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INTRODUCTION

American citizens living outside U.S. borders have many obligations to their motherland. They are required to file taxes and deal with additional reporting requirements that citizens living on American soil don't face. Non-compliance with reporting can have severe financial consequences.

If you are considering an "offshore" lifestyle or have already left America's shores, this book is for you.

As a financial adviser specializing in "cross border" clients, I watch many Americans:

- Get lost in the taxation filing requirements of multiple tax authorities,
- Make mistakes out of ignorance that are considered criminal by Uncle Sam,
- Miss out on common investment choices, such as mutual funds, simply due to their address,
- Not realize that they have to file tax returns because their parents were U.S. citizens.
- Not receive money due to them from inheritances or other transfers because the brokerage firms would not accept foreign signature guarantees,
- Be denied insurance coverage,
- Obscure where they've chosen to live in order to have a bank account, and more.

Many Americans who have set up their homes in another country often don't know the rules and regulations that apply to them.

This book represents an important sampling of the facts that every expatriate American needs to know. These pages contain tax and legal

commentary from international experts, as well as investment questions and answers.

The content of this book is informational only. Be in touch with me or any of *The Guide's* contributors if you have any specific questions about your situation.

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Disclaimer: Your individual financial, tax, and citizenship situation is unique, and you must consult with relevant experts to get specific advice. This book contains basic concepts, and is not a complete discussion of the topic. The opinions expressed herein are subject to change without notice. The information herein is correct as of January 2013, but tax and reporting codes are liable to change.