
Leaders of the Mexican American Generation: Biographical Essays. Edited by Anthony Quiroz. Foreword by Arnoldo De León. (Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2015. xv + 362 pp. 13 halftones, notes, contributors, index. \$34.95 cloth, ISBN 978-1-60732-336-5.)

In the biographical collection, *Leaders of the Mexican American Generation: Biographical Essays*, the authors highlight the intellectual and political contributions of an emerging group of middle-class Mexican Americans during the period of 1920 to 1965, more commonly known as the Mexican American generation. Anthony Quiroz organizes these biographies into two sections: 1) Intellectuals and Ethnic Consciousness, inclusive of biographies of José de la Luz Sáenz, Alice Dickerson Montemayor, Alonso S. Perales, Jovita González Mireles, Luisa Moreno, and Félix Longoria; and 2) Legal, Political, and Labor Activists, inclusive of biographies of Héctor Pérez García, Gus García, John J. Herrera, Vicente Ximenes, Ralph Estrada, Ernesto Galarza, and Edward R. Roybal. The collection demonstrates the foundational importance of the Mexican American generation in establishing Civil Rights advocacy rhetoric in the United States with a tactical focus on access to voting rights, litigation against racial discrimination, and labor union organizing.

The first section of the book focuses on intellectuals' critical reflections of their ethnic consciousness of being of Mexican descent in the United States, which inspired their anti-discrimination political advocacy. Two examples from this section are Richard A. García's biography "Alonso S. Perales: The Voice and Visions of a Citizen Intellectual," and María Eugenia Coterá's biography "Jovita González Mireles: Texas Folklorist, Historian, Educator." García's biography of Alonso S. Perales reveals how Perales's reflection on Mexican ethnicity drove his questioning of American citizenship in the long historical context of racial discrimination. This questioning, according to García, drove Perales's leadership and advocacy to establish a "workable civic culture of American diversity" through the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) (p. 110). In the biography of Jovita González Mireles, Coterá reveals González Mireles's contributions as a foundational Borderlands Studies scholar during the 1930s, and as an educational rights activist into the 1960s. According to Coterá, González Mireles provided a proto-feminist political critique of Texas folkloric studies and "was one of the first Mexican American scholars to carefully think through the philosophical and political contours of Borderland Studies" (p. 138). Her early career as an academic influenced her advocacy for the educational rights of Mexican American children through the foundation of bilingual schools in Texas. Both of these biographies demonstrate the contributions of ethnic consciousness to Civil Rights political advocacy.

The second section of the book focuses on individuals who utilized ideas about ethnic consciousness in specific legal, political, and labor activism. As Julia Leininger Pycior reveals, for example, Ernesto Galarza's experience as a Mexican immigrant in the United States influenced his emphasis on transnational worker's rights and visions of trans U.S.-México border labor organizing, which strikes a chord today given the transnational rearrangement of labor and capital under neoliberal globalization. Through a transnational iteration of *mexicanidad*, Galarza worked to organize farmworkers through the National Farmworker Labor Union and stood as a solitary voice in support of immigrant rights while Cold War-era liberals and civil rights organizations supported anti-immigrant legislation. Galarza remained an influential civil rights advocate through his work with the Office of Economic Opportunity during Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty, and as a mentor to Chicana/o Movement activists.

The biographies in this collection on the Mexican American generation demonstrates the usefulness of the biographic method that is situated in broader political and historic context. In this way, this book overcomes the challenges of generational foci, which, without being placed in specific historical contexts, can miss how the contributions of one generation can have intergenerational impacts. Labor, immigrant, and voting rights activism depicted through the biography of historical actors presented in this book demonstrate the foundational impact of the Mexican American generation on Mexican American Civil Rights advocacies in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. As such, this collection would benefit historians of Mexican American peoples and would be great supplementary reading material for educators teaching Mexican American history.

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¡Corrido! The Living Ballads of Mexico's Western Coast. By John Holms McDowell. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2015 xvi + 436 pp. 50 halftones, map, 70 sheet music, epilogue, appendix, bibliography, index. \$55.00 cloth, ISBN 9780-8263-3743-6.)

John Holmes McDowell's *¡Corrido!: The Living Ballad of Mexico's Western Coast*, makes a valuable contribution to the study of an important Mexican ballad, *los corridos* or Mexican folk hero ballads. The book is a compilation of more than one hundred corridos, most of which originated from within the Las Costas region in the state of Guerrero. Some of the corridos in this anthology are of