

Delve Deeper into "Well-Founded Fear,"

a film by Shari Robertson and Michael Camerini

FICTION

The tensions that surround an immigrant's international leap of faith, particularly in a situation involving a "well-founded fear," have inspired authors born in the U.S. as well as those who have experienced the journey to a new home. Some notable examples:

Arenas, Reinaldo. *The Doorman*. New York: Grove Weidenfeld, 1991.

Banks, Russell. *Continental Drift*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1991.

Brown, Wesley, ed. *Imagining America: Stories from the Promised Land*. New York: Persea Books, 1991.

Castedo, Elena. *Paradise*. New York: Grove Weidenfeld, 1990.

Gardner, Mary. *Boat People*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1995.

Kingsolver, Barbara. *The Bean Trees*. New York: Harper and Row, 1988.

Martinez, Demetria. *Mother Tongue*. New York: One World, 1996 (c. 1994).

Sheehan, Edward R. F. *Innocent Darkness*. New York: Viking, 1993.

NONFICTION

For general human rights information and the history of political asylum which is a relatively modern concept:

Brownlie, Ian, ed. *Basic Documents on Human Rights*. 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.

Donnelly, Jack. *International Human Rights*. 2nd ed. Ed. by George H. Lopez. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1997.

Langley, Winston E. *Encyclopedia of Human Rights Issues Since 1945*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 1999.

On the horrors that push people across borders and oceans, and the global impact of refugee movement:

Cohen, Roger. *Hearts Grown Brutal: Stories from Sarajevo*. New York: Random House, 1998.

Deng, Francis M. *Protecting the Dispossessed: A Challenge for the International Community*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, 1998.

Gourevitch, Philip. *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families: Stories from Rwanda*. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1998.

Ignatieff, Michael. *The Warrior's Honor: Ethnic War and the Modern Conscience*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1998.

Loescher, Gil. *Beyond Charity: International Cooperation and the Global Refugee Crisis*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Santos, John Phillip. *Places Left Unfinished at the Time of Creation*. New York: Viking, 1999.

Sluka, Jeffrey A., ed. *Death Squad: The Anthropology of State Terror*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1999.

Van Hear, Nicholas. *New Diasporas: The Mass Exodus, Dispersal, and Regrouping of Migrant Communities*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1998.

Weiner, Myron. *The Global Migration Crisis: Challenge to States and to Human Rights*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1995.

World Refugee Survey 1999: An Annual Assessment of Conditions Affecting Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Internally Displaced Persons. Washington, DC: U.S. Committee for Refugees, 1999.

Zolbert, Aristide R. et al. *Escape from Violence: Conflict and the Refugee Crisis in the Developing World*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1989.

On the role of the United States as a place of refuge and asylum and the impact of U.S. law:

Anker, Deborah. *Law of Asylum in the United States*. 3rd ed. Boston: Refugee Law Center, 1999.

Donahue, David M. and Flowers, Nancy with the Amnesty International Human Rights Education Steering Committee. *The Uprooted: Refugees and the United States*. Alameda, CA: Hunter House, 1995 (instructional resources for middle and high school and adult education).

Loescher, Gil. *Calculated Kindness: Refugees and America's Half-Open Door, 1945 to the Present*. New York: Free Press, 1986.

Schrag, Philip G. *A Well-Founded Fear: The Congressional Battle to Save Political Asylum in America*. New York: Routledge, 2000.

Teitelbaum, Michael S. and Weiner, Myron, eds. *Threatened Peoples, Threatened Borders: World Migration and U.S. Policy*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1995.

On the experience of asylum-seekers and human rights activists:

Kassindja, Fauziya. *Do They Hear You When You Cry*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1998.

Kuklin, Susan. *Irrepressible Spirit: Conversations with Human Rights Activists*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1996.

FOR YOUNGER READERS

A mix of quality fiction and nonfiction on human rights issues:

Anastos, Phillip and French, Chris. *Illegal*. New York: Rizzoli, 1991.

Ashabrenner, Brent. *Children of the Maya: A Guatemalan Indian Odyssey*. New York: Putnam/Philomel, 1990.

Bennett, Jack. *The Voyage of the Lucky Dragon*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1982.

Buss, Fran Leeper and Cubias, Daisy. *Journey of the Sparrows*. New York: Dutton/Lodestar, 1991.

Laird, Elizabeth. *Kiss the Dust*. New York: Dutton, 1992.

Peck, Rodney G. *Working Together Against Human Rights Violations*. New York: Rosen Pub. Group, 1995.

Strom, Yale. *Quilted Landscapes*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1996.

ALAAmericanLibraryAssociation

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POV

Public television's acclaimed independent nonfiction film series.



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WEBSITES

On global human rights issues, the most inclusive sites are those sponsored by nongovernmental organizations that specialize in this area; e.g.,

Amnesty International
www.amnesty.org

Human Rights Watch
www.hrw.org

U.S. Committee for Refugees
www.refugees.org

Also broadly inclusive is the University of Minnesota's www1.umn.edu/humanrts/ins/inserve.htm, which offers alerts, profiles, and perspectives about particular countries from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (www.ins.usdoj.gov), basic INS documents, and key political asylum court cases.

Useful sites sponsored by nonprofit groups and law firms that specialize in immigration and asylum practice include: www.aidsnyc.org/cwha/asylum.html, and shusterman.com/toc-asyl.html.

These generally summarize the laws and procedures which affect an immigrant's rights and procedures for applying for asylum in the U.S.

VIDEOS

The first film on this list was a moderately successful commercial release; the second, a "Showtime Original Picture;" and the third a critically acclaimed studio hit.

"Alamo Bay." Directed by Louis Malle. Burbank, CA: RCA/Columbia Pictures Home Video, 1985.

"Down Came a Blackbird." Directed by Jonathan Sanger. Los Angeles: Republic Pictures, 1995.

"Three Kings." Directed by David O. Russell. Burbank, CA: Warner Bros., 1999.

"Well-Founded Fear" takes viewers into the closed corridors of the INS political asylum office to reveal the dramatic real-life stage where human rights and American ideals collide with the nearly impossible task of trying to know the truth.

National P.O.V. broadcast premiere on **Monday June 5, 2000 at 9 pm ET** (check local listings) on PBS.

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