We're told that borders protect us from outsiders. But the question is: How did they become outside in the first place? We are all joined in a single worldwide economy, in which resources are extracted from one country and sent to another, in which profits made in one country are housed in another. This isn't new—it's been going on since the colonization of the Americas.

So who is invading whom? The corporations that plunder the south, or the migrants who go north, following the resources and opportunities that have been taken away? If anyone has a right to cross these lands, isn't it the descendants of the peoples who lived here before European settlement?

There are a million undocumented people living in the United States today. They are essentially the functioning of the economy, without their cheap labor, agriculture and construction work would grind to a halt. Many of them have lived in the US for many years or decades. Of those who cross from Mexico without papers, fully half of them are deportees attempting to return to their families in the US.

The border is not intended to keep undocumented people out. The goal is to make sure that entering the United States without papers is dangerous, traumatizing, and expensive—but possible. The point of deportations is not to empty the US of undocumented people. It is to terrorize those who live in the US with the threat of deportation. Ultimately, this serves to maintain a caste system by blacklisting a captive population.

So long as a massive part of the US population lives in constant danger and without any rights, employers have access to a vast pool of disposable labor that is easy to exploit. This drives down wages for workers with US citizenship, too. But it's not undocumented immigrants who are "stealing their jobs"—it's the border itself.

Accusing migrants of stealing jobs from US citizens is blaming the victim. If everyone were accorded the same rights, if national boundaries did not artificially create impoverished populations in countries that are stripped of natural resources and treated as garbage dumps, migrant labor could not be undercut anyone else's job opportunities. Were it not for all the tactics used to harbor this structure— Hadrian's Wall, the Great Wall of China, the Berlin Wall. Now they're everywhere. The walls of the old days have gone viral, penetrating every level of society. Wall Street, the US-Mexico border is part of the same structure that imposes divisions throughout the entire world. These divisions take many forms. There are physical boundaries—the walls of detention centers, the fences of concrete and barbed wire, the permeators that enclose private campuses and gated communities. There are boundaries controlling the flow of information: security clearances, classified databases, internet firewalls that cordon off entire countries.

There are social boundaries—the privileges of citizenship, the databases, internet firewalls that cordon off entire countries. These divisions are predicated on ceaseless violence. For some, this means imprisonment, deportation, torture, solitary confinement, vigilante attacks, state-sanctioned murder. For others, it means police patrols, security checkpoints, traffic stops, background checks, street harassment, surveillance, bureaucracy, propaganda.

Borders don't just divide countries: they exist wherever people live in fear of immigration raids, wherever people have to accept lower wages because they have no documents. The world isn't just divided horizontally into different jurisdictions—it's divided socially into different systems of value, of access. The US-Mexico border is part of the same structure as the chain-link fence that keeps homeless people out of an empty parking lot and the price bracket that keeps day laborers from buying the "organic" option at the grocery store even if they were the ones who picked the vegetables.

The purpose of the border is not to regulate migration. It is to control communities on both sides of the wall. The border regime enables the authorities to force down wages, suppress dissent, and channel resentment towards those who have the least power in society rather than those who have the most.

The border does not divide one world from another. There is only one world, and the border is tearing it apart.