

the camp of saints jean raspail

The Camp of Saints Jean Raspail: Exploring a Controversial Literary Work

the camp of saints jean raspail is a phrase that evokes strong reactions and intense debates in literary and political circles alike. Originally published in 1973, this provocative novel by French author Jean Raspail has attracted both admiration and criticism for its dystopian portrayal of immigration and societal collapse. Understanding the context, themes, and impact of *The Camp of Saints* is essential for anyone interested in modern French literature, cultural discourse, or immigration debates.

Background and Context of The Camp of Saints

Jean Raspail, a French writer and explorer, crafted *The Camp of Saints* as a work of speculative fiction that reflects his concerns about demographic changes and cultural identity. The novel depicts a massive migration from impoverished countries to the West, particularly focusing on France, and the ensuing societal upheaval. It paints a grim picture of Western civilization's decline in the face of overwhelming immigration.

The Social and Political Climate of the 1970s

Understanding the era in which Raspail wrote is key to grasping the novel's intentions. The early 1970s were marked by growing immigration to Europe from former colonies and developing nations, stirring public debate on national identity and economic strain. Raspail's narrative channels these anxieties into a dystopian vision, reflecting fears prevalent among certain groups during that time.

Who is Jean Raspail?

Jean Raspail was more than just a novelist; he was a traveler, historian, and cultural commentator. His writings often explored themes of heritage, exploration, and the perceived threats to Western civilization. *The Camp of Saints* stands out as his most infamous and influential work, propelling him into the spotlight — albeit a controversial one.

Plot Overview and Key Themes

At its core, *The Camp of Saints* tells the story of a massive flotilla of impoverished migrants sailing from the Indian subcontinent toward the shores of southern France. The French government and society, unprepared and divided, face a moral and practical crisis as this human tide approaches.

The Migrant Influx and Western Response

The novel's central event is the arrival of thousands of migrants on rickety ships, symbolizing a tidal wave of global migration. Raspail presents a stark contrast between the migrants' desperation and the West's paralysis, highlighting themes of cultural clash, identity loss, and political failure.

Exploration of Cultural Identity and Civilization

One of the most discussed aspects of *The Camp of Saints* is its reflection on Western civilization's fragility. Raspail suggests that unchecked immigration could lead to the erosion of traditional values, languages, and social structures. This theme resonates with readers concerned about globalization and cultural preservation.

Controversy and Criticism

The novel's depiction of migrants and its bleak outlook have sparked accusations of xenophobia and racism. Critics argue that Raspail's work feeds into fearmongering and stereotypes, while supporters claim it offers a prescient warning about the consequences of mass migration. This controversy has kept *The Camp of Saints* relevant in debates about immigration policy and national identity.

The Literary Style and Structure of *The Camp of Saints*

Raspail's storytelling in *The Camp of Saints* combines descriptive narrative with political commentary, creating a compelling but unsettling reading experience. His prose often blends poetic imagery with stark realism, immersing readers in the unfolding crisis.

Narrative Techniques and Characterization

The novel employs multiple perspectives, including politicians, journalists, and ordinary citizens, to paint a comprehensive picture of the unfolding events. This multifaceted approach helps illustrate the complexity of migration issues and the varied human responses to crisis.

Symbolism and Imagery

Raspail uses vivid symbolism, such as the "camp" itself representing a battleground of civilizations, and the migrant flotilla as a metaphor for unstoppable change. These elements

reinforce the novel's themes and evoke emotional reactions from readers.

The Camp of Saints in Contemporary Discourse

Despite being published nearly five decades ago, *The Camp of Saints* continues to influence discussions on immigration and cultural identity, especially in Europe and North America.

Impact on Political and Cultural Debates

Politicians and commentators on both the left and right have referenced the novel when discussing immigration policies. Its portrayal of societal collapse due to migration has been used as a cautionary tale by some, while others dismiss it as alarmist fiction.

The Novel's Reception Over Time

Initially, *The Camp of Saints* received limited attention outside France, but it gained notoriety in recent decades, especially with the rise of migration crises globally. Translations and reissues have sparked renewed interest and debate, ensuring that Jean Raspail's controversial message remains part of the conversation.

How to Approach The Camp of Saints Today

For modern readers, engaging with *The Camp of Saints* requires a critical and nuanced perspective. The novel offers insights into fears and tensions surrounding immigration but must be understood within its historical and ideological context.

