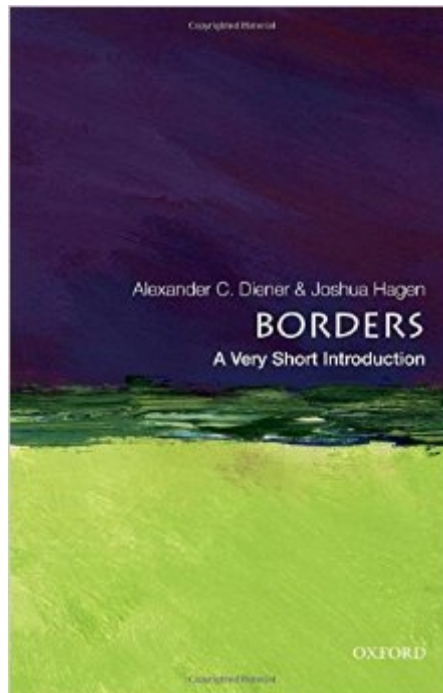


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Borders: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)



Synopsis

Compelling and accessible, this Very Short Introduction challenges the perception of borders as passive lines on a map, revealing them instead to be integral forces in the economic, social, political, and environmental processes that shape our lives. Highlighting the historical development and continued relevance of borders, Alexander Diener and Joshua Hagen offer a powerful counterpoint to the idea of an imminent borderless world, underscoring the impact borders have on a range of issues, such as economic development, inter- and intra-state conflict, global terrorism, migration, nationalism, international law, environmental sustainability, and natural resource management. Diener and Hagen demonstrate how and why borders have been, are currently, and will undoubtedly remain hot topics across the social sciences and in the global headlines for years to come. This compact volume will appeal to a broad, interdisciplinary audience of scholars and students, including geographers, political scientists, anthropologists, sociologists, historians, international relations and law experts, as well as lay readers interested in understanding current events.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Although several notable scholars have opined that borders are a thing of the past due to increasing globalization, Diener and Hagen put that false notion to rest in the first few pages. In fact, while borders have always been dynamic, new borders continue to emerge where uncertainty previously

existed. At the same time, the nature of old borders changes as NGOs, the international nature of the internet, and supranational organizations change the way people cross borders. Borders continue to be an indispensable fact of everyday life across the spectrum of humanity: for the common traveller, who has to apply for passports, visas, and wait in line at border crossings; for legal and illegal immigrants who face deportation and/or long waits for citizenship; for transborder communities such as those along the Pakistan-India border; and for world leaders who must deal with modern border issues such as international computer hackers and sovereign air space. In only 124 pages, the Drs. Diener and Hagen provide a background on the practice of bordering from ancient to modern times, with attention to two impactful events that have shaped modern borders: rise of nationalism in Europe and colonial bordering.

This is the first Very Short Introduction I've read which had no wit or humor, but it's very thorough and fulfills its contract with the reader who wants a complete overview of the subject, from nations to neighborhoods. It is certainly thought-provoking and can raise awareness to complex issues.

I needed this book for political geography. The book basically summarized the entire course and is an easy quick read. My grandfather loves reading it also.

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