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Borderlands

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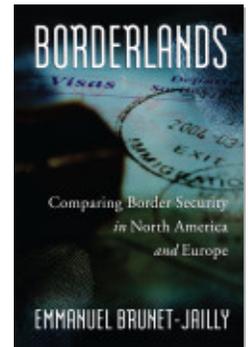
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PREFACE

The Westphalian state system developed from the establishment of sovereign powers within the confines of borderlines recognized by international agreements. During the construction of the modern state, the nationalist period resulted in the development of center-periphery economies and polities. Today, however, globalization appears to make borders irrelevant in many ways—as exemplified by our increasing awareness that trade, migration, environmental, and health issues cross over the borders of many states—and to include large regions of the world, while, on the contrary, security and terrorism seem to reassert the importance of the borders of each states. Monitoring borders raises important questions of governance for scholars and policy-makers, which call for profound institutional changes and a reconceptualization of our basic understanding of the symbolic and functional role of borders, borderlands, and boundaries in the international order.

The twelve chapters of this edited volume focus on eleven case studies of border security policies and borderland environments in seven different states in North America and the European Union. A key point is the difficulty and complexity of filtering and monitoring increasingly porous borders. The authors and editor of this book conclude that, in light of the complicated and often countervailing economic, social, cultural, and institutional forces that shape borders, governments have to broaden their traditional focus on the boundary line to include the governance of borderlands as the territory central to security policy. What arises as the new challenge to government policy

in security matters is their aptitude to cooperate, collaborate, and co-produce policy, sharing goals and policy objectives.

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