

ERNESTO CASTAÑEDA

BUILDING

WALLS

Excluding Latin People in the United States

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Building Walls: Excluding Latin People in the United States

by Ernesto Castañeda

Contributions By: Silvia Chávez-Baray; Eva Moya; Maura Fennelly; Dennis West; Catherine Harlos And Natali Collazos

"How perfectly fitting that Castañeda has masterfully mapped how detrimental it has been for Latinos when the US has and continues to build walls, as Trump built his campaign and presidency on the promise to build a wall between the US and Mexico. This book is truly timely and relevant because it is a testament of Latino racialization and exclusion, and it demonstrates why building walls does not work to keep immigrants out or to unite a country."— Celia Lacayo, UCLA

The election of Donald Trump has called attention to the border wall and anti-Mexican discourses and policies, yet these issues are not new. *Building Walls* puts the recent calls to build a border wall along the US-Mexico border into a larger social and historical context. This book describes the building of walls, symbolic and physical, between Americans and Mexicans, as well as the consequences that these walls have in the lives of immigrants and Latin communities in the United States. The book is divided into three parts: categorical thinking, anti-immigrant speech, and immigration as an experience. The sections discuss how the idea of nation-state itself constructs borders, how political strategy and racist ideologies reinforce the idea of irreconcilable differences between whites and Latinos, and how immigrants and their families overcome their struggles to continue living in America. They analyze historical precedents, normative frameworks, divisive discourses, and contemporary daily interactions between whites and Latin individuals. It discusses the debates on how to name people of Latin American origin and the framing of immigrants as a threat and contrasts them to the experiences of migrants and border residents. *Building Walls* makes a theoretical contribution by showing how different dimensions work together to create durable inequalities between U.S. native whites, Latinos, and newcomers. It provides a sophisticated analysis and empirical description of racializing and exclusionary processes.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Ernesto Castañeda is assistant professor of sociology at American University where he is affiliated with the Metropolitan Policy Center, the Center of Latin American and Latino Studies, and the Center on Health Risk and Society.

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