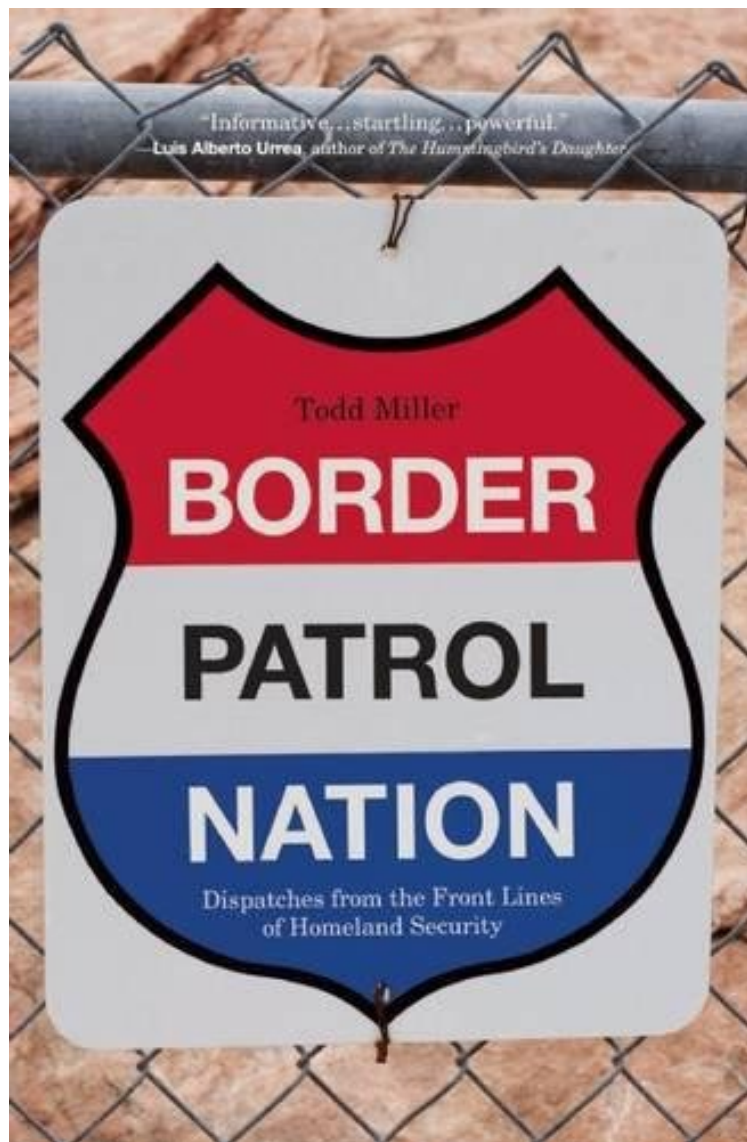


[Free] Border Patrol Nation: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Homeland Security (City Lights Open Media)

Border Patrol Nation: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Homeland Security (City Lights Open Media)

Todd Miller

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#731868 in Books Todd Miller 2014-04-08Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.90 x .80 x 5.20l, .80 #File Name: 0872866319358 pagesBorder Patrol Nation | File size: 71.Mb

