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Review of *The Contested Homeland: A Chicano History of New Mexico* Edited by Erlinda Gonzales-Berry and David R. Maciel

Armando C. Alonzo
Texas A&M University

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The Contested Homeland: A Chicano History of New Mexico. Edited by Erlinda Gonzales-Berry and David R. Maciel. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2000. x+314 pp. Notes, index. \$39.95 cloth (ISBN 0-3263-2198-4), \$19.95 paper (ISBN 0-8263-2199-2).

The goal of this anthology, consisting of ten essays on the history of the Nuevomexicano experience from the short Mexican period to the post-Chicano movement era of the 1960s and 1970s, is to present a Chicano perspective on the Nuevomexicano historical experience. Divided into two parts, the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the collection's essays deal primarily with twentieth-century themes, a reasonable approach given the brevity of the Mexican era and the much longer period after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which initiated the era of United States rule. The dominant theme affirms that Nuevomexicanos have always contested their rights to equal citizenship in New Mexico, sometimes faring well, at others suffering the burden of being a racial or ethnic minority. Amidst this cultural conflict, much adaptation has characterized Nuevomexicano society in its interaction with the dominant forces since the coming of Anglo Americans.

The essays by Carlos R. Herrera and Anselmo Arellano in part one address the issue of Nuevo Mexicano resistance to US forces during the war with Mexico and the resistance to landgrabbers, lawyers, and economic elites tied to the so-called Santa Fe Ring. The first shows the courage of Nuevo Mexicanos faced with military invasion; the second demonstrates a strong popular opposition to the rapid economic change that capitalists sought to make in northcentral New Mexico in the late nineteenth century. The essay by Martín González de la Vara also sees resistance to US control in the relocation of New Mexican families to the Mesilla Valley following the end of the war with Mexico.

The essays in part two cover a variety of subjects, including Spanish American identity, language rights, political developments, Mexican immigration, urban change, and the Chicano Movement. Their diversity makes it difficult to extract from them a common theme, except for the persistence with which Nuevo Mexicanos struggled to hold on to their view of identity and history, to their cultural and political rights, and to a sense of homeland. The pieces that stand out in this section are John Nieto-Phillips's discussion of the role of Nuevo Mexicanos in the movement for statehood, David R. Maciel and Juan José Peño's essay on the Chicano Movement in the state, and Maurilio Vigil's examination of the political development of Nuevo-mexicana women. The essay by Erlinda Gonzales-Berry on the politics of Spanish language or cultural rights in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is equally instructive. In short, all of these informative studies dispel myths and correct errors in New Mexican history.

By way of criticism, the collection is weighted in favor of political issues, particularly involving race, class, and ethnic conflict. It seems to this reviewer that one or two essays dealing with the economic and social life of the Nuevo Mexicano settlers would have helped us gain a better understanding of their historical experience. A second and more difficult point to analyze is the assertion that Nuevo Mexicano history is different from the Tejano and Californio experience. While the essays presented in the collection make a strong argument for New Mexico being a special case, none makes a significant comparative assessment with regard to Texas or California. At the very least, this issue could have been taken up by the editors in the introductory notes to each of the book's parts. Except for the prolonged statehood and language struggles in New Mexico, the degree of conflict in the various jurisdictions of the US Southwest appears to be very similar. I would also assert that Tejanos and other Hispanics, like the Nuevomexicanos, have engaged in considerable adaptation in carving out their sense of identity and place in the post-1848 borderlands.

Notwithstanding these limitations, the insight and clarity of its essays make for a commendable collection. Moreover, at present there is no comparable anthology for Hispanic Texas or California for this period. *The Contested Homeland* should be consulted by both Borderlands and Chicano historians. **Armando C. Alonzo**, *Department of History, Texas A&M University*.