

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.

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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”

approach rather than a “chronological” approach, gives the reader an opportunity to draw broader international implications from her analysis. The Puerto Rican migration, Rodriguez proposes, is “one of the earliest examples of the international flows of labor and capital that have characterized the post-World War II period.” These peripheral groups have come from the Third World to the First World, in search of an opportunity for survival, and find instead that they have become ethnic/racial minorities. Seen within this larger context of a rapidly changing post-industrial world, the Puerto Rican presence in the United States, as well as the experience of those who stayed on the island, begins to take on a more complex global significance.

Like other books in this genre, it is certainly impossible to write anything on the subject that is comprehensive and exhaustive, and Rodriguez, early on, lets the reader know that although it is a book that covers many areas, it only covers “a very small portion of the Puerto Rican reality.” Despite her heavy use of statistical data (migration trends, settlement patterns, labor participation, educational achievement, language usage, health issues, housing, political involvement, socioeconomic status, etc.), Rodriguez asks the reader to remember that the data alone are not the people. As the title of one of her chapters—“Beyond the Census Data”—indicates, Rodriguez, in an effort to give the reader a sense of the human faces behind the numbers, asks that we consider the underlying cultural and political dimensions of such value-laden concepts as “progress” or “success,” which are generally assumed in the way research data are organized and presented for analysis and interpretation.

Perhaps one of the most intellectually challenging and complex issues which continues to shape the reality of the Puerto Rican experience in the United States in almost all domains is the question of race and racial identity. The conflicting perceptions and misperceptions which surround this volatile issue are not only a dominant theme in the American ideology, but are also critical for determining how the Puerto Rican views himself/herself, and is viewed in light of the prevailing racial hierarchy in the United States.

There is no question about it, the issue of racial and ethnic identity is a virtual minefield of misunderstanding and confusion. It is a subject that demands a more comprehensive research approach than that which has been attempted in the past. But Rodriguez, in her chapter on Puerto Rican racial/ethnic identity, “The Rainbow People,” manages to bring a sense of order to an otherwise chaotic field of study. One of the key contributors to this research throughout the years, Rodriguez combines her own field-based research studies and findings with the work of other scholars in this area, which then enables her to link racial identity issues to educational success or failure, labor market participation, housing patterns, and other socioeconomic variables affected by the question of racial identity. She also suggests that the increasing numbers of

multiracial immigrants may create a serious challenge to the “U.S. bifurcation of race.” This is an area that must be penetrated more deeply by psychologists, especially if we expect to make significant headway in understanding how racial/ethnic identity affects the *psychology* of self-esteem, self-confidence, and self-affirmation, which is so central to the success of children in the educational process.

Finally, what I think is significant about this work is that Rodriguez, herself a second generation Puerto Rican woman born and raised in the South Bronx, is able to bring something special to her sociological analysis, something that allows her to go beyond the data. With her most recent contribution, Rodriguez continues to be among those scholars who first made their appearance in the American university about two decades ago. These scholars are not only Puerto Rican but also Chicano, African American, Native American, Asian American, and others who are adding to our wealth of knowledge about our nation’s racial/ethnic communities through a scholarship that challenges the traditional methodologies when they need to be challenged and offers alternative interpretations when the data demand it. Rodriguez’s book would be an excellent choice not only for Puerto Rican, Latino or other ethnic studies courses, but would also serve well in cross-cultural and related courses in sociology, anthropology, history and political science.

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John R. Salter. *Jackson Mississippi*. (Malahar, FL: Robert E. Krieger Publishing Company, 1987) 256 pp., \$15.00.

Jackson Mississippi is a fascinating book written about the Civil Rights Movement in Jackson, Mississippi in the sixties. The author, John Salter, a white outsider and sociologist who served as advisor and organizer of the Civil Rights Movement in Jackson is to be commended for his ability to write about the movement in such a vivid and moving manner. Salter does an excellent job in describing the many problems encountered in striking out against the many injustices that existed in Mississippi.

In his foreword to this book, R. Edwin Jr. describes some of the strengths of this book. He states that “this book is the best work available on the Mississippi movement in the years immediately preceding the dramatic events and changes of the 1964 Freedom Summer. No other book brings together such a careful blending of the scholarly and the personal, such a careful blending of trained sociological observation and participation, such an effective interweaving of social, personal, political, and economic forces. This analysis is presented in the most