

## Reading Guide for *The Age of Walls* by Tim Marshall Conclusion

“After centuries of bloodshed, imperialism, and many other ills, the Western democracies are now underpinned by a shared belief in democracy, gender equality, freedom of religion, and freedom of speech....What the majority of people want is for those coming to their communities to share their values.” --p. 255

*In these final pages, Tim Marshall offers his final thoughts on the factors driving nations to build walls. He cites places like the island of Cyprus, Israel & Gaza, noting that in those cases a wall is better than violence and death. And he discusses the consequences of an “open borders” idea, suggesting the negative consequences that mass migrations would outweigh the positive benefits. He goes on to discuss the idea of nation-states, which, though clearly flawed, is our reality, noting that much progress has been made since World War II.*

*He makes several suggestions for addressing the mass migrations of peoples from poor countries to wealthier ones, including a “twenty-first century **Marshall Plan**” that would include “development, infrastructure, trade, education, health, and climate change. He notes that immigration at a sustainable is, on balance, a good thing economically and socially. Importantly, he argues that Westerners “want to preserve the underlying values of their culture.”*

<p>*The <b>Marshall Plan</b> (officially the European Recovery Program, ERP) was an American initiative passed in 1948 to aid Western Europe, in which the United States gave over \$12 billion (nearly \$100 billion in 2018 US dollars) in economic assistance to help rebuild Western European economies after the end of World War II.</p>
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p. 255 “We need to find a way for newcomers to join the host community, not seek to undermine its values...[and] in this two-way relationship, it is also the host’s responsibility to make the guest welcome.”

p. 256 “Although at present nationalism and identity politics are once again on the rise, the arc of history has the potential to bend back toward unity.”