

# Border Security



# Border Security

THIRD EDITION

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# Preface to the First Edition

Homeland security is *Border Security!*

We could argue that the more secure the border the more secure the homeland. We could also argue that a porous or open border offers better relations, and therefore better security than does a closed border. Consider Germany—a country that has been at war with its neighbors so many times in the past two centuries that you could expect it to be completely cordoned off and isolated by those who have been attacked by Germans, or who have invaded and conquered the country. Yet in today's world, just a quarter century after the fall of the Berlin Wall, any citizen or resident of the European Union can cross into, pass through, or even choose to move and work in Germany without having to pass through a border checkpoint or immigration process. Yet Germany today is arguably the most militarily and economically secure country on the European mainland. Germans, even with their problems with immigrants and neo-Nazis, still have one of the most secure homelands in the world. Why is the lack of border enforcement not a problem for Germany, but such a major problem for the U.S. and many other countries? This is one of the questions raised and answered in this text.

Where is the U.S. border? Some point south, others point north. Alaskan residents point east toward Canada and west toward Russia. I tell people that the border is in Des Moines, Iowa, just to see their faces get that screwy look. The reality is that the U.S. border really is in Des Moines. The city has an international airport, and therefore is a Port of Entry for travelers to enter and depart the U.S. Within the airport itself there is a boundary between where a person is within the U.S. and still outside of it, even though they are well within the confines of the territorial landmass of the country. The same can be said for any international airport anywhere in the world. This was recently demonstrated when Eric Snowden, the whistle blower of NSA fame, flew to Russia, and even though he was on the ground in Moscow, was still outside of the country itself and could not be arrested and extradited because he had not crossed through immigration and customs for admission and inspection. Therein lies the quandary of where a country's international borders begin and end. With the exception of a very small number of island nations, this question vexes all countries.

How much border security is enough security and at what point does border security become so obstructive to economy that society suffers? These questions are raised and sometimes answered in this text. So too is the history of borders and

border security, the interaction between nations over time, and the unique open border experiment that is ongoing within the European Union.

The fence being erected in places along the U.S.–Mexico border is not the first barrier between nations and will not be the last. However, in an attempt to provide security for the U.S. homeland, how much strain can the country put on our relationship with our southern neighbor and second largest trading partner before security efforts become counterproductive? This question is just as difficult to answer, as the question of how much crime is acceptable in a society. Answering such questions often results in offending the sensibilities and riling the emotions of everybody with a vested interest in any part of the answer to the question. This book will undoubtedly result in similar arguments but I must question the worth of a book that doesn't engender discussion.

Can America secure the homeland? Does a porous border threaten the homeland? Both questions can be answered if we ask and answer a qualifier: to what extent? If the U.S. wants a totally secure country, then fences, walls, free-fire dead zones are going to be needed along all our borders, including within airports and along over 95,000 miles of shoreline. Aircraft that stray off course will have to be shot down. Ships that come too close to territorial waters will need to be sunk. Communications that allow political and religious thought from perspectives that originate outside of the borders will need to be stifled. We would have to be willing to implement and accept Google China and the North Korean method of isolation. All the necessities required to produce true homeland security are anathema to a free people.

This textbook is about the politics of borders, the delineation of boundaries and the location and effectiveness of barriers. As a textbook it is not the answer to all the questions that arise about securing borders, yet it will drive the development of innumerable questions for other authors and researchers to attempt to answer. We look forward to incorporating those arguments and discussions in future editions.

There are several perils to being apolitical when writing a textbook. I do not mean that we modify our writing so as not to offend but that we take no side, politically, on any of the subjects discussed. We have tried our best to be as relevant as we could while still maintaining maximum neutrality in writing the text, yet still providing complete coverage of sensitive issues and developing proposed solutions to politically charged problems. One peril that we have experienced is that anybody of importance in any political administration simply cannot put a career on the line by writing an endorsement or foreword to your work. This becomes problematic when every administration in the recent past has maintained a position (in direct opposition to existing federal law) that drives development and maintenance of border porosity by political *fiat*.

