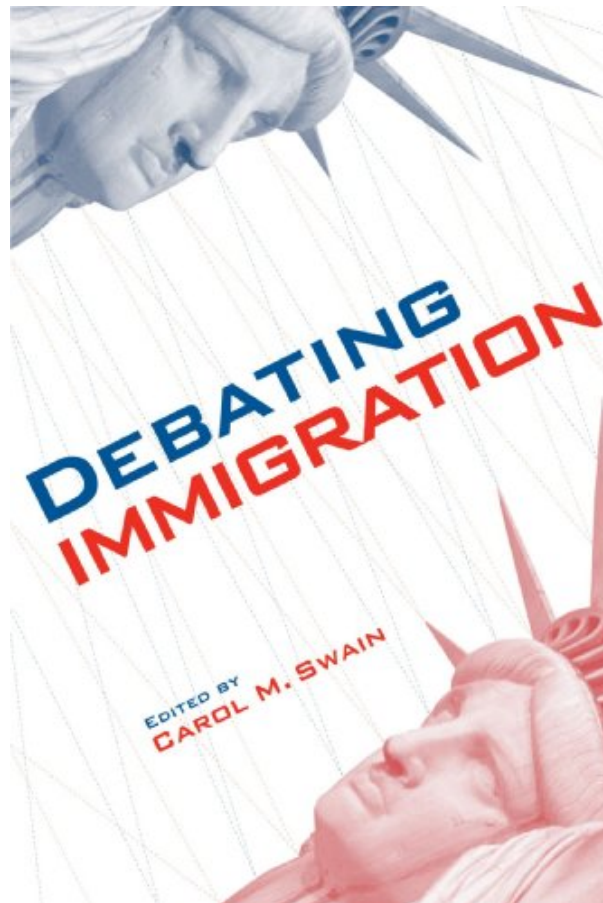
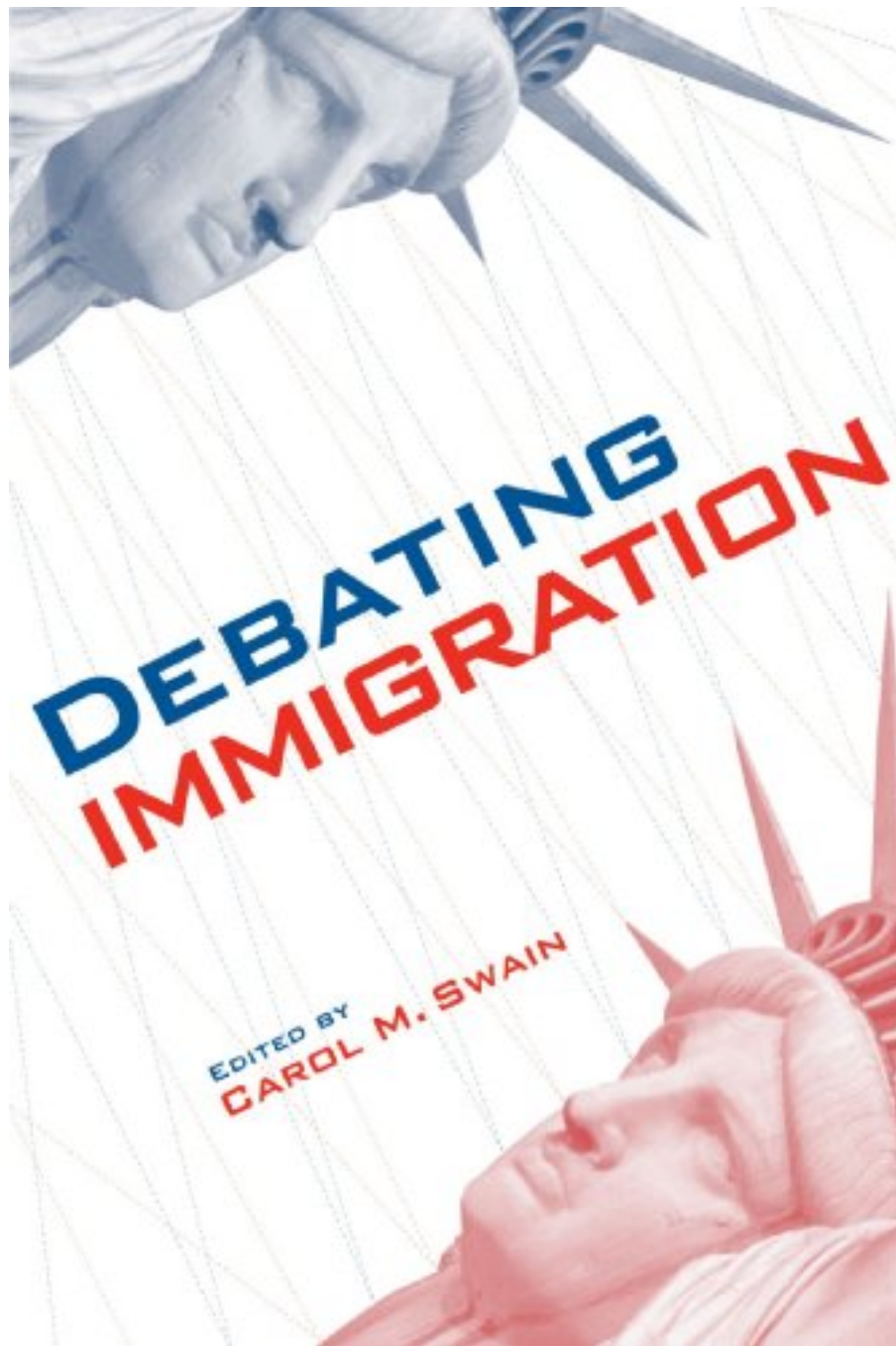


