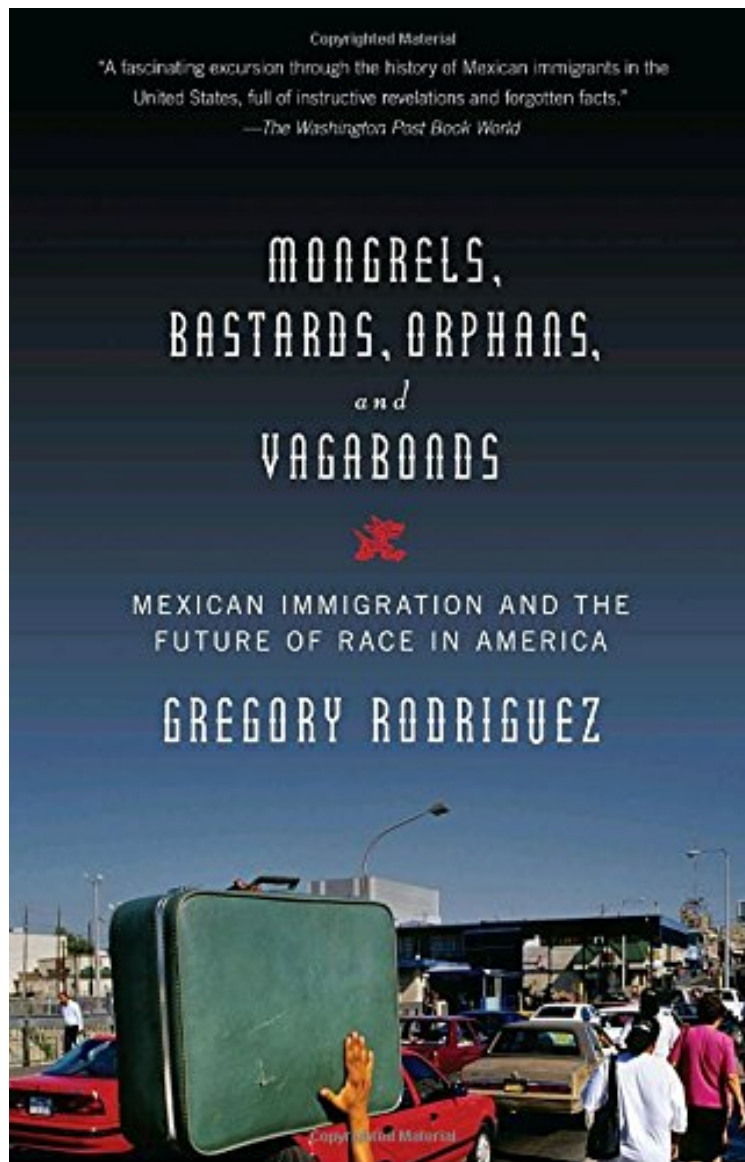


[Pdf free] Mongrels, Bastards, Orphans, and Vagabonds: Mexican Immigration and the Future of Race in America

Mongrels, Bastards, Orphans, and Vagabonds: Mexican Immigration and the Future of Race in America

Gregory Rodriguez

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Gregory Rodriguez : Mongrels, Bastards, Orphans, and Vagabonds: Mexican Immigration and the Future of Race in America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mongrels, Bastards, Orphans, and Vagabonds: Mexican Immigration and the Future of Race in America:

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An unprecedented account of the long-term cultural and political influences that Mexican-Americans will have on the collective character of our nation. In considering the largest immigrant group in American history, Gregory Rodriguez examines the complexities of its heritage and of the racial and cultural synthesis--mestizaje--that has defined the Mexican people since the Spanish conquest in the sixteenth century. He persuasively argues that the rapidly expanding Mexican American integration into the mainstream is changing not only how Americans think about race but also how we envision our nation. Brilliantly reasoned, highly thought provoking, and as historically sound as it is anecdotally rich, *Mongrels, Bastards, Orphans, and Vagabonds* is a major contribution to the discussion of the cultural and political future of the United States.

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . Despite its title, this volume from L.A. Times columnist Rodriguez is a thorough and accessible history of Mexico that emphasizes the legacy of mestizaje, mixed races, among Mexico's inhabitants. Beginning with Cortes' arrival in 1519, an elaborate system of racial classification was put into place to keep separate Spanish and native peoples. The failure of this system, Rodriguez argues, allowed for a more progressive and open-minded approach to race in Mexico compared with, for example, the U.S.: "In colonial New Mexico, mestizaje was the rule rather than the exception." Black/white racial lines were nonexistent, as African natives merged effortlessly into Mexican society (which abolished slavery nearly 40 years before the States). Other developments include the Mexican-American War and subsequent insurgencies in the huge swath of Mexican land ceded to the U.S.; the Mexican revolution and the immigration wave it inspired; the backlash against Mexican-Americans during the depression years; and the Chicano movement of the 1960s and '70s. There's more at stake in Rodriguez's text than the latest immigration hullabaloo (he doesn't get around to addressing the past 30 years until the last chapter); aside from illuminating a complicated history and deeply contextualizing the present debate, the author takes on the concept of racial classification itself, calling for a change in attitude that more closely reflects the Mexican unifying idea of mestizaje, that we are all, to some extent, racially mixed "mongrels." Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. A fascinating excursion through the history of Mexican immigrants in the United States, full of instructive revelations and forgotten facts. The Washington Post Book World Brilliant. . . . Politically savvy and enchanting. Los Angeles Times Riveting. . . . A thought-provoking account of current-day Mexican Americans and their forefathers. The San Antonio Express-News Required reading for anybody interested in the future of the United States. . . . The best available account of the origins, history, ideas, and aspirations of Mexican-Americans. Foreign Affairs About the Author Gregory Rodriguez studied the sociology of the Latinization of California at UCLA. He has been a senior fellow at the New America Foundation, a non-partisan public policy institute in Washington, D.C., a contributing editor to The Los Angeles Times Opinion Section and a political analyst for MSNBC. His work has appeared in many of the nation's leading publications, including The New York Times, The Economist, The Washington Post, The Nation, and The New Republic.