Tips for Reading and Interpreting the Novel

- Consider the time period and cultural environment in which Raspail wrote.
- Analyze the narrative critically, distinguishing between fictional elements and political commentary.
- Engage with diverse perspectives on immigration to balance the novel's viewpoint.
- Reflect on how the themes resonate or conflict with contemporary realities.

The Role of The Camp of Saints in Literature and Society

Whether seen as a dystopian prophecy or a controversial polemic, *The Camp of Saints* remains a significant work for understanding the intersection of literature, politics, and culture. It challenges readers to confront difficult questions about identity, migration, and the future of societies in an increasingly interconnected world.

Jean Raspail's *The Camp of Saints* is more than just a novel; it is a cultural artifact that continues to provoke thought and debate. Its legacy lies not only in its narrative but also in its ability to ignite conversations about some of the most pressing issues of our time.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Camp of the Saints' by Jean Raspail about?

'The Camp of the Saints' is a controversial novel by Jean Raspail that depicts a mass migration from the Third World to France, exploring themes of immigration, cultural clash, and societal collapse.

When was 'The Camp of the Saints' published?

The novel was originally published in 1973.

Why is 'The Camp of the Saints' considered controversial?

The book is controversial because it has been criticized for its depiction of immigrants and its perceived promotion of xenophobic and racist ideas.

Who is Jean Raspail?

Jean Raspail was a French author and explorer known for his writings on themes of identity, culture, and migration, with 'The Camp of the Saints' being his most famous work.

What impact did 'The Camp of the Saints' have on literature and politics?

The novel has influenced right-wing and anti-immigration groups and sparked intense debates about immigration policies and multiculturalism in France and beyond.

Has 'The Camp of the Saints' been adapted into other media?

As of now, there have been discussions about adaptations, but no major film or television

adaptation has been widely released.

How is 'The Camp of the Saints' viewed in contemporary discussions on immigration?

Contemporary perspectives are divided; some view it as a cautionary tale about uncontrolled immigration, while others criticize it for promoting fear and prejudice against migrants.

Additional Resources

The Camp of Saints by Jean Raspail: A Controversial Exploration of Migration and Identity

the camp of saints jean raspail stands as a provocative and polarizing work in contemporary literature, provoking heated debate since its publication in 1973. This French novel, authored by Jean Raspail, delves into themes of mass migration, cultural identity, and the perceived threats to Western civilization. The Camp of Saints has attracted attention not only for its narrative but also for its political and social implications, making it a subject of extensive analysis among literary critics, sociologists, and political commentators alike.

Context and Background of The Camp of Saints

Jean Raspail, a French writer known for his conservative and often controversial viewpoints, penned The Camp of Saints during a period marked by increasing global migration and decolonization. The novel presents a dystopian vision of the future where a massive influx of immigrants from the Third World — primarily from India — arrives on the shores of Southern France, overwhelming the local population and drastically altering the social fabric of Europe.

Set against the backdrop of the early 1970s, a time of significant geopolitical shifts, The Camp of Saints captures anxieties related to immigration, cultural integration, and national identity. Raspail's narrative posits a catastrophic scenario where Western governments and societies fail to respond effectively to the migration crisis, ultimately leading to chaos and the collapse of traditional Western values.

Key Themes and Narrative Structure

At its core, The Camp of Saints explores complex themes that resonate with ongoing debates about migration and globalization:

Mass Migration and Cultural Clash

The novel's central event is a flotilla of impoverished migrants descending upon the French Riviera, symbolizing the perceived threat of uncontrolled immigration. Raspail describes this influx in vivid, often stark terms, emphasizing the desperation and sheer numbers of the migrants. This depiction underlines a cultural clash, portraying the migrants as fundamentally different and incompatible with Western society.

The Decline of Western Civilization

Raspail's portrayal of Western governments is largely critical, depicting them as weak, indecisive, and morally compromised. The novel suggests that the inability or unwillingness of Western societies to defend their cultural identity will lead to their downfall. This narrative reflects a broader pessimism about the future of Europe in the face of demographic and cultural change.

