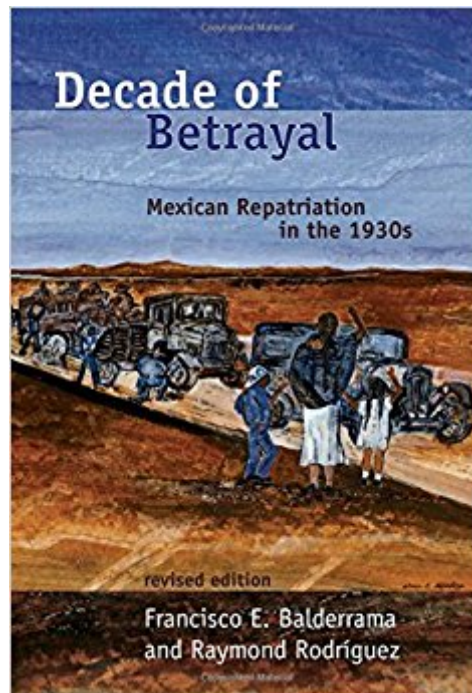




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Decade Of Betrayal: Mexican Repatriation In The 1930s



Synopsis

During the Great Depression, a sense of total despair plagued the United States. Americans sought a convenient scapegoat and found it in the Mexican community. Laws forbidding employment of Mexicans were accompanied by the hue and cry to "get rid of the Mexicans!" The hysteria led pandemic repatriation drives and one million Mexicans and their children were illegally shipped to Mexico. Despite their horrific treatment and traumatic experiences, the American born children never gave up hope of returning to the United States. Upon attaining legal age, they badgered their parents to let them return home. Repatriation survivors who came back worked diligently to get their lives back together. Due to their sense of shame, few of them ever told their children about their tragic ordeal. *Decade of Betrayal* recounts the injustice and suffering endured by the Mexican community during the 1930s. It focuses on the experiences of individuals forced to undergo the tragic ordeal of betrayal, deprivation, and adjustment. This revised edition also addresses the inclusion of the event in the educational curriculum, the issuance of a formal apology, and the question of fiscal remuneration. "Francisco Balderrama and Raymond Rodríguez, the authors of *Decade of Betrayal*, the first expansive study of Mexican repatriation with perspectives from both sides of the border, claim that 1 million people of Mexican descent were driven from the United States during the 1930s due to raids, scare tactics, deportation, repatriation and public pressure. Of that conservative estimate, approximately 60 percent of those leaving were legal American citizens. Mexicans comprised nearly half of all those deported during the decade, although they made up less than 1 percent of the country's population. 'Americans, reeling from the economic disorientation of the depression, sought a convenient scapegoat,' Balderrama and Rodríguez wrote. 'They found it in the Mexican community.'"
--American History

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Balderrama and Rodriguez couldn't have penned a more timely book on Mexican Americans. As this century speeds to a close, history, as they say, seems to repeat itself. Today's Proposition 186 legislation in California is a carbon copy of xenophobic laws that were howled for and passed earlier this century in this country. Covering the 1930s, *Decade of Betrayal* details the shameful treatment that people of Mexican heritage were handed when the going got tough in the U.S. The Bill of Rights was out the window when it came to people of brown skin, who had to endure unlawful search and seizure and systematic roundups, such as the infamous La Placita raid, in which the INS, in conjunction with state and local police, surrounded a public park on a weekend day demanding proof of citizenship from those who didn't look "American" and arresting those who couldn't immediately show proof. U.S. citizenship did not provide protection from harassment by the government; legislators in Washington strongly debated and seriously considered the wholesale deportation of all "non-Americans," that is, nonwhites, from U.S. shores. This is an important historical accounting, "social history rather than historical sociology" as the authors state. Every active history and political science collection should add this title. Raul Nino --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Francisco Balderrama and Raymond Rodriguez's *Decade of Betrayal: Mexican Repatriation in the 1930s*" remains one of the seminal works within Chicano history and immigration studies.""*Decade of Betrayal*" is an important book on a topic little understood by most Americans."

Important topic but the book is too repetitive at times and perhaps could be bolstered by more research.

This is a research paper as a book. Well documented. So it is an excellent account of how the U.S. has related to Mexican workers--legal and illegal--over time. It is revealing and so the content is sobering.

This book tells it as it was and is now. This happened prior to the concentrations of the Japanese

Americans. At least the Japanese were allowed to stay in the USA. This book proves that there are no Illegal Mexicans in the USA.

The only book out there that chronicles the deportation of Mexican Americans during the 1930s.

Change a few dates from the 1930s to the first decade of the 21st century and it looks like we're headed that way again. Oh well, each new generation needs its 'lowlives' to kick and feel superior to. Its much to easy to forget why their own ancestors came to this country; after all, I got mine made, and YOU cant have any of it.

Great insight on how Mexican "Americans" struggled even more because of blatant racism by the U.S. government during the Great Depression.

It is sad to learn what the Unites States has done to oppressed people. And what is more disturbing, is that it still happens today.

Reading it-now and contains good info that I did not know

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