

# 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.

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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](http://www.amnesty.org)

Human Rights Watch  
[www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)

U.S. Committee for Refugees  
[www.refugees.org](http://www.refugees.org)

*Also broadly inclusive is the University of Minnesota's [www1.umn.edu/humanrts/ins/inservie.htm](http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/ins/inservie.htm), which offers alerts, profiles, and perspectives about particular countries from the Immigration and Naturalization Service ([www.ins.usdoj.gov](http://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](http://www.aidsnyc.org/cwha/asylum.html), and [shusterman.com/toc-asyl.html](http://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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