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1990

## Review of Tejanas and the Numbers Game: A Socia-Historical Interpretation from the Federal Censuses, 1850-1900.

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Martínez, Camilo A., "Review of Tejanas and the Numbers Game: A Socia-Historical Interpretation from the Federal Censuses, 1850-1900." (1990). *Great Plains Quarterly*. 415.

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*Tejanos and the Numbers Game: A Socio-Historical Interpretation from the Federal Censuses, 1850-1900.* By Arnolde De León and Kenneth L. Stewart. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1989. Tables, epilogue, notes, bibliography, index. xi + 119 pp. \$24.95.

Prior to this work did we have a well-balanced portrayal of the Tejano (Mexican American) who resided in the South, Central, and West Texas counties during the last half of the nineteenth century? Evidently not.

Before the mid-1960s the school of cultural determinism dominated. Since then the revisionists have prevailed. Now De León and Stewart sharply define the previously blurry picture historians have had of the Tejano. Clearly the authors lean toward the revisionists' interpretations, but nonetheless, they implicitly challenge both schools of thought to reevaluate their thinking.

This book's strength lies in its uniqueness. It merges the decennial censuses of the period with secondary sources and then combines them with sociology and quantitative history to show the complexity of the Tejano. Furthermore, it compares and contrasts the Mexican American culture with that of the Anglo Texan.

After explicitly stating the purpose of this work, and the methodology, area, and number of persons in their study, the writers proceed with a provocative narrative. Placing the area of concern in a state, national, and international setting, they "trace the steps of the immigrants who would, over time, create the Tejano and Texans of the state's last frontier" (p. 15).

When more Anglos moved into the region the economic and social standing of the Tejanos changed. The Anglo, regardless of education and qualifications, enjoyed better jobs, while the Mexican American was forced to fill subordinate positions.

The reasons for these disparities are complex, but one was not because the Tejano was reluctant to change, as many have believed. The

Mexican American, like his Anglo counterpart, adjusted his way of living when necessary. One thing is clear, however; Tejanos did not imitate Anglos. "To the contrary, in some respects Anglo family patterns in Texas moved in the direction of simulating Mexican American . . ." (p. 65). Still the Anglo continued to prosper as more opportunities became available while the Tejano was left further and further behind.

As cities started to grow in Texas more Anglos than Tejanos moved from rural to urban areas, not because the Mexican Americans preferred to remain on the farm, but because cities offered them fewer opportunities than they did their counterparts. Those Tejanos who moved, while compromising their traditions, still found themselves dominated by an Anglo society.

This book and its dispassionate interpretation of the Tejanos will contribute greatly to the existing scholarly literature on the subject. Its tables, maps, narrative, and chapter arrangement make this monograph easy and enjoyable to read. This work is a must for all persons who want to gain a better insight into the heterogeneous Tejanos.

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