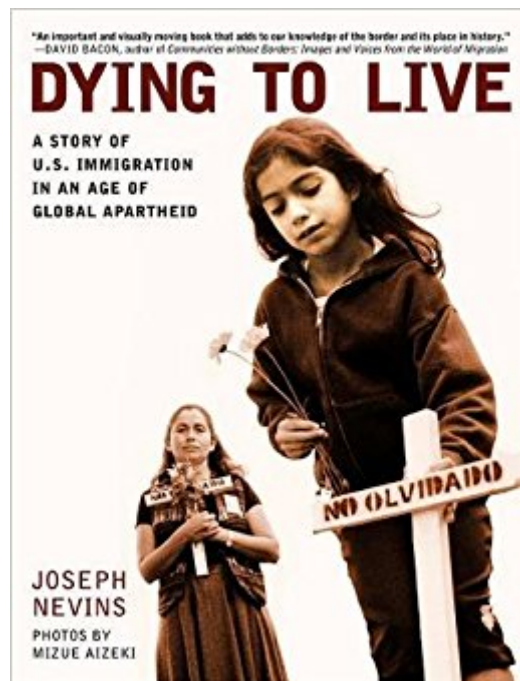




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# Dying To Live: A Story Of U.S. Immigration In An Age Of Global Apartheid (City Lights Open Media)



## Synopsis

Praise for *A Not-So-Distant Horror*: “[A] remarkable book.” —Noam Chomsky  
Told through the life story of a young man who perished in the California desert, *Dying to Live* is a compelling account of US immigration/border enforcement and the rapidly growing death toll among migrants. Stunning photos by Mizue Aizeki complement the text. Joseph Nevins authored *Operation Gatekeeper: The Rise of the Illegal Alien and the Making of the U.S.-Mexico Boundary* (Routledge, 2002), and *A Not-So-Distant Horror* (Cornell, 2005). His writings have appeared in the *Boston Review*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and the *International Herald Tribune*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Adult/High School — Ten years ago Julio César Gallegos, one of countless immigrants, attempted to reunite with his family in Los Angeles and died of dehydration while crossing the U.S.-Mexico border in California's Imperial Valley. In *Dying to Live*, Nevins not only tells Gallegos's story, but also presents the geographic, historical, and political context of the U.S.-Mexico border. Gallegos's motivations, struggles, and sacrifices serve as examples throughout the book of both past and present social stratification, political hypocrisy, and "global apartheid." Including photographs and maps, the book details the history, policies, and economics that have driven and prevented Mexican migration to the United States. The social and economic links between the two countries are described, primarily in relation to the agricultural industry in the border states. The

strength of this book lies in the wealth of research and information presented on the history and politics of the border regions of Mexico and California. Teens will not only find the author's information valuable, but will also revel in the sources presented in the bibliography. However, researchers looking for insight into migration through Mexico from other Latin American countries will not find much information in this title. The scholarly tone and depth of the material make this book best suited for advanced readers and researchers. —Lynn Rashid, Marriots Ridge High School, Marriotsville, MD Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

(A Not-So-Distant Horror: Mass Violence in East Timor) "[A] powerful and moving reminder of the horrors visited on East Timor."--The Economist "[A]n unlikely combination of the sort of in-depth analysis expected of a dissertation and the sensationalism of a true-crime story."--Foreign Affairs "A magnificent memorial to the people of East Timor and a damning indictment of international powers, like the United States" --Amy Goodman "[A] remarkable book..." --Noam Chomsky

It's nice to get statistics and science that support the truth accompanied by real-life testimony. Good read.

While doing genealogy research on my grandma, who lived in Juchipila, I came across this book. Very profound and educational. Well-written. I recommend it.

