Latinos in the U.S. Bibliography


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This collection of essays discusses Latin American migrations to what Allegro and Wood call “the U.S. Heartland,” the states of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Missouri, and Arkansas. These areas have not received the high number of immigrants that the coastal areas or major metropolitan areas of the Midwest, but in terms of population percentages, these predominantly rural areas have experienced dramatic demographic change. The second chapter examines the contributions of Mexican and Mexican American migrant workers to the area that hosted the first sugar factory in the region in Scottsbluff Nebraska. Tisa Anders supplements her primary source documents with oral histories, which demonstrate that Mexican Americans quickly became the majority group recruited for work in the fields. In Chapter three, Errol Jones shows how a conservative community in Idaho was transformed by progressive church members working with and for the needs of increasing numbers of Catholic Mexican immigrants. In chapter four, Sandy Smith-Nonini describes how North Carolina delegated the right to recruit international labor to private brokers representing planters under a guest worker program ostensibly set up to mitigate abuse but that resulted in workers being extorted for high fees and suffering other abuses. Linda Allegro argues in chapter five that racism underlies the anti-immigrant bill HB 1804 in Oklahoma. By imposing harsh penalties on immigrants while implementing lax oversight on employers, the bill has given employers further ability to exploit workers through threatening to report them to ICE. Other chapters examine the effects of similar anti-immigrant legislation in Kansas and Pennsylvania. The final two chapters examine how demographic change has led to cultural and economic change in the U.S. Heartland.


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This book discusses the development of the citrus agricultural business in Corona, California from the 1880s into the 1960s. Alamillo explores the dynamics of social and economic hardship among the Mexican migrant community in relation to their Anglo-American counterparts, the discrimination experienced in housing, schools, and ethnic differences, and how these were combated in a unified struggle for change.

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This book has two audiences in mind: undergraduate students in survey courses on Mexican American or Latino history and a general audience looking for a less activist or more “objective” approach to the history of Mexicans in the United States. The book is a tertiary text; it uses secondary literature to provide a narrative of Mexican experience in the U.S. and analysis of this
experience. The book is organized chronologically and politically: there are chapters on Native American and Spanish encounter to 1521; the Spanish Frontier, 1521-1821; the Mexican Far North, 1821-1848; the American Southwest, 1848-1900; the Great Migration, 1900-1930; The Depression, 1930-1940; The Second World War and its Aftermath, 1940-1965; The Chicano Movement, 1965-1975; and Pain and Promise, 1975-1998. The book makes cursory reference to areas outside the American Southwest, but this area is the author’s focus. The author frequently draws comparisons between the work of early Chicano scholar-activists and the scholarship of a new generation of revisionist academics who he believes have better separated their activism from their research program. This is a good general reference for information on the most important themes in the history of Mexicans in the American Southwest, including the Mexican-American War, the exclusion of Mexicans from the California gold rush, the bracero program, the Chicano movement, and U.S. immigration policy.


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