Ethics, Morality, and Political Correctness

Throughout the book, there is a tension between humanitarian ideals and harsh political realities. *The Camp of Saints* challenges the reader to consider the limits of compassion and the consequences of political correctness. Raspail's narrative questions whether liberal values can coexist with the practical demands of national survival.

Reception and Controversy

Since its release, *The Camp of Saints* has sparked considerable controversy. Critics argue that the novel promotes xenophobic and racist ideologies, given its portrayal of migrants and its apocalyptic vision of cultural displacement. Supporters, however, claim that Raspail offers a prescient warning about the challenges of mass migration and cultural integration.

Criticism and Accusations of Racism

Many literary analysts and social commentators have labeled the book as racist and alarmist. The stark dichotomy between the 'civilized' West and the 'barbaric' migrants has been criticized for reinforcing negative stereotypes and fueling anti-immigrant sentiments. The novel's graphic descriptions and at times dehumanizing language have intensified these accusations.

Endorsements and Cultural Impact

Despite, or perhaps because of, its controversial nature, *The Camp of Saints* has found a readership among certain political groups and intellectuals concerned with immigration and national identity. The book has been referenced in political discourse and has influenced debates about immigration policies, particularly in Europe. Its cultural impact remains significant, as it continues to provoke reflection on migration's role in shaping contemporary societies.

Comparative Analysis with Similar Works

The Camp of Saints can be contextualized alongside other dystopian novels that explore societal collapse and cultural conflict. For instance, works like George Orwell's *1984* or Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* address themes of societal control and identity, but Raspail's novel is distinct in its direct focus on migration as a catalyst for crisis.

In terms of migration literature, *The Camp of Saints* contrasts with more empathetic narratives that highlight migrants' humanity and contributions. Unlike authors who depict migration as a complex, multifaceted phenomenon, Raspail's approach is more alarmist and binary, emphasizing threat over nuance.

Similar Themes in Contemporary Discourse

The novel's themes echo in modern debates surrounding immigration policy, globalization, and national sovereignty. Discussions about border control, refugee crises, and cultural preservation often invoke concerns that resonate with Raspail's dystopian vision, albeit with varying degrees of intensity and perspective.

Literary Features and Style

Jean Raspail's writing in *The Camp of Saints* combines elements of thriller, political allegory, and social critique. His prose is direct and vivid, aiming to engage readers emotionally while provoking intellectual reflection. The pacing of the narrative builds tension as the migrant flotilla approaches, culminating in a societal breakdown that serves as a grim climax.

The novel employs symbolism and allegory, with the migrant ship representing broader fears about demographic change and cultural loss. Raspail's use of multiple viewpoints provides a panoramic view of the crisis, incorporating perspectives from migrants, politicians, and ordinary citizens.

Pros and Cons of the Narrative Approach

- **Pros:** *The Camp of Saints* is powerful in its ability to evoke strong emotional responses and stimulate debate on urgent social issues. Its dystopian framework

serves as a cautionary tale, encouraging readers to consider the consequences of policy decisions.

- **Cons:** The novel's stark characterizations and dire predictions risk oversimplifying complex phenomena. Critics argue that its alarmist tone and negative portrayal of migrants contribute to stigmatization and fear-mongering.

The Camp of Saints in the Modern Era

Decades after its publication, *The Camp of Saints* continues to be relevant in discussions about immigration, nationalism, and cultural identity. The rise of populist movements in Europe and beyond has brought renewed attention to Raspail's work, with some citing it as prophetic.

However, the novel's reception today is more polarized than ever. While some view it as a legitimate critique of globalization's challenges, others see it as a dangerous narrative that undermines social cohesion and promotes exclusion.

Implications for Policy and Society

The Camp of Saints encourages reflection on how societies balance humanitarian responsibilities with national interests. It raises questions about integration policies, border security, and the cultural dimensions of migration. Policymakers and scholars often engage with the novel's themes, albeit cautiously, recognizing both its insights and limitations.

Ultimately, *The Camp of Saints* by Jean Raspail remains a contentious yet influential literary work that continues to shape conversations about migration and identity in the 21st century. Its provocative narrative challenges readers to confront uncomfortable questions about the future of their societies and the values they choose to uphold.

