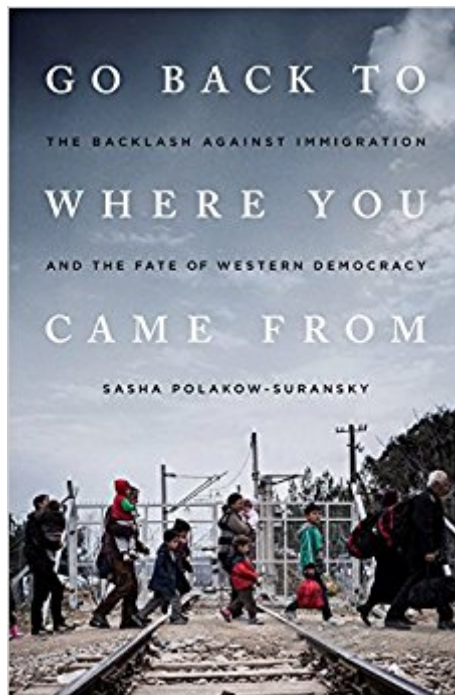




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Go Back To Where You Came From: The Backlash Against Immigration And The Fate Of Western Democracy



Synopsis

The xenophobic backlash against refugees and immigrants gets put under the lens as we are introduced to those living through this emotional tide crashing over Europe, the United States, and beyond. Brexit and Donald Trump's victory were just the beginning--and Marine Le Pen's defeat does not signal a turning of the tide. --From the Introduction

From Europe to the United States, opportunistic politicians have exploited the economic crisis, terrorist attacks, and an unprecedented influx of refugees to bring hateful and reactionary views from the margins of political discourse into the mainstream. They have won the votes of workers, women, gays, and Jews; turned openly xenophobic ideas into state policy; and pulled besieged centrist parties to the right. How did we get here?

In this deeply reported account, Sasha Polakow-Suransky provides a front-row seat to the anger, desperation, and dissent that are driving some voters into the arms of the far right and stirring others to resist. He introduces readers to refugees in the Calais "Jungle" and the angry working-class neighbors who want them out; a World War II refugee-turned-rabbi who became a leading defender of Muslim immigrants; the children of Holocaust survivors who have become apologists for the new right; and alt-right activists and the intellectuals who enable them.

Polakow-Suransky chronicles how the backlash against refugees and immigrants has reshaped our political landscape. Ultimately, he argues that the greatest threat comes not from outside, but from within--even established democracies are at risk of betraying their core values and falling apart.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Sasha Polakow-Suransky confronts deep tensions between race, class, and borders that so many liberals would prefer to ignore, with detailed examples from Europe, the United States, and South Africa. For those of us deeply worried about the future of liberal democracy, *Go Back to Where You Came From* is an important and enlightening book." •Anne-Marie Slaughter, president and CEO, New America, former director of Policy Planning, US state department 2009-2011 "Sasha Polakow-Suransky's superb new book unpacks the story, taking readers through a changing Europe bursting with promise yet racked by conflict. With its deep reportage, gripping prose, and powerful message, [*Go Back to Where You Came From* is] a must-read for anyone trying to understand global politics today-and tomorrow." •Gideon Rose, editor, Foreign Affairs

Sasha Polakow-Suransky is the author of *The Unspoken Alliance: Israel's Secret Relationship with Apartheid South Africa* and an Open Society Foundations fellow. He was an op-ed editor at the New York Times and a senior editor at Foreign Affairs and holds a doctorate in modern history from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. His writing has appeared in the Guardian, Foreign Policy, Newsweek, New Republic, and Boston Globe.

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