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Integration Nation: Immigrants, Refugees, and America at Its Best

Susan E Eaton

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Susan E Eaton : Integration Nation: Immigrants, Refugees, and America at Its Best before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Integration Nation: Immigrants, Refugees, and America at Its Best:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Hopeful HelpfulBy Susan GliddenI live in Battle Creek, MI, the home of the W.K.Kellogg Foundation, which contributed money for the author to research this book.Ironically, my

city does not have the type of integration, so eloquently simply described by the author, for our immigrant communities--far from it. I see far more fear of new immigrants than welcome--except for the one elementary school which is home to the majority of English language learning children.⁴ of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Susan E. Eaton's *INTEGRATION NATION* showcases those doing the work to make the United States better for all. By Cyrus Webb When it comes to conversations about immigration so many times it is framed as an us against them debate. But is that really the truth? In her book *INTEGRATION NATION* author Susan E. Eaton literally goes to the people to hear how immigration and the further integration of the United States is being addressed and the positive strides that are being made to show that we are more united than divided. The cover of the book that I received is an amazing depiction of really making up the United States of America, and the book itself seeks to look at how as individuals we can make amazing strides in the work that is done together instead of painting everyone with a broad brush. Regardless of where you might fall in the discussion about immigration as a whole I think it is undeniable that this country has been built and shaped by immigrants who came here seeking something better. Instead of seeing each other as adversaries, Eaton showcases individuals and groups that have been able to identify common themes and ideals and worked to further those. There is truly more that unites us than divides us, and with *INTEGRATION NATION* we are encouraged to focus on that and think about how we can do our part to make each corner of this country better for us all.¹ of 1 people found the following review helpful.

With *Immigration, We Can't Let This Election Divide Us* By MBushman Elections are inherently divisive, but we don't have to accept ruptured relationships as a predestined outcome. This concept may be particularly important to remember this November. Groundwork for unification starts in our local communities, not simply at the ballot box. The increasing segregation of our nation, and dangers inherent in such separation, led to my first two novels suggesting that we might be only a generation away from risking permanent fracture. Several paths forward are evident, including several highlighted in "Integration Nation: Immigrants, Refugees, and America at its Best" by Brandeis University Professor Susan Eaton. Successful integration projects she highlighted centered around:

- community centers in Fort Wayne, Indiana and Hazleton, Pennsylvania (the latter inspired by Chicago Cubs Manager Joe Maddon),
- a credit union in North Carolina,
- community gardens in Boise, Idaho,
- an interfaith initiative in Nebraska, and
- study circles in Maryland.

In each case, exposure across racial, ethnic and language boundaries helps bridge gaps between long-term residents and immigrants from various parts of the globe. Evidence also continues to be compelling for dual-language immersion programs. I'm convinced the United States needs to adopt these programs across multiple languages—including Mandarin, Spanish, Hindi, Portuguese, Arabic and Russian—to remain competitive as America becomes a smaller percentage of the global economic landscape. In Utah, dual-language immersion programs highlighted by Eaton increased test scores across multiple subjects for children in previously single-language English and Spanish households. While I believe it essential to successfully integrate with anyone living inside our borders, I certainly understand frustration with a clearly broken system that discourages legal immigration while encouraging illegal entry. For its writing and the stories it shares, this book deserves five stars. I settled on four stars only as protest that it didn't tackle the equally hard challenge of identifying the best methods of determining how much immigration makes sense. Clearly, with average income for the lowest-earning 60 percent of U.S. households still below 2008 levels, we have an excess of labor supply that would be a consideration for immigrant entry in a well-functioning immigration system. But taking frustration out on the vast numbers of hardworking, family-oriented immigrants who simply take advantage of the broken system our elected leaders have created and/or failed to administer won't create the better nation we all seek, as Prof. Eaton clearly identifies. While we make our separate decisions on what type of immigration system we demand going forward, we can certainly acknowledge that beginning or expanding integration work inside our communities will create long-term benefits regardless of who wins in November. This book does a great job of describing multiple paths forward.

