

Migrant detained after collapsing from exhaustion in the desert

Sand and Blood

America's Stealth War on the Mexico Border

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Introduction: Growing Up on the Border

- John Carlos Frey was born in Tijuana, the border town next to San Diego, but grew up in San Diego, a few 100 yards from the border. His parents were both US citizens. He played in the areas near a relatively lightly guarded area, (lower left, upper right).
- Out walking with his Mom when he was about 12, the border patrol demanded his mother's papers. She said she would have to go home to get them but was detained and deported to Tijuana. He wasn't near when it happened, and went home alone.
- His father figured out what happened, got her Green Card and ID, and got her back. Frey never forgot the event. She was held because her skin was 'too dark')



People and culture intermingle across borders areas. Youth paint and play near walls (upper left) or talk across fences at the beach (upper right). Later thing became harder (lower left)

Chapter One: Seeds of War

Anti-immigrant reaches back to the founding of the US, aimed at Germans, Irish and especially Chinese

- 'Nativism' was the fear of new immigrants by those who had come earlier, and nearly ever group was targeted.
- The Chinese recruited to build the western railroads were treated especially harshly, with the first 'Exclusion Act' in passed in 1882 at the insistence of white labor.
- In 1924, Congress pass the Immigration Act, limiting immigrants by national quotas, and establishing the Border Patrol.
- Prior to the Border Patrol, Mexicans crossed back and forth freely for work. But later in the 1920s, they were forced to strip and sprayed with 'de-lousing' gas. If they crossed every day, they would be gassed every day, men and women.
- The laws and treatment were racist from Day One.



World War Two and the 'Bracero Program'

The construction of a manual labor pipeline into the US West

- ▶ The Mexican Farm Labor Agreement of 1942 brought millions of farm and construction workers into the fields of California, the Southwest and the Great Plains.
- ▶ Over 4 million came between 1942 and 1964, with many settling in and raising families. Their pay was low and working conditions abusive.
- ▶ Eisenhower rounded up and deported millions in the 1950s, but many remained behind. Their labor was needed.
- ▶ In 1986 Reagan signed an 'amnesty' bill allowing some 3 million Mexican workers to stay, but other GOP leaders in Texas and California organized for tough restrictions, both in the fields and at the border.



Working the fields for decades (top right) then facing abrupt deportation (lower right). 1940s war effort poster launching the program (left).

Chapter Two: The Conflict Begins—Again

The 1990s, NAFTA, Corn, and the Clinton Crackdown

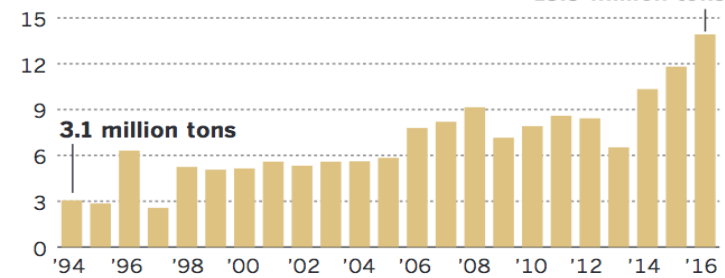


- Smuggler's Gulch before crackdown (upper right), but fencing and militarized guards led to more detention and deaths (lower right).
- Clinton's NAFTA saw US corn dumped in Mexico at less than the cost of production, wiping out many Mexican corn farmers (protest, lower left)

Corn exports to Mexico

Since NAFTA was implemented in 1994, Mexico has steadily increased the amount of corn it buys from the U.S.

(In millions of metric tons)



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Los Angeles Times





'Operation Hold the Line,' Sandia, and the Defense Contractors

Clinton deploys militarized, high tech walls in urban border zones

Sandia is a giant defense lab that started building nuclear weapons and has vastly diversified, including electronic border protective wall and sensors (left).

'Hold the Line' secured San Diego and other urban crossing areas (right).

The net result was to channel migrants into more remote and dangerous areas. By 1999, deaths had soared into the thousands, but the same numbers and more kept crossing (below).



