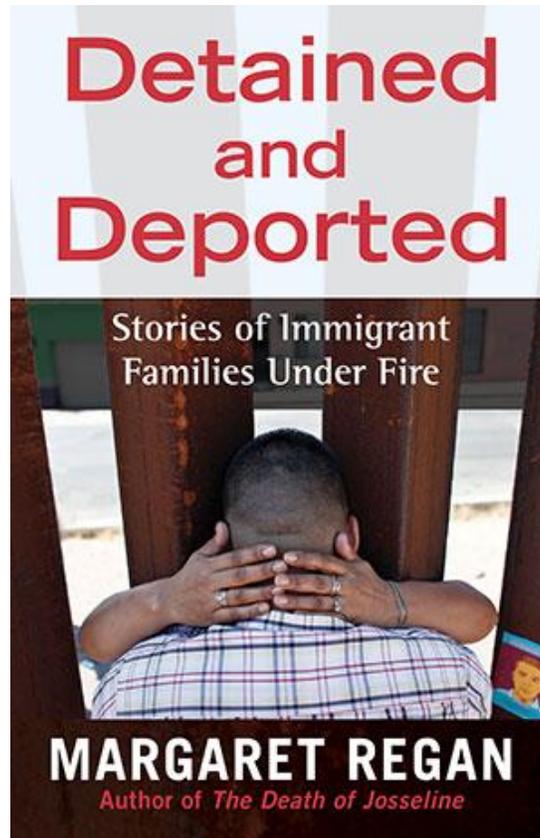


***Detained and Deported: Stories of Immigrant Families Under Fire* by Margaret Regan**

Readers' Guide Questions



1. The old US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) was incorporated into the Department of Homeland Security after 9/11. How do you think this reorganization impacted public perceptions and treatment of immigrant families? Why has this move been characterized as part of the militarization of the border policies? (Introduction, p. XX.)
2. The United States annually detains some 400,000 undocumented immigrants, at a cost of \$2 billion a year. Of the nation's 250 detention centers, only 11 are run by the federal government, through ICE (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement). Many of the others are operated by for-profit private prison corporations; conditions are harsher in these private detention centers and family visits are more restricted. What is your view of the private prisons? Should the US own and operate its own facilities? Or do the private prisons perform a needed service? Does the use of these private companies act as a deterrent to immigration reform? (Introduction p. XVI; Chapter One, p. 7-9; Chapter Two, p. 29-44; Chapter Four, p. 69-71.)
3. Yolanda Fontes was incarcerated in the Eloy Detention Center, run by the for-profit Corrections Corporation of America, for two years. During that time, she saw her three

young children only rarely. Immigration advocates argue that it would be cheaper and more humane to release detainees to their families and to monitor them via ankle bracelets. What is your view? Do you see a role for detention or would you favor monitored release? What, if any, alternatives might you propose? (Introduction, p. XIII-XIV; Chapter One, p. 14-15.)

4. Gustavo Sánchez was separated from his young family when he was detained and then deported to Mexico, where he had not lived since he was eight years old. What would you do if you were Gustavo? Would you attempt the dangerous desert crossing in order to get back to your family? Should parents of US citizen children be treated differently than other undocumented immigrants? (Introduction, p. XV.)
5. Mariana Rodríguez pleaded guilty to felony identity theft so that she could escape the horrific conditions in a criminal prison in Phoenix. ICE ultimately closed her immigration case, while reserving the right to re-open it at any time. But her felony conviction prevents her from taking advantage of DACA, which allows young people brought to the US as children to stay legally, provided they have committed no crimes. What solutions could there be to the problems of someone in Mariana's situation? Should she have been deported? (Chapter Three, p. 45-66.)
6. Some critics argue that the US should deport all undocumented immigrants currently living in the country, estimated at 11 million people. Elena's story illustrates what a raid on a family home looks like and examines the family separation that follows. What resources would the US have to deploy to find and deport millions of people? Would police powers be expanded? What would be the impact of mass deportations on families, particularly "mixed status" families in which parents are undocumented and the children are US citizens? (Chapter Six, p. 112-115.)
7. Driven by what economists call debt migration, three members of the Solana family, deported from Las Vegas back to Mexico, made a failed attempt to get back across the border. They fell further into debt paying fees to the drug cartels who demand payment for traveling over territory they control. The militarization of the US-Mexico border seems to have enhanced rather than diminished the power of the cartels. Why? What is the financial impact of deportation and migration on already impoverished families? (Chapter Eight, p. 162 to 168.)
8. In Tucson, dozens of US citizens tried to prevent a possible deportation by surrounding a Border Patrol vehicle on a city street. According to eyewitness accounts and television footage, a squadron of agents pushed and shoved their way into the crowd without warning, knocking over several elderly protesters, including a cancer patient. How could this incident have been handled differently? Should the Tucson Police Department have played a role? Should the Border Patrol have the authority to deal with a protest by US citizens in an American city far from the border? (Chapter Nine, p. 175 to 196.)

9. Two young sisters in Arizona, one an undocumented immigrant, one an American citizen, saw their opportunities vary widely as they grew up. Silvia earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Arizona and began a professional career; her older sister, Arely, restricted by laws requiring undocumented immigrants to pay out-of-state tuition, went to community college and became a waitress. Their mother was stricken with guilt. Discuss the tensions within mixed-status families. What solutions would you propose? (Chapter Eleven, p. 214 to 219.)

10. This book ends with the "surge" of Central American mothers and children fleeing to the United States in the summer of 2014. The influx of many thousands of migrants led to the opening of new family detention centers that house women and children, some of them quite young. Many of the new detainees, fearful of gang violence at home, seek asylum. Should these migrants be recognized as refugees, subject to the protections of international law? Are the detention centers the best alternative for managing the humanitarian needs of these people? (Epilogue, p. 229 to 234.)