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the camp of saints jean raspail: *Translation and Circulation of Migration Literature* Stephanie Schwerter, Katrina Brannon, 2022-07-22 In the field of Translation Studies no book-length work in English has yet been dedicated to the translation and circulation of migration literature. The authors of this volume seek to contribute to filling this gap through a detailed study of texts belonging to a variety of literary genres and engaging with the phenomenon of migration in different parts of the world. Not only will the challenges met by translators be discussed, but the different ways in which the translated texts travel from one cultural sphere to another will also be explored. The focus lies on the themes "migration and politics", "migration and society", as well as "the experience of migration in words, music and images".

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the camp of saints jean raspail: *Novus Ordo Seclorum: Essays on Catholics and the United States* Robert Klein Engler, 2015-04-19 Recently published articles on Catholics and US politics that deals with same-sex marriage, illegal immigration and other social issues.

the camp of saints jean raspail: *The Sovereign Self* Elisabeth Roudinesco, 2022-11-08 The toppling of statues in the name of anti-racism is disconcerting, as is the violence sometimes displayed towards others in the name of gender equality. The emancipation movements of the past seem to have undergone a subtle transformation: the struggle now is not so much to bring about progress but rather to denounce offenses, express indignation, and assert identities, sometimes in order to demand recognition. The individual's commitment to self-definition and self-appreciation, understood as the exercise of a sovereign right, has become a distinctive sign of our time. Elisabeth Roudinesco takes us into the darker corners of identity thinking, where conspiracy theories, rejection of the other, and incitement to violence are often part of the mix. But she also points to several paths that could lead us away from despair and toward a possible world in which everyone can adhere to the principle according to which "I am myself, that's all there is to it" without denying the diversity of human communities or essentializing either universality or difference. This bold and courageous interrogation of identity politics will be of great interest to anyone concerned with the state of our world today.

the camp of saints jean raspail: *Critical Theory and the Authoritarian Personality* Geoff M. Boucher, 2025-01-31 The worldwide resurgence of authoritarianism has sparked renewed interest in the Frankfurt School theory of the authoritarian personality, not as a topic of academic debate but

as an urgent political factor. Critical Theory and the Authoritarian Personality brings Theodor Adorno's critique up-to-date in light of new forms of authoritarian politics, recent kinds of authoritarian propaganda and current findings about authoritarian personalities. Drawing on the work of Slavoj Žižek and the psychoanalysis of Jacques Lacan, this is the first sustained application of psychoanalytic theory to the problem of the authoritarian personality since the classical work of the Frankfurt School. It explores a pressing problem—the resurgence of the radical Right—and proposes new solutions, grounded in the idea of an affective approach to authoritarian politics as something based on transgressive fantasies and political anxieties. Throughout, the book illustrates its theoretical claims with reference to new kinds of authoritarian literature, which today forms an important part of right-wing propaganda.

the camp of saints jean raspail: Open Borders--Closed Minds Robert Klein Engler, 2008-05-05 This book is a collection of articles about immigration and illegal immigration to the United States of America. These articles have appeared online and in print and are gathered for the first time in one place. Open Borders--Closed Minds has two objectives: to open the minds of United State citizens about the problems and dangers of uncontrolled immigration and to persuade our elected officials to close and secure the nation's borders.

the camp of saints jean raspail: Blood in the Face (revised new edition) James Ridgeway, 2025-01-14 In 1990, BLOOD IN THE FACE: The Ku Klux Klan, Aryan Nations, Nazi Skinheads, and the Rise of a New White Culture was the first book to uncover the contours, beliefs, leaders, and wider influence of the American racist far-right movement. It told their story from the inside out, complete with interviews, recruiting pamphlets, cartoons, rants, sermons, threats, police reports, and more. The accompanying analysis by veteran investigative reporter James Ridgeway detailed the movement's volatile history and its expansion beginning in the 1980s, insisting that the groups making up this fringe culture were too powerful—and too much a part of American culture—to be ignored or dismissed. When the book's prescience about the dangers of the racist far-right became manifest in the Oklahoma City bombing of 1995, a second edition of BLOOD IN THE FACE was released with a new introduction charting the rise of the Militia Movement to which Timothy McVeigh and his co-conspirators were connected. Since then, both the book and the documentary film that accompanied its release (also titled BLOOD IN THE FACE), have earned cult followings. In the past 25 years, Ridgeway's final warning—that the fringe was becoming part of the fabric of American politics and culture, have come to chilling fruition in the rise of the Tea Party, the racist backlash against the presidency of Barack Obama, the resurgence of anti-immigrant Nativism, the growth of racist far-right media, and the election of Donald Trump with the thunderous support of white nationalists.