Growing Border Drama:

A Divided America in a Tale of Two Brothers

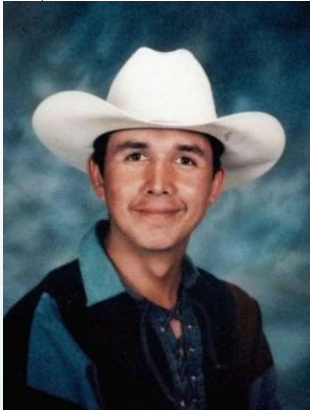
Duncan and John Hunter Take Opposite Sides On Immigration

- John Hunter (left) and Duncan (right) started with similar views, worried about drugs and criminals crossing the border.
- Duncan became a hard right GOP Congressman, and pressed for severe measures. He also violated rules on campaign money, and slandered his rivals as 'terrorists. (lower right).
- John studied the impact of what his brother was doing, and saw it leading thousands of deaths. He built an organization to leave supplies of water and food for migrants exhausted in deadly desert terrain. (lower left).



Chapter 3: The Military Arrives at the Border

Posse Comitatus, JTF-6 Marines, and Border Control Duties



- The Posse Comitatus Act forbids US soldiers from police duties inside the US. The reason is they are trained to kill and destroy, not enforcing the law with civilians
- Esequiel Hernandez (above), a teenage US herder watering his goats, in the Rio Grande, was shot and killed by JFT-6 Marine Clemente Banuelos, (below) who mistook Hernandez for an 'enemy' drug smuggler.
- A Texas grand jury let Banuelos off, but the US paid Hernandez' family \$1.9 million and armed missions were temporarily stopped.



Chapter 4: Post-9/11 Fearmongering Starts

'There was no terrorist threat coming from Mexico and there never has been' – Sylvestre Reyes, Congressman and Border Patrol Chief (upper left). This truth was simply ignored, while the militarization of the border rapidly doubled and tripled.

- The border police are now over 60,000, the largest in the US. Their budget is over \$13 billion and rising.
- Nearly all immigrants crossing the border were Mexican, some 93%. The rest came from other Central America countries and a few from Asia. None were from the Middle East or 'terrorist' of any sort.
- Yet the hyped-up fear of Jihadis sneaking across the sand at night allowed a feeding frenzy by the military industries, now raking in billions.



ICE agents are often plainclothes and heavily armed, any operate everywhere, with 400 offices in the US, as in the NYC subway (lower left).

Next: Boeing's Billion-Dollar Boondoggle

The 'Secure Border Initiative,' 'Secure Fence Act,' and their useless 'virtual fences' and 'infrared cameras' that can't distinguish a person from a squirrel.



