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Sommario/riassunto

The era of globalization has produced significant changes in the borderland issues of trade, security, economics, health, and even the environment. While borders may seem more permeable than they once were, can it really be said that we live in a "borderless world"? Holding the Line considers the changing roles of modern borders, contending that they not only remain relevant but also have become increasingly important as a site for negotiating the competing demands of globalization and national sovereignty. Exploring contemporary borders from a broad range of perspectives -- legal, environmental, sociological, economic, geopolitical, and historical -- and using examples from various regions in Europe, North America, Southeast Asia, and Latin America, the contributors use a holistic approach to understand the impact of boundaries on both society and space. They demonstrate that any attempt to create a methodological and conceptual framework for the understanding of boundaries must be concerned with the process of bounding, rather than simply the means through which physical lines of separation are delimited and demarcated. Borders, they conclude, are as much metaphors as they are realities.
