

“A fierce and courageous denunciation of the foul politics of immigration and the two-thousand mile tragedy of the Mexican border . . . Deftly stitching together disparate times and places—from the Imperial Valley to Zacatecas to Mexicali and back to East L.A.—Nevins and Aizeki weave a memorial quilt to the hundreds of innocents in unmarked graves.”

—RICHARD WALKER, professor of geography, UC Berkeley, and author of *The Conquest of Bread* and *The Country in the City*.

“*Dying to Live* is a compelling, perceptive and invaluable book for our times. The lives delineated here are unforgettable.”

—SUSAN STRAIGHT, author of *A Million Nightingales* and *Highwire Moon*

“Joseph Nevins blows the cover off the scapegoating of ‘illegal’ immigrants by meticulously and grippingly compiling the history of why so many try to come to the U.S. and, tragically, why so many die. This book strikes at our very moral core.”

—DEEPA FERNANDES, author of *Targeted: Homeland Security and the Business of Immigration*.

“Julio César Gallegos reminds us—thanks to the passionate investigations of Nevins and Aizeki—that the eyeless corpses in the Imperial Valley are murder victims: abandoned to heat, thirst, and anonymous graves by a border politics compounded of historical ignorance and contempt for human rights.”

—MIKE DAVIS

IN 1998, Julio César Gallegos left Zacatecas, Mexico to reunite with his wife and son in Los Angeles. Like many who come to the United States, Julio, as part of a larger group, traveled not by road, but across the scorching desert that connects California with Mexico. Julio never reached his destination, and his story became international news.

In *Dying to Live*, the Gallegos family's struggle across the U.S.-Mexico divide leads to an exploration of the deeper story of global migration, U.S.-Mexico relations, immigration enforcement, and the dynamic connections between peoples and places. *Dying to Live* raises the level of debate on the ever-controversial issues of immigration, human rights, and homeland security.



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“An important and visually moving book that adds to our knowledge of the border and its place in history”
—DAVID BACON, author of *Communities without Borders: Images and Voices from the World of Migration*

DYING TO LIVE

A STORY OF
U.S. IMMIGRATION
IN AN AGE OF
GLOBAL APARTHEID



JOSEPH
NEVINS

PHOTOS BY
MIZUE AIZEKI