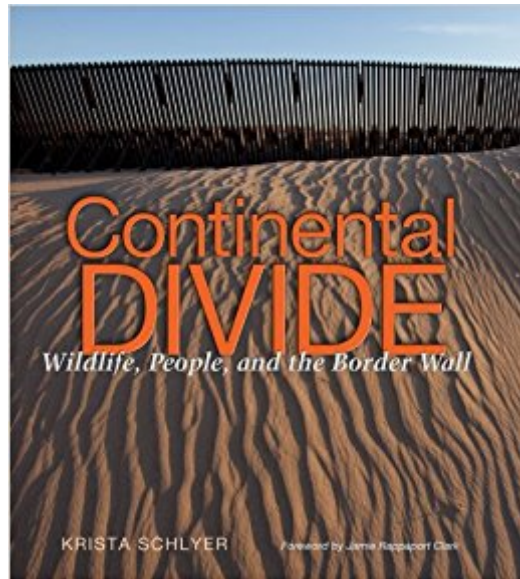




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Continental Divide: Wildlife, People, And The Border Wall



Synopsis

The topic of the border wall between the United States and Mexico continues to be broadly and hotly debated: on national news media, by local and state governments, and even in coffee shops and over the dinner table. By now, broad segments of the population have heard widely varying opinions about the wall's effect on illegal immigration, international politics, and the drug war. But what about the wall's effect on the Sonoran pronghorn antelope herds and the kit fox? On the Mexican gray wolf, the ocelot, the jaguar, and the bighorn sheep? In unforgettable images and evocative text, *Continental Divide: Wildlife, People, and the Border Wall* helps readers understand all that is at stake. As Krista Schlyer explains, "the remoteness of this region from most US citizens' lives, coupled with the news media's focus on illegal immigration and drug violence, has left many with an incomplete picture. As she reminds us, this largely isolated natural area, stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico, hosts a number of rare ecosystems: Arizona's last free-flowing river, the San Pedro; the grasslands of New Mexico, some of the last undeveloped prairies on the continent; the single most diverse birding area in the US, located along the lower Rio Grande River in Texas; and habitat and migration corridors for some of both nations' most imperiled species." In documenting the changes to the ecosystems and human communities along the border while the wall was being built, Schlyer realized that the impacts of immigration policy on wildlife, on landowners, and on border towns were not fully understood by either policy makers or the general public. The wall not only has disrupted the ancestral routes of wildlife; it has also rerouted human traffic through the most pristine and sensitive of wildlands, causing additional destruction, conflict, and death; without solving the original problem. To view a book trailer for *Continental Divide*, please visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ou1Uh-SDAFs>

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Customer Reviews

"Krista Schlyer has lived the border problems. Hers is a narrative balanced with words and images. She's tasted the arid land's flavors and distilled the essential truth: that it's madness to drive a wedge through our own heart in a misguided effort to keep our nation safe."--Jack Dykinga, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer

"...offers a taste of geology and biology and history. We feel the searing temperatures of the desert.. Above all, Schlyer examines the human hands that have shaped these landscapes, sometimes sustaining them but too often bringing destruction, even death, to man and beast."--Lynn Scarlett, former deputy secretary, US Department of the Interior

"In these embattled times, every corner of the planet needs defenders. With *Continental Divide*, Krista Schlyer, wielding pen and camera with equal grace, takes her place as one of the staunchest advocates of the battered, contested, and sublimely beautiful territory we know as the US-Mexico borderlands."

--William deBuys, author, *A Great Aridness: Climate Change and the Future of the American Southwest*

"There is a visual song of peace and reason in *Continental Divide*. Border security hysteria has drowned out such music in recent years, with much of the hate speech and hawkishness coming from those who've never stepped foot here. Schlyer's voice and camera bring the reality of the borderlands to *Continental Divide* and present it to the reader as it is."--Daniel Millis, Borderlands Campaign Organizer, Sierra Club (Dan Millis 2012-01-26)

"Krista Schlyer's magnificent book, *Continental Divide: Wildlife, People, and the Border Wall*, reveals much truth about a part of the United States that is little known and largely misunderstood. Refuting the popular image of the border as a sterile desert area, her book reveals that the borderlands hold almost unimaginable richness of life and beauty in both human and natural communities. She goes on to outline the almost overwhelming odds against preserving that beauty and interconnectedness in the face of both political and physical barriers. This is the only book that addresses both the human and ecological world that is being torn apart by the failure of both the United States and Mexico to deal with their internal problems related to immigration, drugs, and guns. For those of you who don't know the borderlands, you owe it to yourself to read this and learn. For those you who do, you will both smile and weep at the stunning pictures and poignant text."--Dinah Bear, attorney, border issues