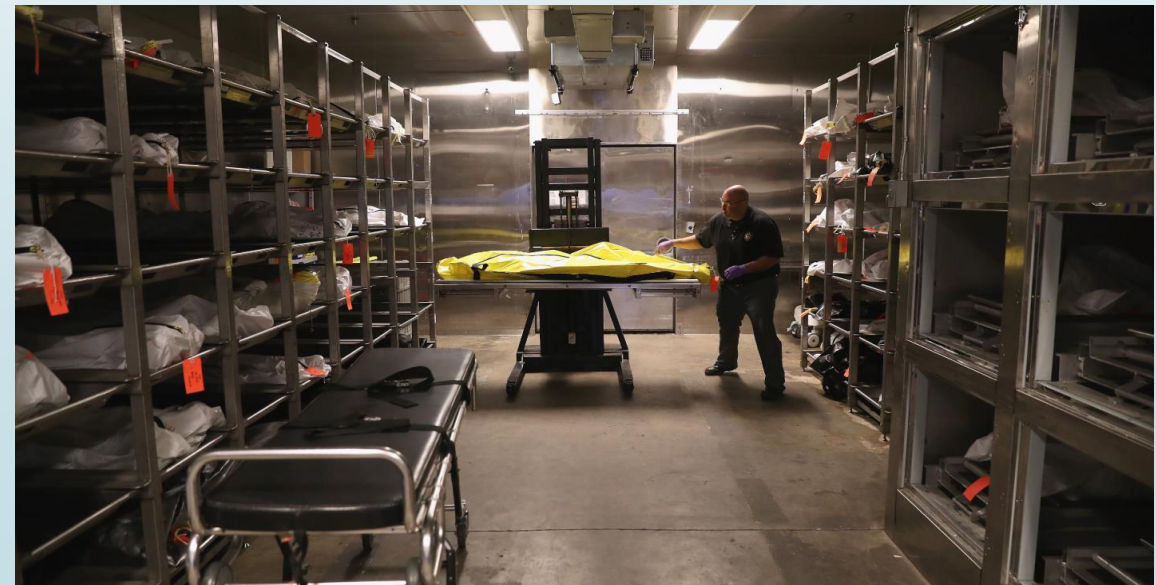
- Frey visits a remote SBI Tower in the Sonoran desert. After an hour a border patrol officer shows up. Frey says the expensive towers seem insecure. 'They're a joke,' he's told. 'Never worked, none of them. A total waste.'
- Guards were supposed to be able to use remote viewing, but the cameras couldn't distinguish between heat mirages and real activity
- President George W Bush quietly set SBI aside, but countered its failure by bring in National Guard troops, and thus doubling the manpower of the Border Patrol.

Deadly Waters as Weapons: The All-American Canal

Hundreds die every year trying dangerous night crossings



- The canal was built to divert water from the Colorado River to California farms.
- It flows rapidly in places and is often unguarded at night.
- The Medical Examiner's office is overwhelmed with unidentified stored bodies.
- A few safety devices have been installed, but people keep coming and dying. They fear what they left more than what's ahead.



Chapter 5: Death as Deterrent

*The more 'secure' the border,
the more death and profit*

- When crossings in remote areas come under security patrols, migrants will seek and pay a 'coyote,' who in turn often works with a Mexican drug cartel. The cost ranges from \$2000 to \$5000.
- The cartels justify the cost due to their investment in their own surveillance equipment to track border guards, even their own helicopters.
- Getting past the patrols still means more and more difficult routes, and more people dying along the way.
- It still doesn't curb the overall numbers.

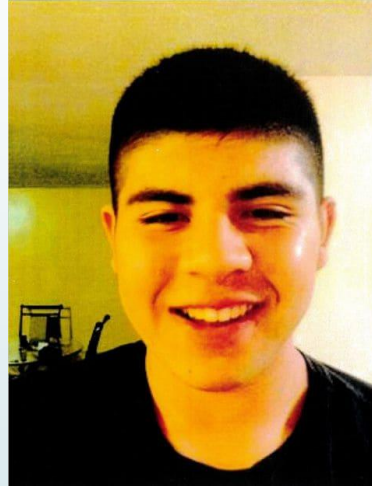


Above: Immigrants led by 'coyote.' Top: Hundreds of remains recovered in mass graves in Texas. Below: 'Survival Gear' shop in Altar, Mexico, at the border's edge.

Chapter 6: Transforming Our Soldier's Minds

To justify abuse, immigrants must be turned into terrorists

- US Troops and border guards are being trained to see those crossing the border as terrorists and drug dealers.
- Carlos Cruz, a simple migrant worker, is being murdered by poison (top Right) by being told to unwittingly drink 'juice' the agents know is saturated with meth. Cruz is dead a few hours later.
- Patrol officers destroy life-saving water bottles and fire tear gas and bullets into Mexico. Several Mexicans are killed in their own country.



Chapter 7: The War at the Border Expands

Obama as Deporter-in-Chief, Mass Growth in For-Profit Detention



- The Joe Cory Detention Center (lower) as one of a vast network of private prisons owned by GEO and set up by ICE. Today the cost is over \$3 billion—over \$700 a day per detainee.
- The Obama policy was conflicted. It wanted citizenship by teenagers here for years. But new numbers kept coming, and he deported some 5 million, a record.
- When they found stray children at the border, Obama set up holding centers for them until they could find and reunite families.



