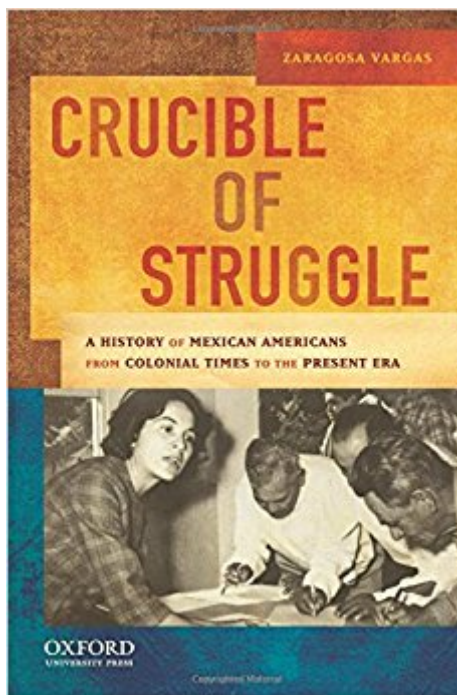


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# Crucible Of Struggle: A History Of Mexican Americans From The Colonial Period To The Present Era (AAR Aids For The Study Of Religion Series)



## Synopsis

Latinos in the U.S. are a major political, economic, and cultural force which is changing the national identity of this country. In fact, statistics show that by the year 2100, half of the United States population may be Latino. And two of every three of America's Latinos are Mexican. Mexicans are the oldest settlers of the United States, and they are also the nation's largest group of recent immigrant arrivals. Their population is increasing faster than that of all other Latino groups combined. The growing importance of this minority group, which will be felt strongly in twenty-first century America, calls for a fresh assessment of Mexican American history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I teach a course in Chicano History every year, and have for twenty years now...A text or synthesis is utterly essential, now more than ever...I think that the prospectus is reflective and thoughtful about current research...the content and coverage are appropriate...Professor Vargas' writing is...more accessible than many others, less burdened with jargon or miscellaneous details...I would use this book and I would urge colleagues to do the same. I concur [with Vargas] that the leading extant Mexican American history textbooks are deficient in one or more serious ways. There is ample room for "another one volume overview of Mexican American history..".I am convinced that Vargas' writing is accessible to undergraduates; he most certainly writes clearly and interestingly...I would adopt the textbook that Vargas is proposing. I know he is an excellent historian. Already a leading

scholar of Chicano labor history, Vargas ranks among the most prominent practitioners of "An excellent survey of Mexican American history from colonial times to the present. . . Focused mainly on the structural forces that have shaped socio-economic conditions of Mexicans in the U. S., Crucible of Struggle is sure to quickly replace the canonic texts now available for teaching Mexican American history."--Ramon A. Gutierrez, University of Chicago "An impressive achievement--in one grand sweep, Vargas covers Mexican American history from Spanish settlement to the present day, taking the first 300 years as seriously as the last one hundred."--Sarah Deutsch, Duke University "Crucible of Struggle is an exciting new history of Mexican Americans from the Spanish colonial period to the Latino present. Based on the latest and best scholarly research, this prodigious work goes into greater depth than previous surveys on generally unknown subjects, such as Mexican American heroism in armed conflicts from the Civil War through World War II."--John Chavez, Southern Methodist University " "An excellent survey of Mexican American history from colonial times to the present. . . Focused mainly on the structural forces that have shaped socio-economic conditions of Mexicans in the U. S., Crucible of Struggle is sure to quickly replace the canonic texts now available for teaching Mexican American history."--Ramon A. Gutierrez, University of Chicago "An impressive achievement--in one grand sweep, Vargas covers Mexican American history from Spanish settlement to the present day, taking the first 300 years as seriously as the last one hundred."--Sarah Deutsch, Duke University "Crucible of Struggle is an exciting new history of Mexican Americans from the Spanish colonial period to the Latino present. Based on the latest and best scholarly research, this prodigious work goes into greater depth than previous surveys on generally unknown subjects, such as Mexican American heroism in armed conflicts from the Civil War through World War II."--John Chavez, Southern Methodist University "

Distinguished Professor of History, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Crucible converged two schools of thought that Arthur Corwin called "establishment schools" and "experimental colleges." The former was associated to Mexican American history while the latter was linked to Chicano studies. Following "La Raza appraisal," Vargas briefly covered colonial regional then combined this approach with the "establishment appraisal" to outline Mexican American Southwestern history in the first half of the book. The second half of the book discussed the continued struggle of Mexican Americans with Anglo Americans in the United States in the twentieth century and the many underlying themes that

brought them into contact such as class, ethnic, economic, and political differences. Vargas was able to address many of the concerns Corwin discussed in his article and expanded on the historiography that Gutierrez discussed as Crucible made the Mexican American struggle significant to general American history. Though I would have liked to see more works used referencing Sanchez's Forgotten People, Cynthia Raddings's Wandering Peoples, or Vicki Ruiz's Cannery Women, Cannery Lives, the work was an excellent survey of Mexican Americans in the Southwest and the political development of their political, cultural, and economic identity.

Good

Well done and researched.

prepare to change your mind about everything you have learned. this book is not for down time reading. it is for taking stock of self and realizing the potential for humans to be utterly inhumane to each other. after reading several other books, just mercy, slavery by another name, zealot, and, in the hands of the great spirit, the 20,000 year history of American Indians, I had to stop reading this one. my mind is too full of heartbreak at what we do and have done to each other. if it is your first foray into the reality of how people treat people you may find you wish you were a bumble bee instead of a human. I do suggest starting with zealot as so much of the human abuse is in the name of religion, greed and avarice. I started this reading quest with the idea that I could figure out the hatred and intolerance of today's society. I am more lost than ever. I still have to read the rest of empire of the summer moon. got 6 pages in and was in tears.

my professor required two books for my chican@ latin@ class. this one and another one. this book was my favorite one.

Great book!

A must to read if you want to know about history

Thank you Great Read!

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