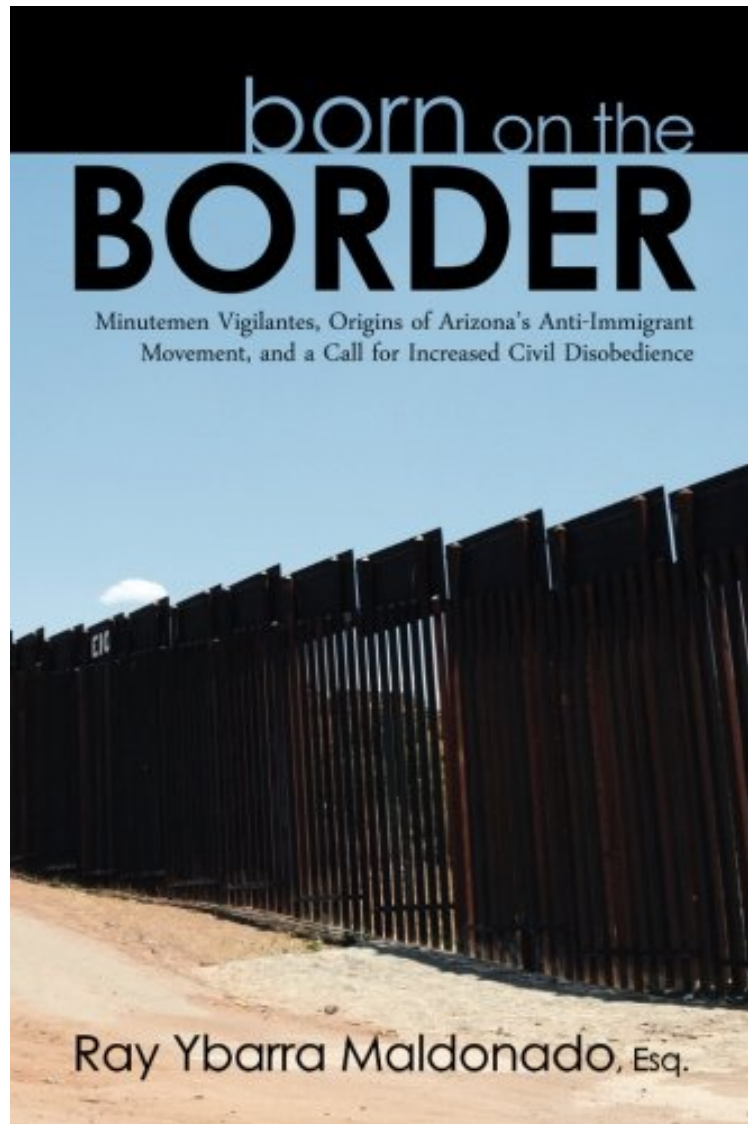


[E-BOOK] Born on the Border: Minutemen Vigilantes, Origins of Arizonas Anti-Immigrant Movement, and a Call for Increased Civil Disobedience

Born on the Border: Minutemen Vigilantes, Origins of Arizonas Anti-Immigrant Movement, and a Call for Increased Civil Disobedience

Ray Ybarra Maldonado Esq.

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Ray Ybarra Maldonado Esq. : Born on the Border: Minutemen Vigilantes, Origins of Arizonas Anti-Immigrant Movement, and a Call for Increased Civil Disobedience before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Born on the Border: Minutemen Vigilantes, Origins of Arizonas Anti-