ICE, Human Rights and the Camps

Massive detentions leading to abuse and death



- ▶ In 2016 alone, ICE detained over 450,000 people, with 40,000 in their private and state prisons on any given day.
- ▶ The centers are overcrowded (lower right), and often lack facilities for hygiene and medical care, leading to deaths.
- ▶ Many Jewish and other religious and human rights groups are given a growing witness, and demand the abolition of ICE and its private prisons



Chapter 8: Trump Escalates Cruelty as Policy

However unjust and harsh the border crisis, Trump has made everything worse



A cross for each death (above), father and daughter dead after deportation

- ▶ Trump's policies are designed to reduce immigration numbers severely and ignore rights of refugees.
- ▶ His Wall in impractical in many areas (lower right) and not hard to scale (upper right).
- ▶ 'Zero Tolerance,' started by Trump, ignores the threat of gangs (upper left) and practices intentional cruelty of seizing and jailing children apart from the parents (lower left) in concentration camps.



Trump's border wall

Donald Trump's proposed wall on the US-Mexico border will be over 1,600km long, which will replace the current porous fencing of about 1,000km. The rest of the border is protected by natural obstacles.

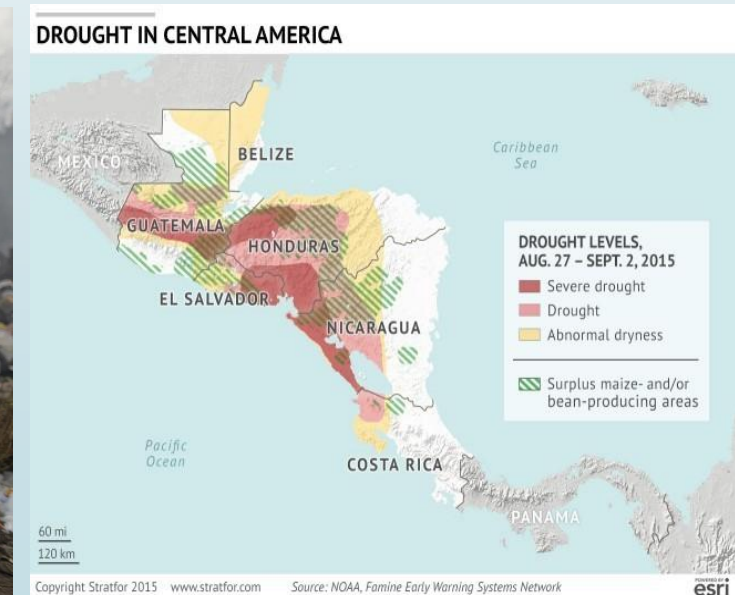


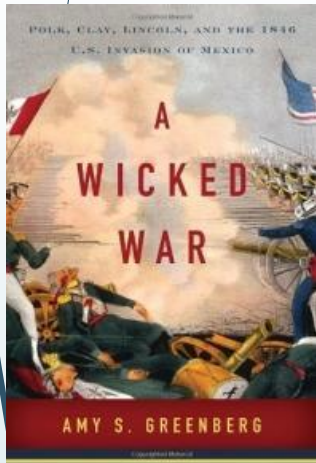
The Wall, Climate Change and Human Rights

Two crises become intertwined, and likely to get worse



- Global warming has brought unusual and severe drought to Central America (upper and lower right).
- Crop failure has led to desperation on the part of many (upper and lower left).
- Even without violence, hunger alone will drive large numbers to the US border.





Conclusion: *How the past is still alive*

- The current crisis has roots in US imperialist expansion, first in the conquest on Northern Mexico (upper right) and second in President Wilson's 1916 intervention against Pancho Villa 'to teach Mexico a lesson (upper left).
- Many Mexicans have always living in the western US, but their recent growth has changed the politics of the West. Some want self-determination as 'Atzlan.'
- The border deaths thus continue with a context. Angels of the Desert, (lower left) leave water and repair graves. The struggle continues.