Integration Nation takes readers on a spirited and compelling cross-country journey, introducing us to the people challenging America's xenophobic impulses by welcoming immigrants and collaborating with the foreign-born as they become integral members of their new communities. In Utah, we meet educators who connect newly arrived Spanish-speaking students and U.S.-born English-speaking students, who share classrooms and learn in two languages. In North Carolina, we visit the nation's fastest-growing community-development credit union, serving immigrants and U.S.-born depositors and helping to lower borrowing thresholds and crime rates alike. In recent years, politicians in a handful of local communities and states have passed laws and regulations designed to make it easier to deport unauthorized immigrants or to make their lives so unpleasant that they'd just leave. The media's unrelenting focus on these ultimately self-defeating measures created the false impression that these politicians speak for most of America. They don't. *Integration Nation* movingly reminds us that we each have choices to make about how to think and act in the face of the rapid cultural transformation that has reshaped the United States. Giving voice to people who choose integration over exclusion, who opt for open-heartedness instead of fear, *Integration Nation* is a desperately needed road map for a nation still finding its way beyond anti-immigrant hysteria to higher ground.

Praise for *Integration Nation*: "This useful book provides models for civic organizations that want to tackle immigration challenges, and it paints a vivid picture of some real successes."—Publishers Weekly "[P]olished and concise... This book contains intriguing ideas and inspiration for anyone in an organization or local government office devoted to helping immigrant populations."—Library Journal "[P]resents in discrete essays an array of compelling and persuasive regional efforts across the country... From Indiana to Georgia to Maine, these intelligent model programs should inspire others."—Kirkus "Susan Eaton has done invaluable work in documenting the revitalization of communities across the U.S. by immigrants and refugees. . . . In her enthralling journalism we hear the voices of immigrant families, see the cruel folly of anti-immigrant hysteria, and learn in a very concrete way that the survival of migrant communities is connected to the survival of all of us."—David Bacon, author of *Illegal People* "Integration Nation . . . shows what many foreigners and Mexicans like myself know: that not everyone in the United States is Joe Arpaio; not every community is Arizona, Alabama, or Butler County in Ohio; not every conservative politician is Donald Trump. With specific and relevant examples, [Eaton] shows how imaginative solutions to age-old problems of integration—not assimilation—are being devised and implemented. A must-read."—Jorge Castañeda, Global Distinguished Professor of Politics and Latin American and Caribbean Studies, New York University "During a time when immigration policy continues to be a polarizing issue, *Integration Nation* shines a much needed light on the American towns and cities that thrive when immigrants and refugees are thoughtfully integrated into their fold."—Eva Millona, executive director, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition "Can a book be analytical and heartwarming at the same time? Apparently so, as in this remarkable volume Susan Eaton . . . points [out] that what is really at stake in places as different as Utah and Mississippi . . . is the very soul of the country. Firmly on the side of welcome, Eaton offers a series of deeply personal stories that offer a compelling vision of America . . . we can be proud of."—Manuel Pastor, director, University of Southern California Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration

Praise for Eaton's *The Children in Room E4*: "A graceful and fluent writer."—Publishers Weekly (starred review) "A spectacular accomplishment. A wonderful, complex, subtle, and intelligent work."—Jonathan Kozol "Susan Eaton brings a passion for justice, an eye for human detail, and the skill of a fine storyteller."—Adam Hochschild "Few journalists take on the work of exploring complex social problems by entering the lives of those affected by them. And fewer still are journalists who have the writerly knack of telling stories beautifully and compellingly while braiding together the many strands of information rigorous research imparts. But Eaton has it all: artistry, intelligence, authority, social concern, and soul. *The Children in Room E4* is our lucky gift."—Adrian Nicole LeBlanc "In *The Children in Room E4*, Eaton mobilizes her formidable talents to create a vivid and compelling account of struggles in Connecticut that are national in significance."—Randall Kennedy "A vivid and compelling book. To a subject of daunting complexity, Susan Eaton has brought a remarkable clarity of vision and also a deeply humane spirit, the kind of spirit that some, thank God, still struggle to bring to public education."—Tracy Kidder

Praise for Eaton's *The Other Boston Busing Story*: "Susan Eaton provides compelling new insights on both the short- and long-term effects of a desegregated school experience."—William Julius Wilson