

should claim back their bodies that were once stripped of any social significance by the *castas* misogynistic system.

At its core, this manuscript is a celebration of *mestizaje*. No longer should Mexican Americans look in ire of their mestizo past but should celebrate that *mestizaje* to help reconnect with their past. Moreover, this book places a higher value on the cultural contributions of Mexican Americans to mainstream American culture. Holidays like Day of the Dead and Cinco De Mayo are proof that Mexican Americans have permeated several facets of American culture and that those kinds of holidays are now as American as perhaps the Fourth of July.

The analytical prowess displayed in *Mestizos Come Home!* is what makes this book stand out from the rest of the literature in this area of study. Dr. Davis-Undiano's writing allows for this book to be widely accessible to those both familiar and unfamiliar with Chicano Studies. His diligent research and writing style help to push his argument that query, and erudition are fundamental for advancing humanity.

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Porous Borders: Multiracial Migrations and the Law in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands. By Julian Lim. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017).

When investigating the history and development of nation-states, it is crucial to examine how borderlands developed in relation to the establishment of racial structures across borders. Researching local histories while simultaneously considering contemporary immigration legislation at the national level allows historians to better understand how citizenship is defined, and consequently, how local, diverse populations respond to these legal designations. In *Porous Borders*, Julian Lim provided excellent insight as to how African Americans, Mexicans, Anglo-Americans, and Chinese immigrants helped shape the borderlands as they rapidly converged in the El Paso, Texas area from the 1880s through the 1930s, an area that also had a pronounced, pre-existing Native American population. In producing this work, Lim adds an important work to the growing field of borderlands, immigration, racial, and local histories.

Worth mentioning is Lim's successful attempt to include the perspectives and histories of the different races that occupied the west Texas borderlands. Despite the obvious inherent difficulties this presented, Lim meticulously explained how the El Paso/Ciudad Juárez region became an important economic center during the late nineteenth century as railroad construction in northern Mexican and across the southwestern United States brought thousands of people from various racial

backgrounds to the U.S.-Mexico border in hopes of improving their socio-economic situation. Using oral histories, newspapers, local archives and government reports, Lim provided an exceptional narrative to explain why people of African, Chinese, and Mexican ancestry came to the El Paso area. Unlike Anglo-Americans who migrated west still on the coattails of Manifest Destiny, African Americans moved to the El Paso area, and often across the Mexican border, to flee Jim Crow laws. Mexicans, on the other hand, moved north to the El Paso region in response to Porfirio Díaz's late nineteenth century land reform legislation. Chinese immigrants began migrating to Mexico in larger numbers after the United States passed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and after spending time in Mexico, they surreptitiously crossed the U.S. border not as Chinese immigrants but instead as Mexican immigrants who happened to be Chinese.

Once Lim created the historical backdrop, she explained how El Paso grew to hold a "hybrid population" (70-71) in which Mexicans, Anglo-Americans, Chinese, African Americans, and people of other racial backgrounds regularly cohabited and mingled in shared spaces during the late 1800s. However, as time progressed into the early twentieth century, a more pronounced Anglo business and political leadership took notice of the borderlands and consequently, the border became more tightly regulated. With this increased attention to border protection, Lim explained that the idea of race became a greater concern for those who resided in and governed the El Paso area. The Mexican Revolution between 1910 and 1920 only exacerbated race relations problems as violence increased dramatically around the border, resulting in thousands upon thousands of black and white American troops moving to the El Paso region. This convergence of military personnel arrived in response to increased violence between not only Mexicans against other Mexicans, but also between Mexicans and Anglo-Americans, especially in consideration of Pancho Villa's raids on Americans in northern Mexico and the southwestern United States and the subsequent violence between Carrancistas and Americans during the Punitive Expedition. Lim aptly pointed out that with the rise of a more aggressive anti-Mexican sentiment, many Chinese immigrants from Mexico were able to use the Mexican Revolution crisis to legally seek refuge in the United States.

Following the Punitive Expedition and Mexican Revolution, Lim explains that both the United States and Mexico sought to better define what people they considered to be worthy of citizenship. The United States barred virtually all Asian immigration with an Asiatic Barred Zone that was an integral part of the Immigration Act of 1917. Additionally, the U.S. Immigration Act of 1917 allowed for an unlimited number of Mexicans to come into the United States so long as they paid an entry fee, allowed themselves to be inspected, and were coming for work (primarily agricultural), not for citizenship. Meanwhile, in 1917 Mexico drafted a new constitution in which the Mexican government granted citizenship to those who were born in Mexico or who were naturalized. Moreover, the Constitution of 1917 also

gave the Mexican government the right to remove “any foreigner whose presence was deemed ‘inconvenient’” (163). After 1917, Mexico’s new government, according to Lim, craved a nation of mestizos who were led by mestizos, and as a result hundreds of Chinese immigrants were removed from the country. It also made it more difficult for African Americans to gain legal entry into Mexico.

Overall, *Porous Borders* offers a unique view of U.S.-Mexico borderlands history by describing the consequences of nation-building among the people in the borderlands with specific attention to race and ideas of citizenship. Despite the challenges presented throughout the specified time-frame, people from all backgrounds endeavored to use the border and their distance from the central government to improve their own socio-economic standing.

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They Came to Toil: Newspaper Representations of Mexicans and Immigrants in the Great Depression. By Melita M. Garza. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2018).

Applying her journalistic and media studies expertise in *They Came to Toil*, Melita M. Garza provides an important intervention into the history of Mexican and Mexican Americans during the Great Depression, when a substantial number were deported or repatriated to Mexico. Using media framing theory, the work emphasizes the importance of newspaper representations and reconstructs the contemporary influence of media on its readers.

Utilizing three San Antonio newspapers, the *San Antonio Light*, the *San Antonio Express*, and *La Prensa*, Garza hopes to shed light on the role media played in constructing notions of ethnic-Mexicans between 1929-1933. Print media is especially important for Garza because as she put it, “there are many ways to tell a story, and the way a story is told is socially significant, because it may shape and support the way readers think about people, policy, and events”. Organized into six chapters, including the introductory and concluding sections, Garza’s work explores the experiences of Mexican and Mexican Americans between 1929 and 1933, the year that round-ups and deportations of ethnic-Mexicans reached approximately 300,000.

Garza’s main argument is that newspapers often created several mis-understandings of Mexican and Mexican Americans and sees print media as partly responsible for stirring much of the hysteria regarding ethnic-Mexicans during that period. Using what she identifies as “frameworks”, Garza successfully captured the various depictions of ethnic-Mexicans in three of San Antonio’s major newspapers. In a framework she calls “patriot stories”, for example, Garza explains that