On August 13th 1998 the Border Patrol found 23 year old Julio César Gallegos' body in California's Imperial Valley, still clutching a photograph of his 2-year-old son who awaited him in Los Angeles. In a powerful book fusing elements of photojournalism, history and social criticism, Nivens and Aizeki trace Julio's story through the politically charged geographies of the Imperial Valley, Zacatecas and Los Angeles. Nivens demonstrates the violent impact of an increasingly militarized border on numerous locations in Mexico and the US, and on the web of human lives that stretch between them. As a diligent investigation of changes in US immigration policy since this country's founding, this book could offer much to American history or government classes. Aizeki's artful photographs lend specificity and emotional charge to Nivens' demand for immigration policies which better reflect our society's commitment to human rights.

First of all, the title is misleading, there exists also legal immigration (equally tragic and merciless

but the book doesn't cover this subject), so, the book is not about US Immigration but about an aspect of US Immigration. The book talks about undocumented immigrants from Mexico (but there are many undocumented immigrants from many other countries). I loved the photographs. As far as the text is concerned, I have a strange feeling that anybody with an access to the internet and some money to travel can write such a book. It reads like a textbook, with the elements of Julio's tragic story inserted here and there. Is that a reworking of the good professor's textbook from his college? Some fragments of this book read indeed like a textbook - why is Los Angeles called Los Angeles, or why was there a war between the US and Mexico? Why Mexican people use the word "Don" before someone's first name... Thank God we are not told that the language of Mexico is Spanish. Anyway, what is missing is a practical advice, what to do, how to help. Abolishing national borders is not a practical solution. Obviously undocumented immigrants will probably not want to go through legalizing their stay - if at all possible it is very costly and will take another 20 years of their life. There is just not a word of advice in this book and I thought the information that the professor collected is widely known to everybody. Academic writers should be the people with a real solid vision for a better world, not a just a good background of knowledge about racism, class warfare, history and geography.. All we get from that book are appeals to the brotherhood of man, delivered in a generally "lamenting" tone. The absence of advice and conclusion is almost as upsetting as the tragedy of the story.

I've read a few of this author's books, and so far I'd say this one was my favorite. The book is very well put together, with chapters on the discovery of Julio Gallegos' body after he'd tried to cross the border into the U.S.; then a history of the Imperial Valley; a history of the border buildup; a vivid description of what life has been and is like in Juchipila, Mexico (where Gallegos was born); and a final chapter that shows the connection between the border and the continued needless suffering of those trying to escape poverty and find a better life elsewhere. Throughout the book we learn of personal details of Gallegos' life, and that of his family who remain behind. After reading this book, it would be hard for anyone to hear of stories of immigrant deaths (while attempting to cross the U.S./Mexico border), and not feel like they may "know" these people a bit better...that they aren't so different from you and I. The outstanding photos by Mizue Aizeki were a perfect complement to the text, and felt very personal and intimate. I highly recommend this book!!!

Did not care for the "slant" on immigration in the U.S.

I was quite impressed by the thorough piece of work that is Joe Nevins's earlier "Operation Gatekeeper." This book, however, provides a more concrete human connection by complementing the meticulously documented history of Mexican immigration to the U.S. and racist legal and extra-legal harassment of same (which calls to mind the Latino power slogan "I didn't cross the border, the border crossed me") with the tragic story of one hard-working family man who died in the California desert trying to reach his loved ones. The powerful text is complemented by heart-wrenching photos by Mizue Aizeki. This book is the perfect antidote to the disgusting scapegoating of immigrants which predominates on US hate radio. It artfully shows the importance of solidarity with the poor populations who are paying the price for corporate profiteering in the age of NAFTA.

Illegal immigration has become one of the intensely controversial social issues of our day. What are the side effects of the United States' stern position on Mexican immigration? "Dying to Live: A Story of U.S. Immigration In an Age of Global Apartheid" is a definitive criticism by author Joseph Nevins of the U.S.'s practices on immigration today. Following the story of Julio Cesar Gallegos, a man who died crossing the border to try to reach his wife and son, it's an eye opening account of immigration that is judicially defined as illegal -- and the cruelty that sometimes lies within. Discussing human rights and homeland security as well, "Dying to Live" is a deftly written treatise on immigration, a must to those who want to further understand the subject.

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