Todd Miller : Border Patrol Nation: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Homeland Security (City Lights Open Media) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Border Patrol Nation: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Homeland Security (City Lights Open Media):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. From the perspective of a former BP agent, this book is a fascinating, although biased look at U.S. border life and The Patrol By Dan Waddell In Border Patrol Nation, author Todd Miller delivers a biased exposé on the buildup of U.S. Border Patrol Agents nationwide since the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Miller's focus is the subsequent paradigmatic shift of border enforcement from that primarily of immigration and narcotics enforcement to that of a fully armed federal security force in charge of a virtual surveillance state that includes the watchers and the watched. What Miller means by fully armed is never explained, but the tone of his argument and his mockery of border patrol agents' military-style haircuts and trendy sunglasses as well as his characterization of them as soldiers demonstrates his utter contempt for a law enforcement agency that would have the gall to issue firearms to its officers and then have the effrontery to make their carry obligatory. In fact Miller makes it clear that the border patrol is fairly silly for feeling the need to arm itself against a few innocent people of color whose only oversight in their quest for work and a better life is not possessing the right papers. Miller contends that the immigration policies of the U.S. are fundamentally and necessarily racially motivated. Federal agencies charged with immigration enforcement, including the border patrol, target people and communities of color, especially those with brown skin, in order to protect a prosperous way of life for white folk. Miller makes reference to the Chinese Exclusion Act in the late 19th century, with its explicit racial bias, as the turning point in American history from a nation of immigrants to that of a nation of gatekeepers. The modern border patrol, Miller posits, is nothing more than an extension of the doctrine of Manifest Destiny and, ultimately, of European nation-building, with its perpetual intrusion into the lives and properties of people of color along the U.S. borderlands. Miller cites anecdotal evidence from obviously biased organizations, such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Council on Islamic American Relations. At other times, Miller makes totally unsubstantiated statements of fact. As with all biased reporting, there is a measure of truth in Miller's arguments. The border patrol has grown immensely since the author of this review joined its ranks in 1997 as a patrol agent, at which time the agency employed approximately 4,500 officers. Its current size is estimated to be well over 20,000 today. Border patrol surveillance technology has also increased exponentially in the years following 9/11. The writer of this review did witness occasional and unnecessary physical and psychological abuse of detainees at the hands of crooked border patrol agents as well as a culture of corruption and racism that is endemic to the border patrol (Surprisingly, the experience of this writer is that the majority of border patrol agents are of Hispanic ethnicity and racism is directed predominantly toward Anglo-American border patrol agents). Still, there are honest, fair, and non-racist border patrol agents who are dedicated to enforcing the laws of the U.S. and protecting the civil rights of all people. However, Miller's mockery and obvious contempt for the agents of the border patrol detracts from his arguments and his use of biased sources diminishes his credibility. Lastly, Miller, in a constant critique of border enforcement methods, offers no solution, either to the question of border security in a post-9/11 world, or to the endless waves of undocumented illegal immigrants that continue to stream, virtually unabated and un-vetted, into the U.S. The reader, absent an informed mind, is tempted to rail inwardly against the monster that is the U.S. government and its hordes of racist, fully armed, green-uniformed mercenaries sent to the borderlands to harass and expel the unwelcomed and undesirable people of color. Despite its shortcomings, Border Patrol Nation is a fascinating look at the culture of the U.S. border and of the U.S. Border Patrol and an enjoyable read. However, due to bias, the reader is cautioned to seek a balanced perspective.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The author is so biased and pushes his agenda so hard without backing up his beliefs that this book can't be taken seriously. By Customer Todd Miller's book, Border Patrol Nation, could have been a great book. It touches on many important issues such as the increased militarization of the Border Patrol and the infringement upon the constitutional fourth amendment rights of Americans living within the border zone, but the author boots it into the stands with his personal attacks on the Border Patrol, creating a book far too biased to be taken seriously. This book fails to do much more than provide a one-sided narrative that paints the Border Patrol as a racist yet incompetent agency that should be dissolved. The issues brought up are ones that warrant serious attention, especially when it comes to the constitutional rights of the American citizens living near our nation's borders but sadly this book misses the mark. Instead of an academic, well-cited work on an under-discussed topic, this book reads like a Huffington Post article written solely to stir up an emotional response and create animosity towards the Border Patrol without even entertaining the idea that these issues discussed are not merely black and white. The author interviewed many people who have a negative attitude towards the Border Patrol and automatically takes their side yet when he talks to actual Border Patrol agents he paints them in the most negative light possible, basically telling the reader that these individuals are over-militaristic and clueless to the what is really happening along the border, unlike the author of course. He writes about a native American tribe constantly being pulled over, profiled, and harassed by the Border Patrol but doesn't even realize he destroys his own argument by stating in the same chapter that an estimated five to ten percent of all narcotics smuggled into the U.S. come through that particular reservation and that the local population's involvement in smuggling was surprisingly high. At the end of the book, the author even states that he believes the mission of the Border Patrol is anti-human and that throwing our borders wide open is more viable option, even though he fails to go into any discussion as to how that would work out. This and other examples in the book show the author's bias and his belief in the fantasy that we should just do away with borders. Throughout the book he doesn't

