



Suketu Mehta

Topics

Activism and Social Justice, Best Selling and Award Winning Authors, Immigration, Inspirational Speakers, Journalism

Travels From

New York

Bio

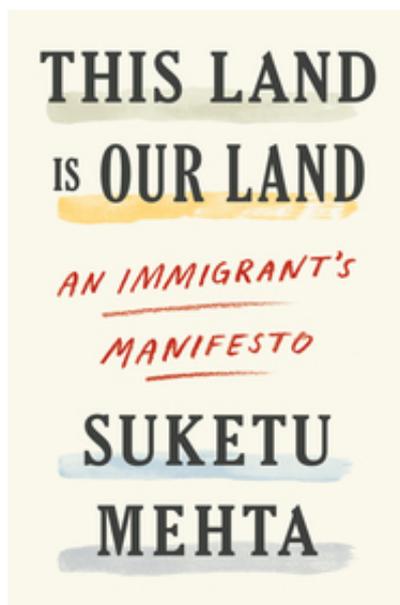
Suketu Mehta was born in Calcutta and raised in Bombay and moved to New York when he was fourteen. He focuses on global migration inspired from personal experience as an immigrant in his acclaimed book *This Land is Our Land* - named by *The Times* as one of the 100 Must-Read Books of 2019 and one of the 10 Best Nonfiction Books of 2019. He argues for the ways in which immigrants enable communities and countries to flourish. He engages audiences with his story and those of many others who have shaped the writing of his book and the changing communities all over the world. He is a graduate of New York University and the Iowa Writers' Workshop and is now an Associate Professor of Journalism at New York University. He has won the Whiting Writers' Award, the O. Henry Prize, and a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship for his fiction. Suketu's highly-acclaimed *Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found* paints a portrait of Bombay, India, and the everyday life of its people and has won the Kiriyama Prize and the Hutch Crossword Award. It was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer

Prize, the Lettre Ulysses Prize, the BBC4 Samuel Johnson Prize, and the Guardian First Book Award. His second book, *This Land Is Our Land*, has been called by *The New York Times* as "well argued, cathartic, and abundantly sourced" and offering a "meticulously researched and deeply felt corrective to the public narrative of who today's migrants are, why they are coming, and what economic and historical forces have propelled them from their homes into faraway lands." It explores the discussion and controversy of immigration and is a timely intervention that argues for the need for immigration. Suketu is currently working on a nonfiction book about immigrants in contemporary New York, for which he was awarded a Guggenheim fellowship. His work and articles have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Granta*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Time*, and *Newsweek*, and has been featured on NPR's *Fresh Air* and *All Things Considered*. He has also written original screenplays for films, including *New York, I Love You*.

SPEECHES

This Land Is Our Land "A timely argument for why the United States and the West would benefit from accepting more immigrants," renowned author Suketu Mehta attacks the issue of immigration head-on. Drawing on his own experience as an Indian-born teenager growing up in New York City and on years of reporting around the world, Suketu subjects the worldwide anti-immigrant backlash to withering scrutiny. Suketu demonstrates that immigrants bring great benefits, enabling countries and communities to flourish.

BOOKS



HARDCOVER

[This Land Is Our Land](#) An Immigrant's Manifesto

Farrar, Straus & Giroux

Hailed as "a timely argument for why the United States and the West would benefit from accepting more immigrants." There are few subjects in American life that prompt more discussion and controversy than immigration. But do we really understand it? In *This Land Is Our Land*, the renowned author Suketu Mehta attacks the issue head-on. Drawing on his own experience as an Indian-born teenager growing up in New York City and on years of reporting around the world, Mehta subjects the worldwide anti-immigrant backlash to withering scrutiny. When today's immigrants are asked, "Why are you here?" they can justly respond, "We are here because you were there." And now that they are here, as Mehta demonstrates, immigrants bring great benefits, enabling countries and communities to flourish. Impassioned, rigorous, and richly stocked with memorable stories and characters, *This Land Is Our Land* is a timely and necessary intervention and a literary polemic of the highest order.

REVIEWS: Praise for *This Land Is Our Land* "In an age of brutal anti-immigrant rhetoric and policy, *This Land is Our Land* offers a meticulously researched and deeply felt corrective to the public narrative of who today's migrants are, why they are coming, and what economic and historical forces have propelled them from their homes into faraway lands. We are, and always have been, a planet on the move, Mehta observes. *This Land Is Our Land* reads like an impassioned survey course on migration, laying bare the origins of mass migration in searing clarity."

—*The New York Times*

"A withering rebuke to the anti-immigration rhetoric that has arisen in global politics in recent years. Mehta dismantles the narratives of populist ideologues in a fierce defense of global immigration."

—*Time* on "32 Books You Need to Read This Summer"

"An urgent and impassioned call for why countries should accept more migrants. As the country heads into the 2020 presidential election, Mehta's moving, cogent book can help us find a way forward."

—*The San Francisco Chronicle*

“Written ‘in sorrow and anger,’ this is a brilliant and urgently necessary book, eloquently making the case against bigotry and for all of us migrants — what we are not, who we are, and why we deserve to be welcomed, not feared.”

—Salman Rushdie

“The must-read book for 2019. Suketu Mehta is one of our finest thinkers and writers on the subject of immigration. What begins as a journey that mixes just the right amount of humor, anger and bewilderment at the state of our nation, ends up with a surprising double-shot of hope. This is the rare book that is pragmatic and unsentimental, and yet oddly uplifting.”

—Gary Shteyngart, author of *Super Sad True Love Story* and *Lake Success*

“Mehta has written a compassionate and powerful plea on behalf of migrants that also reveals the deep forces that propel them on their journeys. He exposes the demeaning ways that migrants are treated around the world, and the very human aspirations that may lead them to accept this dehumanization. In so doing, he gives us a searing indictment of those like Donald Trump who do so much to make their plight even worse.”

—Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate in Economics

“A powerful, passionate, angry, and hopeful cry for sanity and justice by one of our finest writers. Mehta’s heart-felt book is a much-needed and potent antidote to the anti-migrant rhetoric that has grown so threateningly loud of late. Let them come!”

—Mohsin Hamid, author of *Exit West* and *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*

“Suketu Mehta has written a burning indictment of anti-immigrant hypocrisy, and an affirmation of hope in the real America — the America where we treat each other as human beings with a common future, and not a faceless problem to be solved by walls and barbed wire. Rousing and immensely readable, it is an anthem for all of us.”

—Jhumpa Lahiri, author of *The Lowland*