

Vargas Llosa, Alvaro. Global crossings: immigration, civilization, and America. Independent Institute, 2013. 355p index ISBN 9781598131338, \$21.95

Immigration--legal and illegal, low- and high-skilled workers, Mexican drug cartels, reform, and public policies--is a highly charged, emotional topic of debate in the US. In too many instances, from both the political Left and Right, the subject and conversations produce far more heat than light. Vargas Llosa's thoughtful, informative contributions in *Global Crossings* are a welcome addition and change of pace. He tackles his material in four broad parts: "The Immigrant Experience," which explores who migrants are and their motivations for migrating; "Immigrants and Culture," cultural traits and assimilations among migrant populations; "Immigrants and the Economy," their impact on employment, wages, and public outlays for education and welfare; and "Open Minds" (five concluding chapters), a pro-immigration clarion in an era of rapid globalization and the erosion of national boundaries. A valuable 30-page appendix of tables and figures complement the 300 pages of prose. Writer and political commentator Vargas Llosa, son of the 2010 Nobel laureate in literature, occasionally allows his Latin American experiences and personal values to overshadow and dismiss contrasting views, but on the whole the volume is objective, challenging, and compelling. **Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readership levels and collections.**