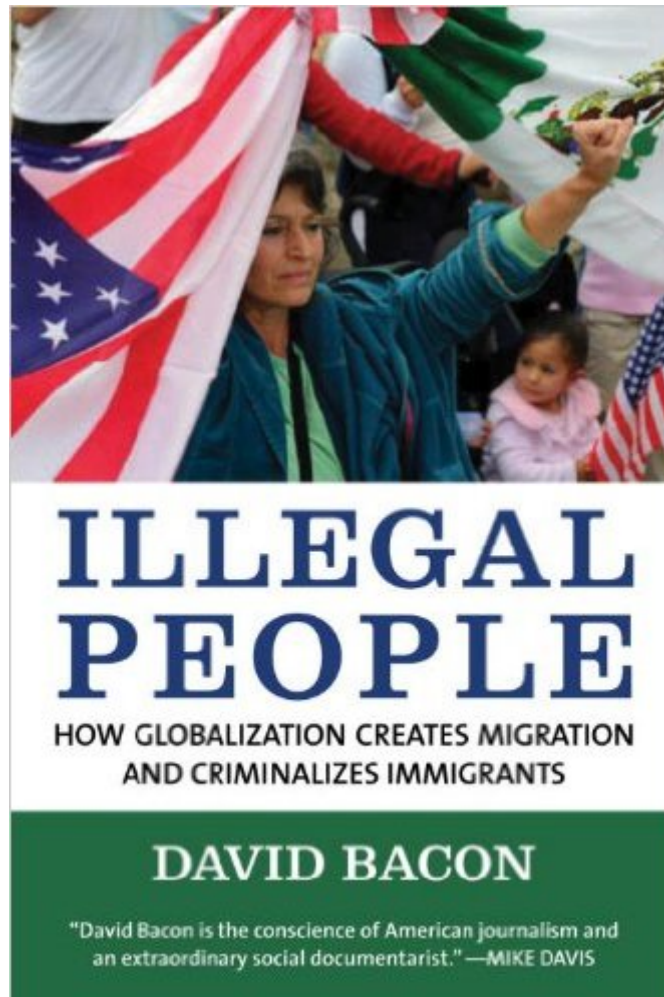


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# Illegal People: How Globalization Creates Migration And Criminalizes Immigrants



## Synopsis

For two decades David Bacon has documented the connections between labor, migration, and the global economy. In *Illegal People* he explains why our national policy produces even more displacement, migration, immigration raids, and an increasingly divided and polarized society. Arguing for a sea change in how we think, debate, and legislate about and around immigration, Bacon promotes a human rights perspective in a globalized world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

David Bacon cares deeply about two things: working people, especially immigrants, and explaining all social phenomena using shopworn economic and political frameworks that often defy basic arithmetic. There is no denying his compassion for the people he writes about, photographs, and organizes. For three decades, Bacon has been a powerful social voice and a welcome one. Unfortunately, he is drawn to writing not simply about people, where his eye is excellent, but about economics, which is not his strongest subject. Bacon's world is built on economic myth. Once embedded, they die hard. These include: The decline of American manufacturing. Which hasn't happened. US manufacturing output has risen 50% in twenty years and has never been higher than it is right now. Employment has declined, but that's a good thing, just as it was with agricultural employment. 70% of America used to be farmers -- now 1-2% produce it all and we all like it that way, even if we don't like that some farmers and a lot of farmworkers got screwed along the way. You cannot raise incomes without higher productivity, which means producing more stuff with fewer

people. Manufacturers have done that. Bacon is right to point out that this change is hard on displaced workers and right to argue for doing more for them, but claims of "deindustrialization" are flat silly. Likewise, Bacon has never seen a trade deal he didn't hate. Again, he needs to distinguish costs (victims hurt by trade) from the benefits he ignores (higher wages, new jobs, and vastly lower costs at the checkout counter -- equal to an annual raise for working families). He needs to focus as much on jobs created by trade (a lot) and wages raised by trade (even more) as he does people hurt by it.

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