even mention a viable alternative to the way the border is maintained today. Don't bother with this one. Use other resources to educate yourself on the topic. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Additional Insight of Border Patrol Ops By Hector Sanchez Border Patrol Nation are collective accounts of first hand encounters by both Border Patrolman and the people impacted by their operations. Todd Miller paints a sinister outlook on Border Patrol that they have become much more aggressive following the tragic events of 9/11. Miller argues that government officials called for assertive enforcement and more Intel to combat terrorism. He goes on further to shed light on the hostile nature some agents have become when handling undocumented personnel with military style tactics. He compares how raids are conducted from military soldiers in Afghanistan and how raids are conducted in the same manner by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in the middle of the night. With so much brute force, the author makes the reader contemplate whether these tactics are excessive and necessary for personnel whose only crime is not having the proper documentation to be legally in the U.S. He illustrates this by mentioning the Tohono Oodhama Nation that is constantly bullied by Border Patrolman by pepper spraying them, being beaten with batons, home invasions and interrogations at their private residence. Now on the other side of this argument, Miller does paint a sympathetic portrait for agents who must be enforcers in a tough immigration system. They are either seen as the silent heroes who guard our borders or menacing thugs who violate human dignity and rights of unauthorized personnel. Illegal immigrants in the U.S. are seen as violent criminals who broke the law by being in the country illegally; however, they are only detained so they can be processed for deportation. Miller states that by 2018, Department of Homeland Security will have a budget of over \$500B, more than any other law enforcement agency in America. Companies like Raytheon, Boeing and Lockheed Martin are diving into this booming border security market in hopes of financial gain. With the expansion of surveillance technology from robotics to privatized prisons like CCA or Geo Group, Miller paints a gruesome future of Homeland Security from simple patrols at the border to militarizing our Border Patrol members into a war zone.

"In his scathing and deeply reported examination of the U.S. Border Patrol, Todd Miller argues that the agency has gone rogue since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, trampling on the dignity and rights of the undocumented with military-style tactics. . . . Miller's book arrives at a moment when it appears that part of the Homeland Security apparatus is backpedaling by promising to tone down its tactics, maybe prodded by investigative journalism, maybe by the revelations of NSA leaker Edward Snowden. . . . Border Patrol is quite possibly the right book at the right time . . ."-- Tony Perry, Los Angeles Times At the start of his unsettling and important new book, Border Patrol Nation, Miller observes that these days 'it is common to see the Border Patrol in places--such as Erie, Pennsylvania; Rochester, New York; or Forks, Washington--where only fifteen years ago it would have seemed far-fetched, if not unfathomable.'-- Barbara Spindel, Christian Science Monitor "Miller's approach in Border Patrol Nation is to offer a glimpse into the secretive operations of the Border Patrol, reporting with a journalist's objectivity and nose for a good story. Miller's book is full of facts, and it's clear he's outraged, but he gives voices to people on every side of the issue. . . . Miller's book is a fascinating read. . . . and bring the work of Susan Orlean to mind."-- Amanda Eyre Ward Kirkus Reviews "Todd Miller's invaluable and gripping book, Border Patrol Nation: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Homeland Security is the story of how this country's borders are being transformed into up-armored, heavily militarized zones run by a border-industrial complex. It's an achievement and an eye opener."-- Tom Engelhardt, TomDispatch "What Jeremy Scahill was to Blackwater, Todd Miller is to the U.S. Border Patrol!"-- Tom Miller, author, On the Border: Portraits of America's Southwestern Frontier "Todd Miller has entered a secret world, and he has gone deep. . . . Powerful."-- Luis Alberto Urrea, author of The Devil's Highway: A True Story "Journalist Miller tells an alarming story of U.S. Border Patrol and Homeland Security's ever-widening reach into the lives of American citizens and legal immigrants as well as the undocumented. In addition to readers interested in immigration issues, those concerned about the NSA's privacy violations will likely be even more shocked by the actions of Homeland Security."-- Publishers Weekly, Starred Review Armed authorities watch from a military-grade surveillance tower as lines of people stream toward the security checkpoint, tickets in hand, anxious and excited to get through the gate. Few seem to notice or care that the US Border Patrol is monitoring the Super Bowl, as they have for years, one of the many ways that forces created to police the borders are now being used, in an increasingly militarized fashion, to survey and monitor the whole of American society. In fast-paced prose, Todd Miller sounds an alarm as he chronicles the changing landscape. Traveling the country and beyond to speak with the people most involved with and impacted by the Border Patrol, he combines these first-hand encounters with careful research to expose a vast and booming industry for high-end technology, weapons, surveillance, and prisons. While politicians and corporations reap substantial profits, the experiences of millions of men, women, and children point to staggering humanitarian consequences. Border Patrol Nation shows us in stark relief how the entire country has become a militarized border zone, with consequences that affect us all. Todd Miller has worked on and written about US border issues for over fifteen years.

