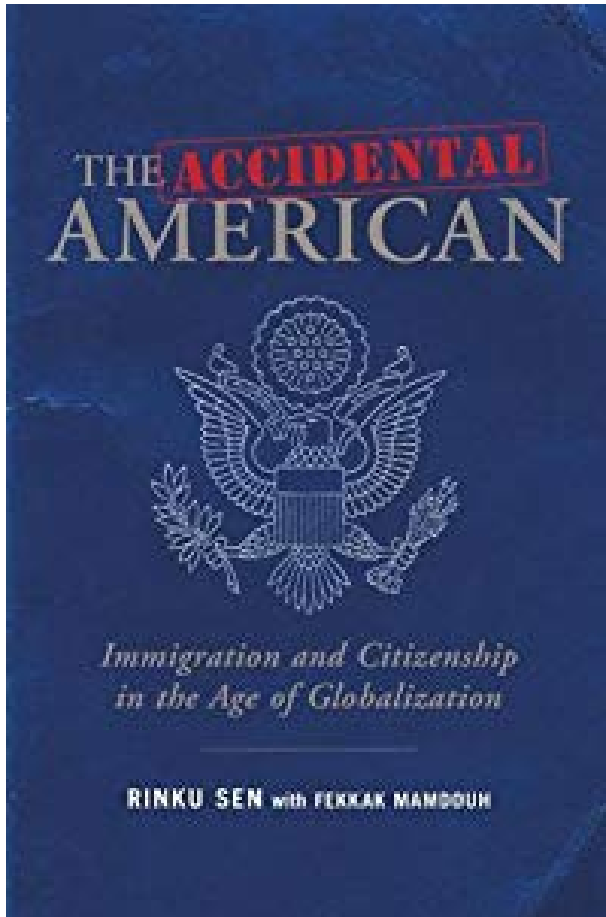


# The Accidental American: Immigration and Citizenship in the Age of Globalization



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<b>ISBN10:</b>	1576754383
<b>Goodreads Rating:</b>	4.03
<b>Published:</b>	September 1st 2008 by Berrett-Koehler Publishers
<b>Genre:</b>	Politics
<b>ISBN13:</b>	9781576754382
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Pages:</b>	248

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The Accidental American vividly illustrates the challenges and contradictions of U. S. immigration policy, and argues that, just as there is a free flow of capital in the world economy, there should be a free flow of labor. Author Rinku Sen alternates chapters telling the story of one "accidental American"--coauthor Fekak Mamdouh, a Moroccan-born waiter at a restaurant in the World Trade Center whose life was thrown into turmoil on 9/11--with a thorough critique of current immigration policy. Sen and Mamdouh describe how members of the largely immigrant food industry workforce managed to overcome divisions in the aftermath of 9/11 and form the Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York (ROC-NY) to fight for jobs and more equitable treatment. This extraordinary story serves to illuminate the racial, cultural, and economic conflicts embedded in the current immigration debate and helps frame the argument for a more humane immigration and global labor system.