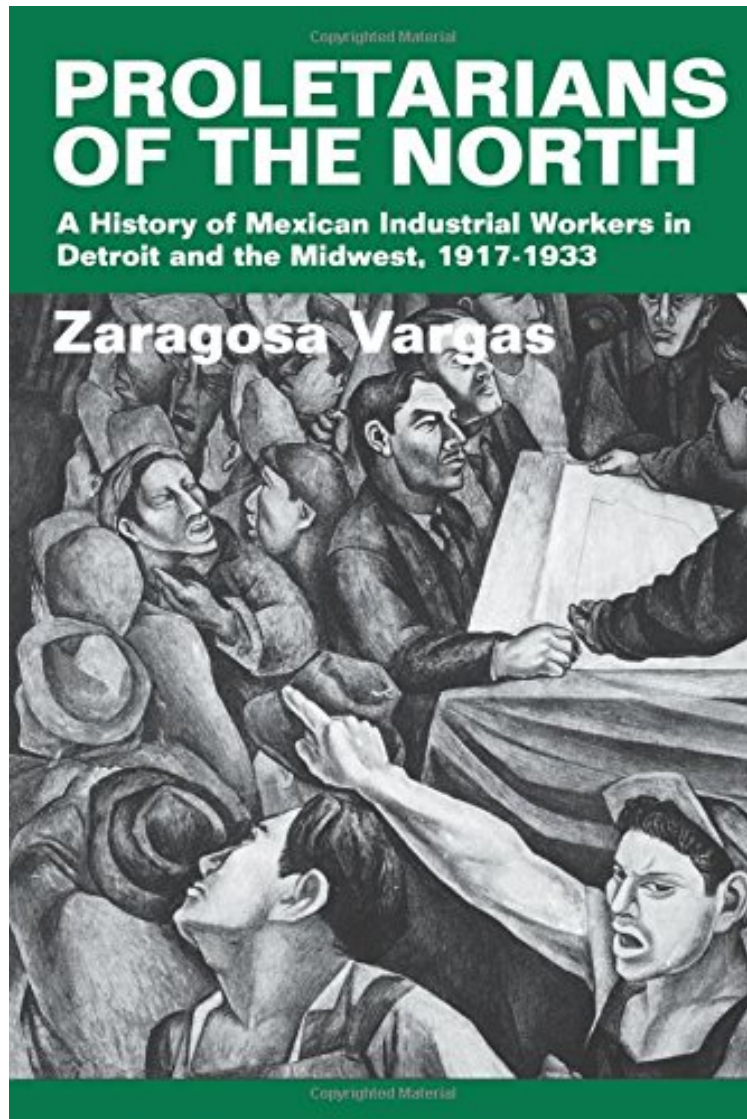


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Proletarians of the North : Mexican Industrial Workers in Detroit and the Midwest, 1917-1933 (Latinos in American Society and Culture, #1)

Zaragosa Vargas

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Zaragosa Vargas : Proletarians of the North : Mexican Industrial Workers in Detroit and the Midwest, 1917-1933 (Latinos in American Society and Culture, #1) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Proletarians of the North : Mexican Industrial Workers in Detroit and the Midwest,

1917-1933 (Latinos in American Society and Culture, #1):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent research and history
By Bruce W. Zaragosa Vargas has done an outstanding job in researching and explaining the historical bond Mexican workers have with the United States. His chapters on migration and the causes of northern migration from Mexico, as well as the hardhitting chapter about the plight of Mexican autoworkers in Detroit, in 1927 and subsequent years is non-biased and telling of this author's passion to fully explain, without political or racial bias. I highly recommend this book. I have studied race and population migrations to the United States, and those dynamics which influence and indeed sought and continue to exploit these populations. I was impressed with Vargas' handling of Diego Rivera and Fried Kahlo. The author does not bend to one side or the other of the political debate surrounding communism' repatriation or the expectations of the Mexican worker. A fine text and a job well done. 5 stars and a hardy recommendation for PROLETARIANS OF THE NORTH: ZARAGOSA VARGAS.

Between the end of World War I and the Great Depression, over 58,000 Mexicans journeyed to the Midwest in search of employment. Many found work in agriculture, but thousands more joined the growing ranks of the industrial proletariat. Throughout the northern Midwest, and especially in Detroit, Mexican workers entered steel mills, packing houses, and auto plants, becoming part of the modern American working class. Zaragosa Vargas's work focuses on this little-known feature in the history of Chicanos and American labor. In relating the experiences of Mexicans in workplace and neighborhood, and in showing the roles of Mexican women, the Catholic Church, and labor unions, Vargas enriches our knowledge of immigrant urban life. His is an important work that will be welcomed by historians of Chicano Studies and American labor.

"A finely crafted analysis of Mexicans at the heart of American industry."--George J. Sanchez, "Journal of American History"
From the Inside Flap
"A well-documented and persuasive description of the experiences and aspirations of the thousands of Mexicans who migrated to the Midwest in search of employment between the First World War and the Great Depression of the 1930s."
David Montgomery, Yale University
"An important contribution to a small but rapidly expanding historical literature that documents the variety and complexity of the Mexican experience in the United States. . . . Vargas not only illuminates an aspect of that experience that has been little appreciated and understood by students of Chicano history, but also offers compelling evidence that bringing Mexican workers into full view requires scholars to look through the prism of class as well as the prism of ethnicity. . . . A fine book that is certain to inform and challenge ethnic and labor historians alike."--Clete Daniel, *Industrial and Labor Relations*