

Unfulfilled American Life: An Afterword.” Her overview provides the reader finally with sharp insights covering Toomer’s quests. She stresses importantly his aspiration to be regarded simply as an American in “the family of the human race,” eschewing all stereotypical racial tags. She closes by indicating how *Cane* among other works, shows the “gift and genius of an artist.”

—Cortland Pell Auser
Yorktown Heights, NY

James Officer. *Hispanic Arizona, 1536-1856.* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1987) viii, 462 pp., \$45.00.

One of the glaring gaps in Southwestern historiography has been the lack of a modern scholarly interpretation of the Spanish and Mexican presence in Arizona. Hubert Howe Bancroft’s *History of the North Mexican States and Texas* and John F. Bannon’s *The Spanish Borderlands Frontier, 1513-1821* have been the best sources for the study of pre-American Arizona, but these works treat the history of this region as a subtopic of a larger story. With the publication of *Hispanic Arizona*, scholars now have a thorough, detailed and scholarly study that is entirely devoted to the history of northern Sonora and southern Arizona.

James Officer’s book is strongest when discussing the interaction between Indians and Hispanics on the frontier. The Yuman, Papago and especially the Apache peoples have been an integral part of this region’s history. They have both helped and hindered the advance of Hispanic settlement. The hundreds of campaigns against the Apaches influenced the political affairs of the Hispanic frontier settlers. The book details the political intrigues and civil wars that Sonora experienced while constantly on guard against further Indian attacks.

Much of Arizona’s Hispanic history is linked to that of Pimeria Alta, later called Sonora. The book succeeds in convincing us that Tucson and Tubac, the two principle Hispanic settlements in Arizona, were mostly appendages of the settlements further south. Sonoran military and political developments dominate the history of Arizona until the Yankees’ appearance in the 1850s.

This book is a chronicle, written in the traditional style of a political history. Solidly based on primary sources, it is obviously a labor that took many years to complete. Periodic discussions of Spanish and Mexican land grants and the genealogical histories of various prominent Sonoran and Tucson families give some social and economic dimensions to this study as does his description of early American attitudes (negative) towards the Mexicans of the region.

If there is a weakness in the book, it is in the plodding prose, especially

in the description of Sonora politics. A better literary effort would have made this a better book. But this defect should not detract from the significant contributions this book makes to our knowledge. Officer has chronicled the tremendous difficulties that Hispanic frontiersmen experienced in attempting to survive on the north-western frontier. *Hispanic Arizona* has made the history of this region more intelligible, making it possible for us to give proper weight to the Hispanic contributions to United States history.

—Richard Griswold del Castillo
San Diego State University

Clara E. Rodriguez. *Puerto Ricans Born in the U.S.A.* (Boston: Unwin Hyman, 1989) xxi, 218 pp., \$44.95; \$14.95 paper.

It may be apocryphal by now, but it has often been said, and it is repeated again by Rodriguez in her most recent contribution to the literature that “Puerto Ricans still hold the dubious distinction of being among the most researched and least understood people in the United States, if not the world.” Rodriguez’s use of the existing voluminous literature on the Puerto Rican experience certainly reinforces this widely held belief. Puerto Ricans are the second largest Latino ethnic group in the United States, and in New York City one out of every eight people is Puerto Rican. This is a remarkable statistical finding, especially when one considers that most non-Puerto Ricans remain culturally illiterate about the history, migration, education, politics and daily life of this struggling community. So, it may well be true that while volumes of research studies sit on the shelves of our educational institutions, most Americans remain woefully ignorant about who the Puerto Ricans really are, and why so many continue to be scattered in *barrios* throughout the fifty states, including Hawaii.

In this data-filled book, Rodriguez attempts to bring to light questions that remain uppermost in the minds of those genuinely interested in knowing something more about the Puerto Ricans, beyond the negative images reinforced daily by the news and the visual media. While the book’s title tells the reader that the author intends to focus on those Puerto Ricans born in the United States, she nonetheless also asks that we consider a much broader view—wider angle. The experience of the Puerto Ricans in the United States, as well as Puerto Rico’s formal, political and economic relationship with the United States (since the island was invaded and annexed in 1898) has been the forerunner of many similar immigrations of peripheral (colonized) groups to the core areas or the metropolis (fatherland or motherland). She suggests that one of the key methods of the book, a “contextual” or “subject areas”