Immigration, Integration, and Security
America and Europe in Comparative Perspective

Edited by Ariane Chebel d’Appollonia and Simon Reich

Recent acts of terrorism in Britain and Europe and the events of 9/11 in the United States have greatly influenced immigration, security, and integration policies in these countries. Yet many of the current practices surrounding these issues were developed decades ago, and are ill-suited to the dynamics of today’s global economies and immigration patterns.

At the core of much policy debate is the inherent paradox whereby immigrant populations are perceived as posing a potential security threat yet bolster economies by providing an inexpensive workforce. Strict attention to border controls and immigration quotas has diverted focus away from a significant dilemma: the integration of existing immigrant groups. Often restricted in their civil and political rights and targets of xenophobia, racial profiling, and discrimination, immigrants are unable or unwilling to integrate into the population. These factors breed distrust, disenfranchisement, and hatred—factors that potentially engender radicalization and can threaten internal security.

The contributors compare policies on these issues at three relational levels: between individual EU nations and the U.S., between the EU and U.S., and among EU nations. What emerges is a timely and critical examination of the variations and contradictions in policy at each level of interaction and how different agencies and different nations often work in opposition to each other with self-defeating results. The contributors offer fresh perspectives and examine significant case studies, while laying the groundwork for future debate on these crucial issues.

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—Louis W. Pauly, University of Toronto

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