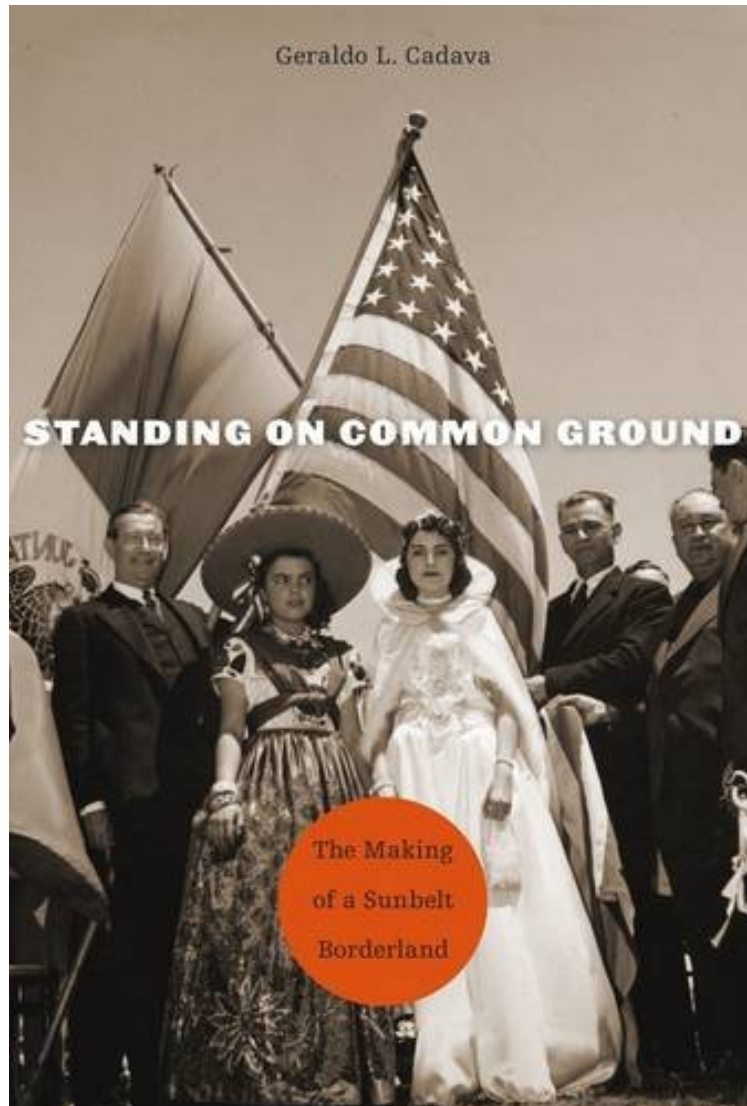


Standing on Common Ground: The Making of a Sunbelt Borderland

Geraldo L. Cadava

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Geraldo L. Cadava : Standing on Common Ground: The Making of a Sunbelt Borderland before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Standing on Common Ground: The Making of a Sunbelt Borderland:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This is a really, really important book. Anyone ...By Matthew Pratt GuterlThis is a really, really important book. Anyone interested in the cultural, social, and political complexities of the

greater southwest should read it.

Standing on Common Ground locates the roots of today's debates over border enforcement in the Sunbelt's pan-ethnic and transnational history, as cross-border ties in the 1940s among entrepreneurs and politicians, and a flourishing cultural traffic among tourists and students, gave way to economic instability and illegal labor migration.

The headlines and debates serve as a backdrop to Geraldo Cadava's timely book *Standing on Common Ground*. Standing against conventional readings of this border's recent history, Cadava's study accents how from the Second World War through the Cold War the history of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands defied simple claims about the opening or closing of borders. For its recovery of forgotten histories and its insistence on transnational connections, *Standing on Common Ground* commands the attention of scholars of the Arizona-Sonora region and of all who study borderlands. (Stephen Aron *Americas* 2014-10-01) Thoroughly researched and cleverly organized around iconic Tucson events and people, the book gives illuminating historical background to current strife over racial and migrant issues. Cadava has crafted a compelling story of the whole border region as the various people there experienced it. (J. A. Stuntz *Choice* 2014-03-01) Cadava breaks new ground by tracing the common threads connecting the societies on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border, focusing on the economic, cultural, and political intersections between Southern Arizona and Northern Sonora. Among other topics, he shows that we cannot begin to understand the current acerbic public debates about undocumented immigration from Mexico into Arizona without understanding the roots of those debates in the years after the Second World War. This book represents the best of the new borderlands history. (Albert Camarillo, author of *Chicanos in a Changing Society: From Mexican Pueblos to American Barrios, 1850-1930*) Crisis, trauma, and crime steal most headlines about the U.S.-Mexican border, but *Standing on Common Ground* recovers a deeper and more important history of everyday connections across the line. With quiet empathy and a storyteller's eye for detail, Cadava expertly narrates the transnational hopes and frustrations of the businessmen, laborers, students, politicians, immigrants, and activists who reinvented the Arizona-Sonora borderlands after World War II. If you care about the region's present and future, read this book. (Brian DeLay, author of *War of a Thousand Deserts: Indian Raids and the U.S.-Mexican War*) In a time when the history of the Southwest is rewritten every few months, the simple act of telling the truth is invaluable. *Standing on Common Ground* recreates the look, feel, and sound of the greatest growth spurt the region has ever seen. The stories in these pages are not just the stories of men, women and children working hard to build better lives for themselves. They're the stories of how we got to where we are now, why we face the issues we face, and who the people of the Southwest really are. (Ral M. Grijalva, U.S. Representative for Arizona's 3rd congressional district and member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus) An astute and insightful book, *Standing on Common Ground* is a richly detailed portrait of a region that is very much in the news today. Solidly researched, keenly conceptualized, and beautifully written, it will become one of the most important explorations of the lands and lives along the U.S.-Mexico border. (David G. Gutierrez, author of *Walls and Mirrors: Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants, and the Politics of Ethnicity*) By bringing Arizona's relationship with Mexico and Mexicans into focus, this groundbreaking and illuminating new book will change the way we think about the postwar history of the southwestern United States and help us to understand the origins of the contentious debates over immigration and civil rights that divide Arizonans today. (Rachel St. John, author of *Line in the Sand: A History of the Western U.S.-Mexico Border*)

About the Author: Geraldo L. Cadava is Associate Professor of History at Northwestern University.