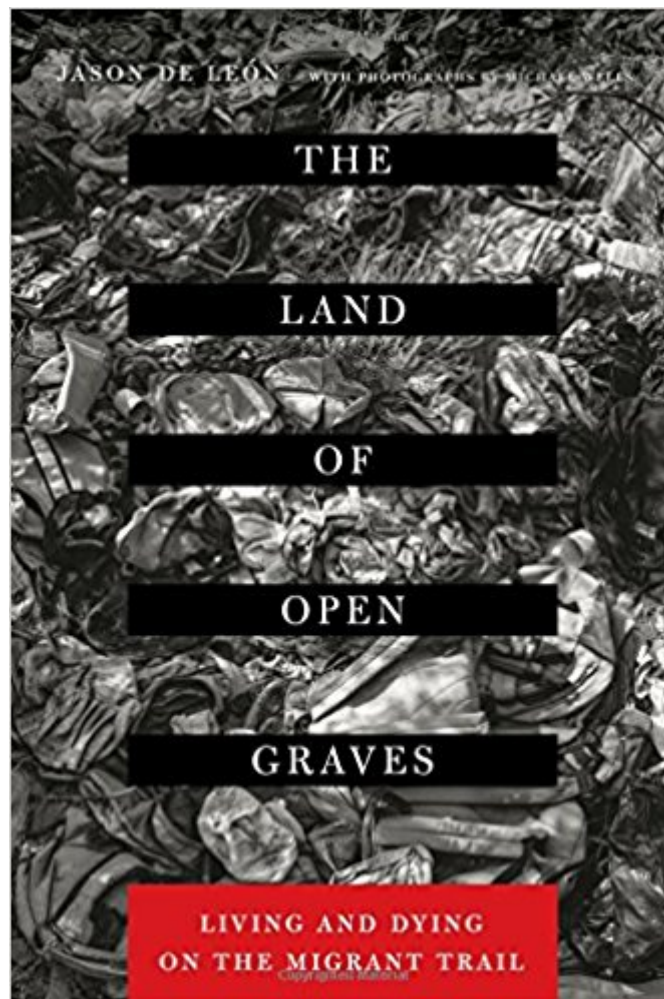


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The Land Of Open Graves: Living And Dying On The Migrant Trail (California Series In Public Anthropology)



Synopsis

In his gripping and provocative debut, anthropologist Jason De León sheds light on one of the most pressing political issues of our time—the human consequences of US immigration policy. The Land of Open Graves reveals the suffering and deaths that occur daily in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona as thousands of undocumented migrants attempt to cross the border from Mexico into the United States. Drawing on the four major fields of anthropology, De León uses an innovative combination of ethnography, archaeology, linguistics, and forensic science to produce a scathing critique of “Prevention through Deterrence,” the federal border enforcement policy that encourages migrants to cross in areas characterized by extreme environmental conditions and high risk of death. For two decades, this policy has failed to deter border crossers while successfully turning the rugged terrain of southern Arizona into a killing field. In harrowing detail, De León chronicles the journeys of people who have made dozens of attempts to cross the border and uncovers the stories of the objects and bodies left behind in the desert. The Land of Open Graves will spark debate and controversy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Loved the book. Written in a style that grabs the reader and carries her/him through a seemingly endless tragedy. Tremendous past and current information on a dark international immigration web. Sometimes even funny. I highly recommend it.

This is a rare work of scholarship that transcends academic jargon and makes a strong argument about the human consequences of U.S. border policy. It's also a book about the practice of anthropology and how anthropologist's tools tell us something different about how we understand social problems. Whether or not you agree with the author, it makes for a gripping read. Like a great novel, it brought me to tears.

If you have any interest in the stories of people from Mexico, Central American or South America who form our wave of migrants from the south, this is a MUST READ book. Fascinating first person stories and great archaeological context. Highly recommended.

Jason is a former professor of mine, and I was really excited to see that his book had come out. I was not disappointed. It links border policy with its incredibly important humanistic implications. It uses theoretic analysis of bureaucracy alongside some innovative fieldwork to illustrate a truth for people who don't know what's really going on on the border, and in our federal governmental structure. I recommend it to anyone interested in immigration, border issues, or just the general study/intrigue about how seemingly benign power structures perpetuate violence and injustice. Not a happy read, but well well worth it.

This 4-field anthropological approach to border studies is compelling. After reading it I have ended up recommending it to a range of academics as well as my mom's book club and anyone interested in border policy that should hear the difficult and true story of how U.S. Border policy impacts people, bodies, and families.

I cried reading this book. It is amazing and it has a lot of factual information. It is such a good book to read and it helps the reader understand what happens in border towns.

Thought provoking!

Excellent Read !!!

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