

Mexican Americans & World War II



Edited by Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez

Mexican Americans And World War II

Esther Bonilla Read



Mexican Americans And World War II:

World War II and Mexican American Civil Rights Richard Griswold del Castillo, 2010-01-01 This historical study examines how Mexican American experiences during WWII galvanized the community's struggle for civil rights World War II marked a turning point for Mexican Americans that fundamentally changed their relationship to US society at large The experiences of fighting alongside white Americans in the military as well as working in factory jobs for wages equal to those of Anglo workers made Mexican Americans less willing to tolerate the second class citizenship that had been their lot before the war Having proven their loyalty and Americanness during World War II Mexican Americans began to demand the civil rights they deserved In this book Richard Griswold del Castillo and Richard Steele investigate how the wartime experiences of Mexican Americans helped forge their civil rights consciousness and how the US government responded The authors demonstrate for example that the US government discovered Mexican Americans during World War II and began addressing some of their problems as a way of ensuring their willingness to support the war effort The book concludes with a selection of key essays and historical documents from the World War II period that provide a first person perspective of Mexican American civil rights struggles

Beyond the Latino World War II Hero Maggie Rivas-Rodríguez, Emilio Zamora, 2022-02-24 Maggie Rivas Rodríguez's edited volume Mexican Americans World War II brought pivotal stories from the shadows contributing to the growing acknowledgment of Mexican American patriotism as a meaningful force within the Greatest Generation In this latest anthology Rivas Rodríguez and historian Emilio Zamora team up with scholars from various disciplines to add new insights Beyond the Latino World War II Hero focuses on home front issues and government relations delving into new arenas of research and incorporating stirring oral histories These recollections highlight realities such as post traumatic stress disorder and its effects on veterans families as well as Mexican American women of this era whose fighting spirit inspired their daughters to participate in Chicana o activism of the 1960s and 1970s Other topics include the importance of radio as a powerful medium during the war and postwar periods the participation of Mexican nationals in World War II and intergovernmental negotiations involving Mexico and Puerto Rico Addressing the complexity of the Latino war experience such as the tandem between the frontline and the disruption of the agricultural migrant stream on the home front the authors and contributors unite diverse perspectives to harness the rich resources of an invaluable oral history

Mexican Americans and World War II Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, 2005-04-01 A valuable book and the first significant scholarship on Mexican Americans in World War II Up to 750 000 Mexican American men served in World War II earning more Medals of Honor and other decorations in proportion to their numbers than any other ethnic group

After the Blessing Esther Bonilla Read, 2022-02-08 This lieutenant gets up there and says American soldiers don't huddle and put their hands in their pockets on a cold day They stand at attention there was a buzz in Spanish Hey they called us Americans Armando Flores Army Air Corps Many Catholic families blessed their children before they left home After the Blessing tells the stories of

many young Mexican Americans who left home to fight for their country During the Mexican Revolution 1910 1920 many families fled Mexico to prevent their underage sons from being forced to fight Ironically the offspring of these immigrants often ended up across the ocean in a much larger war Despite the bias and mistreatment most Mexican Americans faced in the US some 500 000 fought bravely for their country during World War II Their stories range from hair raising accounts of the Battle of the Bulge to gut wrenching testimony about cannibalism in the Pacific In After the Blessing Mexican Americans reveal their experiences in combat during WWII stories that have rarely been told Fighting for a Place at Home: Mexican Americans in World War II Pasquale De Marco,2025-05-21 In the annals of American history the contributions of Mexican Americans during World War II often go unrecognized This book seeks to shed light on their remarkable stories of courage resilience and unwavering patriotism From the sun baked fields of Texas to the bustling streets of Los Angeles Mexican Americans answered the call to arms with unwavering determination They left behind their homes their families and their livelihoods to fight for a cause they believed in a cause that promised freedom equality and a chance to prove their loyalty to the land they called home Their journey was not without obstacles They faced discrimination prejudice and segregation both on the battlefield and on the home front Yet they persevered driven by an unwavering sense of duty and a deep love for their country As Mexican American soldiers stepped onto the battlefields of Europe and the Pacific they carried with them the hopes and dreams of their communities They fought alongside their fellow countrymen earning a reputation for bravery and tenacity They stormed beaches liberated towns and endured unimaginable hardships all while proving their mettle as soldiers Their valor was recognized with numerous medals and accolades including the Medal of Honor the nation s highest military decoration Beyond the battlefields Mexican Americans also made significant contributions to the war effort on the home front Women took on new roles in factories and shipyards while men labored in fields and mines They worked tirelessly to produce the weapons supplies and food that sustained the war effort Their contributions were essential to the Allied victory yet they often went unrecognized and undervalued The war also served as a catalyst for change within Mexican American communities As Mexican Americans served their country with distinction they began to demand equal treatment and recognition They fought for their rights both on and off the battlefield challenging discrimination and segregation Their efforts laid the foundation for the civil rights movement that would sweep the nation in the years to come This book brings together the stories of these unsung heroes shedding light on their sacrifices and their unwavering commitment to their country It is a testament to their courage resilience and unwavering patriotism If you like this book write a review on google books **The Impact of the Second World War on Mexican Americans in the Southwest** Monique Bre,2007-12 Seminar paper from the year 2004 in the subject American Studies Culture and Applied Geography grade 2 0 Dresden Technical University Institut Amerikanistik course Latinos as in the U S 8 entries in the bibliography language English abstract The United States are a nation of immigrants Mexican Americans are part of this country and make up about