"Todd Miller's powerful prose belies what one hopes is a growing sense of outrage at the inhuman and racist goals of

U.S. border enforcement. His journeys from place to place and the complexities he presents within the Border Patrol itself provide the reader with a comprehensive picture of what's wrong in the United States. This is a book that should not be ignored."--Dawn Paley, *Upside Down World*"If examined closely enough, the swollen border security complex also reveals who watches and who is watched. Miller has done us all a great service by helping to expose this dichotomy."--Aaron Cantu, *Latino Rebels* . . . it is an important wake-up call for those who have not kept up with the morally troubling expansion of this mammoth security apparatus.--Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat, *Spirituality Practice*"Miller is not an armchair theorist. He has reported on border issues for a decade, including for the *New York Times* . . . He writes of the people he sees as the victims of the Border Patrol's abrasiveness and also of the cruel deportation policy of the Obama administration that breaks up families. . . . But the book shows surprising sympathy for many agents who are required by their jobs to be enforcers of a tough system."--Tony Perry, *Miami Herald*"Miller's approach in *Border Patrol Nation* is to offer a glimpse into the secretive operations of the Border Patrol, reporting with a journalist's objectivity and nose for a good story. Miller's book is full of facts, and it's clear he's outraged, but he gives voices to people on every side of the issue. . . . Miller's book is a fascinating read. . . . and bring the work of Susan Orlean to mind."--From interview with author by Amanda Eyre Ward, *Kirkus*"[Miller] offers a vision of what the military-industrial complex looks like once it's transported, jobs and all, to the US-Mexican border and turned into a consumer mall for the post-9/11 era . . . [it's] a striking and original picture."--Tom Engelhardt, *TomDispatch*"Solid, absorbing reportage on the government's racist and constitutionally questionable notions of border security in the post-9/11 world. . . . An unsettling but important read."--*Kirkus*"What Jeremy Scahill was to *Blackwater*, Todd Miller is to the U.S. Border Patrol!"--Tom Miller, author, *On the Border: Portraits of America's Southwestern Frontier*"Todd Miller has entered a secret world, and he has gone deep. If you want to learn about the Border Patrol's world, you will find this book informative and startling. I'm not sure the Border Patrol will like all that he has to say. But his is a moral work that wrestles with a huge story. Powerful."--Luis Alberto Urrea, author of *The Devil's Highway: A True Story*"Journalist Miller tells an alarming story of U.S. Border Patrol and Homeland Security's ever-widening reach into the lives of American citizens and legal immigrants as well as the undocumented. He describes the militarization of the Border Patrol and concurrent dehumanizing of 'unauthorized' persons; American citizens routinely harassed and arrested in Constitution-free zones that extend 100 miles from all borders; the expulsion of an exemplary Border Patrol agent for expressing his Mexican identity in casual conversation; and the Border Patrol's Explorer Academy for children, which, with its lock-step marching, black boots, law-enforcement training, and indoctrination is eerily evocative of fascism and Hitler Youth. Miller reveals the 'complex and industrial world' looming behind the border patrol, spanning 'robotics, engineers, salespeople and detention centers' and the new generation of Explorers. 'It is the world in which we now live,' he states, 'where eradicating border violations is given higher priority than eradicating malnutrition, poverty, homelessness, illiteracy, [and] unemployment.' In addition to readers interested in immigration issues, those concerned about the NSA's privacy violations will likely be even more shocked by the actions of Homeland Security."--*Publishers Weekly*, Starred "I encourage everyone to read this book and to recommend it to colleagues, friends and family who live far from the border and perhaps don't know yet that they live in *Border Patrol Nation* . . . They will soon enough."--Molly Molloy, editor, *Frontera List*"Todd Miller's book *Border Patrol Nation* has some eye-opening reporting, especially for those of us who live along the border and think we know the facts of the expanding police state. Well, I didn't know the Border Patrol provided security for the Superbowl. And I was ignorant of their youth groups and the scale of such propaganda work. I don't think anyone can read this book without being alarmed by the growing presence of surveillance, the expense and the apparent acceptance by our fellow citizens of this new national police force. He illustrates how the border increasingly is running right through our living rooms regardless of where we live as the claims of the security state crush any ideas of personal freedom. And like any good book, the reader will argue with some pages and think about others. Miller also captures how the universities are becoming satanic mills for the growing industry of spying on us for our own good. Who knows, maybe the academy will stop accepting grants from the people who want to build more cages and instead become centers of critical thinking."--Charles Bowden, author of *Murder City: Ciudad Juarez and the Global Economy's New Killing Fields*"The U.S. needs a reality check about its border with Mexico, and none need it more than the Congress. I wish every member could get a copy of *Border Patrol Nation*, and see up close the impact of a quarter century of increasing enforcement and militarization. Todd Miller has done an important service for those who make our laws, and the rest of us too, in giving us this reality check. He's told the real story of the border as a place where people live and work, in many ways a unique and beautiful place, but now scarred, as he so eloquently describes, by injustice and even death."--David Bacon, author, *The Right to Stay Home: How U.S. Policy Drives Mexican Migration*"In *Border Patrol Nation*, Todd Miller takes us on a terrifying journey crisscrossing the borders of our nation to find decaying carcasses, loving families ripped apart by deportations and whole swaths of territory now militarized. Miller exposes the underpinnings of this ever-expanding surveillance state: military contractors that rake in fat profits and bloated government agencies that keep extending their tentacles while the core of our neighborhoods wither from neglect. Miller reveals the humanity of both the victims and the victimizers, and the inhumanity of the system. A fantastic book."--Medea Benjamin, co-founder of Code Pink and author of *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control*"*Border Patrol Nation*

