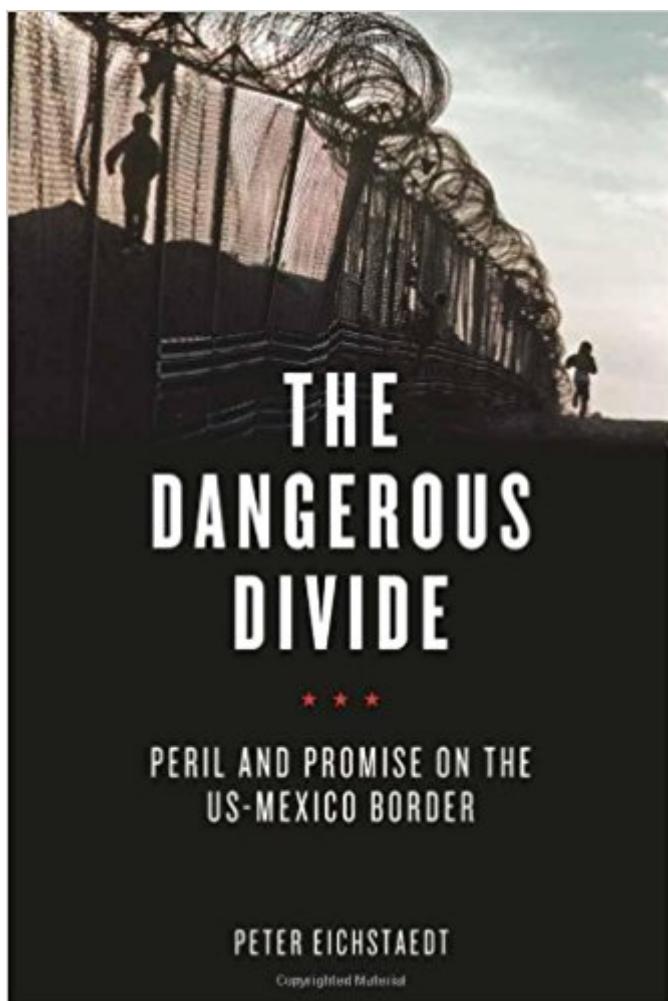


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# The Dangerous Divide: Peril And Promise On The US-Mexico Border



## Synopsis

Winner! Best of Political/Current Affairs by the 2015 International Latino Book Awards. America's legendary border with Mexico is now a frontier of fear. Veteran journalist Peter Eichstaedt roams this fabled region from Tucson, Arizona, to El Paso, Texas. He meets with migrants, border security advocates, and communities ravaged by cross-border crime. He rides with the U.S. border patrol. He finds desperate migrants trapped in a world of predatory human smugglers and border security agents. Thousands of border agents and billions of dollars does not stem the tide of one million Mexicans and Central Americans, who cross the border each year. These migrants fill jobs that have become the underpinnings of the U.S. economy. Eichstaedt argues that the U.S. must reform its immigration and drug laws now. America must admit that costly, counterproductive, and antiquated policies have created a deadly situation on both sides of the border. America needs to recognize and legitimize the contributions made by Latin migrants to the its way of life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The author's vignettes of his interactions with a diverse cast of characters are insightful and engrossing." •Publishers Weekly "Investigative reporter Peter Eichstaedt offers a thoughtful examination of U.S.-Mexico border issues by going directly to players." •Tucson Weekly "Eichstaedt can be a perceptive observer." •New York Times "The author bolsters his astute reportage with interviews with migrants desperate for American opportunities,

controversial border control crusaders, politicians and law enforcement agents. He also provides a fascinating tour of Tucson's Border Patrol offices and their complex surveillance of various ports of entry." *Kirkus Reviews* "Colorado journalist Peter Eichstaedt, who has spent more than 20 years reporting on conflicts across the globe, turns his sharp eyes on the United States-Mexico border with an expertly reported, exquisitely human on-the-ground look at our country's complex immigration issues." *5280 Magazine* "This is a provocative and engaging book—a useful read for anyone seeking to understand current challenges and opportunities along our southern border." *New York Journal of Books* "In this provocative and engaging book, Peter Eichstaedt has given us an insightful and fascinating on-the-ground account of how the US-Mexico divide has turned into an increasingly militarized frontier of fear." *Peter Andreas*, author of *Smuggler Nation: How Illicit Trade Made America and Border Games: Policing the U.S.-Mexico Divide* "Peter Eichstaedt brings the wise perspective of an experienced international journalist, long-time resident of the Southwest, and critical humanist to this fine account of the U.S.-Mexico border, a complex region much neglected or misunderstood by U.S. politicians and opinion makers." *Howard Campbell*, professor of anthropology, University of Texas at El Paso "In *The Dangerous Divide*, Peter Eichstaedt brilliantly illuminates the strange world of the U.S.-Mexican border, a world inhabited by ruthless drug traffickers and gunrunners; desperate yet hopeful migrants; politicians of all stripes and views; multiple layers of law enforcement; bigots, paranoiacs, and nativists; and, of course, lots of ordinary folks. By exploring these people's realities, Eichstaedt demonstrates how a long legacy of often-willful misunderstanding has made two neighboring nations into perennial strangers, and rendered rational solutions elusive. A must-read for anyone hoping to understand the significance of our southern border."

*Timothy J. Henderson*, distinguished research professor and department chair, Department of History, Auburn University Montgomery "Having narrated conflict from Afghanistan to Somalia to the Congo, Peter Eichstaedt brings a global perspective to the challenges and opportunities along the US-Mexico border. A thoughtful and balanced read." *David J. Danelo*, field research director, Foreign Policy Research Institute, and author, *The Border: Exploring the U.S.-Mexican Divide* "As a whole 'The Dangerous Divide' is a thoroughly researched and compelling read about immigration and is a good book to read for anyone interested in knowing more about the subject." *San Antonio Books Examiner* "A comprehensive, on-the-ground account...As Eichstaedt addresses the tangle of individual issues, he sees how they're woven together. And he offers suggestions for something we all want: a resolution to the heartbreak, violence, and economic

degradation of the current circumstances." —The Santa Fe New Mexican

Peter Eichstaedt is an award-winning author and veteran journalist who has reported from locations worldwide, including Afghanistan, Albania, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, eastern Europe, and the Caucasus. His book, *First Kill Your Family*, an in-depth look at Africa's Joseph Kony and his army of child soldiers, won the 2009 Colorado Book Award. His most recent book is *Borderland*, a thriller about a journalist who sacrifices everything as he tracks the U.S.-Mexico borderlands for the killers of his father, and uncovers a cabal of corrupt DEA operatives controlled by a man poised to win the White House. His books include *Above the Din of War*, *Consuming the Congo*; *Pirate State*; *First Kill Your Family*; and *If You Poison Us*. He lives in Denver, Colorado.

I learned a great deal from this book. It answered many questions about the difficulties at the border and in the border states. Most of all it addressed the human toll created by our inept handling of this important issue.

Well done, and seems relatively free of liberal bias. Like the gun issue, there is no solution. We can "put the finger in the dyke", but the flow our of Mexico and points south of there are non-ending.

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