



From Deportation to Prison: The Politics of Immigration Enforcement in Post-Civil Rights America (Latino Sociology)

By Patrisia Macías-Rojas

NYU Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 240 pages. Criminal prosecutions for immigration offenses have more than doubled over the last two decades, as national debates about immigration rights and reforms became headline topics. What lies behind this unprecedented increase? Why are immigration violations treated as criminal offenses? How do deportation, detention, and criminal prosecution actually operate, and how do enforcement priorities that target felons and criminals work in policy and practice? *From Deportation to Prison* unpacks how immigration enforcement has changed in relation to the Department of Homeland Security's Criminal Alien Program, a program expanded in the 1980s to purge non-citizens from dangerously overcrowded jails and prisons. Patrisia Macías-Rojas interviewed Border Patrol agents, local law enforcement, federal district attorneys and public defenders, border residents, and migrants themselves. The findings reveal how the merging of immigration enforcement and the criminal justice system has transformed arrest and deportation at the U. S. -Mexico border. Macías-Rojas argues that, among other factors, massive federal funding for detention beds and a policy of criminal alien removal now drive a federal focus on federal criminal prosecution and imprisonment for immigration offenses. Today's border policing and immigration law enforcement practices are less concerned with distinguishing immigrants from citizens...



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