Readings on the History and Culture of Mexicans and Mexican Americans


García, María Cristina. Seeking Refuge: Central American Migration to Mexico, the United States, and Canada. Berkeley: U California P, 2006. HV640.5.C46 G37 Garcia attempts to describe the forces and context behind the migration of Central Americans to regional countries and to the U. S. and Canada. Upheavals such as the Sandanista Revolution as well as the effect of the foreign policy of the United States and Canada provide an understanding of the reasons why people travel hundreds of miles.


The author indicates the "most direct and easiest route to understanding Mexicans... is through their language." 139 words and phrases (codewords) are explained in short essays.

There is not just one Mexican culture, there many cultures of Mexicans influenced by the cultures of the American Indians, African Americans and Europeans. This book attempts to explain what the various cultures have in common.

Mitchell, a Professor of Hispanic Studies at Texas A&M, examines the culture of alcohol in Mexico, the "alcoholization" of the supply by power groups, themes of bitter memories and consequent domestic abuse.

A political history of the Mexicano experience in the United States that examines the concepts of occupation of peoples and lands. The book covers time periods from 50,000 B.C.E. to the 21st century.

A winner of the 2005 Frederick Jackson Turner Award. It looks at the history of immigration in America back to the 1920s.

Pre-Aztec history to the 20th century, with special attention to the 300-year colonization by the Spaniards and later domination of the U.S., to the north, as modern Mexico developed.

This full text book online is a history in four broad parts: The Indian Spanish Heritage, The Foreign Intrusion, The Mexican Heritage, and The New Awareness.

Section II includes essays: Octavio Paz on the cultural differences between the U.S. and Mexico, another by a woman who worked in the U.S and plans to return to Mexico, and "On Bullfights and Baseball."
Written by a professor who taught the history of Mexico for 30 years. He visited Mexico often and targets this book to students, tourists, and those who are concerned about Mexico. Chapter 17 is "Mexicans and Mexican-Americans, pages 170-188.

A biography of Miguel and Rosa Covarrubias who created a Mexican salon or gathering place of intellectuals and artists in Mexico that created a "renaissance of interest in the history and traditional arts of Mexico's indigenous peoples."

This study examines the evolution of rock 'n' roll and the counter culture movement in Mexico, including the blending of traditional music with rock, and the association of rock music with social movements. Zolov claims that sixties music and protest movements, particularly the 1968 massacre at Tlatelolco, were never commodified in Mexico, that they in fact live on in Mexican national identity.