How Migration, Work, and Faith Unite and Divide the Heartland

In the American heartland, where rolling hills and small towns once defined the landscape, a new era of change is underway. Migration, work, and faith are transforming these communities, both uniting and dividing them in profound ways.



Meatpacking America: How Migration, Work, and Faith Unite and Divide the Heartland by Kristy Nabhan-Warren

★★★★★ 4.9 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 4715 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 271 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



In her new book, "How Migration, Work, and Faith Unite and Divide the Heartland," sociologist Sarah C. Haan explores the complex interplay between these forces, drawing on extensive fieldwork and in-depth interviews. She finds that migration is not simply a demographic shift, but a transformative process that is reshaping the social, economic, and cultural fabric of rural America.

Haan's research focuses on two counties in the Midwest: one that has experienced significant immigration from Mexico and Central America, and

another that has seen a decline in its native-born population and an influx of workers from other parts of the United States. She finds that these two counties are facing very different challenges and opportunities.

In the county with a large immigrant population, Haan finds that migrants have helped to revitalize the local economy and bring new life to struggling communities. They have started businesses, filled jobs that were previously hard to fill, and contributed to the overall well-being of the county. However, they have also faced discrimination and prejudice, and they have struggled to integrate into the local community.

In the county with a declining native-born population, Haan finds that the loss of jobs and population has had a devastating impact on the local economy and community. Schools have closed, businesses have shut down, and the population has aged. The remaining residents are struggling to maintain their way of life and are often resentful of the changes that are taking place.

Haan argues that the challenges facing these two counties are not unique. They are part of a larger trend that is occurring in rural America today. As the economy changes and the population shifts, rural communities are being forced to adapt. Some are finding ways to thrive, while others are struggling to survive.

Haan's book is a timely and important contribution to the understanding of rural America. It provides a nuanced and insightful account of the challenges and opportunities facing these communities, and it offers valuable lessons for policymakers and community leaders who are working to address these challenges.

Reviews

"A must-read for anyone who wants to understand the changing face of rural America. Haan's research is both rigorous and compassionate, and she provides a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing these communities." - **David Brooks, New York Times columnist**

"A powerful and moving account of the lives of migrants, workers, and people of faith in the American heartland. Haan's book is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the complex forces that are shaping our country today." - Junot Díaz, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao"

"A timely and important book that provides a much-needed look at the challenges facing rural America. Haan's research is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the future of our country." - Michelle Alexander, author of "The New Jim Crow"

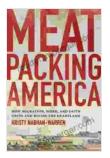
About the Author

Sarah C. Haan is a sociologist at the University of California, Berkeley. Her research focuses on the intersection of migration, work, and faith in rural America. She is the author of several books and articles on these topics.

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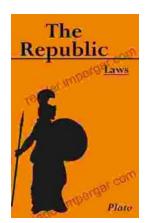
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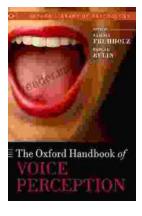
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