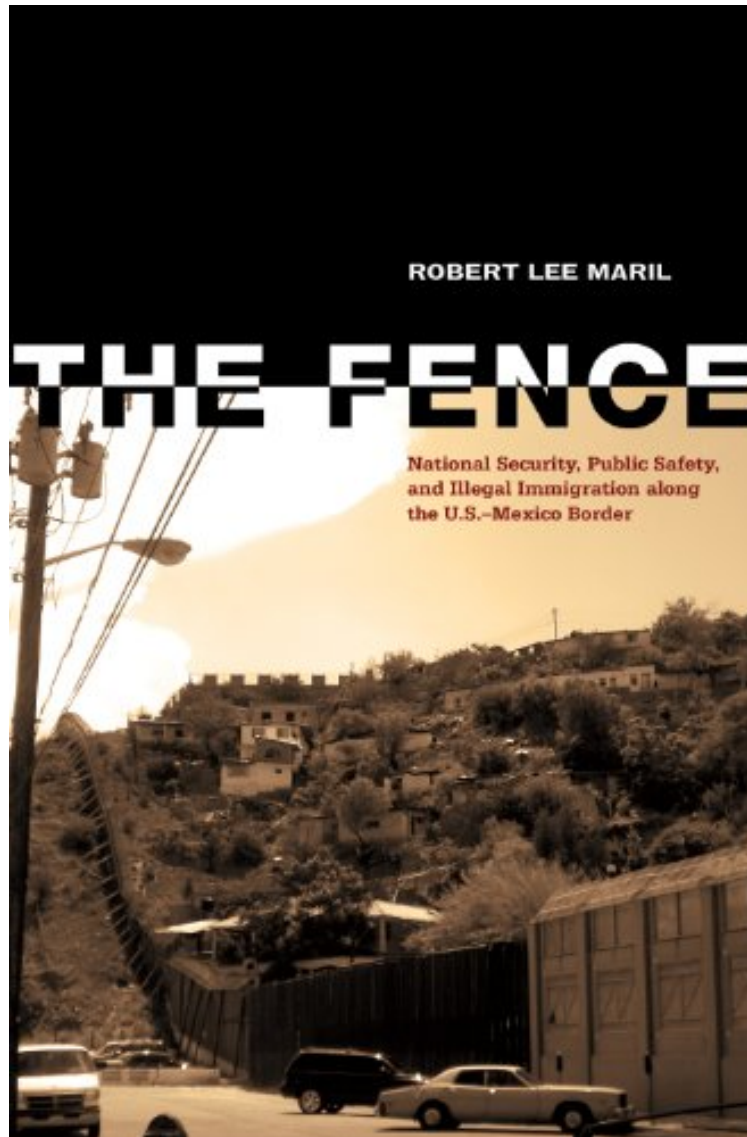


(Free) The Fence: National Security, Public Safety, and Illegal Immigration along the U.S.Mexico Border

The Fence: National Security, Public Safety, and Illegal Immigration along the U.S.Mexico Border

Robert Lee Maril

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1742894 in Books 2012-10-25 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.30 x 6.13l, 1.35 #File Name: 0896727769384 pages | File size: 44.Mb

Robert Lee Maril : The Fence: National Security, Public Safety, and Illegal Immigration along the U.S.Mexico Border before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fence: National Security, Public Safety, and Illegal Immigration along the U.S.Mexico Border:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent primer on border fence, enforcement, and immigration

