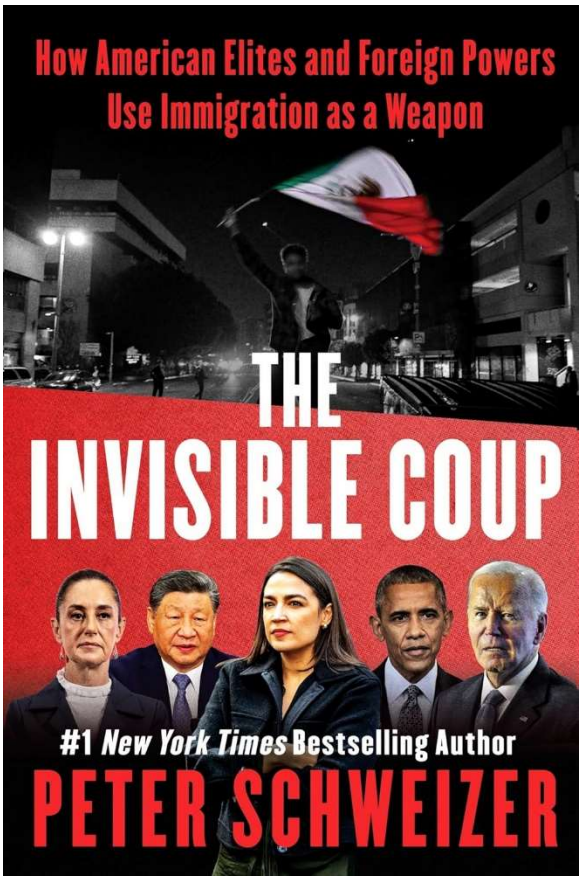
BOWLING GREEN DAILY NEWS

The invisible coup: foreign influence on American immigration

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"The Invisible Coup: How American Elites and Foreign Powers Use Immigration as a Weapon" by Peter Schweizer. New York, NY: Harper (an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers), 2026, 288 pages, $32.50 (hardcover).



"Tens of millions of immigrants, my parents included, have come to the United States, proud of their cultural heritage, but also proud to respect American laws, work hard, and adopt American values, culture, and language," Peter Schweizer observes at the beginning of "The Invisible Coup: How American Elites and Foreign Powers Use Immigration as a Weapon," his latest addition to a growing portfolio of conversative ideology and advocacy. "Many recent immigrants continue this honorable tradition."

"The problem is that foreign entities, both hostile and so-called friendly governments, as well as radical overseas movements and terrorist groups, are using the American tradition of welcoming immigrants against us to subvert our country," he continues. "They are aided and abetted by domestic forces who help them either because they share their goals or seek an expedient political benefit. Half a century ago, people immigrated here to seek the freedom and opportunity that only American could provide. Today, mass migration is increasingly engineered to promote malevolent agendas against the United States, including the creation of powerful political networks inside our country designed to undermine us."

Maybe. But I would counter that we are doing a pretty good job of undermining ourselves domestically, without the support of outside agents augmenting and accelerating the process.

Structurally, "The Invisible Coup" consists of an introduction followed by ten relatively well-constructed chapters that explore his thesis from a variety of angles - although it is obvious the evidence Schweizer presents is tenaciously designed to amplify the concerns he is raising while downplaying any competing narrative that does not fully support his primary contention: immigration is bad. Still, the manuscript is extensively and conscientiously researched, with 47 pages of source notes meticulously chosen to reinforce the notion that immigration, as defined within the context the author is using in this treatise, is essentially counterproductive.

Witness the following from "Voter Mills," the fourth chapter:

"The sweeping influx of illegal migrants into states like California and Nevada shifted the political balance in those states. With a more collectivist mindset, distinct from the more typical American view, migrants became a powerful tool to push left-wing political interests.

Progressives shared with all Democrats their belief that migrants could promote their political agenda."

And toward the end of the chapter:

"Many members of America's political class have played directly into the hands of America's enemies by choosing to use migrants for their partisan political benefit over national identity and security. That is especially problematic when you realize how mass migrations are not spontaneous acts of individual initiative, but organized events by hostile foreign powers."

To be fair, Schweizer does provide considerable food for thought, although he defines what it means to be an American, as well as what we should value as Americans, with in fairly narrow parameters that lean heavily toward the right. At the same time, liberals and progressives are as entitled to their view of what the future of our country should look like as are conservatives. An underlying theme is that the conservative view is the only viable view of what should characterize this country; heritage should determine destiny. For me, that is a bridge too far.

Schweizer has a bachelor's degree from George Washington University and a master's degree from Oxford University; he co-founded the Government Accountability Institute in 2012 with Steve Bannon. His previous nonfiction books include "Landmark Speeches of the American Conservative Movement," 2006; "The Reagan Presidency: Assessing the Man and His Legacy," 2005; and "The Fall of The Wall: Reassessing the Causes and Consequences of the End of the Cold War," in 2000. A frequent commentator on numerous radio and television programs, his articles have appeared in Foreign Affairs, The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, National Review, and elsewhere. He currently lives in Tallahassee, Florida with his wife, Rhonda, and their children.

"The title of this book suggests a political takeover, or coup, that is invisible," Schweizer asserts in "Fighting Back," the last chapter. "Its perpetrators would like to keep it so by framing the debate as whether or not American will be controlled by racist xenophobes. This frame not only vilifies anyone who questions mass migration and the subversive forces at work but sanctifies and provides a cloak of invisibility to those with ulterior political motivations, who vehemently support it."

Again, couching the debate as an "us vs. them," "right vs. wrong" argument is disingenuous in that the premise makes claims that are not held by all Americans. To reiterate, conservatives do not have a lock on that is means to be an American; that is up to each of us to decide for ourselves. I understand what Schweizer is doing, although I would have responded more favorably to his line of reasoning had I not felt personally attacked on virtually every page because I did not accept his overarching assumptions.

"The Invisible Coup" concludes with eight specific recommendations that the author feels constitute the necessary course correction to save us from the ever-increasing probability that immigration will lead to our collective downfall. I'll leave it to you to determine the legitimacy of these proposed actions.

The bottom line is that I don't regret reading the book. I learned a few things. Moreover, it is always enlightening to see where those whose perspectives don't align with your own are coming from. Check it out if you are interested in the ongoing debate about immigration.

Reviewed by Aaron W. Hughey, University Distinguished Professor, Department of Counseling and Student Affairs, WKU.