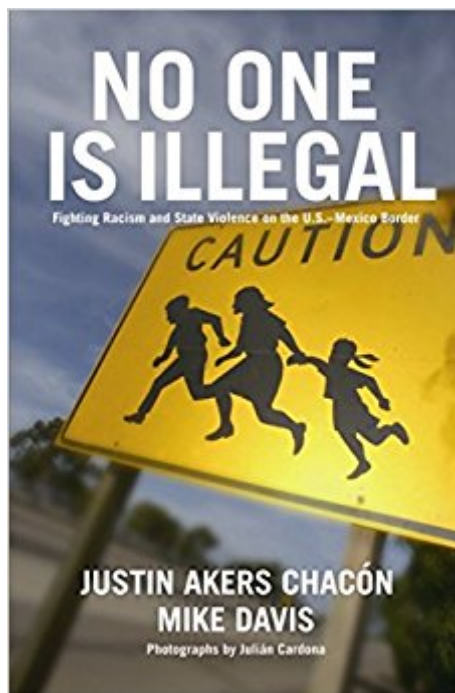




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No One Is Illegal: Fighting Racism And State Violence On The U.S.-Mexico Border



Synopsis

“A rare combination of an author, [Mike Davis is] Rachel Carson and Upton Sinclair all in one.” —Susan Faludi
“[Davis’s writing is] perceptive and rigorous.” —David Montgomery, *The Nation*
“[Davis’s work is] brilliant, provocative, and exhaustively researched.” —The Village Voice
“[Davis’s work is] eloquent and passionate.” —Tariq Ali
No One Is Illegal debunks the leading ideas behind the often violent right-wing backlash against immigrants. Countering the chorus of anti-immigrant voices, Mike Davis and Justin Akers Chacón expose the racism of anti-immigration vigilantes and put a human face on the immigrants who risk their lives to cross the border to work in the United States. Davis and Akers Chacón challenge the racist politics of vigilante groups like the Minutemen, and argue for a pro-immigrant and pro-worker agenda that recognizes the urgent need for international solidarity and cross-border alliances in building a renewed labor movement. Writer, historian, and activist Mike Davis is the author of many books, including *City of Quartz*, *The Ecology of Fear*, *The Monster at Our Door*, and *Planet of Slums*. Davis teaches in the Department of History at the University of California at Irvine, and lives in San Diego. Davis is the recipient of the 2001 Carey McWilliams Award and the World History Association Book Award. Justin Akers Chacón is professor of U.S. History and Chicano Studies in San Diego, California. He has contributed to the *International Socialist Review* and the book *Immigration: Opposing Viewpoints* (Greenhaven Press).

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Haymarket Books (July 15, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1931859353

ISBN-13: 978-1931859356

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #238,350 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #169 in Books > History > Americas > United States > Immigrants #205 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Caribbean & Latin American #252 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Latin America

Customer Reviews

Justin Akers Chacon is a professor of U.S. History and Chicano Studies in San Diego, California. He has contributed to the International Socialist Review and the book *Immigration: Opposing Viewpoints* (Greenhaven Press). Writer, historian, and activist Mike Davis is the author many books, including *City of Quartz*, *The Ecology of Fear*, *The Monster at Our Door*, and *Planet of Slums*. Davis teaches in the Department of History at the University of California at Irvine, and lives in San Diego.

incredible read!!!! Definitely recommend!!!!!!!

Excellent investigation work!! I recommend this book to anyone who wants to know the historical truth!!!

I just finished the book! Excellent!

Thank you

I used this book as a primary source for my research on how the US agriculture industry depends on cheap immigrant labor. Extremely informative and with a lot of useful info. Provides history on the issue and ties it together with what is currently happening in regards to the US/Mexico border issue.

Professors Akers Chacon and Davis provide a in-depth analysis of the current transnational migration of working class people--predominantly from Mexico. Although the text is an attempt at providing a Marxist-analysis of class conflict as the underpinning of the current movement of bodies across the border, the authors expand to include the globalization of financial capitalism as the main cause of such transnational migration of working class people. Given that the majority of those who migrate across the U.S.-Mexico boundary are for economic reasons, the authors suggest that the struggles of the working class undocumented workers are the struggles of all workers, and hence none of them are "illegal" but rather they are responding to the deepening of the capitalist crisis spreading throughout the world; it is a natural response by humans trying to survive. It is a thought-provoking analysis.

This book dismantles the narratives we hear from the establishment media regarding

undocumented workers. It covers the history of oppression migrant workers have faced, including beatings from the KKK and the Order of Caucasians, among other vigilantes organized by agribusiness interests. It also covers the devastating impacts of NAFTA on Mexico's economy. Page 121 points out, "Over 1.3 million small farmers in Mexico were pushed into bankruptcy by cheap American grain imports between 1994 and 2004. Luis Tellez, former undersecretary for planning in Mexico's Ministry of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources, estimates that as many as 15 million peasants will leave agriculture in the next few decades, many seeing migration north as the only option. . . . Meanwhile, the deindustrialization of Mexico continues unabated. Mexico lost an unprecedented 515,000 jobs in the first three months of 2005 alone." What industry there is, is now found in the sites of hyper-exploitation known as maquiladoras. One negative review calls the book "Marxist." Well, the book is mostly just an honest analysis of the situation. Something that demagogues like Tom Tancredo avoid. Tancredo likes to whip up hysteria. His congressional district (one of the wealthiest in the country) has a large Lockheed Martin plant. Lockheed will be making a fortune on the further militarization of the border. Anyway, the book does include one quotation from Karl Marx, and I think it's worth repeating. Justin Akers Chacon writes: "Marx illustrated the self-sabotaging nature of the conflict between 'native-born' workers and immigrant workers in his analysis of the relationship between the English and Irish working classes when he wrote, 'The ordinary English worker hates the Irish worker as a competitor who lowers his standard of life. In relation to the Irish worker, he feels himself a member of the ruling nation and so turns himself into a tool of the aristocrats and capitalists of his country against Ireland, thus strengthening their domination over himself. He cherishes religious, social and national prejudices against the Irish worker. This antagonism is the secret of the impotence of the English working class, despite its organization. It is the secret by which the capitalist class maintains its power. And that class is fully aware of it.' Inter-ethnic and international class solidarity, or lack thereof, has been a determinant of the progression, inertia, or regression of the American labor movement. When nationalist or chauvinist sentiments are strong, the working class is weak, demonstrating the deep penetration of ruling-class ideology into working-class consciousness." This book also covers the conquest of Mexico, and the opportunities for organizing immigrants. It's a sensational book that I have been quoting over various message boards. I'll be buying several copies of it.[...]

First let me say I read the book and the information in the book was very interesting. However my complaint for the book is that it is misleading in the title and back description, also some of the information is repeated in every chapter. Over and over again. I did notice that much like the book,

the chapter titles are sometimes hardly associated with the information covered. And the pictures while moving, have nothing to do with what is covered inside the book. I feel disappointed in the publishers and authors since they did not trust their material enough to market it as it is and not as something to get the attention of readers. I am happy to have read a book about the history of southwest immigrant labor, and honestly may not have read it otherwise but what I was looking for was a discourse on illegal immigration.

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