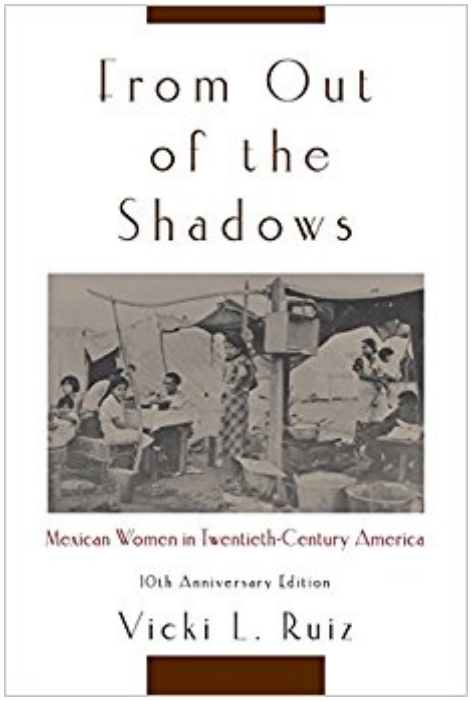
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From Out Of The Shadows: Mexican Women In Twentieth-Century America



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Synopsis

From Out of the Shadows was the first full study of Mexican-American women in the twentieth century. Beginning with the first wave of Mexican women crossing the border early in the century, historian Vicki L. Ruiz reveals the struggles they have faced and the communities they have built. In a narrative enhanced by interviews and personal stories, she shows how from labor camps, boxcar settlements, and urban barrios, Mexican women nurtured families, worked for wages, built extended networks, and participated in community associations--efforts that helped Mexican Americans find their own place in America. She also narrates the tensions that arose between generations, as the parents tried to rein in young daughters eager to adopt American ways. Finally, the book highlights the various forms of political protest initiated by Mexican-American women, including civil rights activity and protests against the war in Vietnam.For this new edition of From Out of the Shadows, Ruiz has written an afterword that continues the story of the Mexicana experience in the United States, as well as outlines new additions to the growing field of Latina history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A rich source book and an excellent overview of Mexican American women’s crucial contributions to labor organizing, community formation, and social movements in the West and Southwest."--Women’s Review of Books"Not only celebrates the lives of Mexican women in the United States but provides a blueprint for social justice and human dignity."--Journal of American History"In...a stirring portrayal of women’s courage and agency, Ruiz’s book epitomizes illuminative

scholarship."--Latin American Research Review

Vicki L. Ruiz is Professor of History and Chicano/Latino Studies and Dean of the School of Humanities at the University of California, Irvine.

I had to read this book for Chicano Studies IB at UCSB. In addition to the reader for the course, this book was stimulating. It takes you through the eyes of Chicana and Mexicana women struggling to find their identity withing their home and their homeland. The chapter which I could connect with the most, being a first-gen child of Polish immigrants, was the Flapper and the Chaperone. This chapter talks about how Chicanas who were growing up received less rights and more expectations from their strict parents while the son could do as he pleased. Women were supposed to dress and act like women, yet they were not allowed to date men. This caused a lot of rebellion, and I could relate to it. The battle within your own culture is an inevitable one in America. Needless to say, Vicki Ruiz is an excellent writer, and she highlighted fine points of Xicanisma using many touching life stories. If you need a socialist lens on Chicana Feminism, the journey, the border crossing of generations, and the political struggle, this is the book to read.

I had to read this for my Chicano Studies course, but it was a great read by far. Because of this book it inspired me to keep taking Chicano studies classes, on my own. I am currently in the La Chicana class and I love that my instructor uses excerpts from this book. Many Chicano/a’s don’t realize that we have a history. A history and a culture. I will be passing this book on to my daughters and I will be encouraging them to take the classes as well.

The information is priceless as a sort of reference-compendium and salute to Latina and Mexicana immigrants. A good chunk is dedicated to a case analysis of a Protestant social service mission working in a Texas community to imprint anglican values and culture on the new immigrants. Another dedicated cultural aspect explores the affect of Americanization on young unmarried women and the system of chaperoning stemming from the honor of the family having to be upheld by orthodox views of virginity. The book is inspiring in its scope but meanders a bit excitedly like a river through early immigration, americanization and chicana feminism. Starts off slow and nurturing upon each theme but gradually erodes into a more sporadic form.

A lot of quick stories told, and so, can be hard to follow.

I was completely flabbergasted by the stories inside. Such amazing American history that isn't told! Get it! Read it! Share it!

I purchased this as a refence book for a class in Ethnic Studies. It has lots of interstinf information.

Too many references to secondary sources, but significant in bringing a missing historical narrative to light

This was a great buy as well as the quality of the book. Thank you from a greatful student.

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