

AUTHOR'S NOTE

This book was completed as the 2019 global pandemic was approaching a dark zenith and borders the world over were closed, including the southern and northern territorial borders of the United States and other US ports of entry, through imposed limits to international air travel. This exceptional state of affairs seemed to justify inflammatory nativist rhetoric about closing borders to protect the health and well-being of the nation. It also revealed profound social and economic divisions, further deepened by the economic shutdown and sealed borders. In response to the pandemic, the US government suspended surveillance at borders, technologies for sorting permissible entry from detention and deportation, and replaced it with barred entry. Crisis became an alibi for ever more restrictive immigration and asylum policies. Migrants and refugees petitioning at US borders were trapped in legal limbo, and those confined to detention centers were abandoned to exposure to the COVID-19 virus. The injustices at the border are not limited to times of crisis; they are only deepened by them. The outcome of the pandemic urges a renewed call to end the criminalization of migration, migrant detention and deportation, and targeting of racialized communities and to abolish the imperial border regime and its carceral complex.

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