In 2015, the world recorded the largest number of displaced individuals in modern history. Across Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Europe, the environmental, financial, political, and cultural impacts of migrant populations and borderland disputes dominate headlines. Yet in order to contextualize modern crises, it is vital to understand the historical, geographic, demographic, economic, social, and diplomatic dimensions of past border and migration issues.

Border and Migration Studies Online helps students and researchers understand today’s world through primary source documents, archives, films, and ephemera related to significant border events and areas from the 19th to 21st centuries.

At completion, the collection will include over 100,000 pages of text, 175 hours of video, and 1,000 images. In collaboration with an international board of scholars, materials were selected and organized around fundamental themes such as:

- Border Identities
- Border Enforcement and Control
- Border Disputes
- Border Criminologies
- Maritime Borders
- Human Trafficking
- Sea Migration
- Undocumented and Unauthorized Migration
- Global Governance of Migration

The collection combines videos, primary sources, reports, monographs, and photos, representing both personal and institutional perspectives, to provide historical context and primary resources for the growing fields of border(land) studies and migration studies.

Scholars, faculty, and students from many disciplines, including history, law, politics, diplomacy, area and global studies, anthropology, sociology, geography, medicine, the arts, and others, will find useful resources in Border and Migration Studies Online.

Teaching and Research Applications:
With Border and Migration Studies Online, students and researchers can utilize primary and secondary sources to study borders and migrations through interdisciplinary, comparative, and cross-national perspectives. For example, users can:

- Examine events through the interactions of personal documents (firsthand accounts) and institutional sources (from governments and organizations).
- Compare events related to the walls in Berlin, Israel/Palestine, and U.S./Mexico.
- Evaluate colonial responses to a range of conflicts.
- Examine policies towards control in different settings.
- Research the history of U.S./Mexico relations, Turkey’s evolution, and Latin American borders.
- Explore the situations of refugees in Europe during WWII and compare those with today’s responses.

Editorial Board:
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“It is a fantastic commentary on the inhumanity of our times that for thousands and thousands of people a piece of paper with a stamp on it is the difference between life and death.”

Dorothy Thompson, American journalist and radio broadcaster

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City of Dreams, directed by Gianfranco Norelli, produced by Palio Pictures (New York, NY: Filmmakers Library, 2001) Juarez is often called “City of Dreams” because hundreds of thousands of young women have been drawn to this frontier town from the most impoverished regions of Mexico. They aspire to a life free from poverty and free from the male-dominated traditional family and village.

Like a Man on Earth (Zalab, 2008) — This film explores the consequences of Italian anti-immigration policy. It consists of accounts by Ethiopian refugees whose “crossing” to Europe came at a high price. The interviews are made by Ethiopian national Dagmawi Yimer, who himself fled political repression in his country in 2005.

At Home in the World (DR Sales, 2015) — An intimate depiction of the everyday lives of five refugee children on a Danish Red Cross asylum school. The children have different nationalities and backgrounds, but they have all fled their homes with their families, arriving in Denmark with the hope of starting over.

Archival documents provide students and researchers with access to primary sources and rare content rich in information on major border issues.

National Archives at Kew – Through a partnership with the National Archives at Kew, Border and Migration Studies Online includes archival records that will offer new insights into major border events throughout history, including government and personal accounts, legal perspectives, maps, and more. Highlights include:

- Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Commissioners under the 5th Article of the Treaty of Ghent. Archive: United Kingdom. National Archives at Kew
- Topical maps of Lagunitas. Archive: United Kingdom. National Archives at Kew

Monographs deliver retrospective analysis for the archival items and documentaries included in this online database. They contextualize the multimedia sources and support understanding of the different views expressed across the database.

The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, Oxford University Press explores the development of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies as an academic discipline and the challenges faced by those who work with displaced populations.
Key Border Events and Areas Covered

Border Events and Areas Context*
Afghanistan and its Borders*
Angola and Namibia
Argentina and its Borders*
Austria and Hungary*
Australia-Indonesia-East Timor*
Bangladesh and India
Benin and Nigeria
Botswana and Namibia
British Guiana Boundary Disputes (Venezuela and Brazil)*
Bulgaria, Macedonia, and the Balkans
Burma and Thailand*
Burundi and Tanzania
Cambodia and Thailand*
Canada and the United States*
China and its Borders*
Colombia and Venezuela
The Congo and its Borders*
Cuba and the United States*
Dominican Republic and Haiti
Eastern European Borders*
Egypt and its Borders
European Union and its Borders, Internal and External*
France and its Borders*
Germany and its Borders*
Guatemala and Mexico
Indigenous Peoples and the Americas
India and Pakistan*
Indonesia and Malaysia
Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria
Iraq and Syria
Irish Border*
Korea and its Borders
Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan
Mexico and the United States*
Morocco and Spain
Mozambique and its Borders*
Sea Migrations*
Sierra Leone and Liberia*
South Africa and its Borders*
Sudan and its Borders*
Turkey and its Borders*

*Content included in the first releases for these subjects. Coverage is subject to change with future releases.

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