thirteen million people of Mexican descent these days This minority group is the second largest ethnic group in the U S Mexican American M 3 5 Since the U S is a nation of immigrants frictions and conflicts between the different nationalities have never been avoidable in history and will not be in the future Throughout this paper the issue of racism and discrimination will always appear and be discussed because I think this is a burning issue which exists still today in the U S society In this seminar paper I am going to analyze the influence of the Second World War on Mexican Americans in the southwest I chose this topic because the Second World War had an important impact on the people living in the United States and marked a turning point in the lives of the Mexican American population I will focus on Mexican American soldiers and their experiences they gained in the war and after their service Furthermore I am going to examine how Mexican Americans contributed to the war effort and if this had changed anything on their acceptance and acknowledgement among the Anglo society While thousands of Mexican American soldiers were fighting in the war their families back home in the southwest gained different experiences With the help of two incidents that happened during the war years in the southwest of the United States I want to show in what way Mexican Americans had to suffer unjust treatment and prejudice of the white population I will also take into consideration the various changes in the labor force as well as the reactions of Mexican Americans towards discrimination

The main source **The impact of the Second World War on Mexican Americans in the Southwest** Monique Bre, 2005-10-14 Seminar paper from the year 2004 in the subject American Studies Culture and Applied Geography grade 2 0 Dresden Technical University Institut Amerikanistik course Latinos as in the U S language English abstract The United States are a nation of immigrants Mexican Americans are part of this country and make up about thirteen million people of Mexican descent these days This minority group is the second largest ethnic group in the U S Mexican American M 3 5 Since the U S is a nation of immigrants frictions and conflicts between the different nationalities have never been avoidable in history and will not be in the future Throughout this paper the issue of racism and discrimination will always appear and be discussed because I think this is a burning issue which exists still today in the U S society In this seminar paper I am going to analyze the influence of the Second World War on Mexican Americans in the southwest I chose this topic because the Second World War had an important impact on the people living in the United States and marked a turning point in the lives of the Mexican American population I will focus on Mexican American soldiers and their experiences they gained in the war and after their service Furthermore I am going to examine how Mexican Americans contributed to the war effort and if this had changed anything on their acceptance and acknowledgement among the Anglo society While thousands of Mexican American soldiers were fighting in the war their families back home in the southwest gained different experiences With the help of two incidents that happened during the war years in the southwest of the United States I want to show in what way Mexican Americans had to suffer unjust treatment and prejudice of the white population I will also take into consideration the various changes in the labor force as well as the reactions of Mexican

Americans towards discrimination The main sources of the paper where I based my knowledge on and where I received the information necessary to provide a good overview of the situation during the war years are Meier's and Ribera's books *Mexican Americans* *American Mexicans* and *Readings on La Raza* which offered a detailed and critical description of Mexican Americans living in the United States At the end of this paper the reader should have gained an impression on the difficult times of the war period for Mexican Americans an ethnic minority who always had to fight for acknowledgement and their civil rights

World War II and Mexican American Civil Rights Richard Griswold del Castillo, 2022-02-24 This historical study examines how Mexican American experiences during WWII galvanized the community's struggle for civil rights World War II marked a turning point for Mexican Americans that fundamentally changed their relationship to US society at large The experiences of fighting alongside white Americans in the military as well as working in factory jobs for wages equal to those of Anglo workers made Mexican Americans less willing to tolerate the second class citizenship that had been their lot before the war Having proven their loyalty and Americanness during World War II Mexican Americans began to demand the civil rights they deserved In this book Richard Griswold del Castillo and Richard Steele investigate how the wartime experiences of Mexican Americans helped forge their civil rights consciousness and how the US government responded The authors demonstrate for example that the US government discovered Mexican Americans during World War II and began addressing some of their problems as a way of ensuring their willingness to support the war effort The book concludes with a selection of key essays and historical documents from the World War II period that provide a first person perspective of Mexican American civil rights struggles

Among the Valiant Raul Morin, 2002 *Among the Valiant* Raul Morin, 2016-11-11 First published in 1963 this book by Raul Morin who served in the 79th Infantry Division of the US Army was the first book to chronicle in detail the heroics of the Mexican American soldier during World War II and Korea It also provides information about the Chicano Medal of Honor recipients during these wars The book is a tribute to all American fighting men be they white red black yellow or brown We feel just as proud of the Colin Kellys the Dobbie Millers and the Sadio Munemoris as we are of the Martinez Garcias and Rodriguez

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