takes the reader on a voyage like no other book. From El Paso to Detroit, from reality television to corporate trade shows, from South Carolina to the Dominican Republic, Todd Miller paints a highly original and illuminating picture of the breadth and depth of the U.S. government's boundary and immigrant policing apparatus, and surveillance and social control in the era of 'Homeland Security.' It is a book that frightens and inspires, and one that demands a wide audience. Miller's message is one we ignore at our peril."--Joseph Nevins, author of Operation Gatekeeper and Beyond: The War On "Illegals" and the Remaking of the U.S.-Mexico Boundary

Todd Miller provides a tour de force of the ever-growing, metastasizing border enforcement apparatus focused on threats posed by immigrants, drug runners, and nearly non-existent terrorists. From the U.S.-Mexico divide and the U.S.-Canada boundary and many interior areas between, to the Caribbean and the border separating the Dominican Republic and Haiti, reinforced (against Haitians) with assistance from U.S. Border Patrol, Miller highlights the problem of the fetishistic over-use of coercive technology and human resources cum militarization to address what are essentially underlying social problems. Miller renders it all with the vivid human experiences and agency of residents, citizens, government authorities, technocrats, contractors / profiteers, and immigrants and their families. This book deserves a very wide audience from concerned citizens to policy-makers, to students and scholars in a wide array of fields.--Timothy Dunn, Professor, Dept. of Sociology, Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD, and author of The Militarization of the U.S.-Mexico Border, 1978-1992: Low Intensity Conflict Doctrine Comes Home and Blockading the Border and Human Rights: The El Paso Operation that Remade Immigration Enforcement

If you want to know what's really going on behind the Border Patrol code names and billion dollar budgets, read this book. Through lively narratives drawn from dozens of personal interviews with agents and the people they pepper spray or worse, Todd Miller connects the dots. From conventions marketing micro-robots and urine bags to the University of Tuscons curriculum based on Homeland Security funding, to the recruiting campaigns inducing people from retail jobs to 70k entry-level positions as border agents, Border Patrol Nation is a relentless, fast-paced, and sophisticated analysis that takes you from the tribal lands of Arizona to Goat Island, Niagara Falls, exposing embarrassing evidence of our government's meanness and stupidity.--Jacqueline Stevens, Professor, Political Science Department, Director, Deportation Research Clinic, Northwestern University, and author of States Without Nations: Citizenship for Mortals

"Border Patrol Nation dissects the 2,000-mile illusion--2,000 miles of greed and corruption and death-that threatens to swallow our rights, our hope and our entire country. Todd Miller investigates the bloated bureaucracies, the corporate interests, the ruthless politicians and policies invested in this dangerous illusion. Border Patrol Nation documents the need to end the illusion."--Roberto Lovato, writer, co-founder and strategist at Presente.org