

surprising that one does not encounter an entire chapter devoted to Native Americans, especially for the period from the fifteenth through the seventeenth centuries. Native peoples, including pre-Columbian societies such as the Maya, Aztec, or Inca, appear occasionally; when they do, it is overwhelmingly as mere subjects of exploration, not as active agents in history. In the chapters "Exploration of the New World," "The Colonists," and "Expansion and the Frontier" the focus is on white males. One might at least expect a chapter on the encounter between Europeans, Indians, and Africans that reflects the current arrangement in many textbooks. Beyond this era, there are serious gaps in the antebellum period, the authors having largely ignored temperance, the Second Great Awakening, and the emergence of women's rights. The authors focus a few activities on tensions during World War I and, while the section on World War II includes Japanese internment, it ignores race relations. The post-WWII civil rights content remains heavily male, Rosa Parks being the exception. Finally, the authors' coverage of activities addressing the rise of conservatism during the 1960s and 1970s is thin.

Short on theory and heavily practical, *Breaking Away* helps teachers go beyond the textbook in terms of activities. But gaps remain and perhaps the authors can address these in future editions, which would strengthen the book and provide a richer resource for teachers.

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Arnoldo De Leon and Richard Griswold del Castillo. *North to Aztlán: A History of Mexican Americans in the United States.* 2nd ed. Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson, 2006. Pp. 312. Paper, \$26.95; ISBN 0-88295-243-9.

In the century and one-half since the United States gained the northern third of Mexico in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the region's Hispanic population has undergone a remarkable transformation. Contact between people of Mexican descent and those of Anglo heritage has changed both groups. Arnoldo De Leon and Richard Griswold del Castillo present their readers with a passionate, sensitive, and comprehensive examination of the nature of that change.

Their work, which traces the creation and development of Mexican American society and culture from their Indian roots to the present, successfully builds on earlier research by focusing on such issues as gender, literature, music, political involvement, and immigration statistics. This second edition expands the first edition's effort to provide a broad examination of the history of Mexican Americans in the United States by incorporating new scholarship in areas such as Chicano studies, ethnography, and cultural geography, in addition to its inclusion of recent developments, such as expanded immigration from Central America and the Latino response to war in Iraq.

In the end, their work provides a concise, yet comprehensive look at the fastest growing minority group in the United States.

The geographical center of this book is Aztlán, the legendary homeland of the Aztecs, traditionally believed to be north of the Valley of Mexico. Curiously, De Leon and del Castillo extend the reach of this homeland all the way to northern California. By including such a vast region in their scope of vision, the authors establish a somewhat controversial facet to their examination of the way Mexican society and culture has changed—and been changed by—life in the United States.

One key theme to which the authors repeatedly return is the group identity that provided stability to Mexican American culture in the United States. From the *barrios* and *colonias* of the territories lost to the United States in the “American conquest” to the creation of the “Mexican American Generation” in the 1930s and 1940s and the efforts of politically active organizations such as the League of United Latin American Citizens and the United Farm Workers, Mexican Americans have relied on a group identity to assist them in retaining their cultural heritage in the United States. Throughout the period covered in the book, the Mexican American family, and the manifest changes it faced in the modern era, has been the backbone of Chicano life in this country. One can see in the Chicano family a microcosm of the pressures and tensions within which the Mexican American community has endured from the mid-nineteenth century to the present.

For the teacher, this book provides a great deal of material for the classroom. The detailed analysis, particularly of both the struggle to preserve Chicano cultural heritage and of changes and evolution of the Mexican American family, brings new light to little-examined elements of Latino studies. Instructors of college and university survey courses in Mexican American History could well use this book as a general text, although the book’s breadth requires that such instructors supplement the book with more in-depth monographs on specific topics or eras.

North to Aztlán deserves a place on any Mexican American studies bookshelf, although it also has an ease of prose that would make it a popular book as well.

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Joseph A. Conforti. *Saints and Strangers: New England in British North America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006. Pp. 248. Paper, \$19.95; ISBN 0-8018-8254-0.

One of the many virtues of this compact, but multi-layered, survey of colonial New England is that it never forgets that the past had a past. A major theme of *Saints and Strangers* is how successive generations of colonial New Englanders located themselves in time and place through reinterpretations of the roles and deeds of their ancestors. Depending on developments in both North America and in the home