the camp of saints jean raspail: Degenerative Realism Christy Wampole, 2020-06-23 A new strain of realism has emerged in France. The novels that embody it represent diverse fears—immigration and demographic change, radical Islam, feminism, new technologies, globalization, American capitalism, and the European Union—but these books, often best-sellers, share crucial affinities. In their dystopian visions, the collapse of France, Europe, and Western civilization is portrayed as all but certain and the literary mode of realism begins to break down. Above all, they depict a degenerative force whose effects on the nation and on reality itself can be felt. Examining key novels by Michel Houellebecq, Frédéric Beigbeder, Aurélien Bellanger, Yann Moix, and other French writers, Christy Wampole identifies and critiques this emergent tendency toward “degenerative realism.” She considers the ways these writers draw on social science, the New Journalism of the 1960s, political pamphlets, reportage, and social media to construct an atmosphere of disintegration and decline. Wampole maps how degenerative realist novels explore a world contaminated by conspiracy theories, mysticism, and misinformation, responding to the internet age's confusion between fact and fiction with a lament for the loss of the real and an unrelenting emphasis on the role of the media in crafting reality. In a time of widespread populist anxieties over the perceived decline of the French nation, this book diagnoses the literary symptoms of today's reactionary revival.

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the camp of saints jean raspail: Globalizing Collateral Language Somdeep Sen, John Collins, 2021-09-01 Language is never just a means of communication. It terrorizes. And, especially in times of war, it has the ability to target civilians and generate fear as a means of producing specific political outcomes, most notably the passive and active acceptance of state violence itself. For this reason, the critical examination of language must be a central part of any effort to fight imperialism, militarism, demagoguery, racism, sexism, and other structures of injustice. *Globalizing Collateral Language* examines the discourse surrounding 9/11 and its entrenchment in global politics and culture. To interrogate this wartime lexicon of "collateral language," editors John Collins and Somdeep Sen have assembled a volume of critical essays that explores the long shadow of America's "War on Terror" discourse. They illuminate how this language has now found resonance across the globe and in political projects that have little to do with the "War on Terror." Two decades after the attacks of September 11, 2001, this book calls on us to resist the tyranny of collateral language at a time when the need for such interventions in the public sphere is more urgent than ever.

the camp of saints jean raspail: Cycles of Hatred and Rage Katherine C. Donahue, Patricia R. Heck, 2019-05-07 This edited collection addresses a growing concern in Europe and the United States about the future of the European Union, democratic institutions, and democracy itself. The current success of right-wing parties—marked by the adoption of extremist nationalistic rhetoric aimed to incite fear of the "other" and the use of authoritarian policies when attaining the majority—is putting pressure on basic human rights and the rule of law. Eight sociocultural anthropologists, working in England, Northern Ireland, Italy, France, Poland, Germany, Hungary and the United States use varying methodological and theoretical approaches to inspect a number of such parties and their supporters, while assessing the underpinnings of current right-wing successes in what has heretofore been a recurring post-war cycle. The research collected in *Cycles of Hatred and Rage* supports the validity of the above concerns, and it ultimately suggests that in the current battle between democratic globalists and authoritarian nationalists, the outcome is far from clear.

the camp of saints jean raspail: Trump in the White House John Bellamy Foster, 2017-10-23 With a foreword by Robert W. McChesney--Cover.

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the camp of saints jean raspail: The Changing World Religion Map Stanley D. Brunn, 2015-02-03 This extensive work explores the changing world of religions, faiths and practices. It discusses a broad range of issues and phenomena that are related to religion, including nature, ethics, secularization, gender and identity. Broadening the context, it studies the interrelation between religion and other fields, including education, business, economics and law. The book