When my co-authors and I came to an agreement that we would take on this effort, we decided not to gloss over the bare realities of U.S. border security efforts. We did not want the history or the politics of administrations to influence the writing we produced, or to allow for the falsification of statistics or manipulation of reported data. It was more important to us that we produced an apolitical work that



reflects the realities of today in light of the long history of U.S.–Mexico and U.S.–Canada relationships.

Another point that we hope you will find appropriate in this *Border Security* text is that we haven't neglected the incorporation of history in this book. The three of us have determined that without a thorough understanding of how the present border security situation developed, without comprehension of what efforts throughout human history have resulted in success and failure, it would be impossible for students of border and homeland security, as well as students of political and international relations and those who study borderlands, to develop effective strategies for the future. Our students, and we hope your students as well, will become the future leaders of the homeland security effort, the defenders of our national integrity, and perhaps even the political movers and shakers of tomorrow. Too many times have today's political leaders acted unilaterally on mythological versions of historical events to the detriment of nations, societies, cultures and the lives of America's defenders, on the international stage and in our own back yards. The students who are exposed to this text won't suffer from the disease of *mythification* of the past.

Determining what subjects to incorporate into this effort was difficult for us. Determining how much to write, while maintaining a textbook perspective of inclusiveness of relevant materials is no easy task. We appreciate your feedback and recommendations on where we should expand and reduce the content and concepts. At some point in writing about each of the included topics it was necessary to draw a line and say that we had enough relevant information to conclude the reader would understand the concept. To go further would belabor a point, or extend into the realm of a whole new book on that particular subject.

There is one other point necessary to address in this preface. As the very first textbook on the subject, *Border Security* took over two years to write. We had been collecting information and performing interviews for at least three years prior to Carolina Academic Press asking us to write this text. Some of the information included is, of course, a bit aged in a world where from month to month the fiscal arguments between political parties lead to changes in border security policy implementation, hiring freezes result in reduced border staffing, drug cartels morph and change tactics, and the dependency on energy imports is reduced even while under free trade agreements industrial manufacturing takes flight to other countries.

We are certain that you will find *Border Security* useful in your classes and as an excellent text for new classes that you are developing.

James R. Phelps, Ph.D.  
San Angelo, Texas, USA  
November 22, 2013



# Preface to the Third Edition

We come to the third edition of this text three years into the President Joseph Biden Sr. administration. As authors, we came out with the second edition about a year after President Donald Trump took office and now, seven years later, felt it was time to update the text to address the two administrations' differences in approach to border security.

Unfortunately, the numbers are changing so fast, with the massive migration of people into the United States and Europe over the past three years, that we simply couldn't keep up with the data. Suffice it to say that at this point we feel it is more appropriate to move forward with the revised text and provide online updates to statistical data through our publisher.

This however is problematic.

As border security politics changes from administration to administration, the lack of any consistent effort or standards, or even adherence to written law, remains consistent. This poses a significant issue for everybody, not least the migrant populations themselves. They come because of a promise of a better life, better opportunities, a chance for better education, health care, occupations, etc. No matter what efforts are attempted in migrants' home countries, no matter how much money is spent in foreign aid, the existing government corruption, gang- and cartel-related violence, the lack of opportunity, and the need for safety and security will always exist.

Solving the problems of illegal migration at the source is a noble cause — but it has never worked at any time in history. It is only through a stated desire to first provide security to the country's existing population and its economy, services, and government that problems of illegal migration can be addressed.

First and foremost, the law must be adhered to — even if it is politically unpopular. This applies to all countries. Without adherence to the rule of law, we have no basis for governments or nations to exist. Without secure borders a country fundamentally has no existence.

Second, mass migration without limitation can be destructive to the countries and cultures that accept these people inside their borders. Migrants bring diversity, cultural additions, and ultimately political interactions that often benefit the society overall. However, this is when there is controlled migration, screening, and functioning systems that can adapt and provide social services in support of the migrants.

Looking at situations such as the refugee camps in France/Italy/Spain that house African migrants; the European ghettos housing a Muslim diaspora; uprisings in Germany of national domestic groups targeting migrant communities; and Norway paying migrants from the Middle East to leave, it is clear the problem isn't just an American issue. In the United States, where infrastructure can be overwhelmed with tent cities arising under bridges and on city streets, we see what happens when social systems are not structured or funded to handle these numbers of people.

