

*When the World Closed Its Doors* offers a powerful and timely examination of one of the most profound global shifts of the 21st century—the dramatic closure of borders during the COVID-19 pandemic. Authors Edward Alden and Laurie Trautman take readers beyond the headlines, providing a sweeping yet deeply personal account of how governments across the world, faced with an unprecedented public health crisis, responded by hardening borders and restricting movement in ways unseen in modern history.

What makes this book stand out is its focus on the human stories behind the policies. From families separated indefinitely to stranded essential workers, Alden and Trautman reveal the emotional toll and personal tragedies that resulted from blunt, often chaotic border restrictions. By spotlighting these experiences, the authors underscore that border policies are never just about security or public health—they have real, lasting impacts on people's lives.

The book also serves as a stark warning. Alden and Trautman argue persuasively that the pandemic-era border closures were not a one-off emergency measure but part of a broader global trend toward restriction and exclusion. As they show, the same tools used to keep out vulnerable migrants were swiftly turned on citizens of wealthier nations—often with little accountability or concern for the collateral damage. This pattern, they suggest, could set a troubling precedent for future crises.

*When the World Closed Its Doors* is essential reading for anyone interested in immigration, global governance, or human rights. Alden and Trautman's combination of clear analysis, global perspective, and personal storytelling makes this a compelling and accessible work. It leaves readers with a crucial question: as the world moves further into an era of border hardening, who will hold governments accountable for the human cost?

This is not just a book about COVID-19—it's a broader reflection on how nations decide who belongs and who does not, and what those decisions say about our shared future. Thought-

provoking and urgent, it is a must-read for policymakers, travelers, and anyone who cares about freedom of movement in an increasingly closed-off world.