issuesBy Sylvia LongmireI started reading this book as part of my research for my next book, partly because the content would be useful to cite and partly because it was my biggest competition. I was pleased after finishing it for several reasons: First, it was clear that Dr Maril has had a considerable amount of first-hand experience working with Border Patrol and has culled a significant number of sources along the border; second, the author is even-handed in his critique of DHS and its component agencies, as well as his support for the safety of law enforcement officers, without any obvious bias or political agenda. The book is titled *The Fence*, but it covers a wider variety of border-related issues that either directly or indirectly tie in to the border fence or the immigration debate. I was disappointed and not at all surprised to learn about the extent of Border Patrol inertia as an organization. After spending eight years as a female law enforcement agent in the military - not exactly a bastion of forward-thinking progress - I can unequivocally say I had it really good compared to female Border Patrol agents. Any agency that squashes every iota of dissent with retribution and initiative with reprimand is doomed to dysfunction. Fortunately, Maril manages to shine a light on the sacrifices made by Border Patrol agents and other law enforcement officers trying to work within the confines of an archaic system. Where Maril isn't even-handed - and deservedly so - is in his criticism of DHS for overspending, underplanning, and generally having its head up its behind when it comes to reality on the ground in the borderlands. Just his explanation and illustrations of the ways in which DHS has carelessly handed over hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to profit-maximizing contractors to build a fence that is completely unnecessary in some places will leave you in awe. And not in a good way. My only critique is that some narrative sections about certain people he knows and interviews can be tedious, and the details concerning fence contracts, technology, and construction can get too much into the weeds for more casual readers. The book seems to be organized in a chronological fashion for the most part, then digresses, which can mess with the flow a bit. However, this doesn't take away from the substance of *The Fence*, and the extensive evidence Maril puts forth to back up his assertions about the lack of true purpose and direction for the fence along several parts of its almost-700-mile length. If you're looking for a book that explores not just the history of border fence constructions and all the problems that have plagued it, along with related enforcement and immigration issues, this is the book for you. I highly recommend it for researchers and casual readers interested in learning more about these border security-related issues. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Neighbors and good fencesBy Marie L. O'NeillThe topic is fascinating and the scope of this project mind boggling. Robert Maril makes the issues clear and recognizes how fluid the border can be. Clear prose to untangle a complex issue. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book!By LI really enjoyed this book. It is honest yet not overpowering. I look forward to reading other books by the same author.

To the American public it's a 2,000-mile-long project to keep illegal immigrants, narcotics, and terrorists on the other side of the U.S.-Mexico border. In the deserts of Arizona, it's a virtual fence of high-tech electronic sensors, cameras, and radar. In some border stretches it's a huge concrete-and-steel wall; in others it's a series of solitary posts designed to stop drug runners; in still others it's rusted barbed-wire cattle fences. For two-thirds of the international boundary it's nonexistent. Just what is this entity known as the fence? And more important, is it working? Through first-person interviews with defense contractors, border residents, American military, Minutemen, county officials, Customs and Border Protection agents, environmental activists, and others whose voices have never been heard, Robert Lee Maril examines the project's human and financial costs. Along with Maril's site visits, his rigorous analysis of government documents from 1999 to the present uncovers fiscal mismanagement by Congress, wasteful defense contracts, and unkept political promises. As drug violence mounts in border cities and increasing numbers of illegal migrants die from heat exhaustion in the Arizona desert, Maril argues how the fence may even be making an incendiary situation worse. Avoiding preconceived conclusions, he proposes new public policies that take into consideration human issues, political negotiation, and the need for compromise. Maril's lucid study shows the fence to be a symbol in concrete, steel, microchips, and fiber optics for the crucible of contemporary immigration policy, national security, and public safety.

From the Inside FlapTo the American public it's a 2,000-mile-long project to keep illegal immigrants, narcotics, and terrorists on the other side of the U.S.-Mexico border. In the deserts of Arizona, it's a "virtual fence" of high-tech electronic sensors, cameras, and radar. In some border stretches it's a huge concrete-and-steel wall; in others it's a series of solitary posts designed to stop drug runners; in still others it's rusted barbed-wire cattle fences. For two-thirds of the international boundary it's nonexistent. Just what is this entity known as "the fence"? And more important, is it working? Through first-person interviews with defense contractors, border residents, American military, Minutemen, county officials, Customs and Border Protection agents, environmental activists, and others whose voices have never been heard, Robert Lee Maril examines the project's human and financial costs. Along with Maril's site visits, his rigorous analysis of government documents from 1999 to the present uncovers fiscal mismanagement by Congress, wasteful defense contracts, and unkept political promises. As drug violence mounts in border cities and increasing numbers of illegal migrants die from heat exhaustion in the Arizona desert, Maril argues how the fence may even be making an incendiary situation worse. Avoiding preconceived conclusions, he proposes new public policies that take

into consideration human issues, political negotiation, and the need for compromise. Maril's lucid study shows the fence to be a symbol in concrete, steel, microchips, and fiber optics for the crucible of contemporary immigration policy, national security, and public safety. About the Author Robert Lee Maril is professor of sociology and the founding director of the Center for Diversity and Inequality Research at East Carolina University. The author of many books, including *Patrolling Chaos: The U.S. Border Patrol in Deep South Texas* (TTUP, 2006) and *Waltzing with the Ghost of Tom Joad: Poverty, Myth, and Low-Wage Labor in Oklahoma*, he has testified three times on his research before the U.S. Congress, and his work has been widely cited both in scholarly publications and the national media. A resident of the Texas borderlands for seventeen years, he now lives in Greenville, North Carolina.