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Isaac Stanley-Becker. Europe without Borders: A History

In *Europe without Borders: A History*, Isaac Stanley-Becker sets out to reframe the history of the Schengen Agreement as a foundational moment in European integration. According to the author, Schengen marked a departure from the market-oriented logic of the Treaty of Rome and reconnected with a humanistic paradigm of cross-border mobility rooted in personal liberty, rights, and cosmopolitan ideals. Stanley-Becker's central claim is that Schengen redefined the freedom of movement in Europe by classifying its bearers not merely as workers but as persons, thereby elevating mobility to a symbol of democratic citizenship.

This account ultimately founders on serious conceptual, empirical, and historiographical grounds. The book conflates distinct legal and political categories, misrepresents the chronology and substance of European mobility law, and bypasses the very scholarship it purports to supersede. Though elegantly written and occasionally insightful, *Europe without Borders* offers a misleading portrait of a well-studied subject and fails to deliver the archival and analytical rigor expected in a scholarly monograph.