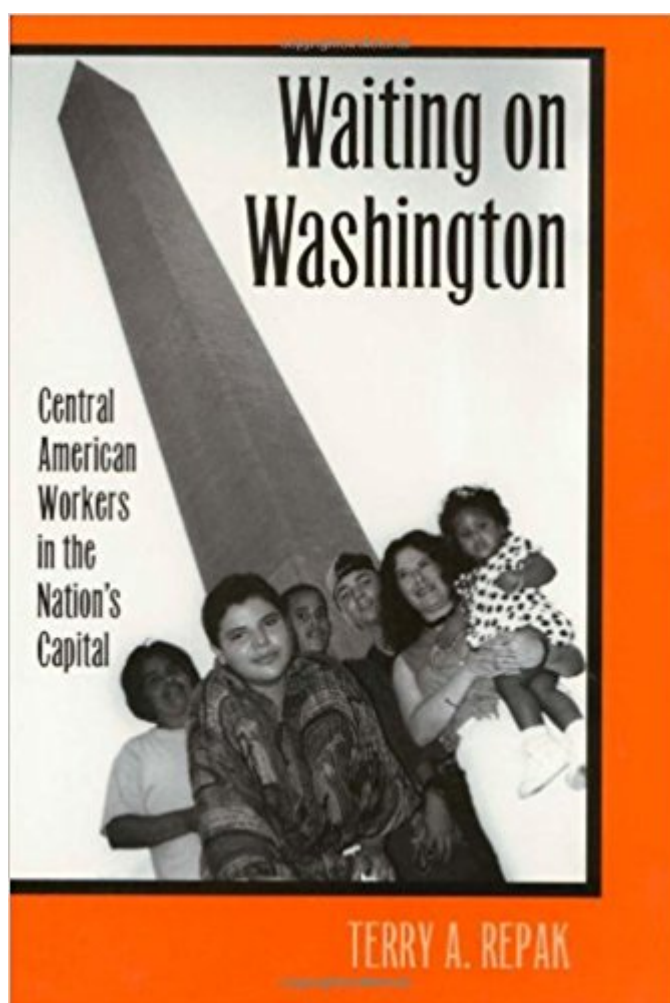


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Waiting On Washington: Central American Workers In The Nation's Capital



Synopsis

Featuring an analysis of immigration patterns in Washington DC, this book documents the predominance of women among Central American immigrants. It also plots the career trajectories of numerous Central American immigrant women and men to illustrate the array of women's responses.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Waiting on Washington provides not only a historical documentary of an important era in Washington's history, but proves to be an insightful guide into the nature of immigration to the United States." - Washington History "Dr. Repak's study is competent, clearly written and sensitive to theoretical and policy-related questions in the field of migration research. Her book will be of interest to students of gender for its special attention to the role of women in migration. I believe it will become a standard reference for a large interdisciplinary group of scholars whose interest range from migration to economic restructuring to gender and development." - M. Patricia Fernandez Kelly, The Johns Hopkins University "Terry Repak makes an important contribution to the immigration policy literature by exploring a new dimension of the causes and effects of migration flows. She...extends traditional migration models by differentiating male and female migrants. The resulting analysis is a novel look at the factors that motivate people to move across borders, as well as the ways in which those people impact their new societies." - Demetrios

Papademetriou, Director, International Migration Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

A comprehensive study highlighting gender differences in the forces that propel international migrations --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Repak draws the reader into an important background story to the immigration issues of today. Painting a vivid picture of Washington DC in the sixties and seventies, Repak examines the lives of Central American women who became nannies and housekeepers for government employees and diplomats. With a clear and engaging writing style, Repak expertly weaves together many strands of the women's stories, such as gender differences, immigration policy, and socio-economic patterns. Her insightful work is a valuable source for all readers interested in a significant, but little known, facet of the history of immigration. I highly recommend *Waiting on Washington* and will use Repak's work in my high school social studies classes.

"As a high school history teacher, I found this book to be very illuminating about the human side of immigration and it helped me present the subject to my students in a lively and interesting way. It gives an unique portrait of the challenges and inner strength required of brave women who moved great distances--to a different country with very different habits and another language--primarily for the benefit of their families. The book also shows the sacrifices that they had to make in their struggle for survival and the tedious climb up the social ladder that immigrants to the U.S. have been making for over a century."

I found this to be a fascinating study of how women from Central America started moving to the U.S. before men and started a big migration to the Washington area in that way. It may be dated, but it explains the reasons for the migration pattern so clearly that it's still important and relevant today, especially in light of the ongoing debates on immigration policy. It also provides a clear picture of Washington, D.C. in the 1970s and 1980s and why it was so attractive to immigrants when wars were raging in Central America. It's well-written too, which made it a pleasure to read.

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