Defenders of Wildlife and Humane Borders and also author, amicus brief, supporting a petition to the U.S. Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of the waiver of laws for construction of the border wall and roads (Dinah Bear 2012-02-20)“With Continental Divide, Krista Schlyer, wielding pen and camera with equal grace, takes her place as one of the staunchest advocates of the battered, contested, and sublimely beautiful territory we know as the US-Mexico borderlands.”--William DeBuys, author, A Great Aridness: Climate Change and the Future of the American Southwest (William DeBuys 2012-03-06)"Krista Schlyer has lived the border problems. Hers is a narrative balanced with words and images. She's tasted the arid land's flavors and distilled the essential truth: that it's madness to drive a wedge through our own heart in a misguided effort to keep our nation safe."--Jack Dykinga, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer (Jack Dykinga 2012-03-06)"A visual feast of southwestern borderlands. But this book offers so much more than a photographic tableau. Beautifully written, Continental Divide offers a taste of geology, biology, and history. Her tale is one of unintended consequences and a wall across the desert that is a symbol but not a solution to complicated economic and geopolitical forces."--Lynn Scarlett, former deputy secretary of the US Department of Interior under President George W. Bush (Lynn Scarlett 2012-03-07)“Continental Divide: Wildlife, People, and the Border Wall is a strange and wondrous book. In many ways an ugly story about what we've become, it's also a love story about one of the world's loveliest places. Schlyer shows that the wall is ultimately a failure because it doesn't do what it was designed for, yet the disruptions to land, culture and ecosystems are monstrous. But Schlyer's argument is carefully entwined within the complex natural and human history of this region. The book's gorgeous photos range from wildlife to human portraits and from art shots to landscape photos. If I wanted my dear old mother in Indiana to understand what's going on along the border, I'd send her this book. Continental Divide should make you angry. Furious even. I was deeply struck by the simple beauty and grace of Schlyer's prose. Krista Schlyer has thrown down a challenge to all of us.”Tucson Weekly (Jon M. Shumaker Tucson Weekly 2013-04-24)“Krista Schlyer's deeply informative and visually head-turning ode to the rich borderland ecosystems being undone in the mad rush to build a wall between one side of a line in the sand and the other. Should be required reading for any legislator with a hand in federal immigration policy.”Texas Observer (Brad Tyler Texas Observer 2013-07-03)"A clash between politics and nature is front and center among the winners of the 2013 National Outdoor Book Awards. . . . This is a groundbreaking . . . important work on nature, and it's

timely."--Great Falls Tribune (Great Falls Tribune)"It blends skillful reporting and masterful storytelling with incredible photography along the U.S.-Mexico border. A testament to Schlyer's talent as a nature photographer, her humanitarian empathy, and her well-rounded journalism skills."
-- SE Journal (SE Journal 2016-03-15)

KRISTA SCHLYER is a writer and photographer based in the Washington, DC, area. Her work has appeared in National Parks, Defenders, High Country News, Ranger Rick, National Geographic News, Audubon, and Outdoor Photographer. She is a member of the International League of Conservation Photographers and the North American Nature Photographers Association.

Krista Schlyer, in both writing and taking the often-beautiful photographs in this lovely volume, has crafted a polemic cry for change in the stupid policies that have, over the last several years, caused the United States to build its ugly and, largely inefficient, border wall for hundreds of miles along the border between this country and Mexico to the south. Even the most cursory read of this book's text make it clear that Schlyer is bitterly opposed to "The Wall," as both its proponents and its opponents have dubbed it, as well she should be. There is no question that as long as this nation continues its equally inane drug or immigration policies, the border will remain under attack, as it were, by smugglers trying to get their illegal burdens into the United States but, as Schlyer clearly shows, The Wall, from the moment it was planned until the present day as it rapidly takes shape, was always wrong-headed and, indeed, inherently racist in its conception. No-one has ever suggested, for example, a 3000-mile long fence to separate the USA from Canada though that border has always been an easy one for persons and drugs and, indeed, in the days of Prohibition, for tens of thousands of gallons of illegal alcohol to be brought into this country with almost no impunity. Besides the human element connected with The Wall, there is, of course, the potentially irreversible damage that it is causing every day with the wildlife and aviculture that has, for millennia, lived on both sides of what has now become the boundaries of our two nations. Schlyer is undeniably a supporter of nature and less so of the politicians who have created the monstrosity that is The Wall. She shows us, again and again, how the wall is causing the destruction of the animals and birds which make the borderlands, among other things, a tourist magnet. Reading this book, makes one wants to scream, loudly, at the utter idiocy that has brought us to this point in our history. This is a superb book -- beautiful, especially for anyone who loves the border, but angry too at our seeming inability as a people to find a better answer than we have in building the eyesore that now so dramatically separates us from our friends south of the border.

To understand this uniquely beautiful part of the country by way of this author's textual imagery, stunning photography, and historical overview is an important journey well worth the taking. Krista Schlyer's *Continental Divide* addresses the damage that militarization and waivers of protective laws have done to the plant, animal and human life along our southern border, while challenging failed governmental policy exemplified by the border wall. This is an award-winning book that begs to be kept, reread and referenced frequently in the context of political efforts to further militarize the region.

Living on the border is an education in culture, acceptance, diversity, biology, and humanity. Some of my best friends come from the "other side" and we should welcome their friendship, warmth, and culture into ours. The flora and fauna of the Sonoran desert are some of the most interesting in the world. The pictures in this book really are what it is like here every day. A few days in this place would change anyone's mind about building walls. We should be building bridges and friendships instead.

This is one of the finest pieces of social and ecologically sophisticated photo-journals I have ever encountered. This book sends a message while at the same time exposing the reader to the beauty and wonders of the southwest. Schlyer uncovers aspects of border security that we and policy makers completely ignore, that this vast region is a collection of many sensitive habitats that are being endangered by a flawed immigration policy machine. Thanks for this beautiful work of art which I display proudly in my home. Henry Flores

I choose this book because of the wonderful, different, amazing pictures. When I began to read it I realized it had been very well researched. It was a very smooth read with lots of information. It is very different from other books and articles I have read on this subject. It is clear that the author "lived" near/at the border to produce such clear first hand experience.

It should be read by all government officials, congressmen and senator, and all in Homeland Security and ICE, and improve immigration legislation and stop the construction of the US Mexico border wall

The Photography is Exceptional. The Writing Outstanding. Recommended for Everyone. Please read

this book especially if you are a lawmaker.

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