Third, not all illegal migrants are here with altruistic goals. The numbers of Chinese nationals with ties to the Chinese Communist Party and the People's Liberation Army has, in three years, exceeded the number of troops in two Army infantry divisions. They are primarily unaccompanied, single males of military age and the reported demographics indicate they almost exactly break down into the organization chart of a military unit. In the past three years over 1,500 people on the U.S. terrorist watch list have been released into the country, and they aren't being tracked.

As the third edition goes to print, in major cities throughout the United States and in nearly every county that abuts the southern border of the United States, economic and social disasters are developing. According to recent reports, some American children are being forced into remote learning to accommodate illegal migrants and, elsewhere, recreation centers intended to keep kids off the streets though after school and weekend programs are being converted to house migrants. In other situations, overwhelmed health care systems may go bankrupt or lose the ability to provide services, like what happened with the UC Health System in Denver in 2023–24.

In the last era of the Western Roman Empire, tribes who were originally from outside of the Roman territories moved into Roman territory for protection from the tribes with whom they were in conflict. Rome protected these people at a cost — they had to serve in the legions, send children of leaders to Rome to be raised by the Caesars (and act as hostages), perform services, and pay taxes to the empire. They weren't Romans fighting for Rome, but foreigners fighting for generals that paid and fed them — removing loyalty to the idea of Rome. Ultimately, they helped destroy the very infrastructure and society they so desperately wanted to join. Major Roman construction projects, the very infrastructure that made Rome, was torn down, dug up, and used for other purposes by people that had no comprehension of how they worked or the functions they served. We see the remains of Roman roads and aqueducts today, and wonder what happened to such a well-engineered society.

As authors who have studied border security for decades, we firmly believe that the concept of sovereign borders that are secure is fundamental to national security, for all countries. While other nations around the world either have or are reverting to strict border controls, fences, walls, and armies to protect their borders, across Europe and North America we often see a different approach. Some advocate for full closure of borders, others for fully open borders, and others for borders open to trade and controlled migration. There isn't a political consensus.

By some estimates there are now over 22 million illegal migrants within the U.S., and perhaps many more we don't count. It doesn't matter if they crossed a border

illegally, or simply overstayed a visa, they are here in violation of U.S. law. Even if there is a major change in the political leadership of the country, how do you identify, track, and potentially deport 22 million people? How do you fund and provide health care for them without collapsing the system that currently exists for your own citizens? How do your schools accommodate a 100–200% increase in students, many of whom are non-English speakers?

As we noted in the preface to our first edition, *homeland security is border security!* Clearly, we can now state that *border security is national security!*

— James Phelps, Ph.D., CCISO  
February 29, 2024



# Acknowledgments

Completing this book has been a long journey for the three of us and there are innumerable individuals without whose assistance we would have long ago died in the Southwest deserts. At the risk of missing people, we want to specifically recognize a few who have been most beneficial. It goes without saying that Beth Hall and Keith Sipe at Carolina Academic Press took a chance on us when they accepted our initial book idea. Thank you for guiding us through the process. Also at Carolina Academic Press we want to thank Steve Oliva and Ryland Bowman for the skill they put into producing the final product you hold in your hands. To all the other people at CAP, we offer our thanks — you are a great publishing team who really look after your authors.

The research that went into writing the first edition took several years to accomplish. We gathered the materials over three years, starting in 2009, and published the first edition in 2014. The second edition took us another three years of monitoring government activities, requesting FOIA data from CBP and fighting to maintain consistency of the data they provided as the constantly changing policies of the Obama Administration made gathering real statistics nearly impossible, then watching the changes in the first year of the Trump Administration and trying to keep up with the rapidly evolving landscape of U.S. Border Security.

This third edition has taken a consistent tracking of data, news reports, emails and texts from our current and former students that work in Border Security, and watching numbers change so fast we simply couldn't keep up. We had to finally just stop with trying to make updates and go to publication.