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Review

"Carol Swain has drawn together a brilliant and insightful collection of essays on immigration. No matter what your views on immigration, you will find something to inform, educate, or engage."

Senator Bill Frist from Tennessee

"Just when I thought America could NEVER have a civilized discussion about immigration, alongcame this wonderful book. Thomas Jefferson would be so proud that many knowledgeable people spent time together wrestling with this highly charged political issue and sharing their thoughts inwriting. I wish I could mandate that NO ONE could debate about immigration until they read this book and passed the test!"

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Debating Immigration presents 18 original essays, written by some of the world's leading experts and preeminent scholars, that explore the nuances of contemporary immigration and citizenship affecting the United States and Europe. The volume is organized around the following themes: religion and philosophy, law and policy, economics and demographics, race and ethnicity, and cosmopolitanism. Critical questions addressed include: What accounts for the disconnect between public attitudes about immigration and the policies produced by elected officials? Why has the United States not developed a well-articulated public philosophy of immigration?

- Sales Rank: #580065 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Cambridge University Press
- Published on: 2007-04-30
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.98" h x .75" w x 5.98" l, 1.09 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 330 pages

Features

- Used Book in Good Condition

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Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Good information to have

By Kindle Customer

I ordered this book so that I could get numerous, diverse opinions about immigration. I was pleased to find that it was just what I needed: verifiable information from various sources giving me the "bigger picture" on a very complex social issue which we must face. (I grew up on a cotton farm during the Bracero Act days (1950's). That worked well, at least in our case.) I am now at a loss, however, on how best to go about solving this huge problem. I do think it is always better to take sides on any issue using as many facts as possible instead of charging ahead blindly. I recommend this book to all who are like-minded.

30 of 34 people found the following review helpful.

Strong collection of essays

By Amazon Customer

Yale Law School Professor Peter H. Schuck observes:

"In a polity in which only 17 percent of the public thinks that immigration levels should be higher and 39 percent thinks they should be lower, one would expect that at least some legal scholars who write about immigration issues would favor restriction. If so, one would be wrong. In over two decades of immersion in immigration scholarship, I have not encountered a single academic specialist on immigration law who favors reducing the number of legal immigrants admitted each year." *The Disconnect Between Public Attitudes and*

Policy Outcomes in Immigration [In *Debating Immigration*, Chapter 2, p.17, the link is to an unedited version.]

So, Carol M. Swain, a law and political science professor at Vanderbilt, has done the academic world a service (although one it probably won't appreciate) with her new book *Debating Immigration*. She brings together 16 chapters from academic and think tank luminaries such as Nathan Glazer, Amitai Etzioni, Douglas S. Massey, and Steven A. Camarota, along with lively essays from journalists Peter Brimelow and Jonathan Tilove.