Immigrant Movement, and a Call for Increased Civil Disobedience:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. passionate, well written, fascinating, persuasive
By Benjamin Singerman
Borderlands are interesting places, and the borderers who live there are often particularly interesting people. Ray Ybarra Maldonado, who was born in Douglas, Arizona near the United States border with Mexico, is no exception. In his first book, *Born on the Border*, he has constructed a particularly fascinating tale. Part autobiography, part journalistic expose, part political call to arms, it is one of the finest books I've read all year. It is no secret that American immigration policy is a disaster crying out for comprehensive reform. Ybarra Maldonado uses his own experiences as a window into how our government's policies play out in southern Arizona, impacting (and too often destroying) people's lives. Immigration policy is the subject of contentious debate, and Ybarra Maldonado clearly comes down in favor of open borders and the right of immigrants to come to the United States for work, to be with their families, and to make better lives for themselves. He backs up his arguments not with abstractions but with real stories from his own life as a resident of southern Arizona, an activist, and an attorney. He writes so well that even those who disagree with him may enjoy and admire his book. They may even find themselves persuaded by his reasoning, which can be summarized as simply as the golden rule: if you were a desperate stranger in a strange land, how would you want the locals to treat you? Ybarra Maldonado is a strong writer with an eye for telling detail. With a few choice lines, he compellingly describes the southwest desert landscape, Mexican migrant families, and unhinged anti-immigrant vigilantes. He writes with great insight and honesty, pulling no punches and fearless of offending with his occasionally unflattering portraits (including of himself). He also demonstrates deep compassion for the less fortunate. By describing step-by-step his own political awakening, he cannily draws the reader down the same path. His book shines most strongly as the memoir of a young human rights activist and documentarian of migrants and the Minuteman movement. He describes migrants crossing from Mexico to the United States through Arizona on a perilous journey across a harsh geography, and I found myself flipping the pages as breathlessly as if I were reading an adventure novel. He recounts the cat-and-mouse games between the anti-immigrant minutemen who patrol the border as private citizens and the so-called legal observers who watch them to make sure they don't violate the law. These sections, interspersed with descriptions of the internal politics of the Arizona chapter of the ACLU, approach farce, but the humor is undercut by mounting outrage at the suffering of the migrants and at the resources wasted in the misguided effort to exclude and deport them. Ybarra Maldonado ends with a call for a fundamental human right to unimpeded movement among all countries. I found this conclusion to be an overreach, probably because Ybarra Maldonado only examines one example, the United States-Mexico border, in his book. I am unconvinced that allowing global unimpeded movement across borders would not end in horrific ethnic violence in many parts of the world. I imagine what would happen in many of the world's hot spots --- the former Yugoslavia, Israel/Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Rwanda, Kashmir, Cyprus --- and see the potential for enormously violent conflict and calamity. But if Ybarra Maldonado has not quite made the case in his first book for a global right to unimpeded movement among all countries, he has at least presented a strong and fascinating argument in favor of a right for Latin American migrants to work and live in the United States without harassment. And he has done so in the form of a ripping good yarn that is an impressively enjoyable read.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A good book to read
By Lupita Haro
This book is a very real story by someone who actually experienced it..a moving story that I have read twice. Compelling, compassionate and would recommend it highly.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Essential Border Reading
By PapaLoco
Ray Ybarra Maldonado knows what he is writing about because he lives it. Body, mind and soul he is immersed in the Mexico- US border realities (and, importantly, non-realities and surrealities) and conveys this understanding with clarity. Whether you love or fear the Border, whether you care more about immigrant families or border security, you need to read Ray's book. Essential.

In 2004 vigilante groups patrolled the U.S.-Mexican border, hunting for migrants in the vast Arizona desert. A law student who hails from the small border town of Douglas, AZ takes off two years from his studies at Stanford Law School to return to Douglas to fight against the growing vigilante movement and the human rights abuses on the U.S.-Mexican border. This book provides a first-hand chronicle of the immigration debate that currently engulfs our nation. Ray Ybarra Maldonado writes about the border from his personal experience as a child and from the perspective of a dedicated activist who has travelled into the interior of Mexico to find victims of vigilante abuse. He also shares stories from his work at a migrant shelter in the Mexican border town where his mother was born, and from the middle of the Arizona desert where gun toting members of the Minutemen Project confront migrants crossing the militarized border. *Born on the Border* does more than chronicle the growing anti-immigrant movement that has emanated from Arizona, Ybarra Maldonado makes a compelling argument that the current immigration laws are immoral and that civil disobedience is needed so that human mobility can be recognized as a human right. While others are arguing over what comprehensive immigration reform looks like, the author's personal conflict between doing what is morally right and breaking the law challenges readers to take a drastically different look at one of the most pressing issues facing nation-states in the 21st century: immigration and the human right to cross borders.

About the Author Ray A. Ybarra Maldonado is a human rights activist, author, filmmaker, photographer, and public speaker. Born in Douglas, AZ, Ybarra Maldonado's mother was born just a few miles to the south in the town of Agua Prieta, Sonora. As a lawyer, Ybarra Maldonado is an aggressive trial attorney who has attained not guilty verdicts for his clients in both state and federal courts. Ybarra Maldonado co-wrote and co-produced the award-winning documentary, "Rights on the Line: Vigilantes at the Border," was instrumental in bringing about a major civil rights lawsuit against one of the vigilantes, and created and coordinated the Legal Observer Project during the Minutemen's operations. He has trained hundreds of volunteers and spent months following the Minutemen as they patrolled along the U.S.-Mexico Divide. Ybarra Maldonado has written about and given numerous talks on vigilantism, the militarization of the border and the growing immigrant's rights movement at numerous universities including Stanford, Harvard, University of California at Berkeley, and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and to community groups from Washington to Iowa. In addition to receiving awards for his commitment to social justice, Ybarra Maldonado has testified in front of local and state bodies as well as having his work quoted at the United Nations. Ybarra Maldonado is frequently quoted in both the national and international media and his work has been profiled in the Intelligence Report, Stanford Lawyer, and in a documentary that premiered at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, entitled 'Crossing Arizona.' Ybarra Maldonado spent a year volunteering at a migrant center in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico and in Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico assisting with cleaning, preparing food, and conducting human rights discussions amongst the migrants. Ybarra Maldonado attended Cochise Community College in Douglas, AZ and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Arizona State University in 2002 and from Stanford Law School in 2007. He has previously worked for the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and was a proud public defender in Cochise County and with the Federal Public Defender's Office in Tucson, AZ. He currently lives in Phoenix, AZ with his wife, Angeles Maldonado, and their handsome baby boy, Ray Emerson. The family are avid fans of the Arizona State Sun Devils, Stanford Cardinal, and all things Arizona (minus the anti-immigrant politics).