Bringing it all together would have been impossible were it not for several friends, faculty, and students. We want to thank, in particular, retired Senior Border Patrol Agents Randy Rigsby and his assistant David Estevis of the San Angelo Border Patrol Station who started us along this dusty trail. They were instrumental in sharing with us their love for the U.S. Border Patrol and their experiences in border security. So too were two Customs and Border Patrol Pilots, Special Agents Jon Herron and Andrew Duff. More importantly, recently retired Border Patrol Agent Cliff Crumley from the Rio Grand Valley and CBP Officer Tom Grady from the El Paso POE were instrumental in guiding us through the constant ups and downs of CBP morale and real-world happenings over the past four years. The tales of air interdiction, hunting cocaine submarines, and the cooperation they received from Mexican law enforcement were essential to our grasp of the subject matter contained in this book. The

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Most importantly of all, we owe a huge thanks to our students. Your questions, and your answers to our questions, made this book possible. We hope that future students across the country learn much from your contributive efforts to this project.

There are a number of places in this text where we cite information from law enforcement professionals who currently work in the field — putting their lives on the line defending the borders of our country. Due to the nature of the material provided, we have consolidated their materials into generalizations and identified the authors as anonymous to protect their employment with various agencies. You took the biggest step in helping us with this effort and we owe you a great debt. Perhaps a day will come when we can publically acknowledge your assistance. Until then — you will have to settle for a beer when we occasionally meet.



## Author Biographies

*James Phelps* is a semi-retired professor teaching Homeland Security, Emergency Management, Cybersecurity and Cyber Conflict, Security Studies, GIS, WMD, Strategy and Critical Thinking for several online universities at the graduate (and sometimes undergraduate) level. He earned his B.A. in History from the University of Southern Colorado (2003), an M.A. in History from Sam Houston State University (2005), and remained there for his doctorate in Criminal Justice (2008). A retired U.S. Navy Senior Chief Machinist's Mate—submarines, he served the United States for over 21 years in the Navy Nuclear Power program, including 7 years holding both enlisted and commissioned status as a Limited Duty Officer. His military duty included serving on three nuclear powered submarines, two surface ships, and a SEAL Team. The undergraduate and graduate programs he developed in Homeland and Border Security for Angelo State have been recognized as some of the very best in the nation. He has developed Master's Degrees in Diplomacy and in Security Studies, and a Ph.D. in Security and Strategic Studies for a university in Dubai, where he taught in the 2016–2017 academic year. Among other books, his text, *What Happened to the Iraqi Police: Applying Lessons in Police Democratization Efforts in West Germany and Japan* (2010), also published by Carolina Academic Press, has proven to be prophetic in post-U.S. Iraq.

*Jeff Dailey* is a Professor in the Department of Security Studies and Criminal Justice at Angelo State University. He teaches graduate courses in the Intelligence, Security Studies, and Analysis program. He also teaches in ASU's Homeland Security program. He has a background working in military intelligence, primarily SIGINT, with Army and Air Force intelligence groups, both CONUS and overseas. His Ph.D. is in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX (2002). He earned his M.S. in Criminal Justice (1994) from Eastern Kentucky University. He also attended Florida Atlantic University where he earned his B.A.S. in Computer Systems and a B.S. in Physics. He has co-authored books on Texas Probation, Border Security, Intelligence in Homeland Security and the Sexual Abuse of Female Inmates and authored several book chapters.

*Monica Koenigsberg* is now a semi-retired professor who occasionally teaches graduate classes in Homeland Security and Criminal Justice. She was tenured in the Department of Security Studies and Criminal Justice (DSSCJ) at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas. Earning a B.S. in Administration of Justice from

Wichita State University (1990), an M.C.J. (Criminal Justice) from the Graduate School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado at Denver (1998), and a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University (2008), she is a former commissioned police officer (Kansas) and a former prison officer (Colorado Peace Officer). Dr. Koenigsberg participated in the curriculum reorganization of the undergraduate CJ program at A.S.U. and developed the graduate program in Criminal Justice which cross-lists elective courses with the Homeland Security master's program. Dr. Koenigsberg's dissertation, *Mediated images of crime and justice: A grounded theory methodology examination of one strand of discourse*, indicates her interest in both qualitative methodology and perceptions of crime and justice. Other interests include exploring the nexus of incarceration and society as well as media depictions relating to the criminal justice system, its denizens, and workers.