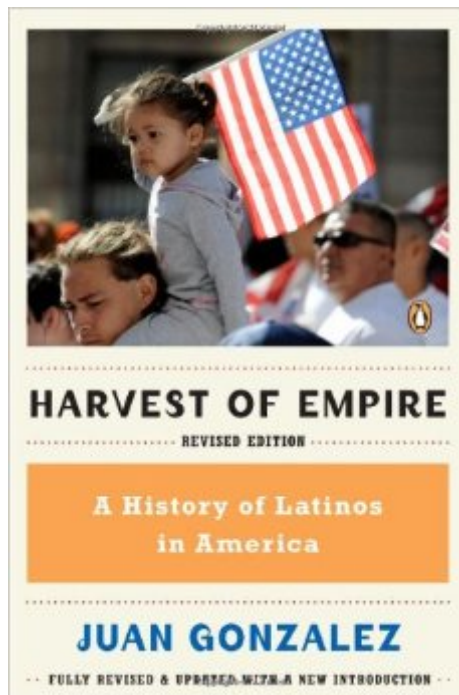


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Harvest Of Empire: A History Of Latinos In America



Synopsis

A sweeping history of the Latino experience in the United States- thoroughly revised and updated. The first new edition in ten years of this important study of Latinos in U.S. history, Harvest of Empire spans five centuries-from the first New World colonies to the first decade of the new millennium. Latinos are now the largest minority group in the United States, and their impact on American popular culture-from food to entertainment to literature-is greater than ever. Featuring family portraits of real- life immigrant Latino pioneers, as well as accounts of the events and conditions that compelled them to leave their homelands, Harvest of Empire is required reading for anyone wishing to understand the history and legacy of this increasingly influential group.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is definitely in the same vein as Galeano, but his perspective is that of a North American, an essential difference. His ideas on bilingualism in conquered territories are startling and new (at least to me). I am of slightly Latino heritage and this book did not cover my family's particular immigrant experience, but it told me a lot about my neighbors, both in the US and across the border. I think that his most interesting pieces were about the mechanics of US investment in Central America and the Caribbean and the harmful effects that inevitably follow. I would have like to have seen more numbers, but I have seen some of the facts he presented on the recruitment and movement of Latino meat packers in other works, like *Methland* by Nick Reding. The takeaway from this book is twofold: that the threat of the Latino migrant/immigrant is a straw man and that it is

actually the US business machine that is harming US workers; and that Spanish language and Latino culture have enriched US culture in many ways. Mr. Gonzalez wishes that more Americans would learn Spanish, an idea I endorse - not so that we can communicate with those unstoppable waves of migrants who are stealing our jobs and refuse to learn English (!!)

but to enrich our own lives and knowledge of the U.S. There is, however, one big flaw in this work, which almost caused me to stop reading as it occurred early in the text. When discussing U.S.

appropriation/seizure/annexation/conquest of territory that belonged either to the Spanish Crown or to Mexico, the author does not seem to realize that both parties in these transactions were imperialist/colonial in their essence. Yes, absolutely, Spain "owned" the territory in question first. And Mexico "owned" it after that. The U.S.

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