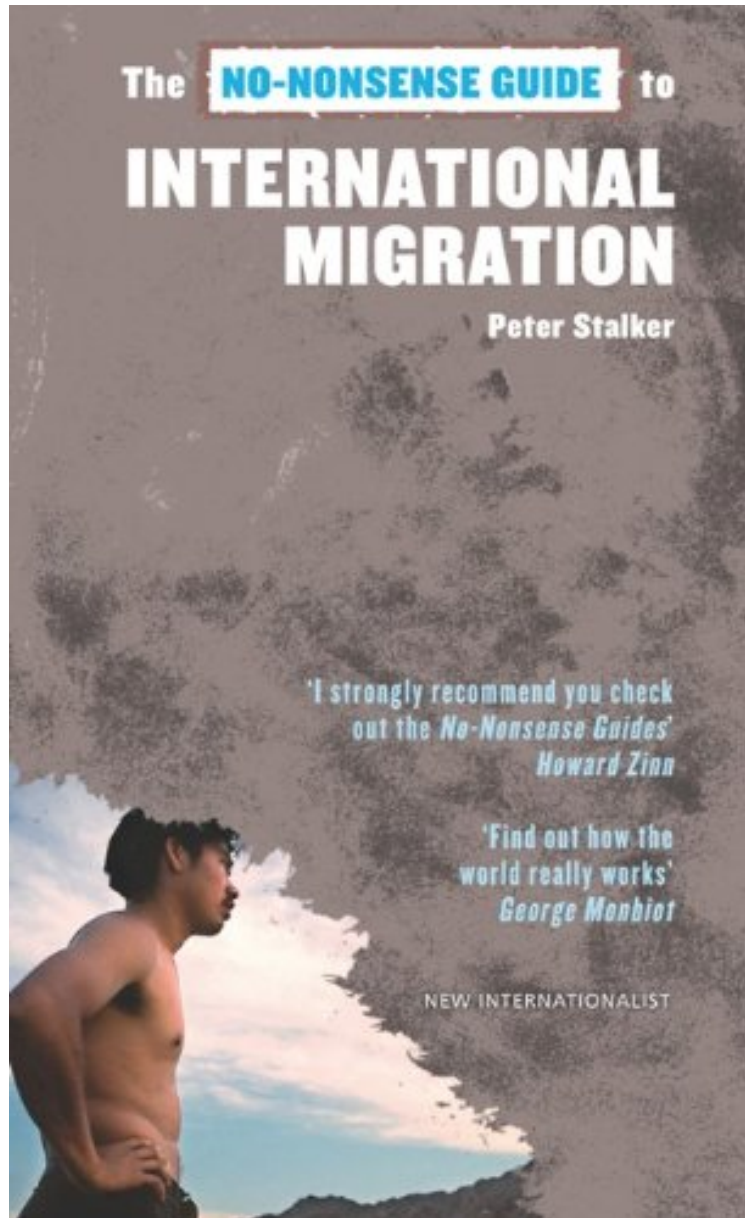


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The No-Nonsense Guide to International Migration (No-Nonsense Guides)

Peter Stalker

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Peter Stalker : The No-Nonsense Guide to International Migration (No-Nonsense Guides) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The No-Nonsense Guide to International Migration (No-Nonsense Guides):

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A very timely bookBy bruce bartlettThis book is one of twelve (as

of autumn 2003) in an unabashedly left-wing series on global issues; the volumes are co-sponsored by Toronto's Between The Lines Books and New Internationalist magazine. The book has a tone as solemn and earnest as its nondescript physical appearance; in short, it isn't exactly a lot of fun to read, but it is unassuming in its approach and uncomplicated in its presentation. Perhaps most useful to readers in a super-migrant city like my Toronto, where immigration is a perennial hot-button issue, is the book's unstated contextualization of what "immigration" really is. To wit, legal (!) immigration is best seen less as self-contained bureaucratic system to handle newcomers to a nation state than as the most judicious way to handle the way people move across borders. We are reminded of how, everywhere in the developing world, migrants ("legal" or not) do the bulk of 3-D jobs (Dirty, Dangerous, and Difficult). Especially intriguing is the penultimate of the six chapters, "Emigrants as Heroes"; yes, the word is `emigrant': many developing countries get a not-insignificant portion of their revenue from earnings transferred "home" from the expatriates. The title of the book's final chapter, "Shock Absorbers for the Global Economy," is an apt metaphor for what happens to struggling little people who are overlooked by the naive apologists for globalization who lionize the amoral CEOs of big corporations. A touchstone for debate (at least in Canada, one of the Big Four immigrant countries in the contemporary world, along with the United States, Australia, and New Zealand) would be a comparison of ideas in this book, ones set in a global context, to those in Neal Bissoondath's early 1990s book SELLING ILLUSIONS, his critique of Canada's "multiculturalism" policy. (Postscript:: Corel WordPerfect 8 , presumably a state-of-the-art product of mega-corporate global technology, does not in its Spellcheck option recognize the word "multiculturalism.")

Virtually any commodity can move around the world to satisfy demand, but human beings have far less freedom. Many would-be migrants are forced to risk life and limb traveling illegally. Yet most rich countries are short of workers, have shrinking populations, and need more immigrants. This is a timely guide to a major issue that is never far from the political headlines. Peter Stalker is a former co-editor of the New Internationalist who now works as a consultant to a number of UN agencies. He has written two books on migration for the International Labor Organization.