out on a bigger stage, and with higher stakes and collateral damage.

From Library Journal
In recent years, the United States and Mexico significantly liberalized trade regulations via the NAFTA treaty while also increasing the policing of the border area to stop the smuggling of people, drugs, and illegal goods. Andreas (*Drug War Politics: The Price of Denial*) argues that this contradiction serves less to prevent smuggling than to provide a stage for both America and Mexico to reaffirm national identities by demonstrating the ability to protect borders. Individuals in both countries use smuggling and illegal immigration for political gain, while neither nation does much to diminish the demand for drugs or the low-cost labor of illegal aliens. The author provides an excellent overview of the topic of smuggling and makes interesting comparisons between U.S.-Mexico border control and policing in Eastern and Southern Europe. This well-written work adds to the social and cultural focus provided in David Spener and Kathleen Staudt's *The U.S.-Mexico Border: Transcending Divisions, Contesting Identities* (Lynne Rienne Pub., 1998). Recommended for larger public and academic libraries.
D Stephen L. Hupp, Urbana Univ., OH Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Booklist
At a time when economic globalization is seen opening borders throughout the world, the boundary enforcement has intensified along the longest border between a rich and poor country, the border between the U.S. and Mexico. Andreas, a political science professor, maintains that the U.S.-Mexico border is no more threatened now than in the past but that more attention has been focused on border enforcement because of changes in economic and social forces in the U.S. Fear of job loss to immigrants and increased demand on social services for illegal immigrants, from health care to education, as well as concerns about illegal drug trafficking are behind the rising border tensions. But the changing U.S. political climate, with more emphasis on law and order, is a major factor. Andreas offers a broad overview of smuggling immigrants and drugs into the U.S. from Mexico and intensified enforcement efforts. He also examines how border enforcement impacts trade relations with Mexico. On a broader scale, Andreas looks at international trends in smuggling and border enforcement in Europe. Vanessa Bush
Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "At a time when economic globalization is seen opening borders throughout the world, the boundary enforcement has intensified along the longest border between a rich and poor country, the border between the U.S. and Mexico. Andreas offers a broad overview of smuggling immigrants and drugs into the U.S. from Mexico and intensified enforcement efforts. On a broader scale, Andreas looks at international trends in smuggling and border enforcement in Europe." Booklist (reviewing the first edition) "An engaging and readable book. . . . This slim volume is recommended for all levels." Choice (reviewing the first edition) "Border Games provides an in-depth and comparative analysis of the border policies. . . . Required reading for anyone with an interest in U.S.-Mexico relations and the American West." Jeff Biggers, *The Bloomsbury* (reviewing the first edition) "This outstanding book is a much-needed addition to the literature on the policing of international boundaries. Because it is so well written and concise, it fits beautifully into political geography curricula at the undergraduate as well as at the graduate level. Hopefully the book will inspire geographers to take up questions similar to those that Peter Andreas has so capably interrogated." Joseph Nevins, *The Professional Geographer* (reviewing the first edition) "The difficulty in policing a complex border like that between the United States and Mexico, specifically stemming the flow of illegal drugs and immigration, demonstrates, according to Peter Andreas's insightful and pathbreaking analysis, the challenge associated with globalization, diminished sovereignty, and economic integration between developed and developing countries. . . . Andreas's insightful and rigorous study is an important contribution to the literature on globalization and transnational illicit trade." Frank O. Mora, *American Political Science* (reviewing the first edition) "Border Games is a penetrating analysis that not only exposes the hypocrisy of U.S. border policy in devastating detail, but explains why border enforcement has become a political necessity in the core nations of a rapidly globalizing economy. It is required reading for any serious student of the politics of immigration." Douglas S. Massey, Dorothy Swaine Thomas Professor, University of Pennsylvania (reviewing the first edition) "With analytical skill, political savvy, empirical rigor, comparative insight and a keen

sense of paradox, Peter Andreas explores a fascinating aspect of U.S. relations with Mexico today: that while state control of legal trade has been greatly relaxed and the border opened, there has been a simultaneous effort to make the border seem more closed to illegal flows of narcotics and people." Abraham F. Lowenthal, University of Southern California (reviewing the first edition) "This fascinating and thoughtful book should be read by every citizen, policymaker, scholar, and student seeking to understand how the United States has so artfully managed to import the illegal drugs and undocumented workers its consumers and employers demand, while its government gets credit for eye-catching but ineffective campaigns to control the U.S. border with Mexico. Peter Andreas has caught the underside of the NAFTA paradox perfectly." John H. Coatsworth, Harvard University (reviewing the first edition)