

Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America

By Juan Gonzalez

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Within the next decade, Hispanics will become the largest minority group in the United States. The new immigrants have ignited a vibrant Latin explosion in popular culture and deeply affected American society.

Spanning 500 years-from the first New World colonies to our nation's nineteenth-century westward expansion, from the days of gunboat diplomacy to the turn of the millennium-*Harvest of Empire* features family portraits of real-life immigrants along with sketches of the political events and social conditions that compelled them to leave their homeland. In addition, it gives a fascinating look at how these Latino pioneers have transformed the cultural landscape of the United States.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
Readers familiar with immigration history as told in books like Roger Daniels's *Coming to America* will experience a sense of déjà vu with *Harvest of Empire* by Juan Gonzalez. The immigrant experience is a constant in American life; although the tides ebb and flow, it seems that there always has been an immigrant presence in the United States. What's different today, of course, is where the immigrants are coming from: half are Latin American.

Gonzalez, a columnist for the New York *Daily News*, studies these latest arrivals in a book that combines history and journalism. He has a keen understanding of Hispanic diversity, focusing not just on "Hispanics" as a monolithic category but as a variety of people from many nations. The politics in *Harvest of Empire* are often tendentious: Gonzalez unfavorably compares U.S. border control efforts to building the Great Wall in China, demands an end to Puerto Rico's "colonial status," insists that Spanish become an official language actively encouraged in the public schools, and so on. His agenda will no doubt appeal to a certain kind of reader, but at the cost of alienating many others, including, probably, a majority of Hispanics living in the United States. For those looking for a left-leaning account of Hispanic immigration, however, this book succeeds as an ambitious survey. --*John J. Miller*

From Booklist
Gonzalez, a Puerto Rican journalist, brings passion and research to this recounting of the fascinating history of Latins in America. He notes the Latinization of the U.S. with rising immigration from Mexico, the Caribbean, and South America to projections that Latinos will constitute the largest minority in the nation by 2010. Gonzalez explores why Spanish and British colonization experiences were so different, particularly the divergence in attitudes on slavery and race. The book is organized to explore what Gonzalez calls "Roots," the historical relationship between Latin America and the U.S., "Branches," the six major Latino groups in the nation, and "Harvest," issues facing Latinos in the U.S. today. He dissects the U.S. exploitation and occupation of Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Panama, Nicaragua, and Cuba and examines the U.S. policy of supporting dictators friendly to U.S. interest that has destabilized Latin America and provoked massive immigration to the U.S. This is an important book for understanding a major American ethnic group. *Vanessa Bush*

Review

"A serious, significant contribution to understanding who the Hispanics of the United States are and where they came from." --**The New York Times Book Review**

"Required reading, not simply for Latinos but for everyone." --**Kansas City Star**

Users Review

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Barbara Baker:

This Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America book is not really ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is actually information inside

this guide incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America without we know teach the one who reading it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America can bring if you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even mobile phone. This Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America having great arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

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Kristi Duncan:

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