

*Mexican Workers and American Dreams: Immigration, Repatriation, and California Farm Labor, 1900–1939.* By CAMILLE GUERIN-GONZALES. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1994. Photographs. Appendix. Notes. Index. xi, 197 pp. Cloth, \$42.00. Paper, \$15.00.

If the sturdy New England yeoman and the Midwestern farm family are essential symbols of the American dream, the reality in California, as it became the leading agricultural state between 1900 and 1939, never matched the myth. In this book, Camille Guerin-Gonzales shows that neither California's industrially organized agribusiness nor the waves of Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, and eventually Mexican wage laborers who toiled the land have fit into the pastoral ideal.

Despite hardships, many immigrants to the United States obtained some security, if not the full dream, by becoming citizens. Guerin-Gonzales argues, however, that California growers sought to ensure a cheap labor supply for their vast landholdings by preventing Mexicans from attaining full citizenship rights. Based on U.S. government documents, correspondence among California and Mexican officials, newspaper accounts, and memoirs from collections in the Bancroft Library, this book unveils a legal and political strategy for keeping Mexicans foreigners on U.S. soil or repatriating them to Mexico. The book is particularly useful for showing how racial and ethnic stereotypes were manipulated at different times to conform with the labor needs of the state's powerful political and economic interests.

Guerin-Gonzales argues that deportation and the threat of it, antilabor legislation, and repatriation were used to undermine the growth of unions in the fields. In the 1930s, nevertheless, Mexican and Mexican American workers organized and launched the largest strikes in U.S. agricultural history. Curiously, though, except for a passing mention that "union leaders and union members were often members of the Communist Party . . . where Mexicans made up a large part of the work force" (p. 134), the author does not discuss the source of the workers' militancy. By contrast, Dorothy Healey, who was a Communist Party (CP) leader of several of the struggles Guerin-Gonzales describes, has recalled that many of the Mexican farm workers who arrived in the aftermath of the Mexican Revolution knew about anarchosindicalism, proclaimed allegiance to leftist doctrines, and followed *El Machete* and other left-wing newspapers from Mexico (Healey and Maurice Isserman, *Dorothy Healey Remembers a Life in the American Communist Party*, 1990).

Devra Weber attributes the development of the militant California Cannery and Agricultural Workers Industrial Union in 1927 to a coalition of Mexican leftists inspired by the Mexican Revolution and Anglos following the dual unionist strategy of the CP-USA's Trade Union Unity League (*Dark Sweat, White Gold: California Farm Workers, Cotton, and the New Deal*, 1994). The story of European immigrants bringing socialist and anarchist ideas from the old country is a familiar one. Although this book is silent on the question, one wonders if the Mexican Revolution played a similar role in stimulating Mexican migrants to join unions.

Despite those shortcomings, this is nevertheless a well-written, clearly argued monograph that will be very useful to teachers and students in the growing field of Latino history in the United States.

TERESA MEADE, Union College

*The Taos Indians and the Battle for Blue Lake.* By R. C. GORDON-MCCUTCHAN. Santa Fe, N.M.: Red Crane Books, 1991. Photographs. Maps. Chronology. Notes. Index. xvii, 236 pp. Cloth. \$25.95.

R. C. Gordon-McCutchan, a former tribal planner for the Taos Pueblos, has written an informative account of these Indians' long struggle to win back Blue Lake, their mountain shrine. In 1906 the federal government appropriated this land and made it part of the Carson National Forest. Sixty-four years later, President Nixon signed PL-91-550, the Blue Lake Act. This book is based on research in Taos Pueblo tribal records and in the records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; the papers of Clinton Anderson at the University of New Mexico, Paul J. Bernal at the New Mexico State Record Center and Archives, and the Association of American Indian Affairs at Princeton; and interviews with numerous individuals, including Fred and La Donna Harris and John Ehrlichman.

Approximately two-thirds of the book focuses on the decade 1960–70. By carefully forming a diverse coalition and overcoming tribal divisions, the Pueblos persevered, aided immensely by their own leadership, including tribal spiritual leader and cacique Juan de Jesús Romero and tribe member Paul J. Bernal, who for 25 years led the political fight. They were opposed by the powerful Clinton Anderson, U.S. senator from New Mexico, who fought to stop the “precedent” of returning Indian lands; and the U.S. Forestry Service, especially Elliot Barker, former supervisor of the Carson National Forest, which deemed Blue Lake “its” land.

Gordon-McCutchan adds to our knowledge about John Collier, the former commissioner of Indian affairs who aided the Pueblos in the 1960s, although he is too uncritical of Collier's tenure as commissioner in the 1930s. The author's analysis of the Association of American Indian Affairs headed by William Byler in the 1960s is especially good, although again he is too uncritical of the organization's earlier history under Oliver La Farge's leadership.

The author has high praise for President Nixon and his staff, especially Leonard Garment, for their efforts in reversing federal Indian policies; he fails to mention, however, the behind-the-scenes work of Louis R. Bruce, Jr., the Mohawk-Sioux who was then commissioner of Indian affairs. Bruce's longtime association with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and friendship with John Rainier, a leading member of the Taos Pueblo delegation on Blue Lake, also contributed to the resolution of this issue. The author should have consulted the NCAI collection in the National Anthropological Archives at the Smithsonian Institution, considering