Swain is one of the more unusual and admirable scholars in public policy. Growing up black and poor in rural Virginia, one of twelve children, she dropped out of 9th grade and married at 16. In her mid-20s she started back to school. Eventually, she earned tenure at Princeton as an expert on how Congress operates.

Her views are difficult to categorize politically. I would say she's an advocate of black enlightened self-interest, left of center on economics, right of center on culture. For example, her 2002 book *The New White Nationalism* sensibly advocated depriving white nationalists such as Jared Taylor of their best issues by restricting immigration and cutting back on affirmative action, especially for immigrants and affluent blacks. Needless to say, that hasn't happened.

That whites and blacks have a common interest on immigration is obvious from a logical standpoint. But there's not much of a market for logic. Many black leaders, such as the Reverends Jackson and Sharpton and Minister Farrakhan, have no interest in striking a deal with whites on immigration because they are not in the business of enlightened self-interest for blacks. They are, instead, entertainers, riffing endlessly and lucratively on that old crowd-pleasing tune *Sticking It to the White Man*. If the average white person doesn't want more immigrants, well, then, these black leaders will help bring in more just to spite whitey.

Swain's own chapter in *Debating Immigration* points out the uselessness of the Congressional Black Caucus on immigration bills.

She notes that one reason for this is that quite a few black Representatives come from districts that are increasingly Hispanic.

I'd add that the weird math of the "rotten borough" syndrome is encouraging black politicians to favor the immigration that will eventually destroy them.

It works like this: Noncitizens aren't allowed to vote, but in most states they are counted in the redistricting following each Census. As Latino illegal immigrants move into black neighborhoods, the number of black-dominated districts can actually increase in the next redistricting because there will be fewer voters per district in poor areas. For instance, about twice as many votes are cast in each election in the posh Beverly Hills district of Democratic Congressman Henry Waxman as in the heavily illegal alien-populated South Central LA district still represented by black radical warhorse Maxine Waters.

Debating Immigration lives up to its title, with representatives from all sides, including some perspectives I haven't seen before. For example, Swain, who became an evangelical Christian at the beginning of this decade, has included an incisive analysis from a scriptural standpoint.

Jonathan Tilove of *Newhouse News*, the finest mainstream media reporter on race and immigration, writes:

"In the course of my years [since 1991] reporting about race and immigration, I have come to believe that

indifference to the fate of black America, or in some quarters a passive-aggressive hostility toward African Americans, has become an animating feature of support for a liberal immigration policy and helps to explain the strange bedfellows who have made that policy unstoppable even in the face of lukewarm public support at best."

"Passive-aggressive" is right. As I've argued, immigrants are "economically cleansing" native-born blacks from the home bases of the media elite--New York City and Washington D.C. This reduces crime locally, especially in this generation before the newcomers have sons who grow up to join street gangs. Many in the national press seem to assume that the African Americans who are driven out of their cities by immigrants pushing rents up and wages down are being deported. Of course, they are just being pushed out to less fashionable cities such as Newark, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. And there the murder rates have gone up considerably since 2002 and are now four to six times as bad as New York City's.

Peter Brimelow points out in his chapter that immigration's benefit to "the economy" is surprisingly small. A larger population means the overall Gross Domestic Product is larger, but virtually all of that goes to the immigrants themselves. The net benefit to native-born Americans is nugatory--and is in fact wiped out by government-mandated transfer payments, such as education and welfare, from American taxpayers to immigrants.

As Peter notes, the main effect of immigration is to shift wealth from labor to capital. Despite all the chatter in the press about immigrant entrepreneurialism, unskilled illegal immigration is unthreatening to employers precisely because poorly educated Latinos are unlikely to ever provide effective competition against their bosses. Corporations thus get both cheap workers and additional consumers, but not future rivals. From a profit maximization angle, what's not to like?

Swain has delivered a fine and fair anthology on a topic almost criminally neglected by academia. This is no doubt why it has received no reviews that I can see.

11 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

It's a particularly strong pick for any collection

By Midwest Book Review

College-level collections and many a high school library will want to consider **DEBATING IMMIGRATION**: it offers an unusually well-balanced collection of debates on various immigration issue positions which gathers reasonings from Left, Right and Middle about immigration and border issues, and provides a wide range of theories, approaches, and ideologies. As such it's a particularly strong pick for any collection including social issues and debating in its holdings, with essays both scholarly and accessible at the college level.

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