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My father, Professor Hector Soto-Perez, arrived in the United States in 1965 and set about to learn his first words of English. Eight years later he received his Ph.D. at USC and for nearly twenty-five years taught at Cal State, Los Angeles. Though he longed to return to Mexico, he instead made it his life's work to teach about the land he had left behind and to demand rights for Mexicans in this country. He unexpectedly passed away as this manuscript's first complete draft was being written. From my father's intense nostalgia, I learned, as a young girl, to love Mexico, initially mimicking, and later making my own, the sentiments that only an immigrant can have. This book is dedicated to him.



MAP 1 Map of Mexico with the main barbasco towns of Oaxaca.