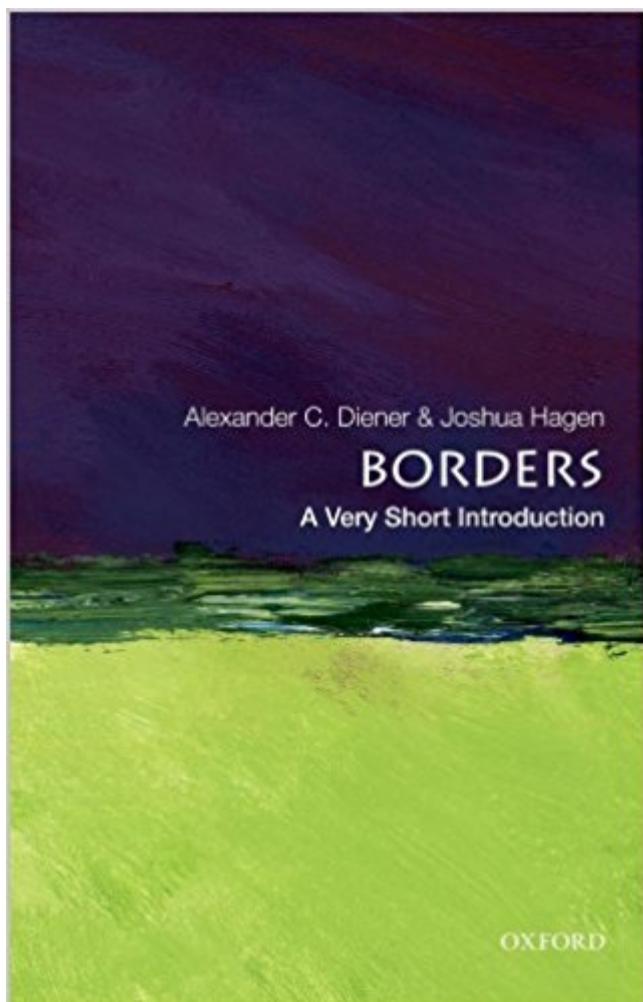


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# **Borders: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)**



## **Synopsis**

Compelling and accessible, this Very Short Introduction challenges the perception of borders as passive lines on a map, revealing them instead to be integral forces in the economic, social, political, and environmental processes that shape our lives. Highlighting the historical development and continued relevance of borders, Alexander Diener and Joshua Hagen offer a powerful counterpoint to the idea of an imminent borderless world, underscoring the impact borders have on a range of issues, such as economic development, inter- and intra-state conflict, global terrorism, migration, nationalism, international law, environmental sustainability, and natural resource management. Diener and Hagen demonstrate how and why borders have been, are currently, and will undoubtedly remain hot topics across the social sciences and in the global headlines for years to come. This compact volume will appeal to a broad, interdisciplinary audience of scholars and students, including geographers, political scientists, anthropologists, sociologists, historians, international relations and law experts, as well as lay readers interested in understanding current events.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 1032 KB

Print Length: 152 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0199731500

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (August 6, 2012)

Publication Date: August 6, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B008FX8VY6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #163,574 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #33 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > World > Historical Geography #47 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Human Geography

## Customer Reviews

Well, but I miss diagrams, drawings and schemes that reinforce the writings

This is the first Very Short Introduction I've read which had no wit or humor, but it's very thorough and fulfills its contract with the reader who wants a complete overview of the subject, from nations to neighborhoods. It is certainly thought-provoking and can raise awareness to complex issues.

I needed this book for political geography. The book basically summarized the entire course and is an easy quick read. My grandfather loves reading it also.

Despite the short length, "Borders" is a fairly thorough examination of the interesting topic of borders through ancient times up to modern times. My main quarrel with this short introduction is that it lacks wit, charm, or whatever you wish to call it. It was dry as dust or matzah, which ever you would prefer. (Matzah balls, however, are a different story!) It is my view that it's not enough to deliver only the relevant information, but also to present it in an enjoyable and entertaining fashion.

Whilst the opening chapter presents a reasonable account of the history of borders, the descriptions and explanations of borders in more recent periods is a biased consolidation heavy on historical revisionism. As a former student and researcher in academic geography at a time when the emerging paradigm was toward a objective quantitative methodology I am appalled at this reversion to the anecdotal and the ideological pandering in this book. I am well aware that it is at best a compilation for the general reader and reflects the attitudes of its authors. For a work on borders it is light on maps and diagrams but far too heavy on politics and policies and neologisms such as "bordering". Despite defining borders fairly in terms of flows and filters there is no attempt to illustrate or quantify such parameters. Beware of any discipline that appends "studies" to its title (as in border studies). It is the strategy of opportunism.

Definitely a good book for a beginner but didn't find anything that was new to me. Still recommend it to everyone that has questions about geography

Although several notable scholars have opined that borders are a thing of the past due to increasing

globalization, Diener and Hagen put that false notion to rest in the first few pages. In fact, while borders have always been dynamic, new borders continue to emerge where uncertainty previously existed. At the same time, the nature of old borders changes as NGOs, the international nature of the internet, and supranational organizations change the way people cross borders. Borders continue to be an indispensable fact of everyday life across the spectrum of humanity: for the common traveller, who has to apply for passports, visas, and wait in line at border crossings; for legal and illegal immigrants who face deportation and/or long waits for citizenship; for transborder communities such as those along the Pakistan-India border; and for world leaders who must deal with modern border issues such as international computer hackers and sovereign air space. In only 124 pages, the Drs. Diener and Hagen provide a background on the practice of bordering from ancient to modern times, with attention to two impactful events that have shaped modern borders: rise of nationalism in Europe and colonial bordering.

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