presents a vast array of examples to illustrate the changes that have taken place and have led to a new world map of religions. Beginning with an introduction of the concept of the “changing world religion map”, the book first focuses on nature, ethics and the environment. It examines humankind’s eternal search for the sacred, and discusses the emergence of “green” religion as a theme that cuts across many faiths. Next, the book turns to the theme of the pilgrimage, illustrated by many examples from all parts of the world. In its discussion of the interrelation between religion and education, it looks at the role of missionary movements. It explains the relationship between religion, business, economics and law by means of a discussion of legal and moral frameworks, and the financial and business issues of religious organizations. The next part of the book explores the many “new faces” that are part of the religious landscape and culture of the Global North (Europe, Russia, Australia and New Zealand, the U.S. and Canada) and the Global South (Latin America, Africa and Asia). It does so by looking at specific population movements, diasporas, and the impact of globalization. The volume next turns to secularization as both a phenomenon occurring in the Global religious North, and as an emerging and distinguishing feature in the metropolitan, cosmopolitan and gateway cities and regions in the Global South. The final part of the book explores the changing world of religion in regards to gender and identity issues, the political/religious nexus, and the new worlds associated with the virtual technologies and visual media.

the camp of saints jean raspail: Religion and the Populist Radical Right: Secular Christianity and Populism in Western Europe Nicholas Morieson, 2021-07-06 In Western Europe, populist radical right parties are calling for a return to Christian or Judeo-Christian values and identity. The growing electoral success of many of these parties may suggest that, after decades of secularisation, Western Europeans are returning to religion. Yet these parties do not tell their supporters to go to church, believe in God, or practise traditional Christian values. Instead, they claim that their respective national identities and cultures are the product of a Christian or Judeo-Christian tradition which either encompasses—or has produced—secular modernity. This book poses the question: if Western European politics is secular, why has religious identity become a core element of populist radical right discourse? To answer this question, Morieson examines the discursive use of religion by two of the most powerful and influential populist radical right parties: The French National Front and the Dutch Party for Freedom. Based on this examination, he argues that the populist radical right has capitalised on a cultural shift engendered by the increasing visibility of Islam in Europe. Western Europeans’ encounter with Islam has revealed the non-universal nature of Western European secularism to Europeans, and demonstrated the secularisation of Christianity into Western European ‘culture.’ This, in turn, has allowed secular French and Dutch citizens to identify themselves—as well as their nation and, ultimately, Western civilisation—as Christian or Judeo-Christian. Seizing on this cultural shift, the author contends that the National Front and Party for Freedom have built successful and similar brands of reactionary politics based on the notion that contemporary secularism is a product of Europe’s Christian heritage and values, and that therefore Muslim immigration is an existential threat to the core values of European politics, including the differentiation of politics and religion, and of church and state. ‘Religion and the Populist Radical Right: Secular Christianity and Populism in Western Europe’ will be of interest to scholars and researchers working on the intersections of Political Science, Sociology, and Religion. It will also appeal to the general audience interested in the relationship between populism in Western Europe and religious identity as it is written in an accessible style.

the camp of saints jean raspail: Subversive Semantics in Political and Cultural Discourse Gesa Mackenthun, Jörn Dosch, 2023-09-01 The large-scale use of semantic transfer and inversion as rhetorical tactics is particularly prevalent in right-wing discourses and populist »alternative knowledge« production. The contributors to this volume analyze processes of re-semanticizing received meanings, effectually re-coding those meanings. They investigate to what extent rhetorical maneuvers serve to establish new and powerful belief systems beyond rational and democratic control. In addition to the contemporary rightwing and conspiracy narratives, the

contributions examine the discursive fields around conceptions of human nature and the deep past, population politics, gender conceptions, use of land, identity politics, nationhood, and cultural heritage.

the camp of saints jean raspail: Go Back to where You Came from Sasha Polakow-Suransky, 2017 What if the new far right poses a graver threat to liberal democracy than jihadists or mass migration?From Europe to the United States and beyond, opportunistic politicians have exploited economic crisis, terrorist attacks and an influx of refugees to bring hateful and reactionary views from the margins of political discourse into the corridors of power. This climate has already helped propel Donald Trump to the White House, pushed Britain out of the European Union, and put Marine Le Pen within striking distance of the French presidency. Sasha Polakow-Suransky's on-the-ground reportage and interviews with the rising stars of the new right tell the story of how we got here, tracing the global rise of anti-immigration politics and the ruthlessly effective rebranding of Europe's new far right as defenders of Western liberal values. Go Back to Where You Came From is an indispensable account of why xenophobia went mainstream in countries known historically as defenders of human rights and models of tolerance.

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