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**Review of *Not Room Enough: Mexicans, Anglos and
Socioeconomic Change in Texas, 1850-1900* by Kenneth L.
Stewart and Arnaldo De Leon**

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Not Room Enough: Mexicans, Anglos and Socioeconomic Change in Texas, 1850-1900. Kenneth L. Stewart and Arnolfo De León. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1993. xv+148 pp. References and bibliography. \$27.50 cloth (ISBN 0-8263-1437-6).

The main conclusion of this concise work is that Mexicans had more economic parity with Anglos in 1850 than at the end of the nineteenth century. Even though both groups chased opportunities offered by Texas' entry into the capitalist world system, the fortunes of Mexicans did not keep pace. By 1900, Mexicans lagged behind Anglos in property ownership, in capital wealth, in political power retention, and in educational attainments. Such a course is predictable; the thesis has often been aired prior to the publication of this work, not just about Texas but about other areas of the Southwest.

The important difference provided by this study is that the authors effectively use census manuscript data to measure this change. They forgo as a consequence, speculative methodologies that have led other historians to only view the Mexican position within a framework of decline and repression. The authors establish that dramatic social and economic gains made by Texas Mexicans after 1850 are difficult to appreciate because this progress was dwarfed by Anglo advancement. Nonetheless, the Mexican commitment to participating in the Texas economy, which remained intense throughout the century, was blocked by structural forces. While both ethnic groups strived to benefit by Texas's modernization, the geographical unevenness of this process prevented equal access to opportunity. For example, Mexican

areas received less inputs of capital and public fund for infrastructure improvement than non-Mexican Texas regions.

The authors also debunk the time-honored belief that because so few Texas Mexicans rose to elected state-wide positions they were disenfranchised politically. The same tenet also asserts that through "bossism," a white oligarchy manipulated the vote of Mexican underlings for their own benefit. According to this book Mexicans did not give away their vote indifferently. Through patronage they benefitted visibly by obtaining a wide range of government jobs at local levels.

The final conclusion of the study, however, is that in spite of Mexican ability to change with the times, Anglo prejudices remained. A reason for this is that Mexican transmitted their own values over the years which according to white society were incompatible with modernization. These misplaced Anglo beliefs, the authors contend, played a crucial role in hindering the aspirations of Texas Mexicans—e.g., investors and the state government held back on private and public capital investment in Mexican regions.

This work provides a satisfying narrative which synthesizes the statistical data rather than presenting them in a bewildering format of tables and charts. One drawback—explaining Texas Mexican social and political behavior by employing models steeped in the Iberian Roman past is not satisfying. More immediate explanations can be found by assessing the unique evolution of Latin American social and political traditions, especially those of Mexico. **F. Arturo Rosales**, *Department of History, Arizona State University, Tempe*.