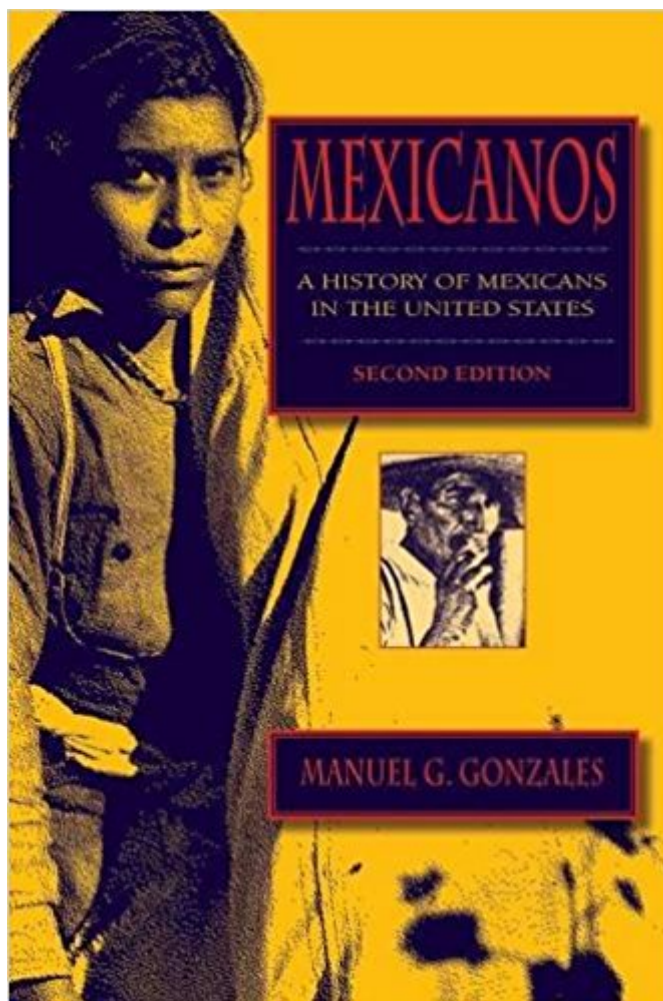


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Mexicanos, Second Edition: A History Of Mexicans In The United States



Synopsis

Newly revised and updated, *Mexicanos* tells the rich and vibrant story of Mexicans in the United States. Emerging from the ruins of Aztec civilization and from centuries of Spanish contact with indigenous people, Mexican culture followed the Spanish colonial frontier northward and put its distinctive mark on what became the southwestern United States. Shaped by their Indian and Spanish ancestors, deeply influenced by Catholicism, and tempered by an often difficult existence, Mexicans continue to play an important role in U.S. society, even as the dominant Anglo culture strives to assimilate them. Thorough and balanced, *Mexicanos* makes a valuable contribution to the understanding of the Mexican population of the United States—a growing minority who are a vital presence in 21st-century America.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Exhaustive and destined for controversy, this survey of the historical literature about Mexicans in what has become the United States is also a critique of the Chicano studies field. A specialist in the American Southwest and currently a professor of history at Diablo Valley College, Gonzales (*The Hispanic Elite of the Southwest*) aims to balance what he views as the prevailing liberal, "good guys versus bad guys" bias that is the legacy of the activists who pioneered the field in the late 1960s. His pugnacious approach sometimes creates a hybrid of straight history and diatribe, most evident when he brandishes verbal sabers at his colleagues, although his argument about the shortcomings of the existing scholarship is largely persuasive. In Gonzales's view, too much of the literature focuses on the historical life of the American Southwest, with Mexico as an almost mythical

backdrop to a timeline that ends in the 1970s. In particular, his discussions of WWII and its aftermath, including the migratory surge to the industrial Midwest and the Pacific Northwest, and the successes and misfortunes of the 1990s, help create a more three-dimensional panorama.

Gonzales makes an effort to include many lesser-known figures; he also emphasizes the role of Mexicanas. In the end, Gonzales brings a bracing perspective to this epic story. The lack of maps, however, is unfortunate. 20 b&w photos. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gonzales, a history professor at Diablo State College, anticipates controversy over his new survey of Mexican American history. Over the past generation, that history has to a large extent been told from the perspective of the Chicano movement, with an emphasis on victimization and resistance. Gonzales aims for greater "objectivity," e.g., he believes that the "Indian and the Spanish are equally important in explaining the rise of Mexican culture," and he seeks to balance accomplishments and oppression. One consequence of this approach is that Gonzales gives more credit to the more conservative groups within the Mexican American community than some activist-scholars would. The other primary purpose of Gonzales' overview is to take advantage of significant new scholarship on a variety of subjects over the past two decades; he incorporates that material gracefully in his narrative of more than two centuries of Mexican American history. Appropriate for libraries serving Chicanos and where interest in ethnic studies is strong. Mary Carroll --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The book was required for a History Class. I would have never read it by myself especially because it has a slow pace to it and never gets exciting. Offers great details about the Mexican and Latino migration and lives before the 20th century, but I would not recommend it as a fun read.

Eh, don't get me wrong, I learned a lot from this book, and there are some great ideas and stories in here. However, I feel that it does not do well enough at connecting influences to effects. It's hard to explain, but basically, it describes many things that happened to Mexicanos in the South-west of the U.S., but does not discuss the global, or even national, influences on these events and happenings. To provide a simplistic example, "Anglos from the former confederate states migrated west, and brought with them racial intolerance." And that's it. Nothing about why they went west, nothing about them going to Mexico to fight for Maximilian, nothing about former Unionists... See what I mean? It's like the whole history of Mexicanos is taken out of context.

Loved this book. I read it for a course.

Good read

I purchased this as a reference book for my History of California class. Very good information.

very good item

Great price for a text book needed for a class. Loved the class and the book was easy reading and informative

This book is an interesting read, highly recommend it.

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